

# Preliminary Guide to the Seward Family Papers

MS 1254



compiled by John Espy

August 1981

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1254

**CREATOR:** Seward family

**TITLE:** Seward family papers

**DATES:** 1729-1768

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, legal papers, deeds, estate inventories and pencil portraits relating to the Seward family of Killingworth and Guilford, Connecticut. Also figuring in the collection are the Buell, Pierson, Smith and Steevens families.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1254>

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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.1254>.

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 Mrs. Frederick D. Houghton in 1954.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Seward Family Papers (MS 1254). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Seward family belong to the group of families that settled in Connecticut during the 17th century. One of the most prominent members of the family was William Seward, born on July 27, 1712, in Durham, Connecticut. Around 1730, as William began his studies at Yale College, the family moved to Guilford. William studied theology and became a Congregationalist minister in Killingworth, where he preached for 44 years, until his death on February 5, 1782. William's eldest son, William, was born on November 19, 1747, graduated from Yale in 1769, and also became a Congregationalist minister. Following his death on July 5, 1822, his service during the Revolutionary War, where he appears to have served as chaplain, was duly noted. Another of William, Sr.'s sons, named John, completed coursework for the Yale College class of 1784, but died of scarlet fever before commencement. He, like his father and brother, had intended to enter the ministry.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, legal papers, deeds, estate inventories and pencil portraits relating to the Seward family of Killingworth and Guilford, Connecticut. Also figuring in the collection are the Buell, Pierson, Smith and Stevens families.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence, prayer	1755, 1768
b. 1, f. 2	Legal papers	1739, 1764
b. 1, f. 3	Deeds	1729-1737
b. 1, f. 4	Estate inventories	1755
b. 1, f. 5	Pencil portraits	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**

Drawing -- 18th century  
Families

### **Geographic Names**

Guilford (Conn.) -- History  
Killingworth (Conn.) -- History

### **Genres / Formats**

Deeds

### **Families**

Buell family  
Pearson family  
Seward family  
Smith family  
Stevens family