MARY G. AND EDWARD R. LANDON PAPERS
1836-1841
1 file (0.1 linear feet)
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BACKGROUND ON MARY G. AND EDWARD R. LANDON
Born in Guilford, Conn. on May 31, 1813 (sometimes recorded as 1812), Edward Ruggles Landon was the son of Nathaniel Ruggles Landon (1784-1851), a prosperous merchant, and his wife Mary Griswold (1786-1871), and the grandson of the patriot and Revolutionary veteran David Landon. Having received his bachelor’s degree at Yale (1833) and studied law at an office in New Haven, Edward looked westward for his fortune, relocating first to Detroit and later to the small town of Tecumseh. The timing of his move to the Michigan Territory, however, was less than fortunate, coinciding with an economic downturn and the financial panic of 1837 as well as some personal misfortune. In 1837 Landon married a young woman from Guilford, Anna Lay (1817-1838), and brought her west, only to lose both her and their infant son the next fall.

Recovering from his tragedy, Landon returned home to Guilford in December 1838 and built a successful life for himself, working as an attorney, president of the Guilford Savings Bank, and for thirty-five years, as a judge on the Probate Court of New Haven County, and in 1871, marrying for a second time to Parnel Clarissa Hotchkiss (1819-1886). Landon died at the age of 70 on July 25, 1883, and is buried in Guilford’s Alderbrook Cemetery.

CONTENTS OF COLLECTION
The Landon collection consists entirely of typed transcripts of letters written by Mary Griswold Landon to her son Edward, during the few years he spent in Michigan. Filled with news of day to day life in Guilford, family and friends, domestic duties, financial challenges, and the occasional intervention of politics and national affairs, the letters are both a reflection of Edward’s experiences in the west and Mary’s strong personality and attitudes toward family and life in nineteenth-century Connecticut.
Administrative information

PROVENANCE
Gift of Margot Culley and transferred from University Archives, May 2008.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

RELATED MATERIAL
The Beinecke Library at Yale University houses a collection of papers of Edward R. Landon.

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Search terms

SUBJECTS
- Depressions--1837
- Guilford (Conn.)--History
- Lawyers--Michigan--19th century

NAMES
- Landon, Anna Theodora Lay, 1817-1838
- Landon, Edward Ruggles, 1812-1883
- Landon, Mary Griswold, 1786-1871

GENRE TERMS
- Letters (Correspondence)