

# Guide to the Rufus B. Sage Papers

WA MSS 414



by Beinecke staff

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS 414

**CREATOR:** Sage, Rufus B., 1817-1893

**TITLE:** Rufus B. Sage papers

**DATES:** 1778-1864

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Rufus B. Sage Papers include correspondence of Rufus B. Sage's grandfather Elisha Sage, his father Rufus Sage, and other members of the family, concerning the family's personal affairs and life in Connecticut, 1789-1828. In addition, the collection consists of letters and papers of Rufus B. Sage about his life in Ohio, his travels in the West and the publication of his book, *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains, and in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Texas, and the Grand Prairies*.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.rbsage>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.rbsage>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Rufus B. Sage papers collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Rufus B. Sage Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections [as they are acquired], and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid, created before the advent of computer-generated files, has been converted into a ASCII data file by means of scanning and Optical Character Recognition software. While attempts have been made to retain the complete information from the original document a number of format changes have been made to present the structure of this archive in accordance with current practice.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Rufus B. Sage, 1817-1893

Rufus B. Sage left his home in Upper Middletown, Connecticut, in 1836 for Marietta, Ohio, where his sister Jerusha Sage Gear, lived. Except for the winter of 1837-38 when he was in West Virginia and made a voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi to Natchez and Fort Gibson, Sage spent most of the period between 1836 and 1840 in Marietta, Circleville, and Columbus, Ohio, where he engaged in the printing and newspaper business. In 1840, he decided to go to the Rocky Mountains and Oregon, and travelled with some friends to Independence, Missouri, to join a fur-trading party. The party left Independence on September 2, 1841, spent the winter in the mountains, returned to Independence, and went west again in 1842. By 1844, Sage was back in Ohio, editing *The Whig Battering-Ram* from August 9 to October 25 and preparing to write an account of his travels, which was published by Carey & Hart of Philadelphia in 1846 with the following title: *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains, and in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Texas, and the Grand Prairies*.

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## Scope and Contents

The Rufus B. Sage Papers include correspondence of Rufus B. Sage's grandfather Elisha Sage, his father Rufus Sage, and other members of the family, concerning the family's personal affairs and life in Connecticut, 1789-1828. In addition, the collection consists of letters and papers of Rufus B. Sage about his life in Ohio, his travels in the West and the publication of his book, *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains, and in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Texas, and the Grand Prairies*.

One of the original poems in the collection, "Night on the Prairie," is printed in *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains*.

The collection consists of 108 letters and papers, 268 pages in all.

## Collection Contents

### Papers, 1789-1864

The family papers include correspondence of Rufus B. Sage's grandfather Elisha Sage, his father Rufus Sage, and other members of the family, about their personal affairs and life in Connecticut, 1789-1828; and the following letters and papers of Rufus B. Sage about his life in Ohio, his travels in the West and the publication of his book.

b. 1, f. 1	[Photocopies of previous organizational scheme]	
b. 1, f. 2	Genealogical Record	
b. 1, f. 3	Clippings concerning Rufus B. Sage's <i>Three Years in the Rockies</i> . 11 clippings.	
b. 1, f. 4	Beardslee, Nezekiah [?]. Letter to Elisha Sage. 1pp.	February 15, 1778.
b. 1, f. 5	Butler, Charles W. Poem: "My Mother's Grave". Undated. 1pp.	
b. 1, f. 6	Carey & Hart. 14 letters to R. B. Sage. 19 pp.	April 7, 1846- March 15, 1847
b. 1, f. 7	Dowd, Lewis B. Letter to R. B. Sage. 3 pp.	July 24, 1837
b. 1, f. 8	Gear, Mrs. Frances S. Five letters to her brother, R. B. Sage. 11 pp.	May 17, 1837- January 11, 1847
b. 1, f. 9	Sage, Mrs. Jerusha Butler. Five letters to her son, R. B. Sage. 8 pp.	July 3 [1836?]- August 25, 1844
b. 1, f. 10	Gear, Mrs. Jerusha S. Letter to her brother, Elisha L. Sage. 1pp.	March 3, 1834
b. 1, f. 11	Gear, Mrs. Jerusha S. Nine letters to her brother, Rufus B. Sage. 25 pp.	March 2, 1838- January 23, 1847
b. 1, f. 12	Gear, Mrs. Jerusha S. Three letters to her mother, Mrs. Jerusha B. Sage. 9 pp.	April 18, 1833- January 4, 1841
b. 1, f. 13	Hepburn, James, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Middletown. Certificate that notice of the intended marriage of Mr. Rufus B. Sage and Miss Marietta M. Miller was given publicly before the congregation, November 7, 1847. Upper Middletown. 1 p.	November 29, 1847
b. 1, f. 14	Merwin, Wealthy Sage. Letter to her cousin, R. B. Sage. 3 pp.	July 25, 1845
b. 1, f. 15	Munson [?], Thomas A. Two letters to R. B. Sage. 4 pp.	August 16, 19, 1845
b. 1, f. 16	Nash, Simeon. Letter to R. B. Sage. 2 pp.	December 14, 1846
b. 1, f. 17	Paine & Burgess. Letter to R. B. Sage. 1 p.	October 21, 1845
b. 1, f. 18	Pierce, F. N. Letter to R. B. Sage. 3 pp.	August 23, 1846
b. 1, f. 19	Sage, Alvin. Letter to his brother, Rufus Sage. 1 pp.	April 12, 1825

