

# Records of the Office of Governor, 1820-1858

## State Archives Record Group No. 005

### History

Before the adoption of the Constitution of 1818, Connecticut governed itself by the Fundamental Orders (1639) and the Colonial Charter (1662). From 1776 to 1818, the provisions of the Charter remained in force except for the elimination of the words “Crown” and “Parliament.” The Orders and the Charter created the office of the governor, but did not make it an independent executive department. Except when exercising powers in wartime as “Captain-General” of the militia, the governor did not enjoy the powers granted late twentieth-century Connecticut governors. He presided over the General Court, later known as the General Assembly, and could vote only in cases of ties. Under the Charter, he sat as part of the Council, the colonial upper house. The governor could also convene the legislature for special business. In neither government was the governor an independent executive. His influence depended on his political skills.

The State’s first written constitution of 1818 created three independent branches of government, the executive, legislative, and judicial. It “vested” the “supreme executive power” in the office of the governor.<sup>1</sup> Another clause further mandated that the chief executive “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” Only white men who were electors and had reached the age of thirty years were eligible for the office of governor.

Annually in April all the qualified white electors in each town cast votes for gubernatorial candidates.<sup>2</sup> On the first day of the May session of the legislature, the two houses examined the canvass reports and chose the governor. In cases in which one gubernatorial candidate did not receive a majority of the votes, the assembly convened on the second day of the session and elected a governor on a joint ballot. It was not uncommon for the winning candidate to receive less than the majority of the total vote, but in 1833, 1846, 1854, and 1856, the legislature selected the candidate who did not even receive a plurality of the votes cast.<sup>3</sup>

The 1818 Constitution continued the governor’s authority as “Captain General” of the militia. It eliminated the earlier provisions that he could preside over the General Assembly. If the legislature failed to agree on adjournment, the governor could adjourn it. The governor signed all bills and commissions. For the first time, he was granted the veto power, but the legislature could override it by a simple majority. The governor could grant reprieves of convictions except in cases of impeachment, but the period of the reprieve was to last only until the end of the next session of the General Assembly.

The constitution required the chief executive to provide legislators “from time to time” with “information on the state of the government.” The governor gave an opening address to each session in which he could propose legislation and this speech has become the State of the State Message. In order to gather information for these speeches, the constitution granted authority to the governor to request that officials and commissioners of the executive branch submit reports.

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<sup>1</sup> Other members of the Executive Department included the lieutenant governor, secretary of the state, comptroller, and treasurer, all elected officers.

<sup>2</sup> In October 1875, voters approved an amendment to the State Constitution increasing the term of the governor to two years. The first state biennial election was held in November 1876.

<sup>3</sup> **1833:** Henry W. Edwards (Democrat) 9,030 votes, John S. Peters (National Republican) 9,212 votes, Zalmon Storrs (Antimasonic) 3,250 votes; **1846:** Isaac Toucey (Democrat) 27,203 votes, Clark Bissell (Whig) 27,822, Francis Gillette (Liberty) 2,201 votes; **1854:** Henry Dutton (Whig) 19,465 votes, Samuel Ingham, (Democrat) 28,338 votes, Charles Chapman (Maine Law) [Temperance] 10,672 votes, John Hooker (Free Soil) 2,560 votes; **1856:** William T. Minor (American [Know-Nothing]), 26,008 votes, Samuel Ingham (Democrat), 32,704 votes, Gideon Welles, (Republican), 6,740, John A. Rockwell (Whig), 1,251. Based on R. C. Maxson, “Connecticut Elects a Governor, 1819-1894,” (1975). A copy of this paper is in the State Archives.

Legislation assigned many duties to the governor. He exercised extensive military and civil appointment powers. In cases in which the governor made appointments to fill vacancies that occurred while the legislature was not in session, statutes usually gave the assembly the power to approve the appointments or appoint someone else. In one case, the assembly provided that the governor could assist legislators in removing judges. If two-thirds of both houses voted to remove a justice of the state supreme court of errors or the superior court, the legislature could “address” the governor requiring him to carry out the removal.

During the antebellum period, Connecticut legislators expanded the governor’s duties into the area of public assistance to persons who were poor and afflicted, the deaf and dumb, blind, or insane. Many factors account for this altruism: a Christian benevolence movement that swept over the nation; the appearance of hospitals, schools, and institutes with persons specifically trained to treat and educate the afflicted; the inability of families and towns to extend adequate care; and a growing faith that science could bring about cures or impart a greater degree of self-sufficiency for the afflicted. Legislators looked to these new asylums and schools to help Connecticut’s citizens. It was not until 1866, that the General Assembly decided to build a state hospital, the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane. Specifically, the General Assembly appointed the governor as commissioner of each of three funds intended for poor persons who were deaf (1828), blind (1833), and insane (1842). As such, he was empowered to choose beneficiaries, grant them funds, and to report to the assembly annually. At first, the funds for the indigent deaf and insane were each \$2,000 per annum. The fund for the blind was \$1,000. As the years passed, legislators increased the amounts. The deaf and dumb were admitted to the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, the blind to the Perkins Institute in Boston, and the insane to the Retreat for the Insane in Hartford.

In May 1819, the General Assembly recognized that the chief executive required a secretary. It authorized the governor to appoint an executive secretary to “attend” him by performing clerical tasks, keeping and organizing records and transferring them to a successor, and carrying out duties “which shall be duly required of him, which shall appertain to said office.” In the following year, legislators repealed this act and passed a new one that kept many provisions of the former law and added a requirement that the secretary shall take the constitutional oath given to executive and judicial officers. For the period covered by this finding aid, the statute pertaining to the executive secretary did not change.<sup>4</sup>

Today the governor serves under the Constitution of 1965 and its amendments. That frame retained much of the language that defined the office in 1818 with two notable changes. The term of office was lengthened from two to four years. In the section pertaining to the executive veto, the current constitution stipulates that a successful override in the assembly requires two-thirds majority vote in each house.

The governor functions as a full-time chief executive, aided by a growing staff whose numbers were never contemplated by the legislature in 1820. The office responds to numerous requests submitted by constituents. It answers questions from the media, supervises commissioners of state agencies, and works with leaders of the legislature to secure approval of his/her version of the budget and other legislation. Among the “trappings of office” is an official residence purchased by the State in 1944 at 990 Prospect Street in Hartford.<sup>5</sup> Elected by popular vote for four-year terms, he/she is a major political figure and key player in the State budget and legislative processes, party politics, and public discussion of issues.

### **Scope and Content**

Series I. Executive Journals: The 1820 law revising the statute for the post of governor’s secretary directed him to be responsible “at all times, to keep a correct journal and record of all executive proceedings and decisions.” As a check on the governor, the assembly provided that the journal “shall at all times, be subject to the inspection of a committee appointed by the General Assembly.” Moreover, the legislature could request a handwritten copy of the journal, which was admissible as “legal evidence.” Having granted an annual salary to the secretary, the legislature decided that he could not “demand or receive” compensation for producing copies of the journal.

<sup>4</sup> See page 33 for a list of executive secretaries from 1820-1858.

<sup>5</sup> Governor Wilbur Cross was the first full-time governor in Connecticut history. Governor Raymond E. Baldwin, Jr. and his family first occupied the official residence in 1945. Democratic Party opponents charged Baldwin with extravagance.

March 30, 1824 letter from James Hillhouse, New Haven, to Governor Oliver Wolcott, Jr., requesting that he send to the Governor of New York a requisition for the extradition of Brockhurst Livingston, accused of trying to blow up the Yale College Chapel. See Executive Journal, Volume 1, same day, for the letter that Wolcott sent to New York.

New Haven March 30. 1824<sup>th</sup>

His Excellency Governor Wolcott—

Dear Sir

The Bearer Mr. Beach will wait on you for a letter to the Gov. of the State of New York to back a warrant for Arresting B. Livingstone for an Attempt to Blow up and Burn the College Chapel—a most outrageous Act which has produced great excitement in College as well as among the respectable Inhabitants of the Town We consider it matter of great importance that the Offender should be arrested and Surety and dispatch are important—

With Great Respect  
Your Obedt. Servt  
James Hillhouse

The Journal represents a log of actions taken by the governor. All volumes have an index, though subjects and persons may not be in perfect alphabetical order under a letter. Action entries include receiving petitions, letters, public acts, and resolutions from officials and citizens of Connecticut and other states and from the Federal government; transmitting certificates of appointment, approving resignations, issuing orders and proclamations; answering correspondence; and delivering messages to each May session of the legislature. Perhaps nowhere else can a researcher find copies of all of the governor's addresses to legislators for this period. In those cases in which letters or petitions were copied verbatim and then transmitted to the assembly for action, the journals may represent the single best source to all of them. As "bill-tracking" logs, the journals can be used to estimate dates of legislative actions

Series II. Correspondence: The series found in Boxes 1-11 consists of incoming letters arranged by date of letter. Box One contains three folders of military correspondence with Governors John Treadwell and Roger Griswold, April 1811-July 1812. These are fugitive documents that should have been part of the Connecticut Archives. Folder four consists of a resolution from May 1819 regarding the engrossing of passed bills that was held over until the May 1820 session. The bulk of the series covers the antebellum decades under the Constitution of 1818 from May 1820 and to April 1858.

The series contains a variety of materials pertaining to powers and responsibilities exercised by the governor. Files contain copies of governors' messages to the General Assembly and handwritten proclamations for Thanksgiving and the Friday before Easter. The governor received petitions and letters covering a variety of local, state, and national issues. The governor's appointive powers are reflected in letters requesting appointments and reappointments and resignations for both civil and military positions. Some files include applications for public assistance to the indigent deaf, blind, and insane and reports from the schools or hospitals that accepted the beneficiaries. This makes up the bulk of Series No. Four described below. There is also overlap the subseries of Military Correspondence described below. Finally documents surrounding requests for extradition to and from the governor include court records.

Under Connecticut law, the governor was to receive and officially turn over to the secretary of the state all copies of statutes from other states and the United States government. This process of officially receiving statute books qualified them as evidence admissible in Connecticut courts. One will also find letters conveying Connecticut statutes and letters from other secretaries of states in RG 6, Records of the Secretary of the State.

The correspondence contains resignations and acceptances of appointments or acknowledgments of election similar to those acquired by the secretary of the state. Governors filled vacancies in state offices and in Connecticut's delegation in the U.S. Congress. If a vacancy occurred among Connecticut's U.S. Senators between sessions of the legislature, the governor had the power to appoint a replacement, but the legislature made the final decision at the next session. In the case of a vacancy in the House delegation, the governor issued writs for a special election.

