

# Guide to the Winthrop Family Papers

GEN MSS 274



by Beinecke Staff

June 1997

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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:** GEN MSS 274

**CREATOR:** Winthrop family

**TITLE:** Winthrop family papers

**DATES:** 1635-1727

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.4 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Contains letters from various people, including colonial officials and legislators, to Fitz-John Winthrop, John Winthrop (1588-1649), John Winthrop (1606-1676), and John Winthrop (1681-1747); one letter from Fitz-John Winthrop to Joseph Dudley; and various other documents, including Abraham Pierson's elegy on Theophilus Eaton, and a brief diary by John Winthrop (1606-1676).

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

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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.winthrop>.

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

Gift of Robert C. Winthrop, 1897-1898.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Winthrop Family Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Winthrop Family Papers. General Collection of Books and Manuscripts. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

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## Scope and Contents

The Winthrop Family Papers are organized in two series: I. *Correspondence* and II. *Other Papers*. The papers span the dates 1635-1720, with the bulk of the material dating from between 1670 and 1710.

[Series I, \*Correspondence\*](#), is arranged in three subseries: Incoming Letters, Outgoing Letters, and Third Party Letters. Letters within each subseries are arranged alphabetically by recipient and then by correspondent.

The letters to Fitz-John Winthrop contain information on his participation in the government of Sir Edmund Andros and his subsequent negotiations in London for the restoration of the colony's charter; Connecticut's border disputes with the colonies of Rhode Island and New York; and Indian conflicts and alliances. Letters to John Winthrop (1588-1649) include two from Roger Williams concerning disputes among Narragansett sachems and fights against the "Dutch Indians;" a June, 1636 letter from Jonathan Brewster discussing the war plans of the Pequots and their distrust of the English; a request for assistance from Lion Gardiner; and letters asking for medical advice and inquiring about conditions of settlement in Connecticut. The correspondence of John Winthrop (1681-1747) contains a request for a description of moose from Cotton Mather and a letter from Thomas Buckingham concerning the founding of the Collegiate School, which is also the subject of a third-party letter from Buckingham to James Fitch.

[Series II, \*Other Papers\*](#), is arranged alphabetically by author and includes a "Note of payments disbursed to my son, for the affair of Connecticut" and a travel pass for the Niantic sachem Ninigret, both in the hand of John Winthrop (1588-1649). A contract by John Winthrop (1681-1747) authorizes his agents to purchase a Carbuncle stone from the Indians, if one can be located.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1636-1720

54 folders (0.30' linear ft.)

#### INCOMING LETTERS

##### To Fitz-John Winthrop (1638-1707)

b. 1, f. 1	ALS from John Allyn (d. 1696) Concerning a petition from Long Island; Dutch fleet.	1673 Oct 23
b. 1, f. 2	ALS from Sir Edmund Andros (1637-1714), Boston Notification that Connecticut is to be "annexd to this Gov.t."	1687 Oct 19
b. 1, f. 3	<a href="#">ALS from Rev. Gershom Bulkeley (1636-1713), Glastonbury</a>	1707 Sep 2
b. 1, f. 4	<a href="#">ALS from Rev. John Bulkeley (1679-1731), Colchester</a>	1703 Aug 24
b. 1, f. 5	<a href="#">ALS from Rev. Israel Chauncy (1644-1703), Stratford</a>	1699 May 29
b. 1, f. 6	ALS from John Chester (1656-1711), Wethersfield	1702 Jun 18
b. 1, f. 7	ALS from Joseph Dudley (1647-1720), Roxbury	1702 Mar 10
b. 1, f. 8	ALS from John Livingston (1680-1720), Albany Negotiations at Albany.	1704 Oct 3
b. 1, f. 9	ALS from Robert Livingston (1654-1725), New York City	1701 Apr 14
b. 1, f. 10	<a href="#">ALS from James Noyes (1640-1719)</a>	1706 Aug 29
b. 1, f. 11	ALS from Rev. James Pierpont (1660-1714), New Haven Encouragement to Winthrop in his negotiations for "our liberties" in London.	1693 Sep 6
b. 1, f. 12	2 ALS from Abraham Pierson, Jr. (1646-1707), Killingworth Dated 1697/8 Feb 25 and 1703 Nov 8.	1698, 1703
b. 1, f. 13	ALS from Gurdon Saltonstall (1666-1724), Stonington News of the struggle over the Spanish Succession.	1698 Jun 29
b. 1, f. 14	ALS from Caleb Stanly (1642-1718), Hartford Border dispute with Massachusetts over New Roxbury (Woodstock). Postscript dated 1700 Nov 23.	1700 Nov 11
b. 1, f. 15	ALS from Nathaniel Stanly (1638-1712), Hartford Docketed: "Mr. Stanly about Indians to goe against the enemy." Dated 1703/4 Jan 21.	1704 Jan 21
b. 1, f. 16	ALS from Robert Treat (ca. 1622-1710), Milford	1702 Feb 17
b. 1, f. 17	ALS from Daniel Wetherell (1630-1719), New London Rejoicing at Winthrop's return from England.	1697 Dec 20