b. 1, f. 20	Sage, Amos. Letter to his brother, Rufus Sage. 2 pp.	February 21, 1815
b. 1, f. 21	Sage, Edmund. Seven letters to his brother, R. B. Sage. 13 pp.	February 28, 1846- May 10, 1847
b. 1, f. 22	Sage, Elisha. Three letters to his wife. 4 pp.	June 1, 1789- June 18, 1798
b. 1, f. 23	Sage, Elizabeth Maria. Three letters to her uncle, R. B. Sage. 9 pp.	August 23- November 13, 1844
b. 1, f. 24	Sage, Elizabeth Williams. Letter to her uncle, R. B. Sage. 3 pp.	September 18, 1844
b. 1, f. 25	Sage, Fanny. Letter to Hannah Jones. 1 pp.	June 1, 1807
b. 1, f. 26	Sage, George Hubbard. Two letters to his uncle, R. B. Sage. 11 pp.	August 16, 1863, September 20, 1864
b. 1, f. 27	Sage, Martha. Letter to her mother, Mrs. Jerusha B. Sage. 2 pp. <a href="#">SAGE, MARTHA. Letter to her mother, Mrs. Jerusha B. Sage</a>	September 28, 1828
b. 1, f. 28	Sage, Rufus B. Letter to his brother, Amos Sage. 2 pp.	1814
b. 1, f. 29	Sage, Rufus B. Letter to his sister, Mrs. Francis S. Gear. 2 pp.	November 5, 1837
b. 1, f. 30	Sage, Rufus B. Eight letters to his mother, Mrs. Jerusha B. Sage. 30 pp.	June 19, 1836- September 12, 1838
b. 1, f. 31	Sage, Rufus B. Six letters to his mother, Mrs. Jerusha B. Sage. 26 pp.	April 25, 1839- August 21, 1841
b. 1, f. 32	Sage, Rufus B. Six letters to his mother, Mrs. Jerusha B. Sage. 17 pp.	July 20, 1842- January 1, 1847
b. 1, f. 33	Sage, Rufus B. Letter to his sister, Mrs. Jerusha S. Gear. 4 pp.	May 22, 1837
b. 1, f. 34	Sage, Rufus B. Letter to Messrs. Paine & Burgess. 3 pp.	October 25, 1845
b. 1, f. 35	Sage, Rufus B. "Description of the remains of an ancient fortification at Selsertown, eleven miles north of Natchez, Miss." 2 pp. 49 cm.	1838
b. 1, f. 36	Sage, Rufus B. Eight poems. 21 pp. 24½ - 42 cm.	1839-1842
b. 1, f. 37	Sage, Rufus B. Memorandum of accounts with Carey & Hart for the publication of Scenes in the Rocky Mountains. 6 pp. 12½ cm.	1846-1847
b. 1, f. 38	Steward, A. W. Letter to R. B. Sage. 1 p.	August 19, 1846
b. 1, f. 39	White, Henry. Letter to R. B. Sage. 3 pp.	January 7, 1838
b. 1, f. 40	Woodruff, A. S. Two letters to his sister, Mrs. Jerusha B. Sage. 8 pp.	February 19, 1826-January 13, 1828

b. 1, f. 41

Woodruff, George R. Letter to his cousin, R. B. Sage. 3 pp.

August 23, 1847

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Geographic Names**

West (U.S.) -- Description and travel

### **Names**

Gear, Frances S.  
Gear, Jerusha S, 1806-  
Sage, Edmund, 1804-  
Sage, Elisha, 1755-1801  
Sage, Jerusha Butler  
Sage, Rufus, 1777-1826  
Sage, Rufus B., 1817-1893

### **Corporate Body**

Carey & Hart

### **Families**

Sage family