Series III. Military Correspondence: One of the oldest enumerated powers of the governor is serving as commander-in-chief. This function was continued under the Constitution of 1818 and expanded and enumerated in a series of statutes passed during this period. For instance, the governor was granted the power to make decisions regarding the style of uniforms, adoption of colors by units, the quantity and numerical designation of units, appointments of officers, approval of resignations, and petitions for formation of separate units. Many of these decisions had political implications. The files also contain annual statistical reports or "returns" of the adjutant general, rosters of officer and units, letters from the adjutant general, and correspondence with the U.S. Army Ordnance Office.

The governors' executive secretaries did not distinguish between military and civil correspondence until 1832; when, they began to divide correspondence into two series. Consistency in maintaining this distinction was erratic. Researchers should examine both sets of files after April 1832 for letters and other materials. In some cases, the executive secretary forwarded petitions and other items pertaining to the militia to the assembly and forwarded similar correspondence to the adjutant general (see RG 13, Boxes 3-5). Researchers searching for a specific name should first consult the Executive Journals indexes. Notes about routing may provide clues as to the office that received the communication.

Series IV. Applications for/Reports of State Assistance: These files were originally labeled, "Commitments," by the office of the governor. During reprocessing, staff found letters of application for assistance from funds established for the indigent deaf and dumb, the blind, and the insane. It was clear that term "commitments," in the sense of an action

taken to place a citizen in a hospital, was not entirely accurate. Hence, the title of the series was changed to reflect the majority of the types of documents found in this series.

In making an application for aid, a petitioner had to verify that the applicant had one of the three maladies, that the he or she and the family were in penury, and that the applicant was of a high moral character and intelligence. The applicant had to persuade the governor that he/she would benefit from attending one of the special care hospitals. Though a few beneficiaries wrote a few letters, the bulk come from family members, town selectmen, ministers, physicians, other public officials, and friends and constitute the bulk of this series. Most letters provide details of the applicant's medical and economic history, making this series a rich source for social historians.

The files also contain correspondence and reports from officials of the three private hospital/schools which accepted these "beneficiaries." The documents discuss expenses and bills and include comments about students, their scholarship, behavior, and potential success from extending a beneficiary's attendance at the school. In addition, then, to social history, the files contain evidence of the administration of the three funds and the State's relationship with the three institutions.

### **Scope and Content: Topics Covered**

The governors' executive secretaries usually forwarded reports and petitions or requests for legislation to appropriate committees of the General Assembly, the secretary of the state, and adjutant general. Some incoming correspondence remained in the office. While much of this dealt with appointments and resignations, it also included letters about national, state and local issues similar to those discussed in the finding aids for General Assembly Papers and Rejected Bills.

Most of the governor's correspondence deals with civil and military appointments, reappointments, and resignations. The Constitution of 1818 and subsequent legislative bills granted the governor wide powers of appointment, most with the advice and consent of the legislature, others entirely unilateral. Appointments of state commissioners, notaries, commissioners of deeds for Connecticut in other states constituted political patronage which all parties occupying the governor's office spread around. It is not surprising, therefore, to read letters that talk frankly about party affiliation as a qualification for holding office. For instance, in January 1850, David B. Booth wrote to Governor Joseph Trumbull, a Whig, to recommend that he appoint William Mootry, "a good Whig," as a commissioner of deeds. In April 1850, James Hovey, the former executive secretary to Democratic Governor Chauncey Cleveland, and other Democrats in Norwich, urged Governor Seymour, also a Democrat, to appoint Oliver P. Wattles to a post in the Adjutant General's Office that would give him an "emolument." "He is a young man of good talents," Hovey continues, "belonging to the legal profession, [and] is an active and zealous democrat." Moreover, "No man in this vicinity did more at the recent election for the success of the democratic ticket than Mr. Wattles." Unfortunately, his party activity in "past elections" had prevented him from being appointed as a local justice of the peace for the past two years. Norwich Democrats saw an appointment in Hartford as a political reward for Wattles (folder 2).

In the age of the transportation revolution, internal improvements became a national and state political issue, and the governor's correspondence reflects attention to these areas. In 1825, for instance, Secretary of War James Barbour wrote Governor Wolcott informing him of the military's intention to survey the Connecticut River to improve its navigation. Barbour invited Wolcott to send a "Civil Engineer or Commissioner" to participate in the survey as a state representative (Box 4, folder 7). A subsequent letter from future governor John S. Peters and others proposed the appointment of Alfred Smith as state agent on the survey (Box 4, folder 7). In the same year, William Kinne of Plainfield wrote the governor arguing for the necessity of a "Quinnebaug Canal" linking Norwich to Boston (Box 5, folder 2). In 1826, Governor Wolcott proposed to the Connecticut Senate names of three men to act as commissioners to oversee the "deepening and improvement of the Channel of the River Thames" and to audit collection of tolls. Subsequent files contain reports of auditors of the Thames River Bank on collections and expenditures (Box 7, folder 3). Later letters in the 1850s pertain to legislative appointments of directors or commissioners of specific turnpike companies or railroads.

Not all voters in the state were exuberant about new turnpikes, canals, and railroads. An angry Abraham Scranton of Durham wrote Governor Wolcott two letters in April and August 1825 protesting the seizure a section of his land for a turnpike road in the southern part of the town (Box 4, folder 7; Box 5, folder 2). In 1837, one out-of-state correspondent expressed concern over recent reports of accidents aboard trains and steamboats. Thomas Griffith of Baltimore urged

Henry W. Edwards to introduce and support legislation that would establish registration of "Steam Boats and Cars," to include a safety inspection (Box 8, folder 7).

The governor's correspondence also contains petitions dealing with other national issues. For example, in June 1821, the General Assembly passed a resolution calling on Congress to cut Federal salaries and limit public expenditures to lift the burden of taxation in a period of economic hardship (Box 2, folder 1). In the same month, the governor received a broadside report and resolution from the Senate of Maryland proposing that Congress reallocate funds from the sale of public lands to establish schools in every section of the nation. Tariff protection of domestic industries was an important issue and in 1823, Governor Wolcott received a broadside from a meeting of Massachusetts woolen manufacturers advocating a higher duty on imported woolen goods (Box 3, folder 10). In May 1834, the legislature passed a resolution condemning President Andrew Jackson's withdrawal of federal funds from the Bank of the United States, a move that contributed to the onset of the 1837 economic depression. Sometimes, national needs coincided with local enterprise. In February 1826, Elias Perkins conveyed a memorial from a committee of New London citizens he chaired espousing the case for selection of the port as the site for the new U.S. Naval Academy (Box 5, folder 4).

Few issues, or cluster of issues, dominated the period before the Civil War like those of slavery, its extension into new territories, and the Fugitive Slave Law. The correspondence contains many examples of concerns about these issues. For instance, the status of free Connecticut African-Americans in the South was a concern, for without proof of their nativity or manumission, northern free blacks could be arrested and sold as runaway slaves. See Box 4, folder 8; Box 5, folder; Box 5, folder 7; or Box 6, folder 10. Three General Assembly resolutions dealt with the sectional crisis over slavery (Box 4, folder 9; Box 11, folder 12). Two states sent the governor broadsides of resolutions opposing the annexation of Texas (Box 8, folder 8) and denouncing the proposed Kansas-Nebraska bill in Congress (Box 11, folder 5). Gradual emancipation and colonization in Liberia in Africa was one solution promoted by the Connecticut Colonization Society. Though this movement did not attract a large number of Connecticut's black population, the Colonization Society did obtain legislation giving the governor authority to provide monetary aid for any black emigrating. Correspondence in 1855 gives details of the bill and the outcome of plans of blacks in Litchfield to emigrate (Box 8, folder 1; Box 11, folder 9).

Important regional matters also appear in the correspondence. Three letters deal with the membership and deliberations of the Massachusetts/Connecticut boundary commission (Governor Levi Lincoln to O.W., Jr., 14 July 1825, Box 5, folder 1; Ebenezer Stoddard and Andrew Hudson to O.W., Jr., 6, 7 April 26, 1825, Box 5, folder 1). In 1857, Governor Holley issued a proclamation appointing Thomas Church of Stamford to a joint New York/Connecticut boundary commission (Box 11, folder 13). The Dorr Rebellion in Rhode Island is well documented in the governor's Correspondence. Two requisitions from Acting Rhode Island Governor Samuel W. King to Chauncey Cleveland ask for the apprehension and extradition of two of the Dorrite leaders, Welcome B. Sayles and Thomas Dorr, himself (Box 9, folder 1). The correspondence does not contain Cleveland's answer, but his long letter refusing to honor the requisition for Thomas Dorr can be found in volume 6 of the Executive Journal. Other items include a broadside of the new Constitution of Rhode Island adopted by the Convention in 1842 (Box 9, folder 2), a letter from Governor Samuel King to Governor Cleveland conveying a broadside proclamation announcing that voters had approved the new state constitution (Box 9, folder 3), and a broadside of the Chepachet Memorial, passed by the Democratic Association of Gloucester, Rhode Island, September 28, 1844 (Box 10, folder 5).

Some correspondence commends interest due to its subject matter. In October and November 1826, for example, Zalmon Storrs wrote from Mansfield summarizing the history of silk manufacturing in Connecticut (Box 5, folder 9). The state geological survey is well-documented in Box 7, folders 1 and 6, Box 8, folder 1 (James Percival to Henry W. Edwards, May, 1837, summarizing his adventures in conducting the survey), and Box 8, folder 11. In October 1837, Hartford physician Elisha North wrote Governor Edwards advocating the use of peat moss, and in May 1845, Pedro Ponchant described his "newly invented machine for breaking Stones for Macadamizing Roads" (Box 10, folder 7). In November 1847, Thomas W. Northrup of Kent wrote Governor Bissell requesting "relief from taxation" because he was "wholly unable to do more than half the amount of labour required of ordinary labouring men." He appealed to the governor as the "Guardian of the rights of Citizens of Connecticut" (Box 10, folder 11).



February 24, 1826 letter from Elias Perkins, New London, to Governor Oliver Wolcott, Jr. requesting his endorsement of a local committee's petition to Congress advocating that it select the port of New London as site of the future U. S. Naval Academy. See Executive Journal, Volume 2 for the petition and Wolcott's letter of support.

