

Records 1793-1948  
Connecticut School Fund  
Office of the Treasurer  
State Archives Record Group No. 007  
Subgroup No. 002

### History

In 1786 when Connecticut yielded her claim to land in the state of Pennsylvania, she continued to hold the Western Reserve, a portion of land west of Pennsylvania in the present state of Ohio. After much controversy the General Assembly in 1795 agreed on a settlement scheme consisting of the sale of these lands for not less than \$1,200,000 with the proceeds to be devoted to the support of Connecticut schools. The Connecticut Land Company was formed by a group of prominent men, who in return for a mortgage from the state on the Western Reserve lands, were to sell these lands to individual settlers, making the mortgages and contracts in the name of the state. The original management for the state was in the hands of a committee of the General Assembly. In 1800 the General Assembly appointed a special board of managers. When large amounts of mortgage and interest payments were due in 1813, the legislature again changed the system and appointed James Hillhouse as Commissioner of the School Fund. Many years later in 1909, a final shift in the management of the School Fund was effected and the State Treasurer took charge.

Included amongst the records of the Connecticut School Fund are records of the Agricultural College Fund. According to the terms of the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862, the State of Connecticut received \$133,000 from the United States for the establishment of the Agricultural College Fund. The capital was to remain intact, and the interest would be used for the teaching of "agricultural and mechanical arts." Since Connecticut did not then have an appropriate state institution, an agreement was made with Yale College which was to receive the interest and carry on the training through its Sheffield Scientific School.

In 1863, legislation entitled "An act appropriating the scrip for lands under the Act of Congress Approved July 2, 1862," was passed by the General Assembly. Essentially, this act gave the Commissioner of the School fund authority over the administration of the Morrill Act funds.

By a Congressional Act of 1890, additional funds were appropriated for the Agricultural College Fund, and in the same year the Connecticut General Assembly passed an act "concerning the management of the Agricultural College Fund, under which the Commissioner of the School Fund was required to cause a schedule of the same to be made and registered in books kept in his office."

Eventually a state institution was established for the purpose set forth in the Morrill Act. On April 23, 1893, the General Assembly passed "An act establishing the Storrs Agricultural College and providing for the distribution of money received from the United States for Educational Purposes."

### Scope and Content

The records listed below consist primarily of the papers of the early managers of the School Fund, and the accounting records that were maintained throughout most of the duration of the School Fund.

Total footage: 78 ft. 7 in.

### Provenance

The material was transferred to the Library in two lots, first in 1961 from the Treasurer's office and second from the State Capitol basement in 1974.

### Restrictions

None.

Related Materials

Records of the Comptroller's Office - RG 8; See manuscript and main card catalog for individually catalogued materials.

Series Listing

1. **Negotiating committee, 1795.** Box 1  
Records of the committee to negotiate the sale of the lands in the Western Reserve, 1795. 1 in.
2. **Reports, 1801-1941.**
  - (a) Commissioners/managers of the School Fund, 1801-1860. Boxes 1-4  
Manuscript reports with accompanying documents. 7 in.
  - (b) Printed reports, 1809-1935. Items #1-64  
This does not constitute a complete set. 6 in.
  - (c) School Fund and Agricultural College Fund 1936-41 (manuscript). 5 in. Box 5
3. **Journals, 1800-1846** Boxes 6-7  
Managers/Commissioners of the School Fund. Indexes for the first 2 volumes apparently done at a later date. 10 in.
4. **Correspondence 1824-1909.** *Box 6 - 1800-1825 - Box 7 - 1825-1846*
  - (a) Ohio property 1897-1909. 10 in. Boxes 8-10
  - (b) Letterbooks, 1824-1906 (scattered). 15 in. Boxes 11-13
5. **Financial records 1810-1899.** Box 14  
Included are records pertaining to managing School Fund expenses. July 19, 1810 - March 30, 1820, 1851 (2 vol.); contingent expenses 1832-37; School Fund office petty cash accounts, 1872-1889 (1 vol.); and school districts operational funds ("estimate of amount of dividends given in the state according to the plans before the legislature, 1843."). 5 in.
6. **Accounting Records - Capital Accounts, 1824-1948.**
  - (a) Capital holdings, 1824-1948. Items #65-156  
Includes list of investments, real estate, bank stocks and bonds held by the School Fund. 92 vol. 4 ft.
  - (b) General loan register, 1810-27, 1835-52. Items #157-158  
Real estate and bank stocks held by the School Fund. 2 vol. 4 in.
  - (c) Cash book, 1860- Item #159  
2 in.
  - (d) Securities records, 1891-1908. Items #160-163  
Reappraisals of securities held by the School Fund, 1882-1887, 1892-1897 (2 vol.), list of some investment companies to which School Fund mortgages were let c. 1890-1902. 5 in.
  - (e) Real estate ledgers, 1887-1939. 4 vol. 2 in. Items #164-167
  - (f) Reappraisal schedules 1875-77. 2 vol. 1 in. Items #168-169
  - (g) Loans in Hartford c. 1877. Item #170

