

# Guide to the Reeve Family Papers

MS 686



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

September 1973

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 686

**CREATOR:** Reeve family

**TITLE:** Reeve family papers

**DATES:** 1766-1813

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence of Tapping Reeve, jurist, author, and teacher of law, and of his wife, Sarah Burr Reeve, sister of Aaron Burr (1756-1836). Correspondents include Joel Barlow, Aaron Burr, Peter Colt, Jonathan Edwards, Pierpont Edwards, Timothy Edwards, and John Cotton Smith. The letters relate to both family and business affairs.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0686>

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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.0686>.

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

Formerly a part of the Annie Burr Jennings Memorial Collection.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Reeve Family Papers (MS 686). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Related Materials

For additional related material, please see the Burr Family Collection (MS 303), of which these papers were once a part.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Reeve Family Papers consist of the papers of Sarah (Burr) Reeve and Tapping Reeve.

Sarah (Burr) Reeve, or "Sally," was born in 1754 at Newark, New Jersey. She was the daughter of Aaron Burr (1716-1757), scholar, theologian, and second president of the College of New Jersey (Princeton) and of Esther (Edwards) Burr, daughter of Jonathan Edwards, the New England divine. Her brother was Aaron Burr (1756-1836), soldier, politician, and third vice-president of the United States. After the death of their parents, both she and her brother were tutored for a time by Tapping Reeve. She subsequently married Mr. Reeve and had one son by him, Aaron Burr Reeve (1780-1809). Sarah (Burr) Reeve died in 1787.

Tapping Reeve, jurist, teacher of law, and author of legal books, was born in 1744 at Brookhaven, Long Island, N.Y., the son of Abner Reeve, a Presbyterian clergyman. After graduating from the College of New Jersey in 1763 he spent some time teaching and as a tutor. In 1771 he moved to Connecticut to study law with Judge Root in Hartford. In 1784 he founded the Litchfield Law School, the earliest and for many years the most important in the country. In 1798 Reeve was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut and in 1814 he was made chief justice of the Supreme Court of Errors. Tapping Reeve died in 1823.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist almost entirely of correspondence, filed alphabetically under the name of the correspondent. The correspondence between Sarah and Tapping Reeve is filed under the recipient.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Sarah Burr Reeve. II. Tapping Reeve.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Sarah Burr Reeve: Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Burr, Aaron (1756-1836)	1773-1780
b. 1, f. 2	Burr, Eunice (Dennie) [Mrs. Thaddeus Burr] (1729-1805)	1773-1774, 1780
b. 1, f. 3	Burr, Theodosia (Prevost) (?-1794)	[1780], 1782, [1783]
b. 1, f. 3	Edwards, Jonathan (1745-1801)	1770
b. 1, f. 3	Edwards, Pierpont (1750-1826)	1771
b. 1, f. 4	Edwards, Timothy (1738-1813)	1770-1772
b. 1, f. 5	Gill, Sarah (Prince) [Mrs. Moses Gill]	1766, 1767, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Howard, Elizabeth (Clarke) Mayhew	1771, 1774
b. 1, f. 5	Hunt, Eunice (Edwards) Pollock	1778
b. 1, f. 5	Lyman, Polly	1769, 1770, 1772, 1777
b. 1, f. 5	Ogden, Mary (1754-1791)	1769
b. 1, f. 6	Parsons, Sarah	1770
b. 1, f. 6	Reeve, Tapping	1769, 1772-1773
b. 1, f. 6	Wainwright, Elizabeth (Mayhew)	1780
b. 1, f. 7	Cap once belonging to Sarah (Burr) Reeve	

**Series II: Tapping Reeve: Correspondence**

b. 1, f. 8	Barlow, Joel	1781
b. 1, f. 8	Burr, Aaron (1756-1836)	1775, [1776], 1780, 1783, 1785, 1813, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Burr, Annabelle (Sheldon) Reeve (1789-1849)	1812
b. 1, f. 9	Burr, Thaddeus (1735-1799)	1775, 1777, 1783, 1787, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Burr, Theodosia (Prevost)	1789, [1780], [1786]
b. 1, f. 10	Colt, Peter	1773
b. 1, f. 10	Edwards, Jonathan, Jr. (1745-1801)	1775
b. 1, f. 10	Edwards, Timothy (1738-1813)	1775
b. 1, f. 10	Reeve, Aaron Burr (1780-1809)	1802, 1807
b. 1, f. 10	<a href="#">Reeve, Abner</a>	1778
b. 1, f. 11	Reeve, Elizabeth (1773-1842)	[1801]
b. 1, f. 11	Reeve, Sarah (Burr) (1754-1797)	1772
b. 1, f. 11	Smith, John Cotton	1802
b. 1, f. 11	Starr, Samuel	1809

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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

Families  
Law  
Lawyers

### Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775  
United States -- History -- Revolution,  
1775-1783

### Names

Barlow, Joel, 1754-1812  
Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836  
Colt, Peter, 1744-1824  
Edwards, Jonathan, 1745-1801  
Edwards, Pierpont, 1750-1826  
Edwards, Timothy, 1738-1813  
Lyman, Polly  
Ogden, Mary, 1754-1791  
Reeve, Sally Burr, 1754-1797  
Reeve, Tapping, 1744-1823  
Smith, John Cotton, 1765-1845

### Families

Burr family  
Reeve family

### Corporate Body

Litchfield Law School