

# Guide to the Colgate Family Papers

MS 144



compiled by Susan Grigg

August 1979

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	6
Inventory, 1752-(1766-1855)-1875 .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	9

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 144

**CREATOR:** Colgate family

**TITLE:** Colgate Family papers

**DATES:** 1752-1875

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters, diaries, account books, financial and legal papers and memorabilia of the Davies, Brasher, Craig and related families, based in New York City. The business documents relate to the Atlantic trade (1788-1814) and comprise, among other records, receipts for the purchase of slaves in Jamaica in 1801. The diaries and account books in the collection include the family expense book (1739-1819) of Helen Kortright Brasher, a diary kept by Judith Brasher in 1766, extracts from a journal of a cruise in a privateer (1813), a diary (1837-1848) possibly belonging to Robert Colgate II, and a journal (1856-1858) of a voyage to China. Among the genealogical information is a biography of Helena Kortright Brasher written by Craig Colgate, Jr.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0144>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0144>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.        box  
f.        folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the estate of Craig Colgate, Craig Colgate, Jr., and Mrs. James G. Cannon between 1955 and 1979.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

### Preferred Citation

Colgate Family Papers (MS 144). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Colgate Family Papers, 1752-1874, consist of letters, diaries, account books, and miscellaneous financial and legal papers of the Davies, Brasher, Craig, and other related families centered in New York City. They document both personal relations and business matters, the latter connected with the Atlantic trade and with land sales in western Virginia. Much of the information about business is in correspondence between members of these families. These are the principal components of the papers:

legal and financial papers, 1752-1794, of Benjamin Davies (1728-7) and his wife, Elizabeth (Wessells) Davies (d. 1794).

diary, 1766, of Judith (Gasherie) Brasher (1700-1772).

family expense book, 1773-1791, of Helen (Kortright) Brasher (1739-1819).

letters of John Pintard (1759-1844) and John Marsden Pintard, 1783-1799, to their kinsmen, Elias Boudinot (1740-1821) and Elisha Boudinot (1749-1819). John Marsden Pintard's letters from Madeira, 1783-1785, contain commercial and political news. John Pintard's earliest letter, 1783, shows him apprehensive about a mercantile career.

miscellaneous papers, 1793-1801, of Samuel Craig (1757?-1802). Craig was buying land in western Virginia.

correspondence, account books, and legal and financial papers, 1796-1814, of Abraham Kortright Brasher (1777-1814). Brasher wrote to his brother, Gasherie Brasher (b. 1773), from Lisbon in 1798; to his sister, Helen Kortright (Brasher) Craig (1777-1853), from New Orleans in 1801; and to several persons from "Drondheim" [Trondheim?] in 1813. He received letters from business associates while doing business in New Orleans (1801-1803) and New York. The financial papers include receipts for the purchase of slaves in Jamaica in 1801 and documents related to the British seizure of the brig Harriot in 1804.

letters and business papers, 1805-1855, of Samuel Davies Craig (1785-1856). Craig exchanged many letters with his wife, Helen Kortright (Brasher) Craig (1777-1853), and his son, Benjamin Davies Craig (1808-1879), and he pursued his father's land interests in Virginia in the late 1810s and the late 1840s.

extracts from a journal, 1813, of a cruise in the privateer Scourge, commanded by Samuel G. Nicoll.  
diary, 1837-1848, possibly by Robert Colgate II (1812-1885).  
journal, 1856-1857, of a voyage to China.

For more biographical and genealogical information, see Helena Kortright Brasher, 1739-1819, by Craig Colgate, Jr., which is the first item in the papers, and typed genealogical notes filed with it.

The loose papers and the volumes are arranged in separate chronological sequences. The volumes are in three chronological sequences to conform to different sizes of containers. Most items have been cataloged individually in the department's manuscript catalog.

The Colgate Family Papers were given to Yale University Library by the estate of Craig Colgate, Craig Colgate, Jr., and Mrs. James G. Cannon between 1955 and 1979.

A receipt book of Benjamin Davies has been transferred to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library because it contains a receipt written and signed by Button Gwinnett.

