

# Guide to the Jonathan Lee Papers

MS 958



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and Isabelle McDonnell

October 1984

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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1781-1857 .....	6
Series II: Sermons, 1812-1836 .....	7
Series III: Volumes, 1804-1844 .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	9

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 958

**CREATOR:** Lee, Jonathan, 1786-1866

**TITLE:** Jonathan Lee papers

**DATES:** 1781-1857

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.25 linear feet (10 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, notebooks, journals and sermons of Jonathan Lee, which document his professional and personal life in Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0958>

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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.0958>.

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

Gift of William Todd, with supplemental purchases, 1941.

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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

Jonathan Lee Papers (MS 958). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Jonathan Lee was born on July 19, 1786, in Salisbury, Connecticut, the son of Deacon Milo and Ruth Camp Lee. He fitted for college with Rev. Ammi R. Robbins, of Norfolk, and entered the Freshman Class in Sept., 1804, but was compelled by poor health to relinquish study for an entire year during his college course. He graduated from Yale in 1809 and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1812.

Lee was ordained and installed pastor of the Congregational Church in Otis, Massachusetts in 1815. He was dismissed from this charge, July 10, 1831, at his own request. He subsequently was the pastor of the Congregational Church in Weybridge, Vermont from 1834-1837. He published an "Address, designed to be presented to a Mutual Council," called for his dismissal, (pp. 23, 8<sup>o</sup>, Middlebury, Vt., 1837.) Two sermons preached at Otis were also published. In 1838 Lee returned to Salisbury to teach and resided there until his death in 1866.

He was twice married. His first wife, who died Nov. 14, 1826, was Harriet Dewey, daughter of Col. J. Danforth, of Pittsfield, Mass. He married, Nov. 25, 1827, Mary, daughter of Col. Adonijah Strong, of Salisbury. She died Dec. 24, 1863, aged 76.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, sermons, journals, notebooks, and other papers relating to the personal life and professional career of Jonathan Lee, a graduate of Yale University (B.A., 1809) and Congregational Minister in Otis, Massachusetts; Weybridge, Vermont; and Salisbury, Connecticut.

The Lee Papers are arranged in ten (10) boxes and total four and one-quarter (4.25) linear feet. The papers are arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, 1781-1857, II. Sermons, 1812-1836, III. Volumes, 1804-1844.

SERIES I, CORRESPONDENCE, 1781-1805, consists primarily of letters exchanged between members of the Lee family. Jonathan Lee maintained a regular correspondence with family members, including his parents, brothers, sisters, and his wife. Early letters consist of messages from Jonathan Lee to family members as he studied at Yale College and Andover Theological Seminary. Lee wrote regularly and in great detail of his studies and life at school. Lee also corresponded with family members while in the Michigan Territory during the 1820s and 1830s. He ventured there as a representative of the American Home Missionary Society, and engaged in religious work in the area of Tecumseh, Michigan. Lee exchanged religious views and family information from the Midwest, and he continued this correspondence upon his return to New England in the 1830s, after which he assumed positions in Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

During the 1840s he corresponded with his offspring quite regularly, including several letters to and from his daughter Harriet, as she recuperated from an illness in an Utica, New York asylum.

SERIES II, SERMONS, 1812-1836, consists of several handwritten sermons which Lee delivered in the course of his religious training and practice. These sermons, as indicated on the text, were often delivered several times in a variety of locations in and around New England.

SERIES III, VOLUMES, 1804-1844, consists of a commonplace book, a journal (1804-1844), and several notebooks which Lee compiled in the course of his academic work at Yale College (1808-1809).

The Lee Papers were donated by William Todd and supplemented by purchases, in 1941.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, 1781-1857. II. Sermons, 1812-1836. III. Volumes, 1804-1844.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1781-1857

*1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series is arranged in chronological order.

b. 1, f. 1-19	1781 - 1835 March A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1781 - 1835 March
b. 2, f. 20-42	1835 April - 1857	1835 April - 1857
b. 3, f. 43-47	Undated	Undated

## **Series II: Sermons, 1812-1836**

*2 linear feet (5 boxes)*

This series is arranged in chronological order.

b. 4, f. 48-60	1812 Feb - 1817 Aug
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b. 5, f. 61-76	1817 Sep - 1820 Dec
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b. 6, f. 77-90,	1821 Jan - 1824 Feb
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b. 7, f. 91-106	1824 Mar - 1828 Feb
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b. 8, f. 107-120	1828 Mar - 1836
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**Series III: Volumes, 1804-1844***1 linear foot (2 boxes)*

This series is arranged in alphabetical order by record type.

b. 9, f. 121	Commonplace Book	1809
b. 9, f. 122-125	Journal	1804-1844
Notebooks		
b. 9, f. 126-127	Disputes	1808-1809
b. 10, f. 128	English	undated
b. 10, f. 129	Logic	1809
b. 10, f. 130	Manuscript	undated
b. 10, f. 131	Philosophy	1808
b. 10, f. 132	Rhetoric	1808
b. 10, f. 133	Theology	1809
b. 10, f. 134	Miscellanea	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**

Clergy  
Clergy -- Correspondence  
Clergy -- Massachusetts  
Religion  
Theology

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut  
Michigan  
Middle West  
Salisbury (Conn.) -- History  
Vermont

### **Genres / Formats**

Account books  
Diaries  
Sermons

### **Names**

Lee, Jonathan, 1786-1866

### **Corporate Bodies**

Andover Theological Seminary  
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1809  
Yale University -- Students

### **Families**

Lee family