

Guide to the Coleman Brothers Collection

Ms Coll 36



Finding aid by Judit Balassa

2012

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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
1.: Correspondence of Isaac and James Coleman, 1821-1872	6
Series II: Correspondence of the extended Coleman family	8
Series III: Manuscripts and documents of the Coleman brothers and family, 1830-1860	9
Series IV: Letters and documents related to the parents and ancestors of the Coleman brothers, 1743-1910	10
Series V: Photographs	12
Selected Search Terms	13

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 36

CREATOR: Coleman, Isaac Pearson, 1804-1869

TITLE: Coleman Brothers Collection

DATES: 1721-1910

BULK DATES: 1821-1868

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence between Isaac Pearson Coleman and James Beakes Coleman, brothers who received medical degrees at the Medical Institution of Yale College (Yale School of Medicine) and who practiced medicine in and near Trenton, New Jersey; correspondence of the Coleman brothers with medical colleagues and with members of their families; letters, manuscripts, and legal documents pertaining to the extended Coleman family of New Jersey as well as the Saltar family; and portrait photographs of the extended Coleman family.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0036>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0036>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased 2012

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

This collection is not under copyright

Preferred Citation

Coleman Brothers Collection. Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

Isaac Pearson Coleman and James Beakes Coleman were sons of James Coleman and Sarah Beakes Coleman, who were Quakers. Isaac Coleman was born near Trenton, New Jersey, February 2, 1804. He received his early education at the Trenton Academy, studied medicine under Dr. Francis A. Ewing of Trenton, and obtained his medical degree from Yale in 1832. He first practiced medicine in Trenton, and about 1837, settled in Pemberton, New Jersey. In 1843 he married Anne Saltar of Philadelphia. They had three children. Isaac Coleman was a surgeon as well as physician and served as president of the Medical Society of New Jersey. He died November 4, 1869.

James Beakes Coleman was born October 6, 1805 in Trenton, New Jersey where he received his early education. He worked under an apothecary where he obtained a knowledge of practical chemistry. He studied medicine under Dr. Nicholas (de) Belleville of Trenton, and received his M.D. from Yale in 1829. After graduation, he began practicing medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two years later he relocated to Juliustown in Burlington County, New Jersey. In 1837, he settled in Trenton where he practiced medicine and surgery for the rest of his life. He was a general practitioner, who, like his brother, was known for his surgical skill. He married Henrietta Beasley and had several children including Waldburg Coleman who became a physician. James Coleman was president of the Board of Health in Trenton, a member of the Board of Managers of the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, founding member and president of the District Medical Society of Mercer County, New Jersey, and president of the Medical Society of New Jersey in 1855. He was also a talented amateur portrait artist and caricaturist. He died December 19, 1877.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains the correspondence between the brothers and Yale-educated physicians Isaac Pearson Coleman and James Beakes Coleman of New Jersey spanning their years at the Medical Institution of Yale College (Yale University School of Medicine) through the beginnings of their respective medical practices in New Jersey; their correspondence with other practitioners and members of their families; extended family correspondence; James Coleman's notes and lectures on phrenology; and a large number of documents including deeds, miscellaneous printed matter, and receipts of Isaac Coleman and his family, the brothers' parents and their ancestors; and 33 photographs of the extended family. (There are no photographs of the Coleman brothers). The letters particularly document Isaac P. Coleman's time at Yale (1829-1832). Notable professional correspondents include preceptors, Dr. Francis A. Ewing of Trenton and Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride, a Philadelphia psychiatrist who had also studied medicine with Nicholas Belleville in Trenton. Medical topics include medical education, anatomy and dissection, New Jersey licensing law, medical treatments, smallpox and vaccination, and phrenology.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: 1. Correspondence of Isaac and James Coleman. 2. Correspondence of the extended Coleman family. 3. Manuscripts and documents of the Coleman brothers and family. 4. Letters and documents related to the parents and ancestors of the Coleman brothers. 5. Photographs.