## INCOMING LETTERS &gt; To Fitz-John Winthrop (1638-1707) (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	ALS from William Whiting (b. 1659), Hartford	1700 Jul 12
b. 1, f. 19	ALS from Wait Still Winthrop (1642-1717), Boston	1671 Apr 17
b. 1, f. 20	ALS from Timothy Woodbridge (1656-1732), Hartford	1707 Sep 3
b. 1, f. 21	ALS from Samuel Wyllys (1631?-1709), Hartford Concerning disputed Narragansett territory and the mission of a Rhode Island delegate to London.	1698 Aug 13
To John Winthrop (1588-1649)		
b. 1, f. 22	ALS from Theophilus Eaton (1590-1658), New Haven Also signed by Stephen Goodyear.	1647 Mar 27
To John Winthrop (1606-1676)		
b. 1, f. 23	ALS from John Blackleach (d. 1683), New Haven	1658 Oct 18
b. 1, f. 24	ALS from Jonathan Brewster (d. 1659), Plymouth House Concerning the plans of the Pequots and their "mistrust that the English will shortly come agt. them."	1636 Jun 18
b. 1, f. 25	Petition from Stephen Chester (1639-1705), Hartford For leave to transport a small load of Indian corn.	1670 Apr 8
b. 1, f. 26	<a href="#">ALS from Daniel Clarke (1623-1710), Windsor</a> For medical advice.	1675 Aug 7
b. 1, f. 27	ALS from Rev. John Davenport (1596-1670), New Haven	1658 Jan 21
b. 1, f. 28	ALS from George Fenwick (1603-1657), Saybrook	1639 Sep 13
b. 1, f. 29	ALS from Lion Gardiner (1599-1663), Isle of Wight Request for assistance.	1650 Aug 10
b. 1, f. 30	ALS from William Goodwin (d. 1673), Hadley	1663 Feb 1
b. 1, f. 31	ALS from John Haynes (d. 1654), Hartford	1651 Nov 10
b. 1, f. 32	ALS from Rev. Thomas Hooker (1586-1647), [Hartford?] Thanks for his advice.	[1636]
b. 1, f. 33	ALS from Edward Hopkins (1599?-1658), London	1636 Jun 22
b. 1, f. 34	5 ALS from Mrs. Hannah Eaton Jones (1632-1707) One written before her marriage.	1659-75
b. 1, f. 35	ALS from William Jones (1624-1706), New Haven	1660 Jan 1
b. 1, f. 36	ALS from Eleazar Kimberly (1639-1709), Hartford	1698 Aug 22
b. 1, f. 37	ALS from William Leete (1612 or 13-1683), Guilford	1661 Apr 11
b. 1, f. 38	ALS from Richard Lord (1611 or 12-1662), New Haven	1653 Jul 14

