

# Guide to the Jonathan Humphrey Bissell Papers

MS 1442



compiled by Catherine Lawrence

January 1996

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1442

**CREATOR:** Bissell, Jonathan Humphrey, 1800-1845

**TITLE:** Jonathan Humphrey Bissell papers

**DATES:** 1815-1821

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist primarily of Jonathan Humphrey Bissell's letters to his family in Hartford, written while he was a student at Yale. There are forty-five letters in all; thirty-eight were written to his brother, Titus L. Bissell, Jr. In the letters, Bissell describes his college activities, mentions schoolbooks and pictures that he has purchased for his younger brothers, requests that particular items of clothing be mended or sent from home, and details his academic expenses, since he relied on monetary support from his father and brother. There is also a single letter that Bissell wrote in 1821 from Hartford to his brother Titus, then in New York City.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1442>

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## 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.1442>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were a gift to the Yale Library.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Jonathan Humphrey Bissell Papers (MS 1442). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Jonathan Humphrey Bissell, son of Titus Lucretius Bissell, Sr., and Eunice (Humphrey) Bissell, was born on June 9, 1800, in Windsor, Connecticut. The family moved to Hartford, Connecticut, during Bissell's youth. He entered Yale College in 1815, received his B.A. in 1819, and returned to Hartford to study law. After beginning his law practice in New Orleans, Louisiana, he moved to Charleston, South Carolina in 1824. Around 1830 he gave up his legal career to become manager and agent for a North Carolina gold-mining company. Bissell never married; he died of pneumonia on March 18, 1845, in Philadelphia, while traveling to New York City on business.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist primarily of Jonathan Humphrey Bissell's letters to his family in Hartford, written while he was a student at Yale. There are forty-five letters in all; thirty-eight were written to his brother, Titus L. Bissell, Jr. In the letters, Bissell describes his college activities, mentions schoolbooks and pictures that he has purchased for his younger brothers, requests that particular items of clothing be mended or sent from home, and details his academic expenses, since he relied on monetary support from his father and brother. There is also a single letter that Bissell wrote in 1821 from Hartford to his brother Titus, then in New York City.

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## Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

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## Collection Contents

### Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1 - 2	1815-1818
b. 1, f. 3	1819, 1821, n.d.

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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.

### **Subjects**

Education -- History -- 19th century  
Finance, Personal -- History -- 19th century  
Students -- History -- 19th century

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

### **Names**

Bissell, Jonathan Humphrey, 1800-1845

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1819  
Yale University -- Students