- (h) Real estate expenses and reports. 3 in. Box 15
- 7. Accounting Records - Principal Accounts, 1811-1914.** Items #171-185 & B  
Accounts of principal received (payments on mortgages) 1824-1901 (not inclusive), 6 vol.; principal receipts 1884-1914 (not inclusive), duplicates of receipts issued for payment of principal to School Fund and one blank ledger; misc. receipts, principal orders 1811, 1864-1903, 5 vol.; receipts for money paid to individuals from the principal of the School Fund, i.e. mortgages. 5 vol. (Misc. receipts are in Box 16.) Total 1 1/2 ft.
- 8. Accounting Records - Revenue Accounts, 1801-1940.**
- (a) "Index" to interest payments on School Fund bonds, 1801-1919. Items #186-284  
These volumes are abstracts of interest payments that individuals made on bonds rather than indexes to other volumes. The series consists of one volume per year (occasionally one for two years). Some volumes appear to be missing: 1813-14, 1837, 1839, 1843-44, 1860. The first volume is a tabulated statement of interest due covering the years 1802-12(13). 12 ft.
- (b) Records of revenue received, 1822-1918. Items #285-295  
(Vols. 1-14 in Boxes 17 & 18.) (not inclusive) 24 vol. 3 ft. & Boxes 17 & 18
- (c) Records of interest paid to the School Fund, 1799-1847, 1860-61. Items #296-297  
2 vol. 4 in.
- (d) Accounts of various investors, 1824-45. Item #298  
Paid to the School Fund. 1 vol. 2 in.
- (e) Accounts of interest paid on bonds c. 1835-50. Item #299  
1 vol. 2 in.
- (f) Bonds in Connecticut, 1801-1871. Items #300-327  
Individuals holding bonds in Conn.
- (g) Records of loan applications 1865-72. 1 vol. 2 in. Item #328
- (h) Records of payments made on School Fund accounts, c. 1800-1870. Items #329-336  
Assorted ledgers, unarranged.
- 9. Accounting Records - Payments due to the School Fund - Accounts in arrears and funds expended, 1810-96.** Items #337-341  
& Box 19  
Included are records pertaining to the amount of interest due on School Fund bonds c. 1810-1853 (10 vol.); mortgage foreclosures 1812-25; accounts of revenue paid to various individuals 1819-54 (all years not included) 2 vol.; loans and expenses from revenue of the School Fund, 1855-61; dividend orders, 1853-96. 1 ft., 3 1/2 in.
- 10. Accounting Records - Payments due to the School Fund - Accounts in arrears and funds expended, 1810-96.** Items #337-341  
& Box 19  
Included are records pertaining to the amount of interest due on School Fund bonds c. 1810-1853 (10 vol.); mortgage foreclosures 1812-25; accounts of revenue paid to various individuals 1819-54 (all years not included) 2 vol.; loans and expenses from revenue of the School Fund, 1855-61; dividend orders, 1853-96. 1 ft., 3 1/2 in.
- 11. Accounting Records - Mortgage Accounts, 1800-1940.** Boxes 20-29  
Included are satisfied bonds and mortgages 1800-1850, arranged alphabetically; mortgage deeds, unarranged; materials relating to mortgages c. 1920-40, arranged alphabetically. 9 ft. 7 in.
- 12. Deeds, 1825-97.** Items #342-353  
Warranty deeds from the State of Connecticut 1837-97, 2 vol.; releases, 1825-46 (all years not included) 2 vol.; quit-claim deeds 1827-1911, 8 vol. 2 ft. 4 in.
- 13. Agents' Accounts, 1799-1856.** Items #354-355

State Archives Record Group No. 007  
Subgroup or Series No. 002

Ledgers of various agents, 1800-52, 2 vol.; agents papers: correspondence, accounts, bonds, etc. arranged alphabetically by name of agent, 1799-1856. 9 ft. 3 in.

