

# **Guide to Papers relating to Norton Hall, South Yorkshire**

**OSB MSS 226**



Karen Spicher

2021 June

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 226

**TITLE:** Papers relating to Norton Hall, South Yorkshire

**DATES:** 1584-1943

**BULK DATES:** 1605-1912

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.76 linear feet (16 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Mostly in English; some materials in Latin.

**SUMMARY:** Manuscript legal documents, correspondence, and notes relating to Norton Hall, and to other land holdings and genealogy of the Offley and Shore families. The bulk of the collection consists of circa 100 land leases and other legal documents including marriage contracts, wills, and military commissions, most on parchment, most dated 1605-1768, with a few dated 1584-1896. Papers documenting political philosophy and the practice of law during the Restoration period include an account book, 1670-1721, with entries listing income and detailed personal and household expenses of Middle Temple barrister Robert Offley (1634-1678), 1670-circa 1676, and his brother, Middle Temple barrister Joseph Offley (-1721), 1678-1721; and a commonplace book titled "Politica et historica," in an unidentified 17th-century hand, possibly also by Robert Offley, with undated entries in English and Latin, most relating to philosophy, politics, government, and religion, with extensive extracts from Machiavelli, Bacon, and other 16th-17th-century authors. Other papers, 18th-19th centuries, include correspondence and notes, 1720-1760s, most relating to land holdings of Samuel Shore (1738-1828) and his brother-in-law Francis Edmunds, 1760s, including Norton Hall and manors in Essex and Suffolk; memoirs of members of the Shore family about an Offley family inheritance dispute in 1754; and a printed catalog and map for sale of Norton Hall estate, 1850, with annotations in unidentified hands.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.nortonhall>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.nortonhall>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Dean Cooke Rare Books on the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection Fund, 2021.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This material is open for research.

Series III. Legal documents (boxes 6-14) is restricted due to the condition of the material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Papers relating to Norton Hall, South Yorkshire. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Norton Hall was a country house and estate, 11th-19th centuries, in the traditional county of Derbyshire, near Sheffield, South Yorkshire. Owners of Norton Hall included members of the Clarke family, 1668-1695, the Offley family, 1695-1759, and the Shore family, 1759-1850. Since the 1920s, parts of the former estate have been acquired by Graves Park, a city park in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Family members represented in the papers include:

Offley family

1) Robert Offley (-1625) married (1588/9) Anne Osborne Offley (-1653/4).

-----2) John Offley (1592/3-1667) married Elizabeth Moore Offley (1604-1678).

-----3) Robert Offley (1634-1678), Bencher of the Middle Temple, married (1661) Elizabeth Best Wynne Offley.

-----3) Joseph Offley (-1721), Bencher of the Middle Temple and member of Parliament for Rye, 1698-1702. Inherited Norton Hall from Robert Offley (1640-1717).

-----2) Stephen Offley married (1635) Ursula Clarke, sister of Cornelius Clarke (-1696) and heir of Norton Hall.

-----3) Robert Offley (1640-1717) married Mary Burton Offley (1647-1704).

-----4) Stephen Offley (1671-1727), High Sheriff of Derbyshire (1716-) married (1700) Ulrith Smyth (1681-1711). Inherited Norton Hall from Joseph Offley (-1721).

-----5) Joseph Offley (1702-1751) married (1732) Mary Bohun (1702/3-1740).

-----6) Edmund Offley (1732/3-1754).

Inheritance dispute:

Edmund Offley (1732/3-1754), estranged from his nonconformist father's executors, made a will leaving Norton Hall to Reverend George Carr, English Episcopal Congregation, Edinburgh. After Offley's death, the dispute was resolved in favor of his sisters:

Urith Offley (1737-1781) married (1759) Samuel Shore (1738-1828).

Hannah Maria Offley (-1805) married (1767) Francis Edmunds.

Shore family

1) Samuel Shore (1738-1828) married (1759) Urith Offley Shore (1737-1781). Deputy lieutenant, Derby militia. Rebuilt Norton Hall estate, including a house extant in 2021.

-----2) Samuel Shore (1761-1836) married (1788) Harriet Fitz-Walter Foye (1760-1826). Lieutenant, Norton Volunteer Corps, 1803-1810.

-----3) Offley Shore (1797-1870) married (1832) Elizabeth Brewin Shore (1802-1872). Entered Shore pedigree at College of Arms, 1837. Sold Norton Hall estate, 1850.

-----4) Offley Bohun Shore (1839-1911) married (1861) Anna Maria Leishman.

-----5) Offley Bohun Stovin Fairless Shore (1863-1922) married Caroline Perry Sinnickson (1870-1957).

-----4) Harrington Offley Shore (1833-1908).

