

Guide to the Jesse Hurd Family Papers

MS 295



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 295

CREATOR: Hurd, Jesse, approximately 1760-1831

TITLE: Jesse Hurd family papers

DATES: 1700-1910

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5.25 linear feet (14 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, diaries, legal papers, account books, ship's papers, and miscellanea relating to the private lives and business interests of the Hurd family of Chatham, Connecticut, and New York, New York. Family interests in shipbuilding, ship repair, mercantile holdings, distillery operations, and politics are detailed, with extensive records for the New York Screw Dock Company and for many of the ships built, owned, and operated by the Hurd family.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0295>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0295>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Margaret S. Dart, 1961, 1965.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Jesse Hurd Family Papers (MS 295). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Three generations of the Hurd family of Chatham, Connecticut, are represented in the papers. The primary figures are Jesse Hurd (1760-1831); his brother Benjamin Hurd (1739-1781); Jesse's sons Jesse II, Cyrus, and Nelson; and Cyrus Hurd's sons Cyrus II and Charles W.B. Hurd.

Jesse Hurd was a storekeeper, distiller, ship builder, shipmaster, shipowner, state representative from Chatham, and first president of the New York Screw Dock Company (1827-1831).

Nathaniel Lynde Griswold (1773-1866); George Griswold (1776-1859), and Huntington Selden are also represented in the papers, in relation to their business dealings with the Hurd family.

For a chart outlining the genealogical relations of the Hurd family, please consult the [Genealogical Chart](#).

Scope and Contents

The Jesse Hurd Family Papers consist of correspondence, diaries, legal papers, account books, ship's papers, and miscellanea relating to the private lives and business interests of the Hurd family of Chatham, Connecticut, and New York, New York. Family interests in shipbuilding, ship repair, mercantile holdings, distillery operations, and politics are detailed, with extensive records for the operations of the New York Screw Dock Company and for many of the ships built, owned, and operated by the Hurd family.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series: I. Correspondence and Papers, 1774-1853. II. Business Papers, 1700-1910. III. Ship's Papers, 1791-1831.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence and Papers, 1774-1853

1 linear foot (2 boxes)

This series contains letters, diaries, legal papers and other materials documenting the activities of family members. Correspondence includes letters relating to the War of 1812, to events in Chatham and Haddam, Connecticut, and to the business pursuits of Jesse Hurd and others. Cyrus Hurd's letters from California (1849-1853) and Charles W.B. Hurd's letters prior to the Civil War battle at Antietam (1861-1862) are also arranged here. Correspondence from South America, Cuba, China, and elsewhere reflect the family's widespread shipping interests. The vagaries of maritime life detailed in letters include ship orders, foreign markets, ship sales, shipwrecks, credit needs, piracy, and financial considerations. Correspondents include: Huntington Selden, Captain Hezekiah Smith, Captain Stephen Griffith, David and Abijah Brainerd, and others.

Diaries arranged in the collection (box 2) include Jesse Hurd's notes on his years in the Connecticut General Assembly (1808-1809), Cyrus Hurd II's Brazilian voyage (1826-1827), Cyrus Hurd, Sr.'s United States trip to the western frontier (1836), and Charles W.B. Hurd's Civil War diary (1861-1862).

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by record type.

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1-19	1803-1846	1803-1846
b. 2, f. 20-21	1848-1883	1848-1883
Diaries		
b. 2, f. 22	Hurd, Jesse: Connecticut General Assembly	1808-1809
b. 2, f. 23	Hurd, Cyrus, II: Brazil voyage	1826-1827
b. 2, f. 24	Hurd, Cyrus, Sr.: U.S. western trip	1836
b. 2, f. 25	Hurd, Charles W.B.: Civil War	1861-1862
b. 2, f. 26	Estate inventories: Hurd, Jesse	1830-1846
b. 2, f. 27	Legal papers	1774, 1802-1830
Papers		
b. 2, f. 28	Brazil trade	1826-1827
b. 2, f. 29	China trade	1835-1839
b. 2, f. 30	Poems: Hurd, Cyrus, II	1849-1853
b. 2, f. 31-32	Printed material	1817-1830

Series II: Business Papers, 1700-1910*3 linear feet (8 boxes)*

This series includes information on three areas of Hurd family business dealings. *General* files contain several account books (boxes 3-5) detailing Jesse Hurd's financial transactions in Chatham, Connecticut, and elsewhere. Bills and receipts (boxes 6-9) provide similar financial information. *Distillery* files consist of bills relating to the Hurds' business activities in Connecticut, including the purchase of goods to produce liquor. *New York Screw Dock Company* files include accounts of workers wages and hours, legal papers, and miscellanea relating to the operations of this company. The company owned three docks and the apparatus to remove ships from the water to effect repairs and cleaning. Legal papers note the liquidation of the company stock in 1910.

