

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. #27

Date processed: Feb. 26, 1976

- I. Title Daniel Read Papers (1777--1853)
- II. The papers of Daniel Read deposited in the Library ~~xxx~~ in 1855 , by his son, George F.H.Read In converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 22 and 1/2 inches.
Approximate number of items: 4 notebooks; 12 documents;
12 printed books; 8 hand written books; and
- IV. Restrictions: none 6 copies of documents.
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: see: biography p. 1
bibliography p. 2
contents p. 3
- Subject Content: Daniel Read
Music: national and local
History: local and some national
Other New Haven residents from that period interested in music.
- VIII. Analysis: In 1855 George F.H.Read donated his father's Journal, two letter books, a music book, a manuscript--Musica Ecclesia and loose document (?). The collection also consists of books supposedly used or owned by Read and printed books either prepared by or containing Read's works. The Read collection is supplemented by hand written music manuscripts also from that period.

See MF# 12

DANIEL READ--A Biography

Daniel Read born Nov. 16, 1757 in Rehoboth, later called Attleboro, Mass.; died Dec. 4, 1836 in New Haven, Ct.; buried in Grove Street Cemetery.

Read moved to New Haven in 1782 or 83 and joined the printer Amos Doolittle in the firm of "Doolittle & Read." He married Jerusha Sherman of Stratford Ct. in 1785 or 86, whose father opposed the match because Read "was guilty of the unpardonable crime of Poverty." He had four children of which one died in infancy. The daughter, Mary White, was an accomplished organist having studied in New York and married Jonathan Nicholson, one of her father's apprentices. Of the two sons, the oldest, George, joined his father in the mercantile business and later, together with his brother-in-law Nicholson, ran the family store. The younger son, Nathan, graduated from Yale and joined the ministry.

Like many musicians of his days, Read had to supplement his income and maintained a typical general store where he also sold his tune-books. For a number of years he made ivory and horn combs, a trade for which he had no great affection but with which he is always associated. Although he had little formal education, Read was a man of intelligence, sensitivity and culture as evidenced by his Journal and Letter Books.

In 1785 he published The American Singing Book which became very popular. Between 1785 and 1800 Read was one of the most active composers and compilers in the country. This was followed by a second book, The Columbian Harmonist No. 1 in 1793 and later by No. 2 and No. 3, all of which had numerous printings and editions. Read's books were a mixed blessing, since they made his work available to other unscrupulous collectors causing him to complain: "It is not only ungenerous but unjust to publish the works of any author without his consent."

Read was a member of the United Society of New Haven (admitted 1798) where he was choir master and organist. At the request of the Society he and Simeon Jocelyn compiled and edited The New Haven Collection of Sacred Music (1818).

Not only was he an advocate of sacred music but he also attempted to raise the level of local performances and musical appreciation: "I have been exerting myself for some months past to revive music in this Town and have some prospect of effecting it."

The value of his Journal and Letter Books is not only biographical, but also contain a great deal of information pertaining to social customs, politics, local history, public health, etc.

Read saw Jefferson's election as the end of democracy and personal freedom and was especially outraged by the president's use of patronage, noting "that local citizens"were filled with indignations."

His sense of humor is evident in his advice to his sons on table manners: "Never wait to be helped . . . that you may be sure to get the best peice [sic]."

Read's contributions to American music are not limited to his compositions. According to B. Symms, Read helped develop the unique melodic-harmonic idiom characteristic of American post-Revolutionary music as well as the American fugging-tune which his works and compilations helped to make popular.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Microfilm--Journal

Letter Book, vol. I&II.

Musica Ecclesia or Devotional Harmony.

Patricia A. Brown, Daniel Read: A Study of the Man and His Music in an Historical Context (paper).

Irving Lowens, The Letters of an Early American Composer.

Bryan R. Simms, Daniel Read: An American Psalmist.(paper).

Addition to the Whitney Library, 1990:

Vinson Clair Bushnell, Daniel Read of New Haven (1757-1836):

The Man and His Musical Activities. Harvard Ph.D. Dissertation, 1978. Microfilm #148.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Box I: Daniel Read Manuscripts* Folder A: Journal, 1796-1812.

