

# Guide to the Amos Gerry Beman Scrapbooks

JWJ MSS 105



by David O. White, Connecticut Historical Commission and Beinecke staff

March 1974

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Existence and Location of Copies .....	4
Amos Gerry Beman (1812-1874) .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	7

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** JWJ MSS 105

**CREATOR:** Beman, Amos Gerry, 1812-1874

**TITLE:** Amos Gerry Beman Scrapbooks

**DATES:** 1830-1858

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The scrapbooks provide evidence of the personal and professional life of Amos Gerry Beman, pastor and social activist, between 1830 and 1858. The scrapbooks contain writings, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and printed ephemera by and about Beman. Scrapbooks I and II consist of clippings of Beman's letters to the editor and articles by Beman, in addition to newspaper clippings of articles, poetry, and other clippings of interest to Beman. Scrapbook III contains letters of recommendation, journal entries written by Beman in 1838 while living in Hartford, Connecticut, certificates and correspondence pertaining to the founding of the Temple Street African Church in New Haven, Connecticut, deeds, receipts, and other material. Scrapbook IV consists of articles of interest to Beman as well as an articles on the "Colored Men's Convention" (1849) that mentions Beman's role in the convention. The scrapbooks are a window into Beman's work as a teacher, pastor, and social activist in Connecticut during the nineteenth-century, and more broadly, the Temple Street African Church and the African-American community it served in New Haven at this time.

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

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.beman>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church, 1977.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Boxes 1-4: Restricted Fragile material. All four scrapbooks have been digitized in their entirety. Preservation photocopies available for scrapbooks I, II, and IV. Scrapbook III available on microfilm. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The Amos Gerry Beman Scrapbooks are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

### Preferred Citation

Amos Gerry Beman Scrapbooks. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

---

### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: JWJ MSS Beman.

---

### Existence and Location of Copies

All four scrapbooks have been digitized. Preservation photocopies available for scrapbooks I, II, and IV. Scrapbook III available on microfilm.

---

## Amos Gerry Beman (1812-1874)

Amos Gerry Beman (1812-1874), African American pastor and social activist.

---

### Scope and Contents

The scrapbooks provide evidence of the personal and professional life of Amos Gerry Beman, pastor and social activist, between 1830 and 1858. The scrapbooks contain writings, correspondence, newspaper

clippings, and printed ephemera by and about Beman. Scrapbooks I and II consist of clippings of Beman's letters to the editor and articles by Beman, in addition to newspaper clippings of articles, poetry, and ephemera collected by Beman. Scrapbook III contains letters of recommendation, journal entries written by Beman in 1838 while living in Hartford, Connecticut, certificates and correspondence pertaining to the founding of the Temple Street African Church in New Haven, Connecticut, deeds, receipts, and other material. Scrapbook IV consists of articles of interest to Beman as well as articles on Beman's role in the "Colored Men's Convention" (1849) in New Haven. The scrapbooks are a window into Beman's work as a teacher, pastor, and social activist in Connecticut during the nineteenth century, and more broadly, the Temple Street African Church and the African-American community it served in New Haven at this time.

---

## Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

---

## Collection Contents

b. 1	<a href="#">Volume I</a> Digital version of the scrapbook Contains newspaper clippings about Beman and of interest to Beman. Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates are available. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1838–1857
b. 2	<a href="#">Volume II</a> Digital version of the scrapbook Contains newspaper clippings, including Beman’s letters to the editor, articles by and about Beman, and of interest to him. Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates are available. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1838–1857
b. 3	<a href="#">Volume III</a> Digital version of the scrapbook Contains writings, correspondence, letters of reference, deeds, receipts, newspaper clippings, and printed ephemera. Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates are available. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1830–1858
b. 4	<a href="#">Volume IV</a> Digital version of the scrapbook Contains newspaper clippings about Beman and of interest to Beman. Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates are available. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1844-1849, undated
b. 5	Photocopy of Scrapbooks, Volumes I-II, IV	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**

African American clergy -- Connecticut -- New Haven -- Archives  
African Americans -- Connecticut -- New Haven  
African Americans -- Religion  
Clergy -- Connecticut -- New Haven

### **Geographic Names**

New Haven (Conn.) -- Religion -- 19th century

### **Genres / Formats**

Scrapbooks -- Connecticut -- New Haven -- 19th century

### **Occupations**

Clergy -- Connecticut -- New Haven -- 19th century

### **Names**

Beman, Amos Gerry, 1812-1874

### **Corporate Body**

Temple Street African Church (New Haven, Conn.)