This series is arranged in three sections: *General*, *Distillery*, and *New York Screw Dock Company*. Each section is arranged alphabetically by record type.

General

Account Books

b. 3, f. 33-41	1801-1810
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b. 4, f. 42-53	1811-1820
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b. 5, f. 54-63	1819-1839
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Bills and Receipts

b. 6, f. 64-75	1700-1808
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b. 7, f. 76-87	1809-1820
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b. 8, f. 88-97	1821-1828
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b. 9, f. 98-101	1829-1840, n.d.
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Distillery

b. 10, f. 102	Bills	1810-1820
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New York Screw Dock Company

b. 10, f. 103-104	Accounts of worker's wages and hours	1828-1829
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b. 10, f. 105	Legal Papers	1827-1910
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b. 10, f. 106-110	Miscellaneous Papers	1825-1833
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Series III: Ship's Papers, 1716-1831*1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)*

This series contains financial data, construction, cargo, repair and outfitting information for more than seventy-five (75) vessels (ships, brigs, sloops, schooners) that members of the Hurd family owned, operated, sailed, or repaired. Material pertaining to the *Bolivar* is extensive, with financial records and correspondence with the Griswolds. The diary of Cyrus Hurd II details one of this brig's voyages.

This series contains files arranged alphabetically by the name of the vessel.

b. 11, f. 111	Schooner Abcona	1814-1817
b. 11, f. 112	Ship Active	1812-1813
b. 11, f. 113	BrigActress	1815-1818
b. 11, f. 114	Brig Alexander	1820-1829
b. 11, f. 115	Sloop Alfred	1825-1831
b. 11, f. 116	Schooner Alpha	1828
b. 11, f. 117	Sloop Antelope	1820
b. 11, f. 118	Brig Athalia	1828
b. 11, f. 119	Ship Blooming Rose	1816
	Brig Bolivar	
b. 11, f. 120-130	1825-1827, n.d.	
b. 12, f. 131-136	1828-1830, n.d.	
b. 12, f. 137	Brig Boxer	1824-1825
b. 12, f. 138	Ship Catharine Ann	1815
b. 12, f. 139	Ship Ceres	1806-1810
b. 12, f. 140	Ship Chancellor	1823-1824
b. 12, f. 141	Ship Charles	1809
b. 12, f. 142	Sloop Cleopatra	1810-1824
b. 12, f. 143	Ship Columbia	1801-1802
b. 12, f. 144	Brig Commerce	1791
b. 12, f. 145	Ship Cornelia	1810-1815
b. 12, f. 146	Ship Cornelia	1810-1815
b. 12, f. 147	Sloop Dart	1825-1830
b. 12, f. 148	Schooner David	1828
b. 12, f. 149	Schooner Delight	1802

b. 12, f. 150	Schooner Durango	1830-1831
b. 13, f. 151	Schooner Eagle	1804-1823
b. 13, f. 152	Sloop Fair Haven	1831
b. 13, f. 153	Sloop Fair Lady	1816
b. 13, f. 154	Brig Fair Play	undated
b. 13, f. 155	Brig Falcon	1823
b. 13, f. 156	Ship Fortitude	1810
b. 13, f. 157	Ship Fox	1812-1813
b. 13, f. 158	Brig Francis	1827
b. 13, f. 159	Sloop Gertrude	1824
b. 13, f. 160	Brig Gold Searcher	1797-1808
b. 13, f. 161	Sloop Gordon	1831
b. 13, f. 162	Schooner Gypsy	1815-1816
b. 13, f. 163	Ship Helen Mar	1826-1827
b. 13, f. 164	Ship Henry	1818-1820
b. 13, f. 165	Sloop Henry	1815-1825
b. 13, f. 166	Ship Heroine	1827-1828
b. 13, f. 167	Sloop Hetta	1824
b. 13, f. 168	Ship Independence	1805-1808
b. 13, f. 169	Sloop Industry	1798-1799
b. 13, f. 170	Ship James	1805
b. 13, f. 171	Brig James Wells	1808
b. 13, f. 172	Ship John	1820-1821
b. 13, f. 173	Ship John Drew	1809
b. 13, f. 174	Ship John Hagan	1831
b. 13, f. 175	Ship Juliet	1811-1812
b. 13, f. 176	Ship Laura	1803-1816
b. 13, f. 177	Ship Lavinia	1822-1824
b. 13, f. 178	Brig Lewis	1816
b. 13, f. 179	Ship Liberty	1822-1825