The Shore family was related to:

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), through a sister-in-law of Samuel Shore (1738-1828).

Possibly related to John Shore, 1st Baron Teignmouth (1751-1854), governor-general of Bengal, 1793-1798.

Sources:

Addy, S. O. "A contribution towards a history of Norton, in Derbyshire." In: *Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*. volume II (1880 January), pages 2-27.

British history online. "[Norton](#)".

British listed buildings (website). "[Norton Hall Hospital with Colonnade and Orangery](#)".

Dwyer Laye (archived genealogy website). "[Florence Nightingale's Shore family, from perspective of Shores of Norton Hall/Meersbrook](#)".

Hunter, Joseph. *A true account of the alienation and recovery of the estates of the Offleys of Norton in 1754, with remarks on the version of the story by the author of "Tremaine" and "De Vere"* (London: Pickering, 1841). The title refers to fictionalized versions in novels of Robert Plumer Ward (1765-1846).

Soc.genealogy.medieval (website). "[Shute/Offley](#)" (newsgroup thread).

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## Scope and Contents

Manuscript legal documents, correspondence, and notes relating to Norton Hall, and to other land holdings and genealogy of the Offley and Shore families.

The bulk of the collection consists of circa 100 land leases and other legal documents including marriage contracts, wills, and military commissions, most on parchment, most dated 1605-1768, with a few dated 1584-1896.

Papers documenting political philosophy and the practice of law during the Restoration period include an account book, 1670-1721, with entries listing income and detailed personal and household expenses

of Middle Temple barrister Robert Offley (1634-1678), 1670-circa 1676, and his brother, Middle Temple barrister Joseph Offley (-1721), 1678-1721; and a commonplace book titled "Politica et historica," in an unidentified 17th-century hand, possibly also by Robert Offley, with undated entries in English and Latin, most relating to philosophy, politics, government, and religion, with extensive extracts from Machiavelli, Bacon, and other 16th-17th-century authors.

Other papers, 18th-19th centuries, include correspondence and notes, 1720-1760s, most relating to land holdings of Samuel Shore (1738-1828) and his brother-in-law Francis Edmunds, 1760s, including Norton Hall and manors in Essex and Suffolk; memoirs of members of the Shore family about an Offley family inheritance dispute in 1754; and a printed catalog and map for sale of Norton Hall estate, 1850, with annotations in unidentified hands.

Other correspondence, notes, and genealogical tables, circa 1880s-1910s, document genealogy research by Offley Bohun Stovin Fairless Shore (1863-1922), his father, Offley Bohun Shore (1839-1911), and his uncle, Harrington Offley Shore (1833-1908), including research on Norton Hall, the Clarke, Offley, Shore, and related families, and the Shore family relationship to John Shore, 1st Baron Teignmouth (1751-1854) and to Florence Nightingale (1820-1910).

A few items relate to P. E. Davis Limited, a home furnishing business in Oxford, England, 1930s, including business and financial records of Margery Morris Davis, Percy Edwin Davis, and Percy William Davis, and photographs of two unidentified people, circa 1930s.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Offley family papers, 1630-1754. II. Shore family papers, circa 1600-1912. III. Legal documents, 1584-1896. IV. Papers relating to P. E. Davis Limited, 1924-1943.

## Collection Contents

	Series I. Offley family papers <i>0.25 linear feet (2 boxes)</i>	1630–1754
	Account book, commonplace book, and a small amount of correspondence and other legal and financial records relating to the Offley family.	
	This material is open for research.	
	Arranged by type of material.	
b. 1	<a href="#">Offley family account book</a>	1670–1721
b. 2	Offley family commonplace book	circa 1650
b. 3, f. 1-2	Other papers	1630–1754
	Series II. Shore family papers <i>2.54 linear feet (4 boxes)</i>	circa 1600-circa 1912
	Correspondence and notes relating to Norton Hall and other land holdings of the Shore family, circa 1750-circa 1800; a printed map and catalog for sale of Norton Hall, 1850; and documents, correspondence, and notes for genealogy research, circa 1600-circa 1912.	
	This material is open for research.	
	Arranged chronologically.	
b. 3, f. 3-5	Land holdings	1763–1781
b. 3, f. 6-7	Land holdings	circa 1750 - circa 1800
b. 3, f. 8	Norton Volunteer Corps	1803–1813
b. 3, f. 9-10	Other family papers	1820s-1830s
b. 3, f. 11	Norton Hall inheritance dispute, 1754	1826, 1841
b. 3, f. 12	Norton Hall estate map	[1849?]
b. 16 (Oversize), f. 148	Norton Hall estate sale catalog	1850
	Genealogy research	
b. 4, f. 13-17	Documents	circa 1600-circa 1900
b. 16 (Oversize), f. 149-151	Documents	1665-circa 1800
b. 4, f. 18-20	Correspondence and notes	circa 1860s-1900
b. 4, f. 21-24	Correspondence and notes	1902–1912
b. 5, f. 25-30	Correspondence and notes	circa 1900 - circa 1910

