

# Guide to the Gibbs Family Papers

MS 236



compiled by Bruce P. Stark

April 1982

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

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 236

**CREATOR:** Gibbs family

**TITLE:** Gibbs family papers

**DATES:** 1718-1893

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

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, financial papers and memorabilia of members of the Gibbs family. Of principal interest are thirteen letters (1783-1796) from Roger Sherman to his brother-in-law, Henry Gibbs, of which five (1789-1790) discuss the deliberations of the first Congress of the United States. Other figures represented in the papers are two Josiah Willard Gibbsses (father and son) and Addison Van Name.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0236>

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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.0236>.

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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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Gibbs Family Papers (MS 236). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Roger Sherman, 1721-1793: Connecticut statesman, delegate to the Continental Congress, 1774-1781, signer and delegate to Constitutional Convention, 1783-1784, Congressman, 1789-1791; Senator, 1791-1793. Josiah Willard Gibbs, 1790-1861: orientalist, philologist, teacher, librarian Yale, 1824-1843, Professor of Sacred Literature, Yale, 1826-1861. Josiah Willard Gibbs, 1839-1903: mathematician, physicist, Professor of Mathematical Physics, Yale, 1871-1903. Addison Van Name, 1835-1922: librarian, philologist, librarian, Yale, 1865-1905.

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

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## Scope and Contents

The Gibbs Family Papers are housed in a single box (15 folders) and one folio and span the dates 1718 to 1893. The papers contain a variety of materials from legal documents and correspondence to tax papers and a poem.

The most interesting letters are found in folders 3 and 4, thirteen letters from Connecticut statesman Roger Sherman to his brother-in-law Henry Gibbs, a Salem, Massachusetts merchant. Many of the letters concern business matters. Five, however, written by Sherman between 1789 Jun 1 and 1790 Jun 10 discuss the activities of the first Congress of the United States. The papers also contain three letters written by Roger Sherman, Jr. to his uncle and aunt.

Other items of possible interest include a letter from Yale Professor of Sacred Literature Josiah W. Gibbs to the Reverend Isaac N. Tarbox (1815-1888) recommending William C. Shipman; an 1852 agreement between Gibbs and William C. Fowler (1793-1881), author of a well known three volume series of English grammars, on Gibbs' participation in this project; and a poem, "The Storm," written in 1893 by the famous scientist J. Willard Gibbs. See the [Genealogical Chart](#) for an outline of the relationships among the persons represented in this collection.

The eighteenth century material in the Gibbs Family Papers, folders 1-4, was donated to Yale University in 1942 by Theodora, Ralph Gibbs, and Willard Gibbs Van Name, "The Storm" was given by A. Guyot Cameron, and the remaining items were purchased.

Note: Mary (Shrimpton) Gibbs, Henry Gibbs, and Mary (Gibbs) Cotton do not belong to the Gibbs family line of the Reverend Henry Gibbs (1668-1723) and Henry Gibbs (1709-1759).

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Legal papers	1721, 1747
b. 1, f. 2	Legal papers	1761, 1765
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1783-1789
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1790-1796
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1851, 1860
b. 1, f. 6	Agreement	1852
b. 1, f. 7	Estate papers of Josiah W. Gibbs	1861-1862
b. 1, f. 8	Taxes	1861-1866
b. 1, f. 9	Treasury certificates	1866
b. 1, f. 10	Josiah W. Gibbs: notes	undated
b. 1, f. 11	J. Willard Gibbs: notes	undated
b. 1, f. 12	"The Storm" by J. Willard Gibbs English	1893
b. 1, f. 13	Addison Van Name: valedictory address	1858
b. 1, f. 14	Addison Van Name: printed material and memorabilia from German universities	1859-1860
b. 1, f. 15	Addison Van Name: subscription	1873
b. CF15	Gibbs, Mary (Shrimpton). Deed signed and sealed by her son Henry Gibbs (1694-1761), "braisier" of Boston, for land in Boston	1718 February 25
b. CF15	Gibbs, Henry (1668-1723). Articles of division and partition of property with Henry Gibbs (1694-1761)	1721 May 8
b. CF15	Gibbs, Mary (Shrimpton). Deed signed and sealed from Mary Gibbs and her son-in-law and daughter, John and Mary (Gibbs) Cotton, to her son Henry Gibbs (1694-1761) for land in Boston	1721 May 25
b. CF15	Van Name, Addison. Certificate from University of Halle, 1859 Nov 11.	
b. CF15	Van Name, Addison. Certificate from University of Tübingen, 1860 May 20	

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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

Educators  
Families  
Science

### Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775

### Genres / Formats

Deeds

### Occupations

Legislators  
Politicians

### Names

Fowler, William Chauncey, 1793-1881  
Gibbs, Henry, 1668-1723  
Gibbs, Henry, 1749-1794  
Gibbs, J. Willard (Josiah Willard), 1839-1903  
Gibbs, Josiah W. (Josiah Willard), 1790-1861  
Sherman, Roger, 1721-1793  
Sherman, Roger, 1768-1856  
Tarbox, Increase N. (Increase Niles), 1815-1888  
Van Name, Addison

### Families

Gibbs family

### Corporate Body

United States. Congress