

# Thomas Cole Collection

**Repository:**

Vedder Research Library  
90 County Route 42  
Coxsackie, NY 12051  
Tel. (518) 731-1033  
<http://www.vedderlibrary.org>

**Access Number:** None Assigned

**Creators:** Cole Family

**Extent:** .6 cu. ft. (2 boxes)

**Languages Present:** English

**Date Range:** 1801 - 1979

**Historical Note:** Thomas Cole (1801 - 1848) was a celebrated artist most widely renowned for his contributions to landscape painting as the founder of the Hudson River School. Born in England in 1801, Cole settled in the United States in 1818 and by 1825 had discovered a new muse in the beauty of the Catskill Mountains and Mid-Hudson Valley. Cole eventually settled in Catskill, NY where he established a studio and residence at Cedar Grove - continuing his work both there and abroad under the patronage of several prominent businessmen of the period. It was at Cedar Grove that Cole instructed Frederic Edwin Church as a student between 1844 and 1846. Cole and his wife Maria Bartow Cole had five children, four of whom survived to adulthood. Thomas Cole passed away from an illness on February 11, 1848 and was buried in Catskill. In addition to his landscapes, he was also widely known to contemporaries for his forays into architecture, engraving, and furthermore his considerable work as a sketch artist.

**Summary of Contents:** The first box of the collection comprises mainly secondary sources about the life and work of Thomas Cole. These sources include clippings files from the mid-19th century and later about his life and showings of his work, brochures about exhibits, listing of auction items from a 1964 sale, and material related to his descendants including some correspondence. Some material pertains to Olana, Cedar Grove and the Thomas Cole Foundation. The second box contains original materials from the early to mid 19th century concerning the business transactions and estates of Thomas Cole and relatives in the Catskill area. Included in this container are folders of material related to Cedar Grove, the Catskill ferry dock, the Thompson family estates, and both Thomas and Maria Cole.

**Arrangement:** No arrangement standard present, boxes are organized as presented to VRL by the donor.

**Acquisition:** Gift by family of subject, supporting documentation not present.

**Processing Details:** None available.

**Publication:** Collection processor information and dates unavailable, finding aid created Fall 2016 by Jonathan Palmer.

**How to Access Materials:** Materials are available to examine on-site at the Vedder Research Library in Coxsackie, New York during posted Library hours as found on the repository's homepage.

**Access Restrictions:** Unrestricted.

**Use Restrictions:** Researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to current copyright laws. Duplication of print and photographic materials without express permission of Head Librarian is strictly prohibited.

**Citing Material:** Identification of Item, Folder, Box, Collection Name, Date Range. Vedder Research Library, Greene County Historical Society, Coxsackie NY.

**Contents of Collection:** Itemized list of collection provided on request when available by calling or emailing the Vedder Research Library during posted hours.

**Copyright Notice:** Individuals requesting reproductions expressly assume the responsibility for compliance with all pertinent provisions of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. ss101 et seq. Patrons further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Vedder Research Library and its staff in connection with any disputes arising over the reproduction of material at the request of patrons. For more information please visit the following website: <http://www.loc.gov/copyright/title17/>