

**Main Entry:** Jedidiah Morse

**Title:** Papers 1779-1850

**Size:** 4 archival boxes (1.8 linear ft.)

**Source:** Gift of Simon Gratz; purchased from American Art Association (1932); Swann Gallery; Union Square Book Shop (1932)

**Biographical Note:**

Jedidiah Morse (1761-1826) born in Woodstock, Connecticut, was a Congregational clergyman known as the "father of geography." After his graduation from Yale College in 1783, he entered the ministry. Licensed to preach in 1785, he was ordained a year later. His strong interest in geography resulted in several publications including the lectures *Geography Made Easy*, the first geography publication in the United States. The success of this work led to the publication of *American Geography* (1789), *The Elements Of Geography* and *The American Gazetteer*. Morse established the Andover Theological Seminary (1808), the New England Tract Society (1814) and the American Bible Society (1816). As a conservative Republican, Morse founded the periodicals *Mercury* and the *New England Palladium*. After residing in Charleston, Massachusetts for thirty years, he moved to New Haven, Connecticut where he devoted the latter part of his life to Native Americans and poor whites. He married Elizabeth Ann Breeze of Shewsbury, New Jersey, the daughter of Judge Samuel Breeze in 1789. They had three children, Samuel Finley Breeze, Richard Cory and Sidney Edward.

**Description:** The papers document the career and personal life of Jedidiah Morse through letters, sermons and his journal of a visit to the Isle of Shoals (Aug. 1805). The letters concern his military discharge (1779), geography and religious matters. The correspondents include his wife and two of their three children, Richard Cory and Sidney Edward. The other correspondents are authors, booksellers, clergymen and mapmakers.

Accessioned by Valerie Wingfield 1985; revised December 1992.

## JEDIDIAH MORSE PAPERS

### Container list

Box

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | General Correspondence<br>1779-1808<br>Journal: Isles of Shoals, 1805 |
| 2 | 1809-1814   |
| 3 | 1815-1817 June<br>Sermon "Self Flattery" 1817                         |
| 4 | 1817 July - 1826  |

Morse, Elizabeth Ann (Mrs. Jedidiah Morse)  
Correspondence with Jedidiah, 1795-1800  
General Correspondence, 1814-1826

Morse, Richard Cory. Letters 1821-1826  
Sidney Edward. Letters 1814-1841

Evarts, Jeremiah. Letters 1829  
Hitchcock, Jeremiah. Letters 1828  
Steele, Jonathan. Letters 1850