New London Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 1826

His Excellency Gov. Wolcott  
Sir

The Citizens of New London, at a Meeting on the 23<sup>d</sup> Inst. appointed a Committee, to prepare and forward to Congress, the enclosed Memorial & have requested me as Chairman of that Committee, to ask the aid & influence of your Excellency, in furthering the object of the Memorial. — It is not probable that any other application will be made from this State & we think that no place, either in this or the United States, offers so many advantages in point of location and otherwise, as New London. — At New Haven we presume would not wish for an Institution of the kind in the vicinity of their College & it will most assuredly be established, on or very near the Sea Coast — Should your

Excellency coincide with us in opinion, and be disposed to promote the object, we respectfully request an Official Certificate, for that purpose, or that your Excellency would be pleased to favour us with your Official Signature to the Memorial, as you shall prefer. —

I am Most respectfully  
Your Excellency's  
Obedt<sup>t</sup> Servt  
Elias Perkins

Other letters provide the governor with accounts of state funds and annual reports, but some contain information of considerable interest. In October 1823 and January 1824, Elam Fuller, Keeper of the New-Gate Prison, wrote Governor Wolcott about the escape of one convict named Asahil P. Mott (Box 3, folder 10; Box 4, folder 1). In April 1857, employees of the State Reform School in West Meriden sent Governor Holley a resolution handed to the school's trustees in March accusing the superintendent of incompetence and requesting that the trustees conduct an investigation into his tenure in office. A note stated that "No decision has yet been made regarding our petition by the trustees" (Box 11, folder 11). In a letter to the governor in the same month, R. H. Maine of West Meriden agreed with the accusations of the employees, requested that the superintendent be removed, and asked that a plan for regular visits be instituted.

During this period, the governor received three requests for rifles from the State Arsenal. Elam Fuller requested authority to acquire twelve "State Rifles" from the Arsenal to replace older, outmoded muskets currently in use by prison guards in October 1823. Fuller explained that the increase in the number of prisoners sent to New Gate had heightened the opportunity of convict "insurrections" (Box 4, folder 8). George M. Stanley requested in August 1825 that the governor carry out a legislative resolution and issue an order to the quartermaster general to deliver 250 "stances of arms" to the "American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy" of Middletown (Box 5, folder 1). Military Correspondence contains two letters expressing local concerns about the Irish population of Middletown. Mayor Benjamin Douglass writes of his fear that "riot and Blood Shed from the foreign population in our midst" will occur on Independence Day, and Adjutant General E. W. N. Starr requests authority to distribute arms and ammunition to local officials (Box 84, folder 18).

Some letters deal with the preservation of Connecticut historical resources and a piece of a legend. Box 10, folder 9 contains a copy of a January 1, 1846 letter from the Massachusetts Historical Society rejecting the Connecticut legislature's claim that the society should return the collection of Connecticut public records known as the "Trumbull Papers" (Box 10, folder 9). On May 8, 1857, Governor Holley wrote to J. W. Stuart to acknowledge the reception of "a noble section of the venerable Charter Oak," the tree that was felled by lightning in 1855 (Box 10, folder 12).

The governor played an important role in the area of crime and punishment. The files contain requisitions for extradition from other governors affixed with state seals, applications for requisitions, and requisitions from Connecticut to other states. For examples, P. T. Barnum to Thomas H. Seymour, January 20 and 23, 1852, Bridgeport, Box 11, folder 3.<sup>6</sup> Grand jury proceedings or other documentation about the crime in Connecticut or another state usually accompany the requisition. In Box 4, folder 1, three letters sent in March 1824 call on Governor Wolcott to secure the extradition of Brockholst Livingston, resident of New York City, who was charged attempting to blow up Yale College's chapel. The legislature granted the governor the right to offer a reward not exceeding \$100 for information leading to the arrest of persons charged with capital crimes. Files contain some requests for posting the offer of the reward. In September 1847, the selectmen of Stonington asked Clark Bissell to offer a reward of \$100 for information leading to the capture of the party or parties that illegally disinterred the body of Frances Matteson from a grave on Isaac Wheeler's farm. The coffin with the body in it was later found in a nearby woods (Box 10, folder 11; see also Box 11, folder 6). In addition, the files contain petitions from prisoners and their supporters for release from the State Prison and for other miscellaneous criminal matters.

Letters dealing with militia affairs, in both correspondence series, concentrate on subjects like appointments, resignations, unit organization and reorganization, and courts-martial.<sup>7</sup> One from Henry W. Mitchell of Groton dated July 2, 1846 makes the case for recognition of a group of volunteers who want to fight in the war with Mexico (Box 84, folder 14). In a few letters, officers complain of the militia's low public reputation or about the demoralizing consequences of inappropriate behavior of officers. On April 26, 1833, Lt. Colonel Ithiel Hickox of the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Militia, wrote a scathing letter to Governor Peters under the pretext of offering his resignation. The current low level of public morality, the disrespect for traditional military symbols, and the "Mobacry" at musters, he charged, made the militia useless. The American flag received no respect. It was "hooted at by boys, grinned at by negroes, [and]

<sup>6</sup> Governors performed this function under a Congressional Act passed in 1793.

<sup>7</sup> By statute, the governor could appoint without the advice and consent of the Senate an adjutant general, a quartermaster general, and in every county, a judge advocate. An 1827 law gave the governor the right to alter the territorial limits of current regiments, could form new units, and could reduce or enlarge regiments "as the interests of the militia may require." By legislation passed in 1835, the "Captain General" could "establish uniforms" of the militia, designate badges for officer, discharge commanding and staff officers and sergeants, "settle" the rank and number of regiments and companies at the time of formation, and delegate to major generals and brigadier generals the power to dismiss officers.



laughed at by men of sense” (Box 84, folder 1). On January 12, 1858, Brigade Inspector J. J. Dimock wrote to Governor Holley to protest the elimination of a portion of his draft report on the First Regiment of Hartford County that condemned the alleged disgraceful “use of ardent spirits” by the unit’s officers (Box 84A, folder 9).

For additional information on the subjects covered, see pages 19-29, the **Annotated Selected Correspondence**.

#### **Provenance**

Transfers of records of the Office of the Governor, 1820-58, are not well documented. Notes on two transfers cover only a small portion of the records included in this finding aid. On December 18, 1916, the governor’s office transferred the first nine volumes of the Executive Journal to the State Library. On February 13, 1934, Francis Wessell transferred several files, including correspondence on the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, 1829-57 from the governor’s office to the State Library.

#### **Related Materials**

The Manuscript and Archives Catalogue, under the names of governors and other executive department officials, contain related materials. Letters similar to those found in governor’s files exist in General Assembly papers and Rejected Bills, records of the Secretary of the State (RG 6), records of the Military Department (RG 13), and records of the Corrections Department (RG 17). The Connecticut Historical Society has papers of three governors from this period. The Gideon Tomlinson Papers, 1760-1877, contains 7 feet or 7,000 items covering legal, financial, political, and family matters. The Thomas Hart Seymour Papers, 1781-1868, consists of 35,000 items pertaining mainly to his career after he was governor. The Alexander Hamilton Holley Papers, 4,500 items, date primarily between 1830 and 1870 and contain public as well as private papers.

March 22, 1836 circular letter from Col. G. Bomford, U.S. Ordnance Office, Washington, D.C., offering aid to state militias in purchasing "arms, equipment, and munitions of war" that are uniform with those of the United States.

Circular

Ordnance Office  
Washington, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1836

His Excellency Henry W. Edwards  
Gov. of the State of Connecticut  
Hartford, Conn.  
Sir,

To insure a successful co-operation <sup>of the militia</sup> with the U. S. Troops, whenever they may be called to act together in the field, it is deemed an object of high importance that all practicable uniformity should exist in relation to arms, equipments, and munitions of war.

In order to accomplish this result so desirable in a military point of view, and in connection with the general defense of the country, I am authorized by the Hon. Sec of War to tender your Excellency the aid of this Department, whenever you may desire to avail yourself of the skill and experience of its Officers, in the inspection of arms, accoutrements, and such other military stores as the State may require or cause to be fabricated, independent of the supplies issued by the U. States under the law of Congress for arming the militia. -

With

With high Consideration  
I have the honor to be  
Sir  
Yr Obedt Servt  
G. Bomford  
Col of Ordnance

## Container Listing

### 1. Executive Journal, 1820-1859

May 3, 1820-June 1, 1824	Vol. 1
June 2, 1824-November 9, 1826	Vol. 2
November 14, 1826-June 5, 1829	Vol. 3
June, 1829-May 7, 1835	Vol. 4
May 7, 1835-June 7, 1839	Vol. 5
June 11, 1839-April 29, 1845	Vol. 6
May 7, 1845-April 29, 1850	Vol. 7
May 2, 1850-June 1, 1854	Vol. 8
July 10, 1854-March 2, 1859	Vol. 9

### 2. Correspondence, Incoming Letters, 1811-1812, May, 1819-April, 1858

#### John Treadwell

Box 1

April, 1811 (folder 1)

#### Roger Griswold

October, 1811-July, 1812 (folder 2)

August-October, 1812 (folder 3)

#### Oliver Wolcott, Jr.

May 1819, April 17-May 10, 1820 (folder 4)

May 16-June 9, 1820 (folder 5)

June 14, July 22, 1820 (folder 6)

July 29-August 25, 1820 (folder 7)

August 29-September 8, 1820 (folder 8)

September 9-25, 1820 (folder 9)

September 29-November 10, 1820 (folder 10)

November 13-December 15, 1820 (folder 11)

January 3-March 28, 1821 (folder 12)

April 5-30, 1821 (folder 13)

May 1-31, 1821 (folder 14)

June 4-July 31, 1821 (folder 1)

Box 2

August 2-September 25, 1821 (folder 2)

September 29-August 10, 1821 (folder 3)

October 12-December 28, 1821 (folder 4)

Correspondence with U. S. Ordnance Office, April 25, 1821-May 20, 1822 (folder 5)

January 3-February 19, 1822 (folder 6)

February 20-April 24, 1822 (folder 7)

May 2-9, 1822 (folder 8)

May 10-30, 1822 (folder 9)

June 1-July 30, 1822 (folder 1)

Box 3

August 8-30, 1822 (folder 2)

September 2-December 28, 1822 (folder 3)

January 8-March 31, 1823 (folder 4)

April 4-May 15, 1823 (folder 5)

May 16-June 2, 1823 (folder 6)

June 6-21, 1823 (folder 7)

July 5-28, 1823 (folder 8)

August 1-September 24, 1823 (folder 9)

September 27-December 18, 1823 (folder 10)

January 1-March 29, 1824 (folder 1)  
 March 30-April 28, 1824 (folder 2)  
 May 6-June 24, 1824 (folder 3)  
 June 26-August 6, 1824 (folder 4)  
 August 23-December 22, 1824 (folder 5)  
 January 29-March 8, 1825 (folder 6)  
 March 15-April 22, 1825 (folder 7)  
 May 2-16, 1825 (folder 8)  
 May 17-June 10, 1825 (folder 9)

Box 4

July 1-August 18, 1825 (folder 1)  
 August 29-September 26, 1825 (folder 2)  
 October 1-December 28, 1825 (folder 3)  
 January 20-April 7, 1826 (folder 4)  
 April 13-26, 1826 (folder 5)  
 May 1-10, 1826 (folder 6)  
 May 12-June 12, 1826 (folder 7)  
 July 18-September 11, 1826 (folder 8)  
 October 2-December 26, 1826 (folder 9)  
 January 3-April 27, 1827 (folder 10)