Collection Contents

1.: Correspondence of Isaac and James Coleman, 1821-1872

b. 1, f. 1	<p>Letters from Isaac P. Coleman to James B. Coleman</p> <p>21 items. Isaac Coleman was engaged in various businesses in Burlington, New Jersey (1824) and Rochester, New York (ca. 1825-1828), before deciding in 1829 to study medicine at Yale over the University of Pennsylvania (see letter dated September 1829). There are 10 letters from New Haven in which he mentions Jonathan Knight, Eli Ives, Benjamin Silliman, and William Tully. Knight served as a preceptor. Coleman received his M.D. in 1832. In 1833, while living in Trenton, he was attending lectures at the "Lyceum," including those "on the mind" and phrenology.</p>	1824-1833
b. 1, f. 2	<p>Letters from Isaac P. Coleman to James B. Coleman</p> <p>23 items. Letters from Isaac Coleman in Trenton to James Coleman in Philadelphia and then in Juliustown, New Jersey. Letters mention Dr. Francis A. Ewing, Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, and Dr. Nicholas Belleville, negative views of Jacksonian politics, changes in medical licensing, medical treatments by local physicians, and bleeding versus letting nature taking its course.</p>	undated, bulk 1830-1837
b. 1, f. 3	<p>Letters from James B. Coleman to Isaac P. Coleman</p> <p>13 items. Three letters are to Isaac in New Haven, two of which discuss smallpox and vaccination. The last four letters are to Isaac in Pemberton.</p>	1824-1868
b. 1, f. 4	<p>Letters from James B. Coleman to Isaac P. Coleman</p> <p>5 items. Four letters are written from Juliustown before Isaac received his M.D. and the fifth, much later, is addressed to Isaac in Pemberton..</p>	undated
b. 1, f. 5	<p>Letters to Isaac P. Coleman from his son James P. Coleman and daughter Sarah P. Coleman.</p> <p>7 items: 4 letters from Sarah (Sally) at St. Mary's Hall, 1860 and n.d., and 3 from James, 1867 and n.d.</p>	ca. 1860-1867
b. 1, f. 6	<p>Letters to Isaac P. Coleman from various correspondents</p> <p>18 items. Includes letters from Anna P. Sherman of New Haven, Francis A. Ewing, his sister Mary Ann, and others.</p>	1825-1872
b. 1, f. 7	<p>Letters from Isaac P. Coleman to his mother and sisters, to his wife Anne Saltar before and after their marriage, and to others, written from Burlington, Trenton, and Pemberton.</p> <p>14 items. One letter to his family dated 1823 [sic] is from New Haven and mentions professor William Tully.</p>	ca. 1824-1867
b. 1, f. 8	<p>Letters to James B. Coleman, A-C</p> <p>17 items from T. Abbott, Jr., Philadelphia, A. G. Bristol, New Haven, and cousin "Coke," Philadelphia.</p>	1827-1832
b. 1, f. 9	<p>Letters to James B. Coleman from his sisters Elizabeth R. and Mary Ann Coleman.</p> <p>9 items.</p>	1826-1831
b. 1, f. 10	<p>Letters to James B. Coleman, D-H</p> <p>18 items. Letters from De Retz, Philadelphia, Dr. Francis A. Ewing, Trenton, John M. Fox, Philadelphia, and Alexander Hamilton, New York</p>	1824-1832