Circa 93 pp. See Box II, Folders A & B for transcript.

* Folder B: Letter Book, 1793-1807.

Circa 468 pp.

* Folder C: Letter Book, 1829-1832.

Circa 32 pp. See Box II, Folder C for copy of index prepared by I. Lowens.

Folder D: Music Book, 1777.

Circa 176 pp. Inscription on cover: "I judge this book to be about the first book that my Father used as his name on the inside shows that it was his in 1777 when he was 19 or 20 years of age - Whether any of the tunes are of his composition I do not know." Signed Geo F.H. Read, Feb. 9, 1855. [Partial index on p. 145; promissory note (1805) on p. 149].

* Folder E: Musica Ecclesia or Devotional Harmony.

Manuscript prepared by Daniel Read, 1830(?) - 1832(?).
Circa 303 pp.

Folder F: Loose Documents. (These are in poor condition; handle carefully!)

1. D. Read(?) document pertaining to United Society, New Haven.
2. Draft of agreement between Russel Alling [Hamden] and D. Read, 1832.
- 3-4. Draft of letter to American Home Mission Society, 1832.
5. List of hymns(?), November 26, 1826; January 21, 1829.
6. Tunes selected, January 1, 1830.
7. List of hymns; copy of promissory note, 1830.
8. Small piece of paper (1x3 inches).
9. List of psalms and hymns, January 21 and February 22, 1830.
10. List of psalms and hymns; also notation pertaining to tariff.
- 11-12. List: "Song Metre Tunes in the Major Mode."

Box II: Transcripts, Copies of Documents, and Books Prepared by or containing D. Read's Works.

Folder A: Transcript of Journal (I:A)
48 pp., with index.

Folder B: Transcript of Journal (I:A)
35 pp., old copy.

* This material is available on Microfilm No. 12.

Box II: Folder C: Copies of Documents

- 1-4. "Taxable Estate of D. Read," 1823, 1838, 1832, 1834,
from New Haven City Documents MSS.
5-6. Index to Letter Books prepared by I. Lowens.

Folder D: The New Haven Collection of Sacred Music

Edited by Simeon Jocelyn and Daniel Read, New Haven, 1818.

Folder E: The Columbian Harmonist, 2d ed.

By Daniel Read, Dedham, Mass, 1804.

- Folder F: The Musical Cabinet, or New-Haven Collection of Sacred Music

By Alling Brown, New Haven, 1824. (Contains Read's works)

- Folder G: Unidentified Leather-bound Music Book

Title page missing. (Contains Read's works)

- Folder H: Carmina Sacra: or Boston Collection of Church Music

By Lowell, Boston, 1845, (Contains Read's works)

Folder I: The New Carmina Sacra: or Boston Collection of Church Music

By Lowell Mason, Boston, 1853. (Contains Read's works)
Inscription on cover: "Christ Church No. 8"

Folder J: Dyer's New-York Selection of Sacred Music

By Samuel Dyer, New York, n.d. (Contains Read's works)

Folder K: Unidentified Music Book

Published by H. and K(?) J. Huntington, Hartford, n.d.
Cover and title page missing. (Contains Read's works)

Box III: Books Supposedly Used or Owned by Daniel Read

Folder A: The Hartford Collection of Classical Church Music

By Eli Roberts, New-London, 1812. Inscription on cover: "Wm. H. Law, March 1817." Loose papers inserted that were originally pinned to book.

Folder B: Old Colony Collection of Anthems

Boston (?), n.d. Title page torn.

Folder C: The Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes Sung at the Chapel of Lock Hospital [London]

Boston, 1809.

Box IV: Books Supposedly Used by Daniel Read

Folder A: Sacred Musick; Selected Principally from Rippon's Collections and from Various Other Authors of Merit.

By James Tomlins, of Virginia, Boston, 1810. (Does not contain Read's works)

Box IV: Folder B: A Gamut, or Scale of Music. To Which is Added Blank Lines for Favorite Music.

Oliver D. Cooke, publisher, Hartford, 1807. Inscription in book: "William Canada's Book, December (5?), 1810." Also contains hand copied music.

Folder C: A Gamut, or Scale of Music. To Which is Added Blank Lines for Favorite Music.