Box 5

Miscellaneous Resolutions, 1830-1832 (folder 1)

Box 6

**John S. Peters**

June 4, 1832-May 3, 1833 (folder 2)

**Henry S. Edwards**

May 4-July 8, 1833 (folder 3)  
 August 6-December 31, 1833 (folder 4)  
 January 14-March 31, 1834 (folder 5)  
 April 12-May 7, 1834 (folder 6)

**Samuel Foot**

May 8-21, 1834 (folder 7)  
 May 22-31, 1834 (folder 8)  
 June 2-July 28, 1834 (folder 9)  
 August 11-December 30, 1834 (folder 10)  
 January 6-May 4, 1835 (folder 10)

**Henry W. Edwards**

May 12-October 16, 1835 (folder 1)  
 October 19, 1835-April 2, 1836 (folder 2)  
 April 7-26, 1836 (folder 3)  
 April 27-May 13, 1836 (folder 4)  
 May 16-28, 1836 (folder 5)  
 May 30-June 24, 1836 (folder 6)  
 July 4-27, 1836 (folder 7)  
 August 3-31, 1836 (folder 8)  
 September 6-December 1, 1836 (folder 9)  
 February 9-April 4, 1837 (folder 10)  
 April 10-May 15, 1837 (folder 11)

Box 7

May 16-30, 1837 (folder 1)  
 June 2-30, 1837 (folder 2)  
 July 5-30, 1837 (folder 3)  
 August 4-14, 1837 (folder 4)

Box 8



July 5, 1842 letter from Amariah Brigham, MD, Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, to Governor Chuancey Cleveland, thanking him for his support of the legislation establishing a fund to assist the indigent insane to use the Retreat. The doctor also asked Cleveland for his criteria in selecting beneficiaries. The Executive Journal shows that the governor did not answer the question. Many letters designating beneficiaries were signed by James Hovey, executive secretary, on behalf of the governor.

Retreat for the Insane  
Hartford July 5<sup>th</sup> 1842

Gov. Cleveland,

Dear Sir,

Many thanks are due to you for your successful exertions in behalf of the Insane poor - the appropriation made will do much good. We have already had many inquiries respecting its distribution, and hope you will apprise us soon as to the class, and to whom you purpose to appropriate it - the method of applying for it - the proof that will be requisite as to insanity, and the pecuniary condition of the applicants, so that we can inform them that call here upon this business. We have been expecting you in town, and hope to have the pleasure of seeing you here soon.

With sentiments of great respect,  
Your Obt. Servant  
A. Brigham.

August 16-30, 1837 (folder 5)  
 September 1-October 31, 1837 (folder 6)  
 November 1, 1837-January 18, 1838 (folder 7)

Box 8

**William Ellsworth**

February 23-April 23, 1838 (folder 8)  
 May 6-21, 1838 (folder 9)  
 May 22-31, 1838 (folder 10)  
 May 1839-May 2, 1842 (folder 11)

**Chauncey Cleveland**

Box 9

May 6-July 30, 1842 (folder 1)  
 August 2-October 7, 1842 (folder 2)  
 October 10-November 14, 1842 (folder 3)  
 November 15, 1842-February 23, 1843 (folder 4)  
 March 1-April 23, 1843 (folder 5)  
 May 3-June 30, 1843 (folder 6)  
 July 1-August 28, 1843 (folder 7)  
 August 31-December 2, 1843 (folder 8)  
 January 22-April 2, 1844 (folder 9)  
 Public Documents from the Commonwealth Virginia, 1842-1843 (folder 10)

**Roger S. Baldwin**

Box 10

January 7-May 15, 1844 (folder 1)  
 May 17-30, 1844 (folder 2)  
 June 1-27, 1844 (folder 3)  
 July 3-August 26, 1844 (folder 4)  
 September 3-December 27, 1844 (folder 5)  
 January –May 12, 1845 (folder 6)  
 May 16-June 30, 1845 (folder 7)  
 July 5-October 30, 1845 (folder 8)  
 November 1, 1845-March 31, 1846 (folder 9)

**Isaac Toucey**

May 30-December 9, 1846 (folder 10)

**Clark Bissell**

April 13, 1847-January 24, 1849 (folder 11)

**Joseph Trumbull**

May 28-October 10, 1849 (folder 12)  
 January 4-April 10, 1850 (folder 13)

**Thomas Seymour**

Box 11

Writs of Election, Probate Judges, 1851-1854 (folder 1)  
 January 7, 1850-November 19, 1851 (folder 2)  
 December 1, 1851-December 30, 1852 (folder 3)  
 January 7-October 13, 1853 (folder 4a)  
 April, 1854 (folder 4b)

**Henry S. Dutton**

May Session, 1854 (folder 5)  
 June 24-December 30, 1854 (folder 6)  
 Receipts for Public Documents [statute books from other states], 1854 (folder 7)  
 January 1-May 4, 1855 (folder 8)



**William T. Minor**

May 10-December 28, 1855 (folder 9)  
 March 1-December 1, 1856 (folder 10)  
 January 2-April 23, 1857 (folder 11)

Box 11

**Alexander H. Holley**

May 8-September 12, 1857 (folder 12)  
 September 18, 1857-April 26, 1858 (folder 13)

**3. Military Correspondence, 1832-1858****John S. Peters**

April 3, 1832-April 29, 1833 (folder 1)

Box 84

**Henry W. Edwards**

May 4-23, 1833 (folder 2)  
 May 27, 1833-March 4, 1834 (folder 3)

**Samuel A. Foot**

May 30, 1834-April 22, 1835 (folder 4)

**Henry W. Edwards**

May 4-28, 1835 (folder 5)  
 June 1-July 10, 1835 (folder 6)  
 July 13-31, 1835 (folder 7)  
 August 3-31, 1835 (folder 8)  
 September 1-October 27, 1835, July 17, 1837 (folder 9)

**Roger S. Baldwin**

January 11-August 13, 1844 (folder 10)  
 August 16-December 30, 1844 (folder 11)  
 January 4-October 1, 1845 (folder 12)  
 October 6, 1845-April 26, 1846 (folder 13)

**Isaac Toucey**

May 7, 1846-April 20, 1847 (folder 14)

**Clark Bissell**

May 22-December 16, 1847 (folder 15)  
 January 22, 1848-January 18, 1849 (folder 16)

**Joseph Trumbull**

June 13, 1849-January 8, 1850 (folder 17)

**Thomas H. Seymour**

May 11, 1850-September 26, 1851 (folder 18)

October 2, 1851-December 14, 1852 (folder 1)  
 January 1-April 19, 1853 (folder 2)  
 April 30-October 4, 1853 (folder 3)

Box 84A

**Charles H. Pond**

October 24, 1853-May 2, 1854 (folder 4)

**Henry S. Dutton**

May 12-September 5, 1854 (folder 5)  
 September 15, 1854-April 19, 1855 (folder 6)

**William T. Minor**

May 3, 1855-June 7, 1856 (folder 7)

Box 84A

**Alexander H. Holley**

May 6-August 25, 1857 (folder 8)

August 29, 1857-April 29, 1858 (folder 9)

**4. Applications for/Reports of Assistance, 1828-1858**

Statutes and Abstract of Beneficiaries, 1830.

Box 99A

**Indigent Deaf and Dumb Fund, 1828-1858**

August-September, 1828 (folder 1)

Box 99B

March-June, 1829 (folder 2)

August-November, 1829 (folder 3)

January-May, 1830 (folder 4)

June, 1830 (folder 5)

July, 1830 (folder 6)

August, 1830-January, 1831 (folder 7)

February-October, 1831 (folder 8)

April, 1832-June, 1833 (folder 9)

January, 1834-April, 1835 (folder 10)

July, 1835 (folder 11)

January 1836-March, 1838 (folder 12)

March, 1843-December, 1844 (folder 13)

March-July, 1845 (folder 14)

February-November, 1846 (folder 15)

February, 1847-September, 1848 (folder 16)

**Indigent Deaf and Dumb Fund, cont'd.**

February, 1850-April 1851 (folder 1)

Box 99C

August, 1851-May, 1854 (folder 2)

July, 1854-June, 1855 (folder 3)

September, 1855-May, 1857 (folder 4)

June, 1857-April, 1858 (folder 5)

**Indigent Insane Fund, 1842-1858**

October 22, 1842; January-June, 1843 (folder 1)

Box 100A

July-September, 1843 (folder 2)

October-December, 1843 (folder 3)

January-May, 1844 (folder 4)

June, 1844 (folder 5)

July-August, 1844 (folder 6)

September-December, 1844 (folder 7)

January-June, 1845 (folder 8)

July-August, 1845 (folder 9)

September-December, 1845 (folder 10)

January-May, 1846 (folder 1)

Box 100B

June-July, 1846 (folder 2)

August-September, 1846 (folder 3)

October-December 1846 (folder 4)

January-February, 1847 (folder 5)

March-August, 1847 (folder 6)

September, 1847-February, 1848 (folder 7)

March-July, 1848 (folder 8)

January 23, 1850 letter from David B. Booth, Danbury, to Governor Joseph Trumbull requesting that he appoint William Mootry of a Wall Street legal firm as a commissioner of deeds. Mootry studied law under Booth, and according to Booth, he was a "good Whig." Executive Journal, Volume 7 contains an entry for January 25 that the governor commissioned Mootry on that day.