b. 1, f. 11	<p>Letters to James B. Coleman, H-K</p> <p>15 items. Letters from from Charles Higbee, Trenton, Peter Howell, Trenton, Nathan B. Ives (son of Eli Ives), New Haven (Yale School of Medicine, 1828), Jacob N. Keeler, New Haven (Yale School of Medicimne, 1837), and Dr. Thomas. S. Kirkbride. One letter from Keeler discusses medical education at Yale, including obtaining a body of a "Negro" for dissection, and faculty including the professor of surgery, Thomas Hubbard.</p>	1826-1836
b. 1, f. 12	<p>Letters to James B. Coleman, M-W</p> <p>23 items. Letters from "Martinus," Philadelphia, Richard A. Stout, Baltimore, Stephen Y. Watson, Dr. John. G. White, Philadelphia, and Allen Wilson, Trenton. 5 letters from Philadelphia are signed variously as "Martinus Scriblerus," "Martinus," "Cardinal De La Pole," or "De Pole."</p>	1821-1834
b. 1, f. 13	<p>Letters testifying to the training and character of James B. Coleman</p> <p>These may have been required by Yale.</p>	1830
	<p>Letter from Dr. Nicholas Belleville testifying that James B. Coleman had studied medicine and surgery for three years under Belleville's supervision</p>	1830 June 17
	<p>Letter testifying to James B. Coleman's character by Charles Ewing, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court</p>	1830 June 16
b. 1, f. 14	<p>Letters to James B. Coleman from miscellaneous others</p> <p>11 items.</p>	1825-1844
b. 1, f. 15	<p>Letters from James B. Coleman to sisters Mary Ann Coleman and Elizabeth R. Coleman</p> <p>4 items,</p>	1829-1846
b. 1, f. 16	<p>Letters to "Dr. Coleman" (Isaac or James).</p> <p>7 items. Letters from D. Douglass, Mary H. Bodine, Edward Hallowell, Anne B. Cole, H. Wells, D. I. Parmelee, and John Maclean.</p>	1851-1867

Series II: Correspondence of the extended Coleman family

b. 1, f. 17	Letters to Elizabeth R. Coleman 31 items. Elizabeth R. Coleman was the sister of Isaac and James Coleman.	1847-1883
b. 1, f. 18	Letters to Elizabeth R. Coleman 19 items. Several letters are addressed to "Lizzie."	undated
b. 1, f. 19	Letters from Elizabeth R. Coleman 10 items, 2 undated. Some are addressed to "Dear Sister"	1827-1857
b. 1, f. 20	Letters to Anne (Saltar) Coleman 29 items. Margaret Anne Emlem Saltar Coleman, known as Anne or Annie, was the wife of Isaac P. Coleman. Several letters are from Elizabeth R. Coleman, sister of Isaac and James.	1830-1864
b. 1, f. 21	Letters to/from Anne (Saltar) Coleman 24 items, 15 undated. One letter from Anne Coleman to her aunt, Frances (Fanny) Saltar, 1841.	1841, 1867-1888
b. 1, f. 22	Letters to Sally Pearson Coleman 29 items. Sally Pearson Coleman was the daughter of Isaac Coleman. See folder 5. Includes two letters describing Civil War duties in the Washington, D.C. area sent by Lewis H. Lightstripe.	1861-1887
b. 1, f. 23	Letters to Sally Pearson Coleman 20 items. Includes an illustrated letter from Frances (Fanny) Saltar with a description of the wedding of Fanny Wharton to Brigadier General Guy V. Henry.	undated
b. 1, f. 24	Letters from Sally Pearson Coleman 10 items.	1859-1867 and n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	Miscellaneous Coleman family correspondence 24 items.	1849, 1856-1903 and n.d.

Series III: Manuscripts and documents of the Coleman brothers and family, 1830-1860