& Boxes 30-39

**14. Papers relating to exchanges of land outside of Connecticut for western lands.**

Boxes 40-41

Arranged as follows:

- General 1812-31. 10 in.
- Mass. lands, 1793-1825. 3 in.
- Vermont lands, 1805-1836. 5 in.
- New York lands, 1813-37. 6 in.
- Total: 2 ft.

**15. Papers relating to N.Y. lands, 1811-91.**

- (a) Newfield, N.Y. contracts, 1826-31. 1 ft.
- (b) Title deeds of the 100,000 acre tract w. of the Genesee River in Genesee county. 6 in.
- (c) 100,000 acre tract - contracts  
arranged numerically by town, lot, and contract number. 4 ft.
- (d) 100,000 acre tract contracts, 1836-48, unarranged. 1 ft.
- (e) Land ledgers pertaining to the 100,000 acre tract c. 1811-1880  
rough chronological arrangement, 17 vol. 3 1/2 ft.
- (f) Warrantee deeds of lands in N.Y., 1811-1853.  
(all years not included). Arranged chronologically. 3 vol. 6 in.
- (g) Agents' accounts, 1831-70.  
Charles Seymour, 1831-59 (all years not included), 2 vols.; H. Estabrook, L. Badger, J.C. Pumpelly, S. A. Willard, 1848-61, 1 vol.; Levi A. Ward 1810-70, (all years not included), 7 vols. Total 9 in.
- (h) Releases of N.Y. mortgages, 1836-41  
4 vol. 4 in.
- (i) Lands in N.Y. State leased to the State of Connecticut 1862-72.  
(for payment of monies owed to the State.) 1 vol. 1 in.
- (j) Field books of surveyors in N.Y. 1820, 1828.  
2 vol. 1 in.
- (k) Miscellaneous N.Y. accounts. 6 in.

Box 42

Box 43

Boxes 44-47

Boxes 48-49

Items #356-372

Items #373-375

Items #376-384

Items #385-388

Item #389

Items #390-91

Box 50

Items #392-394

**16. Records of lands held in Mass., 1844-1900.**

"Bonds in Mass." 1844-1900. 2 vol.;  
Agents Accounts 1821-45. Total 6 in.

**17. Records of lands held in Ohio, 1800-1913.**

- (a) Land ledgers, 1800-88, 2 vol., 4 in.
- (b) Western mortgage loan registers, 1890-1909,  
3 vol. 3 in.
- (c) Vouchers for taxes paid in Toledo, Pauling,  
Defiance, and misc. locations in Ohio,  
1902-13, 1 ft.
- (d) Surveys of Ohio land. 6 in.
- (e) Misc. Ohio material. 8 in.

Items #395-396

Items #397-399

Boxes 51-52

Box 53

Box 54 &

Items #400-401

**18. Records which relate to the exchange of land between  
Connecticut and Virginia c. 1797-1802.**

These records include a map of the disputed area  
between Kentucky and Virginia c. 1800. 1/2 in.

Item 420

Oversize folder  
(Main-2)

**19. Combined indexes 1800-49.**

Items #402-404

*ITEM 404 - NOT used [blank]*

State Archives Record Group No. 007  
Subgroup or Series No. 002

Combined land ledgers for Conn., Ohio, Mass., N.Y.,  
Vermont (2 vol.); Ohio-N.Y. land contracts.  
Total 6 in. plus one empty ledger.

& Box 54a

**20. Maps**

N.Y. tract maps; N.Y. and Ohio tract maps.  
Photostats and originals; Ohio atlases.  
Total 3 1/2 in.

Box 65.  
Oversize flat box  
(Main-2)

**21. Clippings c. 1926.**

Misc. School Fund clippings and scrapbook relating  
to the "School Fund Scandal" of 1926. 3 in.

Items #405-406

**22. Misc. Materials.**

(a) Misc. papers, 1793-1853, arranged chronologically.  
7 ft.

Boxes 55-61

(b) Misc. papers and accounts which are unarranged.  
2 1/2 ft.

Items #407-420  
& Boxes 62-64

**23. Correspondence, 1871-72., 6 in**

Box 65

**24. Recovered Items 6 in**

Box 66