Danbury Jan<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1850

Hon Joseph Trumbull

Sir

A young friend of mine, William Mootry Esq, who studied law with me has removed to New York City for the purpose of practicing his profession and is desirous of obtaining the appointment of Commissioner of deeds for Connecticut - He is a good Whig and an appointment of this kind would be gratifying to him and conferring a favor on me -

I am

Yours truly

D. B. Booth

P. S. Should this appointment be made, will you please enclose the commission direct to Wm Mootry, care of E. Seeley Esq 61 Wall St. New York

D. B. Booth

August-December, 1848 (folder 9)  
100B

Box

January-May, 1849 (folder 10)

April-June, 1850 (folder 1)  
July-September, 1850 (folder 2)  
October-December, 1850 (folder 3)  
January-April, 1851 (folder 4)  
May-July, 1851 (folder 5)  
August-December, 1851 (folder 6)  
January-April, 1852 (folder 7)  
May-July, 1852 (folder 8)  
August-December 1852 (folder 9)  
January-March, 1853 (folder 10)

Box 100C

April-August, 1853 (folder 1)  
September-December, 1853 (folder 2)  
January-June, 1854 (folder 3)  
July-August 1854 (folder 4)  
September-December, 1854 (folder 5)  
January-February, 1855 (folder 6)  
March-June, 1855 (folder 7)  
July-October, 1855 (folder 8)  
November-December, 1855 (folder 9)

Box 100D

January-April, 1856 (folder 1)  
May-July, 1856 (folder 2)  
August-December, 1856 (folder 3)  
January-May, 1857 (folder 4)  
June-July, 1857 (folder 5)  
August, 1857-April, 1858 (folder 6)

Box 100E

**Indigent Blind Fund, 1833-1858**

1833-November, 1845 (folder 1)  
January, 1846-December, 1850 (folder 2)  
January, 1851-September, 1853 (folder 3)  
August, 1853-June, 1858 (folder 4)

Box 101

## Annotated Selected Correspondence

### Correspondence, Incoming Letters

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <p>Journal of Executive Proceedings, May 1-August 31, 1820. (folder 4)</p> <p>Copy of complaint filed by Asa Butts, Esq., justice of the peace, Canterbury, 28 April 1820, accusing Lydia Hibbard of drowning her child. (folder 13)</p> <p>Henry W. Edwards to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 30 April 1820, New Haven, acknowledges election to the U. S. House of Representatives. (folder 13)</p>  | <p>Box 1</p> |
| <p>Broadside of Report and Resolution of the Senate of Maryland, 20 June 1821, proposes that the United States Congress use funds from sales of public lands to establish schools in every section of the nation. (folder 1)</p> <p>Broadside of Report and Resolution of the Connecticut General Assembly, 20 June 1821, calls on the Congress to reduce Federal salaries and limit public expenditures during this period of economic hardship. (folder 1)</p> <p>“Committee of Settlers” to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., September 1821, about School Fund Lands in Genesee County, New York. Includes a broadside: “To the Honorable James Hillhouse, Commissioner of the School Fund of the State of Connecticut-The Memorial of Subscribers, Purchasers and Settlers of Lands, under the said State.” (folder 2)</p> <p>James Hillhouse, commissioner of the school fund, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 7 January 1822, Rochester, New York, reports on his trip to the “Western Country” to inspect school fund lands. (folder 6)</p> <p>Rev. Nathaniel W. Taylor to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 19 January 1822, New Haven, acknowledges his appointment as substitute preacher to deliver the Election Sermon at the opening of the General Assembly in New Haven. (folder 6)</p> <p>Edmund Fanning to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 30 January 1832, Stonington, about the capture of Captain James Sheffield by the Spanish and incarceration at Oroco, Chile. (folder 6)</p> <p>Joshua Stow to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 16 February 1822, Middletown, about fund raising by the Connecticut Medical Society to build an asylum for the insane. (folder 6)</p> <p>James Hillhouse to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 6 March 1822, Canadagua, New York, about sale of Western Country School Fund Lands in Hendinburg. Also includes a pamphlet entitled <i>Correspondence between John C. Spencer and James Hillhouse</i>. (folder 7)</p> <p>Broadside of Governor Wolcott’s Veto of a bill pertaining to steamboats, 27 May 1822. (folder 9)</p> | <p>Box 2</p> |
| <p>DeWitt Clinton to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 28 August 1822, Albany, New York, with requisition for the apprehension and extradition of George H. Healy Also includes copy of the indictment against Healy in the Dutchess County, New York County Court. (folder 2)</p> <p>Broadside signed by James Hillhouse, 2 December 1822, Rochester, New York, pertaining to school fund debtors. (folder 3)</p> <p>Gideon Tomlinson to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 15 May 1823, Fairfield, acknowledges election to the U.S. House of Representatives. (folder 5)</p> <p>Samuel A. Foot to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 30 May 1823, Hartford, acknowledges election to the U.S. House of Representatives. (folder 6)</p> <p>Jonathan Low, Secretary, Board of Directors of the Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 2 June 1823, calls on the governor to issue a “brief” arguing for contributions to the Retreat from “several Religious Congregations in this State.” (folder 7)</p> <p>Richard Law, Esq. to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 13 June 1823, Stonington, about the purchase of land for a lighthouse in the Stonington harbor. (folder 7)</p> <p>Isaac Mills to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 25 October 1823, New Haven, requests that his name be removed from the list of commissioners of the Farmington Canal. States that his name appeared in the statute creating the board without his knowledge or consent. (folder 10)</p> <p>Elam Fuller, keeper of the New Gate prison, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 31 October 1823, Granby, reports on the escape of Asahil P. Mott. (folder 10)</p>   | <p>Box 3</p> |

- Broadside issued by a meeting of woolen manufacturers of Massachusetts calling upon Congress to increase duties on imported woolen goods, 1 November 1823, Boston. (folder 10) Box 3
- Elam Fuller, keeper of the New Gate prison, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 21 January 1824, Granby, reports on the escape of Asahil P. Mott and the construction of a mill and hospital. (folder 1) Box 4
- Noyes Barber to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 28 January 1824, Washington, D.C., reports that on his way to the Capitol to serve his term in the U. S. House, he was robbed. He recovered his clothes, but not the certificate. Requests that Wolcott send another certificate so that he can take his oath of office and his seat. (folder 1)
- Six page pamphlet read at the first session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress entitled, *Message from the President of the United States, Transmitting certain Documents Relating to the Claim of the State of Massachusetts, for Services Rendered by the Militia of that State, during the late war with Great Britain* (Washington, D.C., 1824). (folder 1)
- Nathan Smith, States Attorney, New Haven County, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 29 March 1824, New Haven, reports on the attempt of Brockholst Livingston to blow up Yale's chapel and on his flight from arrest. Requests that the governor work for his extradition to Connecticut to face charges. (folder 1)
- Charles A. Ingersoll to John Hunt II, Esq., Justice of the Peace, 29 March 1824, New Haven, with complaint against Brockholst Livingston. (folder 1)
- James Hillhouse to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 30 March 1824, New Haven, requests that the governor issue a warrant for the arrest of Brockholst Livingston. (folder 2)
- David W. Grant to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 28 April 1824, Windsor, reports on the alleged bad treatment of State paupers. Attached are letters of endorsement. (folder 2)
- Henry W. Edwards to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 3 June 1824, New Haven, acknowledges his election to the United States Senate. (folder 3)
- Henry W. Edwards, Charles Ingersoll, W.W. Boardman, et al., to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 11 June 1824, New Haven, recommends the appointment of Ammi Harrison as Judge Advocate for New Haven County. (folder 3)
- George Cowles, Adjutant General, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 23 July 1824, Farmington, with an inventory of uniforms worn by Connecticut militia infantry flank companies. (folder 4)
- Major John E. Stuart to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 27 July 1824, requests that his company be designated bodyguards for Major General Lafayette on his forthcoming visit to Hartford. (folder 4)
- Oliver Wolcott, Jr. to Thomas Day, Secretary of the State, 29 November 1824, Litchfield, acknowledges his appointment as a Presidential Elector. He shall serve if his "health permits." Designates the Executive Department room in the State House (Hartford) as a meeting site for all of the Electors. (folder 5)
- James Lanman, U.S. Senate to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., Washington, D.C., acknowledges his reelection to the U. S. Senate. (folder 6)
- Rev. Lyman Beecher to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 3 March 1825, Litchfield, acknowledging his appointment to preach the Election Sermon. (folder 6)
- James Barbour, Secretary of War, U.S. War Department, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 20 April 1825, Washington, D.C., informs him that the military will be conducting a survey of the Connecticut River in order to improve its navigation. Invites the governor to send an engineer or commissioner to represent Connecticut during the survey. (folder 7)
- Abraham Scranton to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 22 April 1825, Durham, objects to confiscation of his land for a "turnpike Road." Long, rambling letter contains much biographical information. (folder 7)
- Elam Fuller, Keeper of the New Gate Prison, 5 May 1825, Granby, requests authorization to acquire twelve "State Rifles" from the State Armory to equip prison guards. (folder 8)
- Two printed copies of Governor Oliver Wolcott, Jr.'s *Message to the General Assembly*, May, 1825. (folder 8)
- Winthrop Buck, et al., to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 6 May 1825, Hartford, petition regarding fisheries on the Connecticut River. (folder 8)



- Petition of John S. Peters, et al., to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 6 May 1825, urges the governor to appoint Alfred Smith as a State agent to assist the United States in its survey of the Connecticut River. (folder 8) Box 4
- Order of Governor Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 7 May 1825, Hartford, ceding two beacons and land at the mouth of the Mill River to the United States. (folder 8)
- Copy of a May 1825 general assembly resolution authorizing the governor to provide for the return of "Peter Augustus, a negro boy, from the State of South Carolina, to Wethersfield... from whence he was unlawfully transported out of this state for the purpose of enslaving him." (folder 8)
- Gideon Tomlinson to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 13 May 1825, Hartford, acknowledges election to the U.S. House of Representatives. (Folder 8)
- Report of the Committee Appointed by the Legislature of Connecticut, to Inspect the Condition of New-Gate Prison*, 17 May 1825. (folder 9)
- Broadside Resolution of the General Assembly signed by Secretary of the State Thomas Day, May 1825 rejects Georgia's proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution asserting that the states had the right to overrule the clause of the Constitution outlawing the importation of slaves. (folder 9)
- Broadside Resolution of the General Assembly signed by Secretary of the State Thomas Day, May 1825, condemns slavery as "a great national evil," calls for the elimination of it through a national policy of gradual emancipation, and supports a national "system of colonization." (folder 9)
- Governor Levi Lincoln, Massachusetts, to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 14 July 1825, Worcester, MA, provides the names of persons appointed to the committee to settle the boundary dispute between the two states. (folder 1) Box 5
- Gurdon Buck to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 24 July 1825, Georgetown, South Carolina, asks to be appointed agent for the State of Connecticut for the purpose of securing the passage back to Wethersfield of Peter Augustus. (folder 1)
- George M. Stanley to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 18 August 1825, Middletown, requests that the governor carry out a resolution of the General Assembly and issue an order to the quartermaster general that he deliver 250 "stances of arms" to the "American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy" of Middletown. (folder 1)
- Abraham Scranton to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 29 August 1825, Durham, complains once more about "the turnpike, laid out, in the south part of Durham." (folder 2)
- Newspaper Clipping summarizing the report of a committee planning a monument for Groton, September 1825. (folder 2)
- William Kinne to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 5 September 1825, Plainfield, reminds the governor of their previous discussion about the necessity for a "Quinnebaug Canal" linking Norwich with Boston. Recapitulates arguments for the canal. (folder 2)
- Elias Perkins to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 24 February 1826, New London, conveys a memorial from a committee of citizens he chairs favoring the appointment of New London as the site for the U. S. Naval Academy. (folder 4)
- Petition from citizens of Hartford and Middlesex counties opposing certain fishing practices on the Connecticut River, 16 March 1826, Wethersfield. (folder 4)
- Ebenezer Stoddard and Andrew Hudson to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 6, 7 April 1826, Brooklyn, CT, reports on deliberations of commission to resolve the boundary dispute between Connecticut and Massachusetts. (folder 4)
- Two items pertaining to the Connecticut River Company received in April 1826: H. Holmes Hutchinson, *Report of the President and Director of the Connecticut River Company...* Annual Meeting, 3 January 1826; newspaper clipping of a letter from Benjamin and Canvass White to the President and Board of Directors of the Connecticut River Company, 14 January 1826. (folder 5)
- Rules of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly of Connecticut*, May 1826. (folder 6)
- Report of the Committee Appointed to Inspect the Condition of New-Gate Prison*, May 1826. (folder 6)

June 5, 1850 letter from Mayor William A. Buckingham of Norwich endorsing the application of Susan Walker of Plainfield for assistance to attend the Perkins Institute for the Blind.<sup>8</sup> Executive Journal, Volume 8 shows that on June 13, Governor Seymour approved public assistance for Walker.