b. 1, f. 26	Manuscripts by James B. Coleman	
	Notes for lecture delivered by Coleman on "The Doctrine of Phrenology."	n.d.
	A more extensive 41-page manuscript for a two-part lecture on phrenology.	n.d.
	Brief manuscript outlines on the "varieties of men," a racially based typology.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 27	Miscellaneous receipts to Isaac P. Coleman	1831, 1857-1867
	80 items. These are mostly handwritten receipts to Isaac Coleman for goods and services. There are many printed receipts for transporting freight from the "Burlington County R.R. & Transportation Co." One note signed by Coleman certified that the death of Mrs. Samuel H. Jones came "from natural causes alone" (August 6, 1864). The 1831 document is a receipt to [Isaac] Pearson Coleman for \$64.00 for claims of both Isaac and James.	
b. 2, f. 28	Larger format receipts to Isaac P. Coleman	1859-1868
	54 items. Receipts to Isaac P. Coleman similar to folder 26. There are nine tuition bills for the education of James Pearson Coleman under Charles E. Aaron at Mount Holly, New Jersey, 1863-1866, and one bill for tuition at Pemberton Academy, 1867. Also of note are dues receipts from the Burlington County Lyceum of Natural History and a receipt for subscription to the <i>Medical and Surgical Reporter</i> .	
b. 2, f. 29	Tuition bills, grade reports; tax bills; printed documents related to the Civil War, sent to Isaac P. Coleman	1859-1866
	18 items, including tuition bills and grades for daughters Sarah (Sally) Pearson Coleman and Anne (Annie) Saltar Coleman at St. Mary's Hall, Burlington; printed booklet: Diocese of New Jersey, <i>St. Mary's Hall, Register</i> (Philadelphia, 1861); tax bills from the Internal Revenue service; printed document from the <i>Star Gazette</i> , Trenton, 1859; large certificate appointing Isaac Coleman and others constituting Council 80, located in Pemberton, of the Union League of America, New Jersey Chapter; and two printed sheets from the Grand National Council Chamber of the Union League regarding the war, 1864; State of New Jersey, Office of the Quartermaster General document requesting volunteer surgical assistance in the war, 1864.	
b. 2, f. 30	Legal documents concerning lands related to Isaac P. Coleman	1858-1859
	5 items	
b. 2, f. 31	Miscellaneous manuscript notes and receipts, Isaac Coleman's family	1859-1865 and n.d.
	13 items. 2 composition books by Sally P. Coleman; stocks of an oil company given to Sally and Annie Coleman, a manuscript Valentine poem.	
b. 2, f. 32	Miscellaneous notes and receipts	1834-1867
	Manuscript poems, gardening notes, notes on religion, receipts, geological map of "the district between Portage Lake and Montreal River, Lake Superior, Michigan."	
b. 2, f. 33	Miscellaneous legal documents relating to Benjamin F. Boulton, Hannah Lame, James A. Fenwick, Job Gaskill, and Isaac Hilliard, and others, mostly of Burlington County, New Jersey	1830-1905
	21 items. Mostly deeds, but also 1905 copies of a 1844 land survey; and a naturalization certificate of Archibald Campbell of Scotland, 1886.	

Series IV: Letters and documents related to the parents and ancestors of the Coleman brothers, 1743-1910

Edmund Beakes was the great-grandfather of the Coleman brothers. His only child married Job Pearson. Pearson's only child Sarah Beakes Pearson married James Coleman of Maidenhead (later called Lawrence Township) in 1803. James Coleman (died by 1811) and Timothy Coleman of Nottingham, Burlington County, New Jersey, may be the father and uncle of James Coleman of Maidenhead

b. 2, f. 34	James Coleman and/or Sarah Beakes Coleman: letters and legal documents 9 items. Letters to James Coleman near Trenton or Sarah Beakes Coleman; marriage certificate of James Coleman and Sarah Pearson, 1803; deed to James Coleman of Maidenhead, 1806; Timothy Coleman and Sarah his wife of Amwell, Hunterdon County, deed to James Coleman of Maidenhead to land in Maidenhead, 1805; two conveyances of land by Sarah (Beakes) Coleman, 1829. James and Sarah Beakes Coleman were the parents of the Coleman brothers.	1803-1829
b. 2, f. 35	Legal documents pertaining to James Coleman and Timothy Coleman 4 items.	1775-1811
	Indenture to "James Coalman of Nottingham in the County of Burlington and Province of New Jersey"	1775 June 8
	Indenture to " Timothy Coalman" of Nottingham	1801 June 13
	"James Coleman late of the Township of Nottingham" conveyance of land	1809 August 1
	James Coleman (son) of Maidenhead, conveyance of land of his late father, James Coleman of Nottingham	1811 December 26
b. 2, f. 36	Letter and legal documents pertaining to Edmund Beakes, Job Pearson, and James Coleman 11 items.	1723-1801
	Leather bound receipt book used successively by Edmund Beakes, Job Pearson, and James Coleman	1764-1815
	Copy of a contract of Edmund Beakes with John Thorne for construction of a house	1723 August 5
	Indenture between John Burtham of Rumford County, New Jersey, and Edward Beakes of Trenton conveying property to Beakes	1753 May 17
	Will of Edmund Beakes, written 1771	1771
	Legal document stating money owed by Nicholas Everitt and Ezekial Everitt to Edmund Beakes of Trenton	1773 March 10
	Legal bond stating money owed by Isaac Allen and Abraham Hunt to Edmund Beakes of Maidenhead	1773 May 20
	Job Pearson, conveyance of property	1784 February 10
	Deed to Job Pearson of Maidenhead	1784 Mrach 1
	John H. Smith document concerning money owed him by the estate of Edmund Beakes, Job Pearson executor	1786 April 3

