Guide to the Bronson Family Papers

MS 103

compiled by Susan Grigg

November 1979
Revised: October 2008

Yale University Library
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Paging Instructions

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Overview

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Phone: (203) 432-1735
Fax: (203) 432-7441

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 103

**CREATOR:** Bronson family.

**TITLE:** Bronson Family papers

**DATES:** 1753–1898

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 Linear Feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE(S):** The materials are in English.

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, legal and financial papers, a diary and miscellaneous items of the Bronson family of Washington, Connecticut. The largest part of the papers are those of Moseley Virgil Bronson (1806-1890), documenting his career as an officer of the Connecticut militia and as a teacher in New York and Connecticut. Of particular interest are the letters of Edna Moseley Todd, who moved to Virginia in 1821, and whose letters to various members of the family describe her life as a mother and school teacher, as well as offering comments on slavery and abolitionism. Also in the papers is the diary of Maria N. Fowler Ford, recording her experience as a physician’s wife in Hawaii (1854-1858) and in New York and Connecticut (1858-1861). There are also miscellaneous papers of the Hollister family.

**FINDING AID LINK:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0103.

Administrative Information
Provenance

Gift of Clarence W. Bronson between 1943 and 1949.

Information about Access

The collection is open for research.

Ownership & Copyright

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Cite As

Bronson Family Papers (MS 103). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Description of the Collection

The Bronson Family Papers, 1753-1902, consist of ten inches of correspondence, legal and financial papers, a diary, and miscellaneous items related mainly to the Bronson family of Washington, Conn. The largest segment of the papers concerns Moseley Virgil Bronson (1806-1890), son of Dr. Ira Virgil Bronson (1788-1866) and Sarah Ann (Moseley) Bronson (1775-1862).¹ There are also papers of his father, his father's parents, his mother's Moseley relations, and his brothers and sisters. Finally, there are a few non-family papers of the Hollister family and Maria N. (Fowler) Ford.

All the correspondence is in a single chronological sequence consisting mainly of these components (the principal place of residence being Washington, Conn., unless otherwise stated): Ephraim and Bethiah Bronson of Locke, N.Y., and Groton, Conn., to their son and daughter-in-law, Ira V. and Sarah A. (Moseley) Bronson, 1813-1819 Edna (Moseley) Todd of Richmond and Prince Edward County, Va., to various members of the Bronson family, 1821-1833, 1838-1846 Family (mainly Ira V. and William C. Bronson) to Moseley V. Bronson, living in various places in N.Y. and Conn., 1827-1869 Martha Bronson, at the State Normal School in New Britain, Conn., to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moseley V. Bronson, 1857-1858 Miscellaneous family and non-family, 1871-1902

The rest of the papers are filed alphabetically under the names of the persons to whom they belonged. Increase Moseley (1712-1795) is represented by a volume of his proceedings as justice of the peace in Woodbury, Conn., between 1753 and 1781. The papers of Moseley V. Bronson document his career as an officer of the Connecticut militia (12th Infantry Regt., Co. 5) and a teacher in New York and Connecticut. Ira V. Bronson, Lucy Ann (Whittlesey) Bronson, Susan M. Bronson, Walter W. Bronson, and William C. Bronson are represented by small quantities of miscellaneous material including legal and financial papers, records of teaching, and memorabilia. The diary of Maria N. (Fowler) Ford is a record of her experience as a physician's wife in Hawaii, 1854-1858, and in New York and Connecticut, 1858-1861. The unidentified papers include legal and financial papers, farm accounts, and some religious music.

¹Dr. Bronson was born in Locke, N.Y., studied medicine with Dr. Everest in Simsbury, Conn., and settled in Washington, Conn., in 1804. The following year he married Sarah Ann Moseley (1775-1862), daughter of Abner Moseley and granddaughter of Increase Moseley (1712-1795), justice of the peace in Woodbury, Conn.
Arranged alphabetically by Bronson family members.
## Collection Contents

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<td>Bronson, Moseley Virgil (1806-1890)</td>
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Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following access points in Orbis, the Yale University Library online catalog.

Subjects

Agriculture -- Connecticut.
Armed Forces
Education
Families
House furnishings
Law
Missionaries -- United States
Music
Schools -- Connecticut.
Schools -- New York (State)
Slavery -- United States
Women -- Education
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Hawaii -- Description and travel
Virginia -- History
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Diaries.
Clergy
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Branson family
Hollis family
Mosley family
First Church (Washington, Conn.)
United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry, 12th Regiment