---

**Collection Contents**
**Inventory, 1752-(1766-1855)-1875***1.5 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 folio)*

b. 1, f. 1	Craig Colgate, Jr.: <i>Helena Kortright Brasher, 1739-1819</i>	1739-1819
b. 1, f. 2	Genealogical notes and clipping	1854, 1880, n.d
Correspondence and miscellaneous papers		
b. 1, f. 3	1752, 1754, 1762-1768	1752, 1754, 1762-1768
b. 5	Oversized deeds	1762-1765, undated
b. 1, f. 4	1772-1774	1772-1774
b. 5	Oversized deed	1774 July 13
b. 1, f. 5	1775-1778	1775-1778
b. 5	Oversized deed	1777 April 9
b. 1, f. 6	1783-1785	1783-1785
b. 5	Oversized deed	1783 April 2
b. 1, f. 7	1790-1794	1790-1794
b. 1, f. 8	1795-1797	1795-1797
b. 5	Oversized survey report of land in Kinawa County	1795 July 24
b. 1, f. 9	1798-1799	1798-1799
b. 1, f. 10	1800 English	1800
b. 1, f. 11	1801	1801
b. 5	Oversized deed	1801 March 11
b. 1, f. 12	1802 English	1802
b. 1, f. 13	1803 English	1803
b. 1, f. 14	1804-1806	1804-1806
b. 1, f. 15	1807-1809	1807-1809
b. 1, f. 16	1810-1813	1810-1813
b. 1, f. 17	1814 English	1814

## Correspondence and miscellaneous papers (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	1815, 1818	1815, 1818
b. 1, f. 19	1819	1819
b. 5	Oversized deed	1819
b. 1, f. 20	1820-1821	1820-1821
b. 1, f. 21	1823, 1825	1823, 1825
b. 1, f. 22	1829-1831	1829-1831
b. 1, f. 23	1834-1836	1834-1836
b. 2, f. 24	1839 English	1839
b. 2, f. 25	1840-1842	1840-1842
b. 2, f. 26	1844-1847	1844-1847
b. 2, f. 27	1848-1855, 1867, 1874-1875	1848-1855, 1867, 1874-1875
b. 2, f. 28	undated	undated
b. 2, f. 29	Judith (Gasherie) Brasher: diary A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1766
b. 2, f. 30	Samuel G. Nicoll: "Sketch extract of Private Armed Schooner Scourge's Journal - Saml. G. Nicoll Esqre Commander"	1813 May 26- October 29
b. 2, f. 31	[Robert Colgate?]: diary English	1837-1848
b. 2, f. 32	"Journal of the Voyage to China in the N. B. Palmer" English	1856 August 2- 1857 April 12
b. 2, f. 33	Button Gwinnett: will (photograph)	undated
b. 3, f. 34	Blank certificates to promise receipt of, and payment for, "Deferred Stock of the United States"	179-
b. 3, f. 35	Gasherie Brasher: autographed wallet inscribed to Abraham Kortright Brasher  Abraham Kortright Brasher	1796-1797
b. 3, f. 36	Petty cash book	1796-1798
b. 3, f. 37	Disbursement book	1801-1806
b. 3, f. 38	Waste book	1803-1810
b. 5	Probated will	1815 March 21
b. 3, f. 39	Financial memorandum and commonplace book	1809-1811

b. 3, f. 40	Helen Kortright (Brasher) Craig: commonplace and memorandum book	1809
b. 3, f. 41	Samuel Davies Craig: receipt book	1811-1842
b. 3, f. 42	Monthly receipt book	1815-1818
b. 3, f. 43	Ann Wagstaff [and others?]: geography and history notebook	1817, undated
b. 3, f. 44	Memorandum book	undated
b. 3, f. 44a	Certificate of Benjamin D. K. Craig to practice law	1828
b. 4, f. 45	Helen (Kortright) Brasher: family expense book with receipts, recipes, and other papers laid in	1773-1774, 1781-1786, 1789-1791, undated
b. 4, f. 46	"A Statement of the Division of the Brigantine Mary & Cargo a Prize to the private armed Schooner Benjamin Franklin ..." (found in Abraham Brasher's waste book) English	[1812?]
	"Brasher Family Records," containing:	
b. 4	Genealogical information, 1663-1775 (part in Dutch)	undated
b. 4	Col. Abraham Brasher's pass allowing him to cross American lines to attend the New York State Convention at Fishkill	1776



---

## 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

Business  
Families  
Shipping

### Geographic Names

New York (State)  
Southern States  
United States -- Commerce  
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775

### Genres / Formats

Account books  
Diaries

### Names

Brasher, Abraham Kortright, 1777-1814  
Brasher, Helen Kortright, 1739-1819  
Brasher, Judith Gasherie, 1700-1772  
Craig, Benjamin Davies, 1808-1879  
Craig, Helen Kortright Brasher, 1777-1853  
Craig, Samuel, 1757-1802  
Craig, Samuel Davies, 1785-1856  
Pintard, John, 1759-1844  
Pintard, John Marsden, -1811

### Families

Brashears family  
Craig family  
Davis family