Genealogy research (continued)

b. 16 (Oversize), f. 152-153	Correspondence and notes	circa 1900-circa 1910
	<p>Series III. Legal documents <i>3.75 linear feet (9 boxes)</i> <i>Legal documents on folded parchment, 16th-19th centuries, are physical evidence of practices such as folding and docketing. The items are folded too tightly to be unfolded completely and require conservation treatment for use.</i></p> <p>Circa 100 legal documents, most on parchment, including land leases, marriage contracts, wills, and military commissions. Most concern Norton Hall and other land holdings of the Clarke, Shore, Offley, and related families.</p> <p>Series III. Legal documents (boxes 6-14) is restricted due to the fragility of the material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.</p> <p>See also: Series II. Shore family papers/ Genealogy research/Documents.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>	1584-1896,
	<p><sup>th</sup> 16 century</p>	1584-1597
b. 6, f. 31	Unidentified legal document	1584
b. 6, f. 32	Unidentified legal document	1586
b. 6, f. 33	Unidentified legal document	1588-1589
b. 6, f. 34	Unidentified legal document	1597
	<p><sup>th</sup> 17 century</p>	1600-1699
b. 6, f. 35	Unidentified legal document	1600?
b. 6, f. 36	Unidentified legal document	1605
b. 6, f. 37	Unidentified legal document	1613
b. 6, f. 38	Unidentified legal document	1616
b. 6, f. 39-40	Unidentified legal documents	1641
b. 6, f. 41	Unidentified legal document	1647
b. 6, f. 42	Unidentified legal document	1650
b. 7, f. 43	Unidentified legal document	1652
b. 7, f. 44	Unidentified legal document	1655
b. 7, f. 45-46	Unidentified legal documents	1656
b. 7, f. 47	Unidentified legal document	1657
b. 7, f. 48-49	Unidentified legal documents	1659
b. 7, f. 50	Unidentified legal document	1667
b. 7, f. 51-52	Unidentified legal documents	1669



17th century (continued)

b. 7, f. 53	Unidentified legal document	1669/1670
b. 8, f. 54-55	Unidentified legal documents	1670
b. 8, f. 56	Unidentified legal document	1671
b. 8, f. 57	Unidentified legal document	1672
b. 8, f. 58	Unidentified legal document	1675
b. 8, f. 59-61	Unidentified legal documents	1676
b. 8, f. 62	Unidentified legal document	1677
b. 8, f. 63-64	Unidentified legal documents	1678
b. 9, f. 65-66	Unidentified legal documents	1679
b. 9, f. 67	Unidentified legal document	1680
b. 9, f. 68	Unidentified legal document	1681/1682
b. 9, f. 69-70	Unidentified legal documents	1682
b. 9, f. 71-73	Unidentified legal documents	1683
b. 10, f. 74-78	Unidentified legal documents	1687
b. 10, f. 79	Unidentified legal document	1688/1689
b. 10, f. 80	Unidentified legal document	1689/1690
b. 10, f. 81-84	Unidentified legal documents	1693
b. 10, f. 85-86	Unidentified legal documents	1694
b. 11, f. 87	Unidentified legal document	1695
b. 11, f. 88-89	Unidentified legal documents	1697
b. 11, f. 90-92	Unidentified legal documents	1698
b. 11, f. 93-96	Unidentified legal documents	1699
	18 <sup>th</sup> century	1700-1779
b. 12, f. 97-100	Unidentified legal documents	1700
b. 12, f. 101-106	Unidentified legal documents	1701
b. 12, f. 107	Unidentified legal document	1701/1702
b. 12, f. 108-109	Unidentified legal documents	1702
b. 12, f. 110	Unidentified legal document	1703
b. 12, f. 111-112	Unidentified legal documents	1705
b. 13, f. 113	Unidentified legal document	1707

