

# Guide to the Waterbury Family Papers

MS 537



compiled by Nancy Fappiano & Janet Gertz

February 1982

Yale University Library  
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## 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 537

**CREATOR:** Waterbury family

**TITLE:** Waterbury family papers

**DATES:** 1700-1966

**BULK DATES:** 1750-1897

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, financial records, and memorabilia of this Stamford, Connecticut family. The principal figure is David Waterbury (1722-1801), who served as a colonel in the French and Indian War and again in the American Revolution. Included in the papers are military records relating to these events and a letter to him from Roger Sherman (1776 Apr 30) about a Continental Commission. Also two travel journals kept by his son, William Waterbury IV, one for a trip through New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware in 1799-1800 and another for a trip through New York State in 1812-1813.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0537>

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## 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.0537>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Sara Mead Webb and Walter Edward Leaman, Jr., in 1964, and of Mrs. John L. Waterbury in 1981.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Due to the physical nature of the mug and ring in box 4, staff supervision is required.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. 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.

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### Preferred Citation

Waterbury Family Papers (MS 537). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

David Waterbury (1722-1801): military officer; served in six campaigns in the French and Indian Wars; appointed Brigadier General, 1776; served 23 successive terms as Stamford representative in the Connecticut legislature.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence, financial records, and memorabilia of the Waterbury family of Stamford, Connecticut, and of military papers belonging to David Waterbury (1722-1801). Included among these is an orderly book (1758-59) and orders for Brigadier General Benedict Arnold at Ticonderoga (1776 Aug 7). The correspondence contains both family and general letters, the most interesting being a letter from Roger Sherman to David Waterbury concerning a Continental Commission (1776 Apr 30). The financial and legal papers of the family include an indenture from 1700, account books, and deeds, while the highlight of the memorabilia is a series of diaries kept by William Waterbury IV (the son of David Waterbury) during travels through New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware in 1799-1800 and New York in 1812-13.

## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1700-1966

#### Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	ALS to David Waterbury from David Lyman	1774 November 26
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to David Waterbury from [Hezekiah Ripley?]	1775 June 17
b. 1, f. 3	ALS to Mary Waterbury and children from David Waterbury	1775 August 6
b. 1, f. 4	ALS to Mary Waterbury and children from David Waterbury	1775 September 8
b. 1, f. 5	ALS to Mary Waterbury and children from David Waterbury	1775 September 20
b. 1, f. 6	Photostat of ALS to Mary Waterbury from David Waterbury	1775 November 3
b. 1, f. 7	ALS to David Waterbury from Mary Waterbury	1776 February 23
b. 1, f. 8	ALS to David Waterbury from Mary Waterbury	1776 March 7
b. 1, f. 9	ALS to David Waterbury from Eliphalet Dyer	1776 April 25
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to David Waterbury from Roger Sherman	1776 April 30
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to David Waterbury from William Tennant	1776 October 16
b. 1, f. 12	AL to Silvanus Waterbury from an unidentified correspondent	1777 January 4
b. 1, f. 13	ALS to William Waterbury from George B. Smythe	1841 May 3
b. 1, f. 14	Electrostatic copy of TLS to Mrs. John Waterbury from David C. Mearns	1956 June 19

#### Military Papers

b. 1, f. 15	Photostatic copies of officer's commission for David Waterbury	1755
b. 1, f. 16	Captain David Waterbury's orderly book	1758-1759
b. 1, f. 17	Orders and instructions for Brigadier General Benedict Arnold at Ticonderoga	1776 August 7
b. 1, f. 18	<i>A Complete Roster of Colonel David Waterbury Jr.'s Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers</i> , by A. H. Clark English	1897

#### Financial and Legal Papers

b. 1, f. 19	Indenture by George Hurt	1700
b. 1, f. 20	Account book concerning the estate of Timothy Jessup	1809
b. 1, f. 21	Account book of William Waterbury IV [son of David Waterbury]	1812-1834

## Financial and Legal Papers (continued)

b. 1, f. 22	Deed of land sale between Naomi Webb and Theodore Waterbury [son of William Waterbury IV]	1845 June 2
b. 1, f. 23	Deed from Naomi Webb to Theodore Waterbury	1851 June 16
b. 1, f. 24	Deed from George Jessup to Theodore Waterbury	1857 November 16
b. 1, f. 25	Sketch of a parcel of land with bordering owners	Undated
Memorabilia		
b. 1, f. 26	Two travel diaries kept by William Waterbury IV on his trips though New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware	1799-1800
b. 1, f. 27	Two travel diaries kept by William Waterbury IV on his trips to New York	1812-1813
b. 2, f. 28	<i>Universal Spelling Book</i> owned by William Waterbury IV	Circa 1756
b. 2, f. 29	Handwritten book by Molly Waterbury [daughter of David Waterbury] containing poems, hymns, and a letter to an aunt	Undated
b. 2, f. 30	Poem, "The Beggar and the Divine," by Jesse Hoyt	Undated
b. 2, f. 31	Poem, "Why do we mourn departed friends," [by Molly Waterbury?]	Undated
b. 2, f. 32	Recipe for General Waterbury's punch	Undated
b. 2, f. 33	Newspaper clippings	1923, 1966, undated
b. 3	Family Bible	1761
b. 4	Mug and ring Due to the physical nature of the mug and ring in box 4, staff supervision is required.	Undated

## 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

Armed Forces  
Families

### Geographic Names

Connecticut  
New York (State) -- Description and travel  
Stamford (Conn.)  
United States -- Description and travel  
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775  
United States -- History -- French and Indian  
War, 1754-1763  
United States -- History -- Revolution,  
1775-1783

### Genres / Formats

Diaries

### Occupations

Soldiers

### Names

Dyer, Eliphalet, 1721-1807  
Lyman, Daniel, 1718-1788  
Sherman, Roger, 1721-1793  
Waterbury, David, 1722-1801  
Waterbury, Mary Maltbie, 1733-1810  
Waterbury, Silvanus  
Waterbury, William, 1765-1842

### Families

Waterbury family