

# Guide to the Bennett Upson Papers

MS 678



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

October 1981

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 678

**CREATOR:** Upson, Bennett, 1809-1856

**TITLE:** Bennett Upson papers

**DATES:** 1836-1858

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

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence between Bennett Upson of Wolcott, Connecticut, and his wife, Ursula Hotchkiss Upson, who, after her husband's death, became a spiritualist. There is also correspondence with other family members in addition to some business correspondence and miscellaneous papers. The correspondence is largely concerned with his work as an agent travelling through the South for Atkins, Allen & Co. of Bristol, Connecticut. There is much about his long absences from home and his business problems in collecting debts and selling cotton gins in Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. There is also one letter (1858) relating to Mrs. Upson's dealings with spiritualism.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0678>

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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.0678>.

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

Bennett Upson Papers (MS 678). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

These papers consist mainly of correspondence between Bennett Upson (1809-1856) of Wolcott, Connecticut, and his wife, Ursula (Hotchkiss) Upson, who became a spiritualist of some minor note after her husband's death. There is in addition some correspondence with other family members, and with business acquaintances. The letters are largely concerned with his work as an agent travelling through the South for Atkins, Allen, & Company of Bristol, Connecticut. There is much about his long absences from home and about his business problems collecting debts and selling cotton gins in Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. There is also one letter (1858) relating to Ursula Upson's dealings with spiritualism, and some miscellaneous papers, among which are what appear to be spirit messages from Bennett Upson and others.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 5	<a href="#">Family correspondence</a>	1836-1858
b. 1, f. 6	Business correspondence	1836-1853
b. 1, f. 7	<a href="#">Miscellaneous papers</a>	undated

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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**

Business  
Businessmen  
Cotton gins and ginning  
Spiritualism

### **Geographic Names**

Southern States -- Description and travel  
Wolcott (Conn. : Town) -- History

### **Names**

Upson, Bennett, 1809-1856  
Upson, Ursula Hotchkiss, 1815-1863

### **Corporate Body**

Atkins, Allen & Co