



# ArchivesSpace

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## Thomas W. Olcott papers4079178

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 15, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Olcott, Thomas W (Thomas Worth), 1795-1880
<b>Title:</b>	Thomas W. Olcott papers
<b>ID:</b>	4079178
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0948
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1811-1925
<b>Physical Description:</b>	18 boxes 18 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Thomas W. Olcott papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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President of the Mechanics and Farmers' Bank of Albany, N.Y. Olcott was a prominent figure in New York State politics and finance.

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## Summary

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Letters and papers of Olcott. Among the subjects covered are the history of the Bank; banks and politics in New York during the Jacksonian era; the operations of the safety Fund Banking System; land acquisition in the West, particularly Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and western New York; the Boston and Albany Railroad; the Corning Land Company; and the

building of the Union Pacific Railroad. The papers are divided into the following groups: letters received, including correspondence with Martin Van Buren, Samuel P. Chase, William Henry Seward, William B. Astor, Silas Wright, William Kent, J. Pierpont Morgan, and Horatio Seymour; documents including land deeds, wills, leases, bonds, sureties, orders to pay, checks, bank ledgers, partnership agreements, earnings reports, tax assessments, and land sales; household bills and receipts; bank notes including excellent examples of early American currency; miscellaneous account books, photographs, and printed material; patents for Michigan and Ohio lands to William Thompson, Thomas W. Olcott, and Garrit Denniston signed by Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren (proxy signatures).

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## Scope and Contents

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Two onsite card catalog drawers (Catalog Card File Drawers 65A and 65B) contain catalog cards, filed chronologically, for materials in the collection.

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## Arrangement

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Cataloged.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Revision Description**

Container list and note on catalog card file drawers added to the finding aid. CCR. 2020-02-18

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located on-site.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Olcott, Douglas W., Mrs. Louise Olcott McClure, Mrs. Emily Olcott Garrison, Mrs. Grace Rathbone Adkins, Mrs. Anna Rathbone Johnson, and the Directors of the Mechanics and Farmers' Bank of Albany. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--06/14/60. Accession number--M-60-06-14.

### **Processing Information**

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 08/--/89.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Banks and banking -- New York (State) -- Albany
- Banks and banking -- New York (State)
- Real property -- Ohio
- Real property -- Wisconsin
- Real property -- Michigan

- Real property -- Illinois
- Real property -- New York (State)
- Tax assessment
- Money -- United States
- Railroads -- United States
- Railroads -- New York (State)
- New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865
- Photographic prints
- Patents (land)
- Autographs (manuscripts)
- Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862
- Chase, Salmon P (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873
- Seward, William H (William Henry), 1801-1872
- Astor, William B. (William Backhouse), 1792-1875
- Wright, Silas, 1795-1847
- Kent, William, 1802-1861
- Morgan, J. Pierpont (John Pierpont), 1837-1913
- Seymour, Horatio, 1810-1886
- Thompson, William, 1813-1897
- Denniston, Garrit
- Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845
- Mechanics and Farmers Bank (Albany, N.Y.)
- Safety Fund Banking System
- Boston and Albany Railroad Co.
- Corning Land Company
- Union Pacific Railroad Company

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Papers, 1811-1925

#### Subseries I.1: Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
A-Bo	box 1
Br-Cl	box 2
Co-Di	box 3
Do-H	box 4
J-Mas	box 5
Mat-N	box 6
O-Q	box 7

R-S	box 8
T-Wa	box 9
We-Z	box 10

### Subseries I.2: Documents, 1812-1925

Title/Description	Instances
Documents, 1812-1835	box 11
Documents, 1836-1840	box 12
Documents, 1841-1925	box 13

### Subseries I.3: Business and Financial Records, 1811-1886

Title/Description	Instances
Miscellaneous Business Papers, circa 1830-1886	box 14
Promissory notes and "orders to pay", 1833-1859, undated	box 15
Receipts, 1828-1876	box 15
Thomas W. Olcott and family--Household bills, receipts, accounts, etc.	box 16
Account Books, 1811-1886 <u>Physical Description</u> : 11 items <u>Existence and Location of Copies</u> <b>Existence and Location of Copies</b> Account books for Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Albany also available on microfilm.	box 17
One envelope of old bank notes	box 17
One envelope of cancelled checks	box 17
Patents for Michigan and Ohio Lands; Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren proxy signatures <b>Scope and Contents</b> Cataloged.	box 18

### Subseries I.4: Other Materials

Title/Description	Instances
Photo Reproductions of Paintings by Ezra Ames	box 17

### Scope and Contents

One item is a self-portrait, the other is of Solomon Southwick.

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James A. Manning. New York State Men: Thomas Worth Olcott (Albany, NY: The Albany Argus Press), 1912      box 17

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## Series II: Card Catalog

### Scope and Contents

These card catalog drawers contain catalog cards, filed chronologically, for materials in the collection.

Title/Description	Instances
Thomas Olcott Calendar, Undated-1851	drawer Card File 65A
Thomas Olcott Calendar, 1852-1866	drawer Card File 65B

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