To his Excellency  
 Thomas M. Seymour  
 Governor of Conn  
 Sir

From the knowledge  
 and information I have concerning  
 Miss Susan Walker, a blind woman  
 residing in this town, I am of opinion  
 that she is wholly unable to meet the  
 expenses which must be incurred  
 by being at the Asylum for the Blind,  
 and that her father and family  
 friends are also unable to render her  
 the necessary pecuniary assistance,  
 and that she is a proper person  
 to receive aid from the state.

Very Respectfully Yours  
 W A Buckingham  
 Mayor

City of Norwich  
 June 5 - 1850

<sup>8</sup> This is part of a packet sent by Peter Lanman, Jr. on June 10 from Norwich to Governor Seymour. Included with Buckingham's letter is Walker's own petition stating that she is twenty - seven years old and was blinded in a cotton mill accident eight years ago. Lanman states that although Walker's accident did not happen in his mill, he "felt an interest in her welfare" and had petitioned the late Governor Joseph Trumbull, who also had showed interest in her case.

- Governor Oliver Wolcott, Jr. to the Connecticut Senate, 18 May 1826, proposing the appointment of three men to act as commissioners to oversee the “deepening and improvement of the Channel of the River Thames” and to audit collection of tolls. Related correspondence is in same file. (folder 7) Box 5
- Samuel A. Foot to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 27 May 1826, New Haven, acknowledges election to the U.S. Senate. (folder 7)
- Zalmon Storrs to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 10 October and 15 November 1826, Mansfield, summarizing the history of silk manufacturing in Connecticut. (folder 9)
- David McGomas to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 3 January 1827, Christianburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, requests certified copy of manumission laws of Connecticut to assist in the suit of persons of color who claim that they were freed in Connecticut. Secretary of the State notes that the laws were sent, 30 January 1827. (folder 10)
- Governor-Elect Gideon Tomlinson to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., 26 April 1827, Fairfield, announces that he shall attend Election Day ceremonies and regrets that Wolcott will not be able to attend. (folder 10)
- Resolution of the general assembly, May 1830, New Haven, eliminates the Election Day Parade, Sermon, and other ceremonies. (folder 1) Box 6
- Auditors’ Report of the Accounts of the Thames River Bank for expenditures on the Channel of the Thames River*, 1 January 1833. (folder 2)
- Samuel A. Foot to John S. Peters, 23 April 1833, Cheshire, acknowledges his election to the U.S. House of Representatives. (folder 2)
- Bejamin H. Andrews to Johns S. Peters, 27 April 1833, Woodbury, condemns distribution of “Spiritous liquors” on election days. (folder 2)
- Isaac Toucey, John M. Niles, Henry L. Ellsworth, and Thomas Day to John S. Peters, 1 June 1833, Hartford, recommends appointment of William Watson, Esq. as commissioner of deeds in New York City. (folder 3)
- Henry Kilbourn to Henry W. Edwards, 5 September 1833, Hartford, resigns his post as commissioner on the New York and Stonington Railroad. Edwards added a note dated 6 September 1833 appointing Elisha Haly of Groton in Kilbourn’s place. (folder 4)
- Resolution of the general assembly appointing Samuel A. Foot as governor, May 1834. (folder 6)
- Samuel A. Foot to Henry W. Edwards, 9 May 1834, New Haven, resigns his post in the U.S. House of Representatives. (folder 6)
- Resolution of the General Assembly May 1834, New Haven, condemning the action of President Andrew Jackson in withdrawing U.S. funds from the Bank of the United States. Governor Foot approved it on May 31. (folder 8)
- Resolution of the general assembly, May 1834, directs the governor to secure a manuscript copy of the Laws of the Colony of New Haven from the printed copy at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA. (folder 8)
- William W. Ellsworth to Samuel A. Foot, 8 July 1834, Hartford, resigns from the U.S. House of Representatives. (folder 9)
- Jabez W. Huntington to Samuel A. Foot, 16 August 1834, Norwich, resigns his post in the U.S. House of Representatives to take an appointment as an Associate Justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors. (folder 10)
- Affadavit of Providence Freeman of Hartford that his son, William Freeman, now in a Baltimore jail, was born in Connecticut as a free man, 3 September 1834. (folder 10)
- Governor William Marcy to Samuel A. Foot, 17 November 1834, Albany, New York, requests cooperative action to resolve the currency problem. (folder 10)
- Contract between the State of Connecticut and James Percival and Charles M. Shepherd to carry out a geological survey of the state, 15 June 1835, New Haven. (folder 1) Box 7  
[Several other items pertaining to the state survey are also in folder 1. See also folder 6 in box 7.]
- Gideon Welles, Comptroller’s Office, to Henry W. Edwards, 20 July 1835, Hartford, summarizes actions taken on inquiries from the Secretary of War, Washington, D.C. (folder 1)

- Elisha North, MD, to Henry W. Edwards, 1 October 1835, Hartford, advocates the use of peat moss. (folder 1) Box 7
- Ruben Eliote, et al., to Henry W. Edwards, 6 November 1835, Guilford, requests that the governor revoke Ralph D Smith's notarial commission because his behavior has "rendered himself so obnoxious" to the community. (folder 2) [This is the only petition requesting the revocation of a notary commission.]
- Colonel G. Branford, U.S. Army Ordnance Office, to Henry W. Edwards, 22 March 1836, Washington, D.C., informs Edwards that officers of the ordnance and supplies are available to state militias so "that all practicable uniformity should exist in relation to arms, equipment, and munitions of war" so that state and Federal troops can successfully "act together in the field" of battle. (folder 2) [See also correspondence re the return of carriages and artillery in folders 1 and 2.]
- S. S. Whittlesey to Henry W. Edwards, 22 April 1836, Danbury, acknowledges appointment to the U. S. House of Representatives to replace Zalmon Wildman, who died in office. (folder 3)
- Report of Auditors of the Thames River Bank's expenditures on the Thames River*, 2 May 1836, Norwich. (folder 3)
- John N. Niles to Henry W. Edwards, 16 May 1836, Senate Chambers, Washington, D.C., acknowledges general assembly confirmation of his appointment to the United States Senate. [Governor Edwards appointed Niles to fill out the term of Nathan Smith, who died in office on December 6, 1835. Under the State Constitution, the general assembly had to confirm this appointment or choose another for the office.] (folder 5)
- Samuel Chaney, Leonard H. Bulkeley, and John Fulton, New London Selectmen, to Henry W. Edwards, 27 July 1836, requesting assistance for James Throop, who is blind, to attend the New England Institute for the Education of the Blind in Boston. (folder 7)
- [Folder 9 contains several official canvasses in elections for Congress, Presidential Electors, and amendments to the State Constitution.]
- J. B. Hosmer, Treasurer, American Asylum for the Deaf, to Henry W. Edwards, 1 December 1836, Hartford, provides an account of state assistance to beneficiaries. (folder 9)
- Report of Auditors of the Thames River Bank's expenditures on the Thames River*, 24 April 1837, Norwich. (folder 11)
- True copy of resolution of the general assembly approving the merger of the Worcester and Norwich Railroad Company with the Boston, Norwich, and New London Company, 19 May 1837. (folder 1) Box 8
- T. H. Gallaudet, Secretary of the Connecticut Colonization Society, to Henry W. Edwards, 25 May 1837, Hartford, invites the governor to attend an annual meeting of the society to be held that evening at Center Church in Hartford. (folder 1)
- James Percival to Henry W. Edwards, May 1837, summarizes his adventures in conducting the geological survey of the state. (folder 1)
- Senate resolution removing Lt. Colonel Nathan Johnson from the post of Quarter-Master General, May 1837. (folder 1) [His successor was Colonel Thomas Hart Seymour, the future governor of Connecticut.]
- Report of findings, Jeremiah Brown, Seth P. Beers, and William Field, Committee to investigate the Quinebaug Bank, 27 June 1837, Hartford. (folder 2)
- Col. Thomas H. Seymour, Quarter-Master General, to Henry W. Edwards, 10 August 1837, Hartford, reports on status of an order that the commander of the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment Infantry furnish his unit with regimental colors. (folder 4)
- Thomas Griffith to Henry W. Edwards, 1 November 1837, Baltimore, urges the governor to introduce and secure passage of a bill in the assembly that would establish the registration of "Steam Boats and Cars." Cites recent accidents and asserts that a safety inspection should be part of the registration process. (folder 7)
- Broadside of a resolution of the general assembly of Ohio opposing the annexation of Texas, 23 February 1838. (folder 8)
- Broadside of Abstract of Returns of Banks by William Field, State Comptroller, March 1838. (folder 8)

Resolution of the General Assembly appointing governor as commissioner of a fund for the indigent blind with the power to determine those blind persons under the age of 25 who qualify for state assistant and to select the beneficiaries, 15 May 1838. Beneficiaries attended the New England Institution for the Blind, [the Perkins Institute] in Boston. (folder 9) Box 8

Samuel Ingham to William W. Ellsworth, 17 May 1838, Washington, D. C., confidentially reports on his actions to obtain settlement of from the U. S. government of Connecticut's war claims. (folder 9)

Eliphalet Terry to William W. Ellsworth, 30 May 1838, Hartford, declines appointment to an unidentified "department." States that he thought about taking it in order "to promote the Whig cause by introducing a reform in the department." (folder 10)

Report of the Chair of the Select Committee of the Connecticut House on the expenditures of state funds by Yale and Washington Colleges, September 1839. (folder 11)

Memorial of the Hartford Bridge Company requesting the suppression of the ferry across the Connecticut River in to order to construct a "Free bridge for all Publick travel," September 1839. (folder 11)

James G. Percival to William W. Ellsworth, 11 February 1842, New Haven, presents the *Report on the Geology of the State*. (folder 11)

Requisition of Acting Rhode Island Governor Samuel W. King to Chauncey Cleveland for the extradition of Welcome B. Sayles on the charge of treason, 23 May 1842. [Sayles was one the alleged leaders of the Dorr Rebellion.] (folder 1) Box 9

Amariah Brigham, Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, to Chauncey Cleveland, 5 July 1842, thanks the governor "for your successful exertions in behalf of the insane poor." Requests information on criteria for beneficiaries and the method for selecting them. (folder 1)

Acting Rhode Island Governor Samuel W. King to Chauncey Cleveland, 30 July 1842, Providence, introduces Samuel H. Arnold, a member of the Executive Council, as an agent for the state. Urges the governor to apprehend fugitive Thomas Dorr and turn him over to Arnold for extradition to Rhode Island. (folder 1) [See volume 6 of the Executive Journal for Cleveland's long response which rejected the legality of the requisition.]

