

# Guide to the David C. Collins Papers

MS 886



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

April 1983

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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
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	6

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 886

**CREATOR:** Collins, David Chittenden, 1805-1861

**TITLE:** David Chittenden Collins papers

**DATES:** 1845-1851

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of family correspondence of which the largest group is made up of letters between David Collins and his wife, Clarissa. Also included are three letters to Collins from his daughters. The letters discuss domestic affairs such as the upbringing of children, health, and family relations.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0886>

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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.0886>.

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 in 1956 as part of the Daniel Collins Family Papers (MS 894).

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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

David Chittenden Collins Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

David Chittenden Collins was probably born in 1803, the son of Elizabeth Watkinson and Alexander Collins. After Alexander's unexpected death in 1815, Eliza moved with her children from Middletown to Hartford, Connecticut. In Hartford, David was employed at his Uncle David Wilkinson's hardware store. In the early 1820s, Collins began a blacksmith shop, where he forged and tempered axes. In 1826, Collins & Co. was formed as a partnership between David, his brother Samuel, and their cousin, William Wells. The company produced axes and was extremely successful. Collins died in 1861.

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## Scope and Contents

This small collection consists of correspondence of David Chittenden Collins with family and a few others between the years 1845 and 1851. The bulk of the letters are thirty-three exchanged between Collins and his wife, Clarissa (Ely) Collins during his business trips to New York City, and three letters to Collins from his daughters. These letters deal almost entirely with household matters and family news; frequent topics are the upbringing of the children, the family's health, and relations with Clarissa Collins' family. The remaining nine letters from other correspondents discuss such matters as renting property and hiring servants.

The letters are arranged alphabetically by author. They were given to Yale University in 1956, and previously formed part of the Daniel Collins Family Papers, Manuscript Group Number 894.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	American Art Union	1847
b. 1, f. 2	Belden, Mary H.	1850
b. 1, f. 3 - 9	Collins, Clarissa (Ely)	1845-1851, undated
b. 1, f. 10 - 12	Collins, David Chittenden	1847-1848
b. 1, f. 13	Collins, Edith	1845, undated
b. 1, f. 14	D____, M____	undated
b. 1, f. 15	[Ely, Richard S.? English	1847
b. 1, f. 16	Harrington, Mary K.	undated
b. 1, f. 17	Hewins, Mary K.	undated
b. 1, f. 18	Low, Annie	undated
b. 1, f. 19	Sheffield, Joseph Earl	undated
b. 1, f. 20	Staples, Mrs. E.	undated
b. 1, f. 21	Newspaper clipping	1847

## **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**

Families  
Husband and wife

### **Geographic Names**

Canton (Conn. : Town)

### **Occupations**

Manufacturers

### **Names**

Collins, Clarissa Ely, b. 1814  
Collins, David Chittenden, 1805-1861