

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Ethan Allen Hitchcock Collection on Indian Removal

WA MSS S-2678



by Lisa Conathan

2012

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-2678

CREATOR: Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870

TITLE: Ethan Allen Hitchcock collection on Indian removal

DATES: 1804-1896

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.05 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Chiefly in English. Includes letters in Choctaw and Spanish.

SUMMARY: The collection documents several episodes in the history of Indian removal in the southeastern United States and Missouri, focusing on the activities of Generals Ethan Allen Hitchcock and Thomas Sidney Jesup in the 1830s and early 1840s. Material includes autograph letters, signed, and manuscript reports, diaries, and maps.

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

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.hitchcock>.

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.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from various sources, 1963-1994, as noted in the description of each acquisition.

Custodial History

The custodial history of material described here is not entirely known. Notes that accompany some acquisitions indicate that Ethan Allen Hitchcock collected documentation relating to the Creek War of 1836, to the Second Seminole War, and to Indian removal campaigns generally. In order to facilitate research on Hitchcock's activities relating to Indian removal, the Beinecke Library has described several acquisitions of topically related material as a collection.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Ethan Allen Hitchcock Collection on Indian Removal 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.

Preferred Citation

Ethan Allen Hitchcock Collection on Indian Removal. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2012. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, titled according to the date of acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

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

Former call numbers: WA MSS S-947, WA MSS S-1068, Uncat WA MSS 55, Uncat WA MSS 146, Uncat WA MSS 147, Uncat WA MSS 174

Ethan Allen Hitchcock (1798-1870)

Ethan Allen Hitchcock was born in Vergennes, Vermont in 1798. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1817 and was a career Army officer. He served in the Second Seminole War, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War. A philosopher and scholar, he published several monographs,

including *Remarks Upon Alchemy and the Alchemists* (1857), *Swedenborg: A Hermetic Philosopher* (1858), and *Christ the Spirit* (1860). His memoirs are collected in *A Traveler in Indian Territory: The Journal of Ethan Allen Hitchcock* (Cedar Rapids, Ia., The Torch Press,1930).

Scope and Contents

The collection documents several episodes in the history of Indian removal in the Southeastern United States, focusing on the activities of Generals Ethan Allen Hitchcock and Thomas Sidney Jesup in the 1830s and early 1840s. Material includes autograph letters, signed, and manuscript reports, diaries, and maps.

Arrangement

Organized into five groupings: 1963 Acquisition, 1964 Acquisition, 1986 Acquisition, 1992 Acquisitions, 1994 Acquisition.

Collection Contents

1963 Acquisition, 1837-1839

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

The acquisition consists of Ethan Allen Hitchcock correspondence, chiefly letters to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Carey A. Harris. The correspondence relates to the removal of Indians from Missouri Territory, treaties, conflicts between the military and the Office of Indian Affairs, appropriations by Congress, delay in remittances and inaccurate accounts, padded muster rolls, transportation of goods, and the possible transfer of Hitchcock.

Other correspondents include Alfred Bronson, J. Hartley Crawford, Charles Findlay, Lucy Hitchcock, Stephen Watts Kearny, William D. McKissack, F. Pfister, J. T. Sprague, Joshua Pilcher, M.M. Vineyard, and Major Wade.

Accompanied by a calender list.

Purchased by Frederick W. Beinecke for the Western Americana Collection, from Edward Eberstadt & Sons, Catalogue 161 (item 56), 1963.

Former call number: WA MSS S-947

Arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1	Ethan Allen Hitchcock correspondence	1837
b. 1, f. 2-3	Ethan Allen Hitchcock correspondence	1838
b. 1, f. 4	Ethan Allen Hitchcock correspondence	1839

1964 Acquisition, 1842

The acquisition consists of letters from Ethan Allen Hitchcock to John Canfield Spencer in 1842, when Hitchcock was stationed at Fort Wayne, Indiana. The correspondence relates to the ill treatment of Indians by soldiers, and justification of the Cherokee claims of insufficient rations and funds. In addition Hitchcock advises the abandonment of Fort Wayne as it has outlived its usefulness.

Purchased from Edward Eberstadt on the Beinecke No. 1 Fund, 1964.