## INCOMING LETTERS &gt; To John Winthrop (1606-1676) (continued)

b. 1, f. 39	ALS from John Mason (1600-1672), Norwich	1664 Jan 19
b. 1, f. 40	ALS from John Tinker (d. 1662), New London Concerning settling with his family and operating a sawmill.	1659 [Aug] 29
b. 1, f. 41	2 ALS from Roger Williams (1604?-1683); Nar[ragansett], Providence 1649 letter concerns disputes among various sachems and fighting with the "Dutch Indians."  Dated 1649 Aug 25 and 1669 Aug 19.	[1649], 1669
b. 1, f. 42	ALS from David Yale (1614-1690), London	1656 Jan 14
b. 1, f. 43	4 ALS from Thomas Yale (d. 1683) Family news; medical advice sought.	1659-72
To John Winthrop (1681-1747)		
b. 1, f. 44	ALS from Eliphalet Adams (1677-1753), New London	1717 Jun 22
b. 1, f. 45	ALS from Rev. Thomas Buckingham (1646-1709), Saybrook Concerning the founding of the Collegiate School (later Yale).	1701 Dec 15
b. 1, f. 46	ALS from Richard Edwards (1647-1718), Hartford	1714 May 19
b. 1, f. 47	ALS from Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather (1663-1728), Boston Requesting a description of moose [for the Royal Society?].	1714 [Mar?] 30
b. 1, f. 48	ALS from Rev. John Walton (1694-1764), Yale College Offers a copy of his elegy for Governor [Joseph] Dudley.	1720 May 16
OUTGOING LETTERS		
From Fitz-John Winthrop (1638-1707)		
b. 1, f. 49	Copy of letter to Gov. Joseph Dudley (1647-1720), New London Concerning the "unreasonable" request for men and supplies to fight the French and Indians in Hampshire; counteroffer of two hundred men. Remonstrates against Dudley's complaint to the Crown.	1704 Dec 19
THIRD PARTY LETTERS		
Buckingham, Rev. Thomas (1646-1709)		
b. 1, f. 50	ALS to Major James Fitch (1649-1727) On progress of the Collegiate School (later Yale College).	1702 Apr 27
b. 1, f. 51	ALS to Rev. Gurdon Saltonstall (1666-1724) For help from the Governor.	1702 Feb 25

## THIRD PARTY LETTERS (continued)

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b. 1, f. 52	Gold, Nathan (1663?-1723). ALS to "Honored Sir", Fairfield Rejecting a request that the Governor travel [to London?].  Leaf addressed to "The Hon.ble Robert Treat, Governor" but letter possibly not to him.  Docketed: "their opinion upon reading the Agents letter."  Also signed by Joseph Curtiss and Peter Burr.	1703 Nov 5
b. 1, f. 53	Stanton, Thomas (1638-1718). ALS to Gov. Simon Bradstreet (1603-1697), Stonington  Docketed: "A letter about the Mortgage of the Narragansett Country." Concerns boundary dispute.  Also signed by his four brothers.	1692 May 12
b. 1, f. 54	Stow, Rev. Samuel (1622-1704). ALS to Wait Winthrop (1642-1717), Middletown	1692 Aug 4

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**Series II: Other Papers, 1635-1727***9 folders (0.10' linear ft.)*

b. 1, f. 55	Pierson, Abraham (d. 1678). Elegy on Theophilus Eaton (1590-1658), [Branford?]	[1658?]
b. 1, f. 56	Stow, Rev. Samuel (1622-1704). Scheme of Godliness or of the true religion Sent to Gov. Fitz-John Winthrop.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 57	Talcott, Joseph (1669-1741). Certificate to certain official signatures, Hartford  Winthrop, John (1588-1649)	1727 May 30
b. 1, f. 58	Note of payments disbursed for my son, for the affair of Connecticut	[1635?]
b. 1, f. 59	Pass for Ninigret to go to Boston  Winthrop, John (1606-1676)	[1646 Jan 14?]
b. 1, f. 60	<a href="#">Diary of journey from Boston to Saybrook, and return</a> Partly in Latin.	1645 Nov-Dec
b. 1, f. 61	Copies, in his hand, of the will and Letter of Administration of Gov. Theophilus Eaton (1590-1658)	[ca. 1656-57]
b. 1, f. 62	Resignation of governorship  Winthrop, John (1681-1747)	1675 Jun 24
b. 1, f. 63	Agreement with J. Smith and J. Gallup, Plainfield Advancing Smith and Gallup funds to purchase the "Carbuncle and so much talkt of Shining Stone" from the Indians.  Docket by Winthrop noting that the funds were all returned to him.	1716 Mar 22

## 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

Pequot War, 1636-1638

### Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Boundaries

Connecticut -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775

Massachusetts -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775

New England -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775

Territory and Dominion of New-England

United States -- History -- Queen Anne's War,  
1702-1713

### Names

Allyn, John, -1696

Andros, Edmund, Sir, 1637-1714

Dudley, Joseph, 1647-1720

Eaton, Theophilus, 1590-1658

Gardiner, Lion, 1599-1663

Pierpont, James, 1660-1714

Pierson, Abraham, 1608-1678

Williams, Roger, 1604?-1683

Winthrop, John, 1588-1649

Winthrop, John, 1606-1676

Winthrop, John, 1681-1747

### Families

Winthrop family

### Corporate Body

Collegiate School (New Haven, Conn.)