

Guide to the Hart Family Papers

MS 265



compiled by Susan Grigg and Betsy Morris

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 265

CREATOR: Hart family

TITLE: Hart family papers

DATES: 1721-1894

BULK DATES: 1721-1850

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Principally the papers of the related Hart and Norton families of Connecticut, descendants of Hawkins Hart. Included are correspondence, legal papers, chiefly concerning the transfer of property in Wallingford, Barkhamsted, Farmington and Berlin, and writings on religious topics. The correspondence consists of letters of the Norton family of Berlin, Connecticut written mostly between 1835 and 1846 to their son, William H. Norton, who was living in Troy, New York and then in Georgia. The letters discuss slavery, religion, family finances, and also describe the death of a daughter of the family in 1839. Also mentioned in the papers are the Hooker, Cowles and Brownson families.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0265>

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.0265>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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 Mrs. Walter E. Crittenden, 1940; additional papers purchased in 1947.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Hart Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Scope and Contents

These papers of the inter-related Hart and Norton families of Connecticut include correspondence, legal and financial papers dealing with estates and land holdings in Connecticut, and miscellaneous writings and other papers.

The bulk of the papers are deeds, writs, and other estate papers belonging to several branches of the Hart and Norton families, 1721-1876. They include deeds and indentures for land in Wallingford and Barkhamsted belonging to Hawkins Hart (1736-1824) and his descendants and estate papers of Hawkins Hart, Jr. (1781-1836), and deeds of properties in Farmington and Berlin belonging to Isaac Hart (b. 1686), his descendants, and members of the Norton family of Berlin. Also mentioned are members of the Hooker, Cowles, and Brownson families.

The correspondence consists of approximately forty-five letters of the Norton family of Berlin, being for the most part letters written to William H. Norton, who lived in Georgia and Troy, New York, from his parents, Albert (d. 1847) and Lucy (Hart) Norton, and his brother Albert R. Norton. The letters, written between 1819 and 1885, describe family financial matters and events such as the death of Harriet Norton (1839 Sep 8), while the letters of Albert Norton in particular express antislavery sentiments and strong religious beliefs.

Other miscellaneous items in the collection include a catalogue of members of the family of Solomon Dunham, a roll of the Kensington, Connecticut, militia, and writings on religious topics, including a printed copy of a sermon preached by Royal Robbins at the funeral of Ruth Hart.

The papers of the Hart and Norton families of Farmington and Berlin were placed in Yale University Library by Mrs. Walter E. Crittenden in 1940. The remaining papers were purchased from Dawson's Book Shop in 1947.

Collection Contents

Hart and Norton families of Farmington and Berlin, Connecticut

b. 1, f. 1	"A Catalogue of the Family of Solomon Dunham from Thursday March 2d 1758" English	[post-1853]
b. 1, f. 1	"Roll of militia in Kensington [part of Berlin, Connecticut]" English	[1812-1815?]
b. 1, f. 2 - 7	Norton family: correspondence [Albert and Lucy (Hart) Norton; their children, Albert R., William H., Lucy H., and Harriet; and a few of their Hart relations. Between 1835 and 1846, when most of the letters were written, the parents and daughters were living in Berlin, Albert R. was living there and in Troy, New York, and William H. was living in Troy and in various places in Georgia.]	1819-1820, 1835-1846, 1855, 1885-1886, undated
Hart family (including Selah Hart) and Norton family (principally Roger Norton, Roger Norton, Jr., and Albert Norton): legal and financial papers		
b. 1, f. 8 - 11	Farmington deeds Berlin	1721-1782
b. 1, f. 12 - 14	Deeds	1786-1831, 1876
b. 1, f. 15 - 17	Estate papers	1803-1806, 1825-1838
b. 1, f. 18	Miscellaneous papers	1844-1850
Religious papers		
b. 1, f. 19	"Questions for discussion at Maternal meetings" English	1837
b. 1, f. 19	Royal Robbins: <i>The Happiness of a Long and Useful Life...</i>	1844
b. 1, f. 19	Poems and notes	1894, undated
Hart family of Wallingford and Barkhamsted, Connecticut		
b. 1, f. 20	Hawkins Hart (1736-1824) of Wallingford: deeds A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1760-1791
b. 1, f. 21 - 22	Hawkins Hart, Jr. (1781-1836) of Barkhamsted, Connecticut: deeds, writs, estate papers	1808-1809, 1826-1838
b. 1, f. 22	William Henry Harrison Hart (1812-1864) of Barkhamsted, Connecticut: deeds	1838-1842

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

Death
Families
Slavery -- United States

Geographic Names

Barkhamsted (Conn.)
Berlin (Conn.)
Connecticut
Farmington (Conn.)
New York (State)
Southern States
United States -- Religion
Wallingford (Conn.)

Genres / Formats

Deeds
Wills

Names

Hart, Hawkins, 1736-1824
Hart, Hawkins, 1781-1836
Hart, Selah, 1732-1806
Norton, Albert, d. ca. 1847
Norton, Lucy Hart

Families

Branson family
Cowles family
Hart family
Hook family
Norton family