Former call number: WA MSS S-1068

Arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 5

Ethan Allen Hitchcock Letters to John Canfield Spencer

1842

1986 Acquisition, 1836-1842*0.24 linear feet (1 box)*

The acquisition consists of a diary by Thomas Sidney Jesup, and letters from Ethan Allen Hitchcock to Major Samuel Cooper and to Secretary of War John C. Spencer.

General Thomas Sidney Jesup's "Diary of Events Etc. in the Creek Campaign" relates Jesup's experience in the campaign to remove the Creeks from Alabama in 1836.

Letters from Ethan Allen Hitchcock in Fort King and Tampa Bay, Florida to Major Samuel Cooper in Washington, D.C., relate Hitchcock's experience in the Second Seminole War. An accompanying note indicates that the letters were returned from Cooper to Hitchcock in 1841.

Letters from Ethan Allen Hitchcock to Secretary of War John C. Spencer relate to the return of documents that Hitchcock had copied, and to the Second Seminole War.

Purchased from Goodspeed's Book Shop, Inc., on the Library Associates Fund, 1986.

Former call number: Uncat WA MSS 55

Arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 6	Diary of Thomas Sidney Jesup	1836
b. 2, f. 7	Letters from Ethan Allen Hitchcock to Major Samuel Cooper	1840
b. 2, f. 8	Letters from Ethan Allen Hitchcock to John C. Spencer (retained copies)	1842

1992 Acquisitions, 1804-1896

0.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

The acquisitions consist of correspondence, maps, reports, and notes relating to General Thomas Sidney Jesup, to General Ethan Allen Hitchcock, and to removal campaigns against Indians of the Southeast, including Seminole, Choctaw, Creek, and Cherokee.

Correspondence includes three letters in the Choctaw language from the 1830s and 1840s (two written by Jonathan Cogswell), and one letter from a group of removed Creek Indians to the president of the United States, describing their journey to Indian Territory and requesting that the remainder of their tribe join them.

Other letters are written by military personnel and Indian agents in Alabama, Florida, and elsewhere in the Southeast, and document removal activities and military relations with Southeastern Indian people (including the Creek War of 1836 led by Generals Thomas Sidney Jesup and Winfield Scott).

Also included are rolls of children sent to boarding schools and of Indian people who were removed to Oklahoma, chiefly to Fort Gibson.

The notebooks of General Ethan Allen Hitchcock record his research on the Creek Indians in 1842, in Canadian, Oklahoma.

Manuscript maps document military activity and forts in Florida, and the Cherokee Reservation in Arkansas.

Many letters are originals; others are manuscript copies.

Purchased from Goodspeed's Book Shop, Inc. on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 1992.

Former call numbers: Uncat WA MSS 146, Uncat WA MSS 147

Organized into folders based on geographic region or tribe, as received by the Beinecke Library.

b. 3, f. 9	Statement signed by Carlos Hernandez, Pedro Albe Roche____ and Francisco Barrios Spanish; Castilian	1804
b. 3, f. 10	<u>Seminole</u> i Letter: Seminole Chiefs Holatoochee and Coochoochee (Wild Cat) to Alligator (Halpatter Tustennuggee), undated. ii Map of the territory around Micanopy and report of reconnaissance, undated. iii "List of Indian/Seminole prisoners turned over by Lt. Geo. H. [Jewitt?]," 1837. iv Letter: "Reynolds" to "Captain," Tampa Bay, Florida, 1838 May 2. v Map of the territory between the Oscilla and Suwanee Rivers, undated. vi Diagram of Fort Micanopy, 1837. vii Letter: [Thomas Jesup?] to unidentified recipient relating to Cherokee Chief John Ross and Seminole Chief Alligator, undated.	1837-1838, undated
b. 3, f. 11	<u>Seminole</u> i Letter: George Travers to Joseph Forrest, 1812 November 20. ii Financial records of Captain P. Morrison, relating to Seminole removal, 1837-1838. iii List of captured slaves, returned to Seminole owners, 1837 September 4.	1812-1838