J.R.? to Chauncey Cleveland, 11 August 1842, Washington City, encloses a memorial from a "Convention of the Friends of the American Colonization Society" and requests that he lay it before the general assembly for action. Memorial is not attached. (folder 2)

Broadside of The Constitution of Rhode Island as adopted by the Convention, 1842. (folder 2) State seal is attached.

Virgil Cornish, Steward, Retreat for the Insane, 11 October 1842, Hartford, asks for the name of the official to whom he should submit bills and provides names of Connecticut persons receiving state assistance. Also an account of expenditures per beneficiary dated 2 November 1842. (folder 3)

Dr. S.G. Howe, Institution for the Education of the Blind, Boston, to Chauncey Cleveland, 13 October 1842, provides a status report on every Connecticut beneficiary and an account of the disbursement of Connecticut funds. (folder 3)

Governor Samuel W. King to Chauncey Cleveland, 16 January 1843, transmitting a broadside proclamation that Rhode Island voters approved the new state constitution. (folder 4)

Broadside providing amounts of Connecticut's share of revenues from the sale of public lands by the United States government, 17 March 1843. (folder 5)

George Putnam to Chauncey Cleveland, 15 July 1843, Stationer's Hall, London, provides details about services he can render in "executing orders for Foreign Books for the Connecticut State Library." (folder 7)

Broadside from T. L. Smith, Register of the Treasury, to Roger S. Baldwin, 25 July 1844, Washington, D.C., argues for creation of a "Bureau of Statistics and Commerce in connection with the Secretary of the Treasury." (folder 4) Box 10

Henry Barnard to Roger S. Baldwin, 27 September 1844, Hartford, declines appointment to the "School Committee" and recommends other candidates. (folder 5)

December 28, 1855 letter from John Orcutt, Corresponding Secretary, Connecticut Colonization Society, to Governor William T. Minor informing him that only seven of the original ten blacks who had intended to immigrate from Litchfield to Liberia set sail aboard the Lamartine. Gives names of the three who remained. Requests that the governor send him \$50 per person provided in a resolution of May 1853. To the left is Minor's signed note confirming that he had sent an order to the Comptroller.

I have and order on the  
Comptroller for the sum of  
three hundred dollars \$350  
payable to the order of Mr  
J. Orcutt under the Res-  
olution of the Legislature  
of 1853 being \$50 each  
for the following seven  
persons Charles Freeman  
Samuel Allen Freeman, Henry  
H. Freeman, Edw. Freeman  
Chas. Simonds, Jm. A. Simonds  
Dec 29. 1855  
W. T. Minor

Hartford Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> /55

Hon. W. T. Minor

Stamford, Ct.

Dear Sir, This  
will inform you that the barque  
Lamartine sailed for Liberia  
the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. with only seven  
emigrants from Connecticut.  
Jno. Augustus Lepean, Thomas  
Deckson, and Melissa Read.  
whose names you have, finally  
did not go. Please therefore  
forward me by return mail  
your order for the \$350, due  
from the State and oblige  
very respectfully  
your humble servant  
Jno. Orcutt.



Broadside of the Chepachet Memorial passed by the Democratic Association of Gloucester, Rhode Island, 28 September 1844, advocates a republican form of state government. (folder 5)

Box 10

[Folder 6 contains reports on state finances, the state prison, and the school fund submitted in April 1845.]

George E. Beckwith, Corresponding Secretary, American Peace Society, to Roger S. Baldwin, April 1845, Boston, urges the governor and general assembly to adopt the principle of international arbitration of disputes between nations. (folder 6) [See also in same folder another letter from Beckwith, 3 May 1845, Boston.]

Pedro Ponchant to Roger S. Baldwin, 29 May 1845, promotes his "newly invented machine for breaking Stones for Macadamizing Roads." (folder 7)

Broadside of the [Nathan] Hale Monument Association giving purpose, history, constitution, and names of officers, 1 November 1845. (folder 9)

Copy of letter from a committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1 January 1846, rejects the claim of the Connecticut general assembly that the Society should return the "Trumbull Papers" to the State of Connecticut. (folder 9)

Two letters from Elisha Johnson, Warden, Connecticut State Prison to Clark Bissell, 21 April 1847 and 14 April 1848, Wethersfield, reports on the prison. (folder 11)

Henry Sheffield and other Selectmen of Stonington to Clark Bissell, 6 September 1847, requests that the governor exercise his statutory authority and offer a reward for the capture of the party or parties that disinterred the coffin and body of Frances A. Matteson from a grave on the farm of Isaac Wheeler. Matteson died in July. Her coffin and body were found in a nearby woods. (folder 11)

Thomas W. Northrop to Clark Bissell, 18 November 1847, Kent, requests "relief from taxation" because he is "wholly unable to do more than half the amount of labour required of ordinary labouring men." Appeals to the governor as "Guardian of the rights of the Citizens of Connecticut." (folder 11)

David B. Booth to Joseph Trumbull, 23 January 1850, Danbury, recommends that William Mootry be appointed a commissioner of deeds. He studied law under Booth and is practicing law on Wall Street in New York City. Booth mentions that Mootry is "a good Whig and an appointment of this kind would be gratifying to him and conferring a favor on me." (folder 13)

Oliver Goodwin, et al. to Joseph Trumbull, 12 February 1850, Litchfield, recommends for appointment as a notary, P. K. Kilbourne, Esq., Editor of the Litchfield Inquirer.<sup>9</sup> (folder 13)

David A. Wright to Joseph Trumbull, 25 February 1850, New York City, requests appointment as commissioner of deeds. Is from an "old family" in Connecticut and gives as references names of Hartford attorney Thomas Perkins and former Governor Roger S. Baldwin. (folder 13)

Adams White to Joseph Trumbull, 4 April 1850, Brooklyn, requests immediate reappointment as a notary, 'being well aware that the appointments of offices will be made the coming year with strict regard to party politics.' (folder 13)

James H. Hovey<sup>10</sup> and others to Thomas H. Seymour, 5 April 1850, Norwich, recommends Oliver P. Wattles, Esq. for an emolument such as Quartermaster General, Commissary General, or Paymaster General." "He is a young man of good talents, belonging to the legal profession, [and] is an active and zealous democrat." It would be appropriate to appoint him to a post in the adjutant general's office because he was a militia officer prior to reorganization in 1847. "No man in this vicinity did more at the recent election for the success of the democratic ticket than Mr. Wattles; and for his ardor and efficiency in the democratic cause in the past elections, he was left out of the office of Justice of the Peace last year and the year before." (folder 2)

Box 11

<sup>9</sup> Kilbourne would serve Alexander Holley as executive secretary from 1857-58.

<sup>10</sup> James Hovey was Governor Chauncey Cleveland's executive secretary from 1842-1844 and his business partner.

Box 11

- Gurdon Trumbull to Thomas H. Seymour, 1 July 1850, Hartford, resigns as commissioner of the school fund because he cannot serve under the "extraordinary and humiliating conditions" resulting from the legislature's action to decrease commissioner's pay. (folder 2)
- Charles W. Elliott to Thomas H. Seymour, September 1850, New Haven, proposes a plan to survey paupers by town and recommends himself as survey director. (folder 2)
- P. T. Barnum to Thomas H. Seymour, 20 & 23 January 1852, Bridgeport, applies for a requisition so that an individual can be extradited back to Bridgeport for trial. (folder 3)
- Virgil Cornish Steward, Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, to Thomas H. Seymour, 21 June 1852, provides financial report and status report on each Connecticut beneficiary. (folder 3)
- Charles H. Pond to Thomas H. Seymour, 23 December 1852, Milford, invites the governor to inspect the "Soldiers Monument." (folder 3)
- E. K. Hunt, Acting Superintendent, Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, to Thomas H. Seymour 5 August 1853, reports on status of Connecticut beneficiaries. (folder 4a)
- D----- Wooster to Thomas H. Seymour, 5 August 1853, Middlebury, VT, supports the idea of erecting a monument to General David Wooster. (folder 4a)
- G. S. Butler, Superintendent, Retreat for the Insane, to Charles H. Pond, April 1854, Hartford, reports on status of Connecticut beneficiaries. (folder 4b)
- Broadside of opposition by the Rhode Island general assembly to slavery, the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and the Fugitive Slave Law, 3 July 1854. State Seal affixed. (folder 6)
- William D. Shipman, U.S. Attorney, District of Connecticut, to Henry Dutton, 15 July 1854, Hartford, urges Dutton to prepare a document ceding state jurisdiction over a "small piece of land on Conn River, upon which the U.S. Govt. are about to erect a beacon." Suggests that he look at deeds in the Executive Records. Henry Hobart, Esq., superintendent of lights, New London district, is requesting the document and will pay for its execution. (folder 6)
- Handwritten Notice of \$100 Reward for any information about a "person or persons" involved in a crime in Naugatuck on December 28, 1854. The crime included burglary of the house of Henry Sears and murder of his child "in a most Cruel and diabolical manner." (folder 6)
- Charles O. Belden and Pastor Benjamin L. Swan, 5 December 1855, Litchfield, certificate for Charles Freeman and Charles Simonds vouching for their "industrious habits and good moral character" and endorsing them and their families as qualified to receive state assistance to emigrate to Liberia. (folder 9)
- John Orcutt, Corresponding Secretary, Connecticut Colonization Society, to William T. Minor, 7 December 1855, Hartford, requests state assistance for ten persons from Litchfield who are emigrating to Liberia and 28 December 1855, reports on the sailing of the Lamartine and that only seven of the ten made the voyage. Provides names of the three who stayed behind. (folder 9)
- John Orcutt to William T. Minor, 4 July 1856, Boston, requests that the governor issue an order to pay him for the immigration of people to Liberia. On the backside, Minor or his executive secretary recorded the order and dated the note July 8, 1856. Note explains that Samuel and Elizabeth Powers of Litchfield emigrated to Liberia from Boston on May 25, 1856. (folder 9)
- O. Spencer and Reuben Rockwell, Directors of the State Prison, to William T. Minor, 24 February 1857, Essex, informs him that a vacancy exists with the resignation of David Webster, Esq. Recommends the appointment of Leonard Welles of Hartford, "a highly respected gentleman, having abilities well qualifying him for the Station." Need someone in Hartford to monitor the "Alterations improvements and additions" to be made in the next year. Minor wrote his reply on the backside. (folder 11)
- Resolution of the Employees of the Connecticut State Reform School to the Trustees, 17 March 1857, West Meriden, accuses current superintendent of incompetence and requests that the trustees conduct an investigation. Note dated 18 April 1859 informs the governor that "No decision has yet been given" by the trustees. (folder 11)
- R.H. Maine to Alexander H. Holley, 18 April 1857, West Meriden, recommends that the current superintendent of the State Reform School be removed and calls for a program of annual visitation. (folder 11)
- Governor Alexander H. Holley to J. W. Stuart, 8 May 1857, Hartford, acknowledges reception of "a noble section of the venerable Charter Oak." (folder 12)

