

# Guide to the Benjamin Pearson Family Papers

MS 1427



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and John Espy

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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1427

**CREATOR:** Pearson, Benjamin, 1682-1763

**TITLE:** Benjamin Pearson family papers

**DATES:** 1726-1818

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

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of family letters, poetry, and other writings by and about the Pearson family of England and Darby, Pennsylvania. Most of the letters are written to Benjamin Pearson from relatives in England.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1427>

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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.1427>.

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. H. J. Knowles, 1954. The papers were originally part of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection, MS 352.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Benjamin Pearson Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

The Benjamin Pearson Family Papers consist of family letters, poetry, and other writings, 1726-1818, by and about the Pearson family of England and Pennsylvania. Most of the letters are addressed to Benjamin Pearson (1682-1763) from various locations in England. Pearson had emigrated from Yorkshire in 1712 and had settled with his wife and children in Darby, Pennsylvania. Correspondents include his brother, Laurence Pearson; his sister, Margaret (Pearson) Jeffreys; his cousin, Samuel Ashton; his nephew and niece Michael and Patience (Jeffreys) Bland; and Elizabeth, John, and Thomas Bears. The correspondents all were members of the Society of Friends, and the letters record their attitudes toward religion, work, family life, society, and historical events. A notebook of poetry, compiled and annotated by Pearson's sons and later descendants, is one of the few items in the papers produced by the American branch of the family.

Mrs. H. J. Knowles donated the papers to Yale Library in 1954. They were transferred from the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection (MS 352) in 1985.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 3	Correspondence	1726-1759, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Poetry	1776, 1799-1804, 1818, undated

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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  
Society of Friends -- England

### **Geographic Names**

England -- Social life and customs -- 18th century

### **Genres / Formats**

Poems

### **Names**

Pearson, Benjamin, 1682-1763

### **Families**

Pearson family