Oliver D. Cooke, publisher, Hartford, 1814. Inscription in book: "Laura Beecher. Music Book. Woodbury. December the 25 D1814. Laura." Also "This book is the work of my grandmother Laura Beecher when a girl in New Haven Conn. Done with quill pen. A.W. Reeves." Contains hand copied music.

Box V: Handwritten Manuscripts NOT by Daniel Read

(David ?)

* Folder A: Music Book Probably by Daniel Henry Huntington**

Entitled "Preceptor for Flute." Handwritten and illustrated. Inscription on back cover "For Joseph Huntington." (Old and brittle; handle carefully!) Circa 1825.

Folder A1: Loose Page from Music Book in Folder A

Poem "Friendship," signed Walker

Folder B: Music Book by A.E. Lines, New Haven, Conn.

Handwritten, n.d., 321 pp. "Transposition for B-flat Coronet" on inside cover. (321 pieces)

* Folder C: Music Book by Lucretia Champion***

February, 1798. Handwritten. (Very brittle. Handle carefully!)

* Folder D: Music Book by Lucretia Champion

1799. Handwritten. (Very brittle. handle carefully!)

* This material is available on Microfilm No. 12.

** David Henry Huntington, a farmer, was born in Onondaga Valley, New York, Nov. 2, 1801, died July 12, 1873, in Plymouth, Ind. Son of Daniel Huntington and Nancy Peck. Married Elizabeth Stevens, February 20, 1827. [The Huntington Family in America, Hartford, 1915, p. 881.]

*** Lucretia Champion, daughter of Lucretia Hubbard and (General) Epaphroditus Champion, was born Feb. 17, 1783 in East Haddam; died Jan. 19, 1882, in New Haven. Was married 1807 in East Haddam to Hon. Asa Bacon, who died 1857 in New Haven. [The Champion Genealogy, 1891, p. 300.]

Box V: Folder E: J. Strong's Music Book

N.d. Handwritten. Inscription on cover: "J. Strong's Book 1st. J. Strong, Coventry." Pages 1, 6-13, 22-29 missing. Last 24 pages not numbered. (Very old and fragile; handle carefully!)

Folder F: Unidentified Handwritten Music Book

N.d. Music for organ, choir, and pianoforte. (Very old and brittle; handle carefully!)

Folder F1: Copy of Manuscript in Folder F

- * Folder G: Fife Book possibly by Asahel Nettleton. [Nathan Brown?]
See correspondence in Folder H. re identification of author. Circa 1790. Handwritten. Inscribed: "Mr. Mariman Samuel Book." (Old and brittle; handle carefully!)

Folder H: Correspondence Pertaining to Folder GFolder I: "The Mariner Loves o'er the Water to Roam!"

Quartet (song) - one page - handwritten. Pencilled on back, "Mary A. Orton, Plainville, Conn."

See Connecticut's Music in the Revolutionary Era by Ruth Mack Wilson with the assistance of Kate Van Winkle Keller. Connecticut Bicentennial Series XXXI, p.94
[Table of Contents revised by Irene Miller, March, 1979.]

* See MF#12, reel 4

DANIEL READ, PAPERS
MSS #27

Box/Folder Contents

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Some of the items from this collection was exhibited at the Beinecke Library of Yale University, along with Yale material, from November 2007 to January 2008. Along with the exhibition, a program was held on November 28, 2007 which included a lecture by Karl Kroeger and a performance of Read tunes by the Yale Camerata. The following items have been added to this manuscript collection from that exhibition and program.

- 5/J 1. Postcard advertising exhibition and program.
2. Poster for the same (rolled).
3. Exhibition catalog and Program brochure.
4. Text of Dr. Kroeger's lecture.
5. Compact Disk of the music from the program.

The following item was made by William Crilly and given to the Whitney Library by him and his wife. An amateur woodworker and father of the Yale Music Librarian, Mr. Crilly made this from measurements and photographs of the original pitchpipe from the New Haven Museum & Historical Society which was on display at Beinecke for the exhibition.

- 6/A Reproduction of Daniel Read's pitchpipe.
- 6/B Letter from Kendrick Crilly describing the reproduction pitchpipe.