

Guide to the Thompson Family Papers, 1786-1905, 1971

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Thompson Family Papers, 1786-1905, 1971

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
nhhistory.org

Collection Number:

1977.027

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing and edited by Abby Dollries

Creator:

Thompson family

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box, approximately 150 items ; 0.33 linear feet

Abstract:

The Thompson Family Papers consist of correspondence relating to Thomas W. Thompson, William C. Thompson, and John Leverett Thompson. The letters largely pertain to family matters but also include John Leverett Thompson's account of the Civil War. Materials in this collection date from 1786-1905 and 1971.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Thompson Family Papers were a gift of James King on August 12, 1977.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date, reformatted by Korrena Cowing in March 2020, and edited by Abby Dollries in July 2025. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Thompson Family Papers, 1977.027. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Thomas W. Thompson (1766-1821) was born in Boston, MA. He studied at Dummer Academy, tutored at Harvard College, and studied law under Theophilus Parsons. He served as an aid to General Lincoln during Shays' Rebellion. Thompson married Elizabeth C. Porter in 1796. A practicing lawyer, he was elected for a term in the U.S. Congress (1805), elected to the New Hampshire General Court for a number of terms, and chosen to a fractional term in the U.S. Senate. He was a trustee of Dartmouth College (1801-1821) and active in the movement for disposing John Wheelock from the Presidency.

William C. Thompson (1802-1877) was born in Salisbury, NH. He studied at the law school in Litchfield, CT, with George Blake of Boston, MA, and Parker Noyes of Salisbury, NH. He married first Martha H. Leverett in 1828 and then Susan B. Nelson in 1843. He spent his life as a practicing attorney first in Concord and Plymouth, NH, and finally in Worcester, MA.

John Leverett Thompson (1835-1888) was born in Plymouth, NH. He attended Kimball Union Academy, graduated from Harvard Law School (1858), and studied with other individuals and at other institutions. He served in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865, working his way up the ranks from Private to Brigadier General. He married Laura Chandler in 1866. He practiced law in Chicago, IL, after the war until his death in 1888.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The majority of the Thomas W. Thompson correspondence deals with family, business, and politics. Unique items are a letter from John Adams requesting his son study law with Thompson and a note from Daniel Webster regarding the receipt of some charters (both are facsimile copies). Of the two letters from John Wheelock of Dartmouth, one refers to a debt problem and the other a political appointment. The William C. Thompson correspondence is family related. John L. Thompson's correspondence relates to both familial and military subjects during the Civil War. He writes a number of accounts of military life and battles to his father and his fiancé. The military correspondence consists of a variety of reports and requests from his various positions held during the Civil War.

Miscellaneous materials include several documents written in a form of shorthand. There are letters from 1971 reporting the inability of shorthand experts to decipher these documents. From the few discernible longhand words, it might be possible that these are coded military reports dealing with Shays' Rebellion when John L. Thompson was an aide to General Lincoln.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized by person, then by type.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Thomas W. Thompson biography, undated
Folder 2	Thomas W. Thompson correspondence: family and business, 1789 June-1795 August
Folder 3	Thomas W. Thompson correspondence: family of business, 1795 October-1798 October
Folder 4	Thomas W. Thompson correspondence: political, 1802-1820
Folder 5	Thomas W. Thompson letters from John Wheelock, 1793, 1814
Folder 6	William C. Thompson correspondence, 1822, 1828, 1860
Folder 7	John Leverett Thompson correspondence to his family, 1847 March-1864 April
Folder 8	John Leverett Thompson correspondence to his family, 1864 August-1865 May
Folder 9	John Leverett Thompson correspondence from his family, 1839-1865
Folder 10	John Leverett Thompson correspondence to Laura Chandler, 1864-1869, undated
Folder 11	John Leverett Thompson correspondence: military, 1861 March-1862 June
Folder 12	John Leverett Thompson correspondence: military, 1864 February-March
Folder 13	John Leverett Thompson correspondence: military, 1864 April-December
Folder 14	John Leverett Thompson correspondence: military, 1864 January-April
Folder 15	John Leverett Thompson correspondence: military, 1865 May-June
Folder 16	John Leverett Thompson correspondence: military, 1865 July-1866 May, undated

Folder 17 John Leverett Thompson correspondence: military, 1873
Folder 18 John Leverett Thompson military newspaper clippings, photocopies, 1862-1864
Folder 19 John Leverett Thompson miscellaneous military papers, 1862-1865
Folder 20 Miscellaneous, including correspondence, newspaper clippings, an engraving, and documents in shorthand/code, 1786-1787, 1840-1869, 1886-1905, 1971

Subject Terms

People:

Adams, John, 1735-1826
Bigelow, Timothy
Blake, George
Carrigain, Philip, 1772-1842
Haven, Nathaniel Appleton, 1762-1831
Hough, George
Livermore, A.
Livermore, E.
Mason, Levi
McGaw, Jacob
Niles, Nathaniel
Parsons, William
Pike, Neil
Pike, Richard
Porter, John
Thompson family
Thompson, John Leverett, 1835-1888
Thompson, Thomas W., 1766-1821
Thompson, William C., 1802-1877
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852
Wheelock, John, 1754-1817
Young, W.

