

# Guide to the Thomas Anthony Thacher Papers

MS 1697



compiled by Meghan Glass

July 2003

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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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  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1697

**CREATOR:** Thacher, Thomas Anthony, 1815-1886

**TITLE:** Thomas Anthony Thacher papers

**DATES:** 1708-1886

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, legal and financial documents, minutes of meetings, and memorabilia related to Thomas Anthony Thacher's personal life and family, his academic career at Yale College, and his interest in public higher education. Other papers in the collection consist of correspondence, legal and financial documents, church records, and a family tree that are related to other Thacher family members.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1697>

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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.1697>.

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

Transferred from Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, ca. 1970. Gift from Anne Day Thacher, 2003.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Thomas Anthony Thacher Papers (MS 1697). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Thomas Anthony Thacher was born in Hartford, Connecticut on January 11, 1815. He received a B.A. degree from Yale College in 1835 and his M.A. degree in 1838. From 1838 to 1842, Thacher was a tutor at Yale College. He then advanced to assistant professor of Latin and Greek Languages from 1842 to 1845, assistant professor of Latin Language and Literature from 1845 to 1851, and professor of Latin Language and Literature from 1851 until his death on April 7, 1886. In addition to his teaching duties, Thacher was actively involved in the general administration of Yale College, particularly in the area of fund raising. He also served as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Education from its inception in 1865 until his resignation in 1877. Thacher received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Western Reserve College in 1869.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, legal and financial documents, minutes of meetings, and memorabilia related to Thomas Anthony Thacher's personal life, academic career at Yale College, and interest in public higher education. The records document Thacher's relationships with his family members as well as the development of his professional life from student to faculty member at Yale College. Folders are arranged alphabetically within headings. Correspondence is arranged both by individual and topic; much of this correspondence is personal, such as with Yale classmate Daniel Webster, sisters Apphia, Elizabeth, Lucy and Nancy, or his first wife, Elizabeth Day Thacher, and second wife, Elizabeth Sherman Thacher. Other correspondence and additional documents such as a grade book and minutes of meetings, relate to Thomas Thacher's academic career as a professor at Yale College. Various deeds, bills, and insurance documents pertain to his personal financial and legal obligations.

Additional records in the collection are related to other Thacher family members, especially Peter Thacher, the father of Thomas Thacher. These papers include correspondence, legal and financial documents, church records, and a family tree.

## Collection Contents

### Thacher, Thomas Anthony

b. 1, f. 1 Association of Officers of Colleges in New England [minutes of proceedings; 1858-1860  
Thacher was secretary for the first meeting]

#### Correspondence

b. 1, f. 2 - 4	General, incoming [mainly professional]	1830-1885, undated
b. 1, f. 5	General, outgoing	1836, 1843-1845
b. 1, f. 6	Butler, Daniel	1851-1884
b. 1, f. 7	Day, Jeremiah [regarding appointment as tutor in Latin at Yale College]	1837-1846
b. 1, f. 8	Day, Thomas [pertaining to Thomas Thacher's intention to write a biography of Jeremiah Day and Thomas Day]	1841-1854
b. 1, f. 9	Kingsley, J. L. [correspondence while in Germany]	1843-1845
b. 1, f. 10	Pratt, Julius H. [regarding taxes and sale of plots in Arlington Cemetery, New Jersey]	1882-1886
b. 2, f. 11	Seymour, J. F.	1836-1858
b. 2, f. 12	Stanley, T. [regarding post-college plans]	1836-1838
b. 2, f. 13	Swayze, Wager	1852-1885
b. 2, f. 14	Thacher, Apphia, Elizabeth, Lucy, and Nancy (sisters) [housed in notebook]	1832-1851
b. 2, f. 15	Thacher, Elizabeth (sister) [housed in notebook]	1831-1857
b. 2, f. 16	Thacher, Elizabeth Day (first wife)	1846-1857
b. 2, f. 17	Thacher, Elizabeth Sherman (second wife)	1840-1884
b. 2, f. 18	Woolsey, Theodore Dwight (president of Yale College)	1845-1881, undated
b. 2, f. 19	Yale College fundraising	1851-1886
b. 2, f. 20	Deeds, wills and financial documents	1708-1877
b. 2, f. 21	Financial documents related to estates of Apphia Thacher, Elizabeth Thacher, Emmeline Thacher, Nancy Thacher (sisters)	1858-1874
b. 2, f. 22	Fire and life insurance contracts and invoices	1841-1877
b. 2, f. 23	Grade book for Latin course, junior class	1851
b. 2, f. 24	Journal	1884
b. 2, f. 25	Lock of hair	1851

b. 3, f. 26	Notebook with reproductions of family letters and writings	1886
b. 3, f. 27	Power of attorney paper	1850
b. 3, f. 28	<i>Thomas Anthony Thacher: Remarks Made at the Funeral Services by Professor Timothy Dwight</i>	[1886]
b. 3, f. 29	Yale Club of Cincinnati [memorial tribute]	1886 April 9
Other Thacher family members		
b. 3, f. 30	Parkes and Day family tree	undated
b. 3, f. 31 - 34	Thacher, Peter [correspondence with John Thacher, father, James and John Thacher, brothers, Anne Parkes, future wife, and others]	1793-1825
b. 3, f. 35	Thacher, Peter [deeds]	1773-1847
b. 3, f. 36	Miscellaneous correspondence	1718-1885
b. 3, f. 37	Miscellaneous legal documents [power of attorney papers for the Dodd and Sprague families; Irene Larned's will; Timothy Wright's deed]	1849, undated
b. 4, f. 38	Miscellaneous religious writings, church records, and financial documents [mounted on heavy paper; mainly reproductions of 18th and 17th century documents] <i>1 Film Reel (16mm)</i>	1719-1758, undated

## **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, Higher

### **Names**

Thacher, Thomas Anthony, 1815-1886

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale University -- Administration

Yale University -- Finance