18th century (continued)

b. 13, f. 114	Unidentified legal document	1707?
b. 13, f. 115-116	Unidentified legal documents	1708
b. 13, f. 117	Unidentified legal document	1710
b. 13, f. 118	Unidentified legal document	1711
b. 13, f. 119	Unidentified legal document	1713
b. 13, f. 120	Unidentified legal document	1715
b. 13, f. 121-128	Unidentified legal documents	1722
b. 13, f. 129-130	Unidentified legal documents	1724
b. 13, f. 131-132	Unidentified legal documents	1734
b. 14, f. 133	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1745
b. 14, f. 134	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1753
b. 14, f. 135-137	<a href="#">Unidentified legal documents</a>	1760
b. 14, f. 138	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1762
b. 14, f. 139	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1768
b. 14, f. 140	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1779
	19 <sup>th</sup> century	1800–1896
b. 14, f. 141	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1800s?
b. 14, f. 142	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1805
b. 14, f. 143	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1806
b. 14, f. 144	<a href="#">Unidentified legal document</a>	1896
	Series IV. Papers relating to P. E. Davis Limited <i>0.21 linear feet (1 box)</i> Financial records, business records, and personal papers of P. E. Davis Limited, Percy Edwin Davis, Margery Morris Davis, and Percy William Davis. This material is open for research. Arranged chronologically.	1924–1943
b. 15, f. 145	Margery Morris Davis and Percy William Davis financial records	1924–1943
b. 15, f. 146	Photographs of unidentified people	circa 1930s
b. 15, f. 147	"P. E. Davis Limited Memorandum and Articles of Association" (printed)	1938

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Administration of estates -- England -- Derbyshire.  
Country homes -- England -- Derbyshire  
Estate sales -- England -- Derbyshire  
Genealogists -- England  
Genealogy  
House furnishings industry and trade -- England -- Oxford  
Inheritance and succession -- Derbyshire  
Landowners -- England -- Derbyshire  
Land tenure -- England -- Derbyshire  
Land tenure -- England -- Essex  
Land tenure -- England -- Sheffield  
Land tenure -- England -- South Yorkshire  
Lawyers -- England -- London  
Manors -- England -- Derbyshire  
Manors -- England -- Essex  
Manors -- England -- Sheffield  
Manors -- England -- South Yorkshire  
Real property -- England -- Derbyshire  
Real property -- England -- Essex  
Real property -- England -- Sheffield  
Real property -- England -- South Yorkshire

### Geographic Names

Derbyshire (England)  
Derbyshire (England) -- Economic conditions -- 16th century  
Derbyshire (England) -- Economic conditions -- 17th century  
Derbyshire (England) -- Economic conditions -- 18th century  
Derbyshire (England) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century  
Derbyshire (England) -- Maps  
Derbyshire (England) -- Social life and customs -- 16th century  
Derbyshire (England) -- Social life and customs -- 17th century  
Derbyshire (England) -- Social life and customs -- 18th century  
Derbyshire (England) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
Great Britain -- History -- Restoration, 1660-1688

Great Britain -- Intellectual life -- 17th century  
Sheffield (England)  
Sheffield (England) -- Maps  
South Yorkshire (England)

### Genres / Formats

Account books -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century  
Commonplace books -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century  
Genealogical tables -- England -- 19th century  
Genealogical tables -- England -- 20th Century  
Leases -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century  
Leases -- England -- Derbyshire -- 18th century  
Leases -- England -- Derbyshire -- 19th century  
Legal documents -- England -- Derbyshire -- 16th century  
Legal documents -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century  
Legal documents -- England -- Derbyshire -- 18th century  
Legal documents -- England -- Derbyshire -- 19th century  
Maps -- England -- Derbyshire -- 19th century  
Marriage records -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century  
Marriage records -- England -- Derbyshire -- 18th century  
Marriage records -- England -- Derbyshire -- 19th century  
Military commissions -- England -- Derbyshire -- 18th century  
Photographs  
Wills -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century  
Wills -- England -- Derbyshire -- 18th century  
Wills -- England -- Derbyshire -- 19th century

### Occupations

Genealogists -- England -- 19th century  
Genealogists -- England -- 20th Century  
Landowners -- England -- Derbyshire -- 16th century  
Landowners -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century  
Landowners -- England -- Derbyshire -- 18th century

Landowners -- England -- Derbyshire -- 19th  
century  
Lawyers -- England -- Derbyshire -- 17th century

## **Names**

Clarke, Cornelius, -1696  
Davis, P. E. (Percy Edwin)  
Edmunds, Francis, active 1767  
Edmunds, Hannah Maria Offley, -1805  
Nightingale, Florence, 1820-1910  
Offley, Edmund, 1732/3-1754  
Offley, Joseph, 1721  
Offley, Robert, 1634-1678  
Shore, Harrington Offley, 1833-1908  
Shore, Offley Bohun, 1839-1911  
Shore, Offley Bohun Stovin Fairless, 1863-1922  
Shore, Samuel, 1738-1828  
Shore, Samuel, 1761-1836  
Shore, Urith Offley, 1737-1781  
Teignmouth, John Shore, Baron, 1751-1834

## **Corporate Bodies**

Great Britain. Army. Derby Militia  
Great Britain. Army. Norton Volunteer Corps  
P. E. Davis Limited

## **Families**

Offley family  
Shore family