Letter and legal documents pertaining to Edmund Beakes, Job Pear [...] (continued)

	Letter of [J.S.?] Pearson to Job Pearson, "near Trenton"	1795 December 15
	Mary Tindall, widow of Thomas Tindall, late of Maidenhead, release of property to Job Pearson	1801 May 12
b. 2, f. 37	Eighteenth-century legal documents possibly related to the Beakes, Pearson, and Coleman families	1743-1761
	Indenture between Benjamin Flounders to James Wells and others regarding property in England	1743 December 1
	Indenture between Benjamin Smith and John Burchem regarding land in Burlington, County, New Jersey	1751 June 17
	Indenture between Joshua Knight, Abington Township, Pennsylvania, and Derick Tyson	1761 May 20
	Indenture between Thomas Cadwalader of Philadelphia and Thomas Tindall of Maidenhead, New Jersey	1761 November 23
	Fragment "Lease Wm Berry to P. Stelle for his mine at Amwel"	1756

Series V: Photographs

b. 2, f. 38	Portrait photographs 20 photographs ca. 10 x 6 cm taken by various studios of Margaret Anne Emler Saltar Coleman (wife of Isaac); Annie Saltar Coleman, Sarah Pearson Coleman, and James Pearson Coleman (children of Isaac); John Saltar IV; Susan McLeod; Charles O. Allibone; Mary Fenwick White; Emily Kinsinger; and Agnes C. Lightstripe. Some photographs are unidentified.	one 1874, others undated
b. 2, f. 39	Portrait photographs 13 photographs by various studios, mostly ca. 17 x 11 cm. Included are Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Saltar, Mary E. Saltar, Howell Bickley, Anita Coleman, Hilda Loveless, Susan McLeod, Elizabeth Coleman White, Mary Fenwick White, Rittmeister Van Roth (Vienna) and fiancée, Robbie Earl, and Queen Victoria with the Princess Beatrice.	1880s and 1890s, some 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.

Geographic Names

Burlington County (N.J.)

Subjects

Dissection
Medical colleges -- Connecticut
Medical education -- Connecticut -- 19th century
Medicine -- Practice
Phrenology
Physicians -- New Jersey
Surgery -- Practice

Genres / Formats

Correspondence
Deeds
Indentures
Photographs

Occupations

Physicians -- New Jersey
Surgeons -- New Jersey

Families

Beeks family
Coleman family
Saltar family

Names

Coleman, Elizabeth R.
Coleman, Isaac Pearson, 1804-1869
Coleman, James Beakes, 1805-1877
Coleman, Margaret Ann Emlen Saltar, 1816-1904
Coleman, Sarah Pearson
Ewing, Francis A. (Francis Armstrong), -1857
Hubbard, Thomas, 1776-1838
Ives, Eli, 1779-1861
Kirkbride, Thomas Story, 1809-1883
Knight, J. (Jonathan), 1789-1864

Silliman, Benjamin, 1779-1864
Tully, William, 1785-1859

Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1718-1887). Medical Institution
Yale University. School of Medicine

Contributors

Coleman, Isaac Pearson, 1804-1869
Coleman, James Beakes, 1805-1877