Organizations:

United States. Congress. House
United States. Congress. Senate

Subjects:

Correspondence
Cryptography
Legislative bodies
Politics and government
Shays' Rebellion, 1786-1787
Shorthand
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Locations:

Plymouth, NH
Salisbury, NH

Occupations:

Lawyers
Politicians
Soldiers

Related Materials

Archives

Josiah Bartlett Family Papers, 1940.003

Daniel Webster Papers, 1876.001

John L. Thompson Military Correspondents Index
1977.027

Abbott, A.R.	September 28, 1861			
Adams, E.	April 4, 1864			
Atherton, Henry B.	June 21, 1864			
Babcock, Sarah A.	June 6, 1862			
Bixby, A.H.	May 17, 1865			
Blair, Henry W.	March 31, 1864			
Botsford, John R.	October 5, 1861			
Bridgeman, William H.	April 24, 1861	May 17, 1861	June 21, 1864	May 29, 1865
Brown, N.H.	March 29, 1865			
Burt, E.C.	February 29, 1864			
Buzzell, A.J.W. M.D.	April 8, 1862			
Chandler, William E.	April 6, 1864			
Clark, George E.	April 5, 1865			
Clark, Joseph B.	April 30, 1862			
Cram, F.P.	February 18, 1865, to Cram from Philbrick, E.B.	June 26, 1865		
Cummings, John A.	March 21, 1861	March 18, 1865		
Davis, Martin V.B.	April 11, 1865			
Drew, Stephen M.D.	April 21, 1862			
Everett, Mrs. M.B.	May 10, 1865			
Farrington, Mrs. C.	February 16, 1864			
Flanders, Mrs. E.C.	May 15, 1862	June 4, 1862		
Foss, Everett O.	March 28, 1865			
Fowler, A.C.	February 11, 1865			
Gaines, Theophilus	March 24, 1865			
Gilmore, Joseph A.	August 4, 1865			
Goodrich, Susan	June 15, 1865			
Hawks, M.	April 21, 1862			
Hayes, Joseph	March 15, 1864			
Hayley, Henry B.	March 18, 1865			
Head, Natt	December 19, 1864			
Hutchins, B.	July 19, 1864	July 10, 1864	January 20, 1865	June 22, 1865
Jones, Phillip	November 19, 1865			
Kent, Henry O.	February 13, 1864			
Kimball, Charlotte	May 16, 1862			
Knox, Jesse W.	April 21, 1862			
Lass, W.S.	July 17, 1865			
Leverett, William	March 22, 1864			
Lewis, Abel	March 29, 1861			
Mason, H.L.	April 22, 1862			
Mason, L.D.	May 6, 1865	May 8, 1865		
McDonough, James	May 31, 1865			
Nelson, D.B.	March 22, 1864			
Nesmith, George H.	March 22, 1864			

Parker, Joel	September 21, 1861		
Parnell, W.R.	March 1864		
Perley, I. Judge	February 5, 1864	February 14, 1864	
Perley, Mary S.	February 14, 1864		
Perley, Walter	May 7, 1865		
Phelps, E.D.	April 16, 1862	April 21, 1862	
Philbrick, E.B.	June 26, 1865		
Pinkham, T.B.	undated		
Prentiss, W.P.	April 17, 1865		
Sawyer, Helen M.	March 9, 1865		
Servatius, Napoleon	April 4, 1864		
Shapley, R.P.	March 12, 1865		
Shepard, Mrs. Susan	May 18, 1865		
Silver, W.	May 30, 1865		
Smith, Charles F.	June 12, undated		
Smith, G.W.	undated		
Stanton, Dr. I.O.	July 19, 1864		
Steele, David	April 24, 1865		
Stone, M.A.	May 28, 1865		
Taylor, George W.	March 16, 1865		
Tehane, Catherine	January 22, 1865		
Tenney, Allen	March 17, 1864	March 23, 1864	
Thompkins, Charles	April 4, 1862	April 13, 1862	
Thompson, J.	March 10, 1865	July 24, 1865	
Thompson, William C.	February 6, 1864		
Titus, Jerome B.	April 22, 1862		
Tuttle, John L.	April 21, 1862	May 26, 1862	
Vaughan, E.	June 12, 1864		
Wallingford, Z.S.	July 18, 1864		
Wellington, William	May 5, 1865		
Williams, Norman	October 2, 1861	October 15, 1861	
Wyatt, Mrs. S.M.	March 11, 1865		
Wyman, A.	March 24, 1864	March 27, 1862	June 9, 1865
Young, Adolphus P.	September 11, 187.		