

Guide to the Thomas Gilyard Papers

MS 241



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

August 1981

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 241

CREATOR: Gilyard, Thomas, 1786-1853

TITLE: Thomas Gilyard papers

DATES: 1808-1853

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Diaries, a farm ledger, poems, hymns and correspondence. The diary entries cover the years 1828-1853 and are interspersed with copies of Gilyard family letters from England (1808-1818) together with fifty-five pages of recipes for dyes. Many of the diary entries concern the Methodist Church of which Gilyard was a trustee for some thirty years. The farm ledger (1835-1845) records farm activities and the sale of farm produce.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0241>

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.0241>.

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 David F. Gilyard in 1953.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Thomas Gilyard Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Thomas Gilyard was born in Leeds, England in 1786, son of Edmund Gilyard. He was brought to the United States in 1807 by General David Humphreys to assist the latter in the establishment of his woolen mill in Humphreysville, now Seymour, Connecticut. Gilyard was the first broadcloth finisher in this country. He married Lois French of Bethany, Connecticut in 1810, took the freeman's oath in 1819, and settled on a farm in Humphreysville. He was an ardent member of the Methodist church, of which he was a trustee for about thirty years, and something of amateur poet and artist. He died in 1853.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of Thomas Gilyard's journal, a farm ledger, and various poems and hymns, as well as some correspondence. In the first volume of the journal, preceding or interspersed with diary entries for 1828-1843, are copies of letters to and from Gilyard's family in England (1808-1818) and fifty-five pages of recipes for dyes. The other volume is almost entirely composed of diary entries, 1832-1853. Included are detailed accounts of family and neighborhood activities, local politics, legal cases in the vicinity, and much matter of interest for the history of the Methodist church. The small ledger dates mainly from 1833-1845, with a few later entries, and deals for the most part with farm activities and the sale of farm produce. Finally, there is also a volume of poems, hymns, and so forth, and a photostatic copy of a self-portrait of Gilyard.

The papers were the gift of David F. Gilyard in 1953.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Journal, Vol. I	1808-1843
b. 1, f. 2	Journal, Vol. II	1832-1853
b. 1, f. 3	Ledger	1833-1853
b. 1, f. 4	Poetry and hymns	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Photostats of material removed from the journal and returned to the donor: self-portrait and poem	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

Agriculture
Business
Clergy
Dyes and dyeing
Emigration and immigration
Farms -- Connecticut -- Seymour
Woolen and worsted manufacture --
Connecticut -- Seymour

Geographic Names

Connecticut
Seymour (Conn.) -- History

Genres / Formats

Account books
Diaries

Occupations

Weavers

Names

Gilyard, Thomas, 1786-1853

Corporate Body

Methodist Episcopal Church (Seymour, Conn.)