b. 3, f. 12	<p>Choctaw, Creek, and Cherokee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Letter: Willy Thompson to James W. Henderson, Tallahassee, Florida, 1834 January 27. ii "Description of the boundary of the reserve at Ford Gibson," B. Atwood, 1840. iii Letter: Jonathan Cogswell to Cyrus Byington, 1840 August 17. In Choctaw. iv Letter: John Bell to Abraham Martin, 1841 August 10. v Letter: G. Hudson to unidentified recipient, 1842 September 26. vi Letter: John L. M. Coy to Henry Cunningham, 1845 May 26. vii Letter: [James McKinney?] to General Matthew Arbuckle, 1846 June 20. viii Letter: Reverend Samuel A. Worcester to Jefferson Davis, 1834 September 6. ix Letter: Asa C. Matthews to John Jumper, 1865 June 23. x Declaration of the Cherokee National Council, 1865 July 14. xi Map of the Cherokee Reservation in Arkansas, undated. xii Letter: G. W. Stidham to "Major Fields," 1869 August 21. Includes an English translation of a letter from Samuel Checotee, Principal Chief Creek Nation, to G. W. Stidham, 1869 August 18. 	1834-1869
b. 3, f. 13	<p>Choctaw, Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Report of Lieutenant Colonel Many, 1833 July 4. ii List of boys sent from Talladega County, Alabama to the Choctaw Academy in Scott County Kentucky, 1834 September 28. iii Letter: Jonathan Cogswell to unidentified recipient, 1835 October 6. In Choctaw. iv Letter: William Miner to Needham Massie, 1836 August 7. v Letter: J. Moore to John A. Campbell, 1836 September 12. vi Letter: C. A. Harris to Brevet Brigadier General M. Arbuckle, 1836 October 11. vii Letter: Muscogee Creek chiefs (Opothleyahola, Little Darter, Mad Blue, Tuckabatchee Micco) to Andrew Jackson, 1836 December 25. 	1833-1836
b. 3, f. 14	<p>"Florida Indians" Florida Indians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i List of supplies received by J. H. Simpson, 1836. ii Letter: Reynolds to Captain P. Morrison, 1838 November 15. iii Letter: C. A. Harris to P. Morrison, 1837 September 7. iv Letter: P. Morrison to Thomas Jesup, 1837 October 14. v Abstract of provisions issued by Captain P. Morrison, 1839. vi Letter: P. Morrison to C. A. Harris, 1838 May. vii Letter: Unidentified author to "Sir," 1837 November 30. viii Map of St. Andrews Bay region, undated. 	1836-1839, undated
b. 3, f. 15	<p>Seminole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Letter: Captain G. W. Allen to Colonel William S. Foster, 1837 February 10. ii Letter: John Page to "Sir," 1837 March 6. iii Letter: Unidentified author to Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Crane, 1837 March 27. iv Letter: James Bright to Hanson Kelly, 1837 May 8. v Letter: [Chuccottee fiscico?] to Thomas Jesup, 1837 August 11. vi "Copy of instructions from John Ross to the Cherokee delegation to the Seminole Indians," 1837 October 20. 	1837

Ethan Allen Hitchcock Notebooks

The notes record information from Mr. Alexander in Canadian, Oklahoma and from Mr. Edwards near the Little River, Oklahoma

Ethan Allen Hitchcock Notebooks (continued)

b. 4, f. 16	"Creek laws abstracted"	1842 January
b. 4, f. 17	"Creeks"	1842 January 31
b. 4, f. 18	"Creeks"	1842 February 3
b. 4, f. 19	"Creeks, Chickasaws"	1842 February 13

1994 Acquisition, 1836-1856*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

The acquisition consists of notes and correspondence relating to the Second Seminole War and to Indian removal generally. Includes an account by Thomas Sidney Jesup, autograph manuscript, relating the capture of Seminole chief Osceola.

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 1994.

Former call number: Uncat WA MSS 174

Arranged chronologically.

