



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: Thorp Family Papers
Collection #: Ms 22
Dates: 1749-1938
Size of collection: .75 linear feet (1-1/2 boxes, 1 oversize volume)
Accession number: L1979
Donor: C. W. Thorp
Restrictions: None
Processed by: Martha Rockwell; additional processing by Alice Flannigan and
Date: April 1983; November 1997

Biographical/historical note:

The Thorp family arrived in Fairfield in 1679 and established themselves as farmers, military officers, and sea captains. They were a prolific family, and an extensive family tree can be found in the collection folder to help identify the individual members. Burr (), Joel (1776-1824), and Walter () Thorp were sea captains and ship owners. Charles W. (d. 1855), Charles (1837-1891), and Charles W. () all served in the Army while David () was in the Navy. Jabez Thorp (1748-1824) was a Loyalist during the Revolution and had his lands confiscated.

Scope and content note:

The materials in this collection are organized alphabetically by the first name of the Thorp family members represented and then chronologically within the series. Series A contains tax receipts for Abigail Thorp, 1786-1787. Burr Thorp was the captain of the Sloop Sally on its

trip from Wilmington, N.C. to the West Indies. The journal of that voyage, perhaps kept by the supercargo, is in Series B. The papers of General Charles E. Thorp (d. 1855) include his promotion certificate, 1838, a set of General Orders from the State of Connecticut, 1839, among other legal documents, 1824-1836. Another Charles Thorp (1837-1891) is represented in Series D by two death announcements, 1891; photographs of him in his uniform, ca. 1865; and his military appointments and discharge, 1861-1865. Of particular interest is a letter from Lt. C. W. Wakely from the headquarters of General Sherman discussing military matters, 1864. The latest Charles Thorp's papers, in Series E, consist of military discharge documents, 1917. The David in Series F may actually be two separate individuals. The writs dates 1774 and 1786 probably do not belong to the David who was discharged by the Navy in 1864.

Two Ebenezer Thorps are represented in Series G and H. The elder Ebenezer (b. 1730) is represented by a deed dating from 1749 and a writ, 1783. Deeds, 1789-1842, constitute the papers of Ebenezer, Jr. (1765-1852). Eunice Thorp's estate inventory and distribution records, 1869, are arranged in Series I. Eliphalet Thorp (1740-1795) was involved in various legal matters, which are documented in writs, 1771-1781, organized in Series J.

Jabez Thorp (1727-1811), the son of Peter, is represented in Series K by deeds, 1763-1777, and his will, 1799. A younger Jabez Thorp (1748-1824) had his lands confiscated after being branded a Loyalist. An act passed by the General Assembly, 1786, and a deed, 1788, related to the confiscation are found in Series L. Joel Thorp (1776-1824), a sea captain, is represented in Series M by a letter from his wife, Priscilla, describing their new child in 1809, and an account book of voyages on the Sloop Hector, 1811-1819. The balance of the account book, which includes labor accounts and charges for doing legal/clerical work, 1839-1845, and for the construction of his house 1845, seems to be that of another Joel Thorp (b. 1791). John Thorp's account book, 1768-1777, and receipts, 1768-1777, related to agricultural products and imported goods such as rum and molasses, are organized in Series N.

Note:

One Thorpe house photograph has been removed to general photographic collection in the upstairs vault folder under the title *Fairfield -- Buildings Old Post Rd. (Thorpe)*.

One daguerreotype has been removed and housed within the oversized flat boxes of daguerreotypes kept in the manuscript storage area in the basement.

THORP FAMILY
Papers, 1749-1938

Box 1

Series A. Abigail Thorp Papers, 1786-1787

Folder 1. Receipts, 1786-1878

Series B. Burr Thorp Papers, 1802

Folder 1. Journal of voyage of Sloop Sally, 1802

Series C. Charles W. Thorp Papers, 1824-1837

Folder 1. Deeds, 1824, 1836; military documents, 1838, 1839; letter, 1837

Series D. Charles Thorp Papers, 1861-1891

Folder 1. Photographs, ca. 1865, death cards, 1891

Folder 2. Military records, 1861-1865; letter, n.d.

Series E. Charles Thorp Papers, 1917

Folder 1. Army discharge records, 1917

Series F. David Thorp Papers, 1774-1786, 1864

Folder 1. Writs, 1774, 1786; naval discharge, 1864

Series G. Ebenezer Thorp Papers, 1749, 1783

Folder 1. Deed, 1749; writ, 1783

Series H. Ebenezer Thorp Papers, 1788-1834

Folder 1. Deeds, 1788-1834

Series I. Eunice Thorp Papers, 1866-1869

Folder 1. Estate records, 1866-1869

THORP FAMILY
Papers, 1749-1938

Box 1 (cont.)

Series J. Eliphalet Thorp Papers, 1771-1781

Folder 1. Writs, 1771-1781

Series K. Jabez Thorp Papers, 1763-1799

Folder 1. Deeds, 1763-1792; will, 1799

Series L. Jabez Thorp Papers, 1786-1788

Folder 1. Copy of an Act of Assembly, 1786; deed, 1788

Series M. Joel Thorp Papers, 1809-1818, 1839-1845

Folder 1. Letter from wife, 1809; account book, Sloop Hector, 1811-1819,
and miscellaneous accounts, 1839-1845

Series N. John Thorp Papers, 1768-1777

Folder 1. Farm accounts, 1768-1777

Folder 2. Memoranda of accounts, promissory notes, receipts, 1770-1777

Folder 3. Writ, 1772; estate inventory, ca. 1777

Series O. Levi Thorp Papers, 1886

Folder 1. Bill of sale, quit claim deed, 1886

Series P. Reuel Thorp Papers, 1771-1772

Folder 1. Writs, 1771-1772

Series Q. Sheldon B. Thorpe Papers

Folder 1. Genealogy of the Thorp Family, 1913

Folder 2. Correspondence from volume in Folder 1, 1882, 1890

Folder 3. Transcription of Thorp genealogy by Robert P. Wakeman, 1916

THORP FAMILY
Papers, 1749-1938

Box 2

Series R. Stephen Thorp Papers, 1766-1820

Folder 1. Legal documents, 1173, 1781, 1789

Folder 2. Weaving accounts, 1766-1820

Series S. Sturges Thorp Papers, 1797-1835

Folder 1-2. Legal documents, 1797-1835

Series T. Walter Sturges Papers, 1823-1838

Folder 1. Agreement to purchase brig, 1823; estate records, 1838

Series U. Assorted Thorp Family Papers, 1773-1938

Folder 1. Legal documents, 1773-1881

Folder 2. Estate inventories, n.d.

Folder 3. Financial records, 1773-1796, 1869

Folder 4. Correspondence, 1863, 1901

Folder 5. Poem, 1889; account of the storm of 1938

Folder 6-7. Identified photographs

Folder 8. Unidentified photographs