b. 13, f. 180	Brig Lambert	1807
b. 13, f. 181	Ship Marion	1830-1831
b. 13, f. 182	Schooner Marlburg	1806
b. 13, f. 183	Schooner Mary	1803-1831
b. 13, f. 184	Sloop Mary	1830
b. 13, f. 185	Schooner Mary Ann	1813-1818
b. 13, f. 186	Ship Mercator	1817
b. 13, f. 187	Ship Mermaid	1800-1809
b. 13, f. 188	Ship Mentor	1826-1828
b. 13, f. 189	Schooner Minerva	1800-1801
b. 13, f. 190	Ship Mirror	1818
b. 14, f. 191	Sloop Nelson	1824-1826
b. 14, f. 192	Neptune's Barge	1822-1823
b. 14, f. 193	Brig Nerimae	undated
b. 14, f. 194	Brig New Hanover	1828-1831
b. 14, f. 195	Brig North Carolina	1824-1825
b. 14, f. 196	Sloop Nun	1828-1829
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b. 14, f. 197	Brig Nymph	1716-1818
b. 14, f. 198	Brig Oliver	1804
b. 14, f. 199	Sloop Olynthus	1831
b. 14, f. 200	Ship Orion	1804
b. 14, f. 201	Sloop Paragon	1817-1818
b. 14, f. 202	Brig Planter	1820
b. 14, f. 203	Brig Polly	1802
b. 14, f. 204	Ship Potosi	1821, 1825
b. 14, f. 205	Ship Pulaski	1831-1833
b. 14, f. 206	Schooner Return	1813-1815
b. 14, f. 207	Ship Robert Wilson	1824-1828

b. 14, f. 208	Sloop Satellite	1814
b. 14, f. 209	Sloop Spark	1816-1818
b. 14, f. 210	Brig Stationer	1806
b. 14, f. 211	Schooner Tamaulipas	1829-1830
b. 14, f. 212	Brig Thetis	1821-1828
b. 14, f. 213	Brig Traveller	1808-1812
b. 14, f. 214	Schooner Triton	1828
b. 14, f. 215	Sloop Triumph	1831
b. 14, f. 216	Brig Trollee	1814
b. 14, f. 217	Sloop Unity	1816-1821
b. 14, f. 218	Brig Venus	1814-1815
b. 14, f. 219	Schooner Viper	1812-1813
b. 14, f. 220	Ship Walter	1810
b. 14, f. 221	Brig Wasp	1816
b. 14, f. 222	Ship William	1817
b. 14, f. 223	Sloop William and Alfred	1812
b. 14, f. 224-225	Miscellaneous	

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

Brazil
California -- History -- 1846-1850
Chatham (Conn.)
Connecticut -- Politics and government --
1775-1865
Haddam (Conn.)
United States -- Commerce -- South America
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
United States -- History -- War of 1812
West (U.S.)

Subjects

Business
Businessmen
Distilling industries -- Connecticut
Docks -- New York (State) -- New York
Families
Merchants
Shipbuilding -- Connecticut
Shipping -- Connecticut
Wharves -- New York (State) -- New York

Genres / Formats

Account books
Diaries
Ships' papers

Occupations

Public officers
Shipmasters

Names

Griswold, George, 1777-1859
Griswold, Nathaniel Lynde, 1773-1866
Hurd, Benjamin
Hurd, Benjamin, 1739-1781
Hurd, Cyrus
Hurd, Drusilla Dart, b. 1768
Hurd, Jesse, approximately 1760-1831
Hurd, Nelson
Hurd, Norman

Hurd, William A.
Selden, Huntington
Smith, Hezekiah, ca. 1750-1826

Families

Griswold family
Hurd family

Corporate Bodies

Bolivar (Brig)
New York Screw Dock Company
United States. Army. New York Infantry
Regiment, 9th (1861-1863)
United States. Navy -- Pay, allowance, etc.