



**OLD COLONY  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

**William T. and Mary L.  
Hurley Library  
Finding Aid**

**MSS-02-012  
Thompson Family**

**Historical & Biographical Note:** The material in this collection is largely related to the Cephas Thompson branch of the Thompson family. Cephas Thompson was born July 1, 1775 and spent the majority of his life in Middleborough, MA. As a self-taught artist, he painted many portraits and landscapes that were well known in his time. In 1802, he married Olive Leonard, and they would go on to have six children together, including Marietta Thompson, Jerome Thompson, and Cephas Giovanni Thompson. Although Marietta and Jerome were also artists like their father, Cephas Giovanni would go on to become more renowned than his siblings and father. Olive Leonard Thompson died in 1819, and later that year Cephas Thompson married his second wife Lucy Thompson, who gave birth to their son, Julius, in 1824.

Cephas Giovanni Thompson was taught by his father and had a studio in Plymouth, but he also spent time living in New York, Providence, New Bedford, and Italy. He painted many notable portraits in his career, including those of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Robert E. Lee, and his friend Nathaniel Hawthorne.

**Scope & Content Note:** This box contains correspondence and financial information regarding the Thompson family, as well as a ledger written by Cephas Giovanni Thompson.

**Series Description:** This series contains one box with three folders.

**Inventory:**

<b>Box:</b>	<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Contents:</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Letter from Mary J. Capen to her sister, Mrs. Lucy Thompson, Middleboro, undated
		Letter from Julius Thompson to his brother Cephas Giovanni Thompson, Taunton, August 5
		Letter from Mary J. Capen to her sister, Mrs. Lucy Thompson, Boston, March 20
		Letter from Marietta to her mother and father, Cephas Thompson, Middleborough, July 21
		Letter from Cephas Thompson to his son, Julius Thompson, Middleborough, September 2, 1839
		Letter from L. H. Thompson to aunt, Lucy Thompson, Rochester, March 21, 1840

		Letter from Julius Thompson to his mother and father, Rochester, April 24, 1841
		Letter from Cordelia to her brother Julius Thompson, Rochester, May 21, 1843
		Letter from Cephas G. Thompson to Julius Thompson, University, New York, September 10, 1843
		Letter from Ruth B. Peterson to Mrs. Cephas Thompson, Hanover, September 15, 1846
		Letter from Cephas Giovanni Thompson to Governor Byron Diman, July 10, 1847
		Letter from Mary J. Capen to her sister, Mrs. Cephas Thompson, Boston, September 1847
		Letter from Julius Thompson to his parents, December 13, 1851
		Letter from J. Winslow Chapman to Dr. Thompson, Hyannis, May 20, 1857
		Letter from Cephas Thompson to his brother Julius, Rochester, March 11, 1860
		Letter from Jerome to his brother Julius, Broadway, New York, July 4, 1860
		Letter from Jerome to his brother Julius, June 30, 1861
		Letter from Jerome to his brother Julis, Broadway, New York, January 18, 1863
		Letter from J.F. Codman to Dr. J. Thompson, Boston, July 26, 1864
		Letter from G. Rush. Wilson to Ms. G.Chaplin, Fall River, February 6, 1882
	<b>2</b>	Written sheet, "Hunters Recipe for a Gum for single teeth"
		Two written sheets, "Inventory of the Estate of Cephas Thompson"
		Invoice from H.T. Washburn, Undertaker & Embalmer, to Dr. Julius Thompson, February 5, 1894
		Seven printed sheets, "A Copy From the Original Will" of William Tomson of Middleborough
	<b>3</b>	Bound book, Account Book of Cephas Thompson, November 1808

### Cross Reference to V-Files:

VT371		Six photocopied sheets, excerpt from Chapter 10, "Our Issac Thompson Quarter," <i>Memoirs of the Leonard, Thompson, and Haskell Families</i> by Caroline Leonard Goodenough, 1928
		Sketched property map of Thompson Purchase
		Five photocopied sheets, excerpt from "I. First Generation" from <i>Thompson Genealogy</i>
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Lawyer researches work, life of early Middleboro artist," about Cephas Giovanni Thompson, <i>The Standard Times</i> , November 1, 1992
		Twelve photocopied sheets, an excerpt from <i>A Genealogy of Descendants of John Thompson of Plymouth, Mass</i> , by Charles Hutchinson Thompson, 1890
		Seven photocopied sheets, <i>A Genealogy of John Thomson, Who Landed at Plymouth</i> , by Ignatius Thomson, 1841
		Seven photocopied sheets, <i>A Genealogy of John Thomson, Who Landed at Plymouth</i> , by Ignatius Thomson, 1841
		Four written sheets, letter from Horace Tinkham to James E. Seaver
		Two photocopied sheets, notes on the genealogy of John Thompson
		Four photocopied sheets, biographical notes on Benjamin Tompson (1642-1714)
		Photocopy of newspaper article, "Thompson clan rich in artistic talent," <i>Raynham Weekly</i> , November 26, 1996