b. 5, f. 20	Manuscript notebook listing 104 "principal chiefs" of Killagee Town	1836 May 13
b. 5, f. 21	Letter: John W. Moore to Governor C. C. Clay of Alabama	1836 June 11
b. 5, f. 22	Statement: Bird Culbertson, relating to the chief Neah Micco	1836 June 12
b. 5, f. 23	Letter: H. W. Russell and others to General Thomas Jesup.	1836 June 28
b. 5, f. 24	Statement: Seven Indian scouts, relating to leaving service	1836 June 25
b. 5, f. 25	Letter: R. B. [Sawen?] to Captain Page	1836 August 31
b. 5, f. 26	Letter: C. C. Clay to William D. Pickett	1836 July 9
b. 5, f. 27	Letter: Lieutenant J. P. Sloan to unidentified recipient	1837 March 31
b. 5, f. 28	Letter: Jonathan G. Reynolds to Major [Whiting?]	1837 March 31
b. 5, f. 29	Letter: Capt. Samuel Ringgold to Major L. Whiting	1837 May 22
b. 5, f. 30	Letter: Major Wilson to Major General Thomas Jesup	1837 June 16
b. 5, f. 31	Letter: Unidentified author to Major General Thomas Jesup	1837 July 27
b. 5, f. 32	Churchill, Major S., Measurements of roads in south Alabama and Georgia	1837 July 31
b. 5, f. 33	Letter: Captain Patrick Galt to Major General Thomas Jesup	1837 August 15
b. 5, f. 34	Opothleyahola, Promissory note for \$1000	1837 August 26
b. 5, f. 35	John Ross, manuscript copy of an address	1837 October 18
b. 5, f. 36	Gibbs, K. B., transcript of a conversation between Major General Thomas Jesup and Seminole chiefs, including Osceola	1837 October 21
b. 5, f. 37	Letter: Thomas Jefferson Smith to Major General Thomas Jesup	1838 January 12
b. 5, f. 38	August, Manuscript statement of "August, a Seminole Negro, in relation to the representations and promises of the Cherokee delegation to the Seminole Chiefs"	1838 February 18
b. 5, f. 39	Letter: General C. H. Nelson to General Lewis A. Armistead	1838 March 11
b. 5, f. 40	Letter: Eleven Creek chiefs to unidentified recipients	1839 January 5

b. 5, f. 41	Letter: William N. Anderson to Colonel S. H. Sevier	1839 November 19
b. 5, f. 42	Manuscript petition to General Lewis A. Armistead from "inhabitants bordering on the OKeefe Noke [sic]"	1840 August 25
b. 5, f. 43	Letter: W. L. McClintock to Colonel Gates	1840 December 31
b. 5, f. 44	Letter: William P. Duval to Major General Thomas Jesup	1842 October 4
b. 5, f. 45	Letter: William Armstrong to merchants in Arkansas	1844 August
b. 5, f. 46	Manuscript bill of sale signed by Seminole chiefs Jumper and Wild Cat	1849 January 11
b. 5, f. 47	Letter: Marcellus Duval to Coccochee (Wild Cat)	1849 September 9
b. 5, f. 48	Letter: William Bowlegs to Jim Jumper	1850 April 12
b. 5, f. 49	"Statement made to Captain J. Brauman U.S.A. by the chiefs of the Indian delegation (taken to Florida from Arkansas) by Luther Blake ..."	1853 January
b. 5, f. 50	Letter: W. M. Gardner to General Ethan Allen Hitchcock	1856 February 23
b. 5, f. 51	Major General Thomas Jesup, autograph manuscript account of the capture of Osceola	1858

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.

Spencer, John C. (John Canfield), 1788-1855

Subjects

Cherokee Indians
Choctaw Indians
Creek Indians
Creek War, 1836
Generals -- United States
Generals -- United States
Indian agents
Indian Removal, 1813-1903
Indians of North America -- Alabama
Indians of North America -- Florida
Indians of North America -- Georgia
Indians of North America -- Government relations
Indians of North America -- Missouri
Indians of North America -- Oklahoma
Indians of North America -- Treaties
Indians of North America -- Wars -- 1815-1875
Seminole Indians
Seminole War, 2nd, 1835-1842
Soldiers -- United States

Geographic Names

Alabama
Florida
Fort Gibson (Okla.)
Fort Wayne (Ind.)
Georgia
Missouri
Oklahoma
Southern States
United States -- History -- 1815-1861

Occupations

Indian agents -- 19th century
Soldiers -- United States -- 19th century

Names

Cogswell, Jonathan
Harris, Carey A.
Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870
Jesup, Thomas Sidney, 1788-1860
Osceola, Seminole chief, 1804-1838

Corporate Bodies

United States. Army (Military life)
United States. Office of Indian Affairs

Contributors

Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870
Jesup, Thomas Sidney, 1788-1860