Broadside of a Resolution passed by the Connecticut general assembly, May session, 1857, instructs Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote against the admission of "another Slaveholding State into the Federal Union." Cites the struggle of those in Kansas resisting the "aggression of slavery." (folder 12)

Box 11

Handwritten 1857 proclamation appointing Truman Church of Stamford as a commissioner on a joint commission of New York and Connecticut delegates to determine the boundary line between the two states and erect "suitable monuments." Signed by Alexander H. Holley and Secretary of State Orville H. Platt. (folder 13)

1857 Broadside of Resolution passed by the General Assembly condemning slavery and the Dred Scott decision, opposing the spread of slavery into the territories and the admission of another slave state into the Union, and expressing sympathy for the anti-slavery forces in the Territory of Kansas.

**State of Connecticut,** }  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
MAY SESSION, 1857.

*Resolved*, That as the fathers of American Liberty held, so do "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, *liberty*, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed;" that as the fathers of the Republic designed to favor no particular class of men, but to establish a government giving equal political rights to all, and the greatest amount of liberty consistent with public safety; we maintain that the great purpose of our national government should be, to secure and protect those rights, and make perpetual the blessings of *Liberty*.

*Resolved*, That slavery being contrary to the principles of natural right, founded upon injustice and fraud, at war with the principles upon which our government is founded, injurious to the growth and prosperity of the country, and a reproach to a people professing to love liberty, ought never to receive the national sanction; that while we recognize it as a local institution, maintained by force of the law of the State where it exists, and over which we have no control, and for which we have no responsibility, it is our right and our duty to resist to the last, every attempt to extend it into the Territories of the Republic.

*Resolved*, That a majority of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States in the recent case of Dred Scott, in declaring that a *free* negro of the African race, whose ancestors were brought to this country and sold as slaves, is not a citizen within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States, and is not entitled to sue in a court of the United States, and that no State can make him such citizen; that Congress has no power to prohibit slavery in the territories; that every slave-owner may carry his slaves into the territories and hold them therein, as slaves; that the federal government recognizes slaves as property, and pledges itself to protect it in the territories, and that the Missouri compromise act was void, when such declarations or opinions were not necessary for the decision of the case before said court; have departed from the usages which have heretofore governed our courts; have volunteered opinions which are not law; have given occasion for the belief that they promulgated such opinions for partisan purposes, and thereby have lowered the dignity of said court and diminished the respect heretofore awarded to its decisions.

*Resolved*, That the resolutions of the General Assembly of this State passed in 1849, declaring that Congress has full Constitutional power to prohibit Slavery in the Territories of the United States, by legislative enactment; that the people of Connecticut, while abiding by the compromises of the Constitution, and averring their attachment to the Federal Union, are unalterably opposed to the extension of Slavery into free territory, and the further extension of its influence into the councils of the Federal Government; that in resisting the extension of Slavery we do not make a sectional issue nor oppose the interests of the people of the South, express *now*, as then, the sentiments of the people of Connecticut.

*Resolved*, That the people of Connecticut deeply sympathize with their brethren in the Territory of Kansas, in their struggles against the aggressions of Slavery, and earnestly desire that they may continue to resist, by all lawful means, until they shall make Kansas a free State.

*Resolved*, That our Senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our Representatives in Congress are hereby earnestly requested to vote always and in every stage of the question, against the admission of another Slaveholding State into the Federal Union.

*Resolved*, That His Excellency the Governor, be requested to transmit a copy of these resolves to the President of the United States, to the Governors of each of the States and Territories, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, }  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolutions passed by the General Assembly of the State at its May Session, A. D. 1857, on record in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said State, at Hartford, this fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

*Secretary of State.*

## Military Correspondence

- Ithiel Hickox, Lt. Colonel, 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Militia, to John S. Peters, 26 April 1833, Washington, offers his resignation complaining that the current low morality, disrespect for traditional military symbols, and the “Mobocracy” at musters render the militia useless. Also contends that the American flag receives no proper respect. It is “hooted at by boys, grinned at by negroes, [and] laughed at by men of sense.” (folder 1) Box 84
- George C. Wilson to Henry W. Edwards, 31 July 1835, New London, recommends the removal of Lt. Colonel David Bates of the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment charging that “under the cloak of Religion, [Bates] dared to perpetuate a deed, which decency forbids me to mention.” (folder 7)
- An Act Providing for the prosecution of the Existing War between the United States and the Republic of Mexico*, 13 May 1846. Printed version. (folder 14)
- Henry W. Mitchell to Isaac Toucey, 22 December 1846, Groton, writes on behalf of volunteers who want to fight the Mexicans. (folder 14)
- Benjamin Douglas, mayor of Middletown, to Thomas H. Seymour, 2 July 1851, Middletown, is fearful of “riot and Blood Shed from the foreign population in our midst” on July 4. (folder 18)
- E. W. N. Starr, adjutant general, to Thomas H. Seymour, 2 July 1851, Middletown, cites impending danger of riot by the local Irish on the Fourth of July and asks for the authority to distribute “arms and ammunition from the State Arsenal” to local officials. (folder 18)
- E. W. N. Starr, adjutant general, to Thomas H. Seymour, 31 March 1852, Middletown, cites “deplorable condition” of companies designated for demobilization, describes new militia uniform, and provides observations about the politics surrounding the temperance issue. (folder 1) Box 84A
- Major Commandant Henry Boardman to Henry Dutton, 26 July 1854, Hartford, provides history of the First Company, Governor’s Horse Guard and returns a copy of its charter. (folder 5)
- J. J. Dimock, Brigade Inspector, to Alexander H. Holley, 12 January 1858, Hartford, protests elimination of a portion of his draft report on the First Regiment of Hartford County that condemns the disgraceful “use of ardent spirits” by the field. (folder 9)

## Governor's of Connecticut May, 1820-April, 1858<sup>11</sup>

<u>Name and Political Party</u>	<u>Residence When Chosen</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Oliver Wolcott, Jr (D-R)	Litchfield	1817-1827
Gideon Tomlinson (D-R)	Fairfield	1827-1831
John S. Peters (NAT R)	Hebron	1831-1833
Henry W. Edwards (Democrat)	New Haven	1833-34, 35-38
Samuel A. Foote (YM)	Cheshire	1834-1835
William W. Ellsworth (WH)	Hartford	1838-1842
Chauncey F. Cleveland (D)	Hampton	1842-1844
Roger S. Baldwin (WH)	New Haven	1844-1846
Isaac Toucey (D)	Hartford	1846-1847
Clark Bissell (WH)	Norwalk	1847-1849
Joseph Trumbull (WH)	Hartford	1849-1850
Thomas H. Seymour (D)	Hartford	1850-1853 <sup>12</sup>
Charles H. Pond	Milford	1853-1854
Henry Dutton (WH)	New Haven	1844-1846
William T. Minor (KN & TEMP)	Stamford	1855-1857
Alexander H. Holley (AR)	Salisbury	1857-1858

### Abbreviations of Political Parties

AR: Union (American Republican)  
D-R: Democratic-Republican  
NAT R: National Republican  
YM: Young Men's (Whig)  
WH: Whig  
KN: American (Know-Nothing)  
TEMP: Temperance

<sup>11</sup> Based on the "Digest of Governors of Connecticut Tabulated Contents of this Volume" in Frederick Calvin North, The Governors of Connecticut (Hartford: The Connecticut Magazine, 1945) and R. C. Maxson, "Connecticut Elects a Governor, 1819-1894," (1975).

<sup>12</sup> After being notified of his appointment as Minister to Russia, Governor Thomas H. Seymour resigned. Charles H. Pond, then 72, the most elderly governor of this period, was elected to complete Seymour's term.



Executive Secretaries, May, 1820-April, 1858<sup>13</sup>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence When Appointed</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Jabez W. Huntington, Esq. <sup>14</sup>	Litchfield	1820-1827
Cyrus H. Beardsley	Monroe	1827-1831
George Catlin, Esq.	Windham	1831-1833
Silas Mix, Esq.	New Haven	1833-1834
William R. Hitchcock	New Haven	1834-1835
Silas Mix, Esq.	New Haven	1835-1838
Pinckney W. Ellsworth	Hartford	1838-1842
James H. Hovey <sup>15</sup>	Norwich	1842-1844
Edward L. Baldwin	New Haven	1844-1846
Dwight W. Pardee	Hartford	1846-1847
George A. Bissell	Norwalk	1847-1849
Lucius F. Robinson	Hartford	1849-1850
R. Augustus Erving <sup>16</sup>	Hartford	1850-1853
Samuel L. Warner	Wethersfield	1853-1854
Henry B. Graves	Litchfield	1854-1855
Joseph F. Foote	Norwalk	1855-1857
Payne K. Kilbourn <sup>17</sup>	Litchfield	1857-1858

<sup>13</sup> Based on the compiler's research into appropriate annual Registers and Manuals and the Executive Journals.

<sup>14</sup> After his service to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., Jabez W. Huntington went on to serve in the U.S. House. He next served as United States Senator, 1840-47, but resigned his seat to serve on the Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors as an Associate Justice.

<sup>15</sup> James A. Hovey was a law partner of Chauncey Cleveland. See Record Group 69:033 in the State Archives.

<sup>16</sup> Erving accompanied Seymour in his service as ambassador to Russia. See 920/ER5/MV in the State Archives.

<sup>17</sup> See a scrapbook of Kilbourne's business records in the State Archives under the number classification for manuscripts, 974.62/L71Ki/MV.