

# Guide to the Hart Family Papers

MS 265



compiled by Susan Grigg and Betsy Morris

February 1980

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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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  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 265

**CREATOR:** Hart family

**TITLE:** Hart family papers

**DATES:** 1721-1894

**BULK DATES:** 1721-1850

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Principally the papers of the related Hart and Norton families of Connecticut, descendants of Hawkins Hart. Included are correspondence, legal papers, chiefly concerning the transfer of property in Wallingford, Barkhamsted, Farmington and Berlin, and writings on religious topics. The correspondence consists of letters of the Norton family of Berlin, Connecticut written mostly between 1835 and 1846 to their son, William H. Norton, who was living in Troy, New York and then in Georgia. The letters discuss slavery, religion, family finances, and also describe the death of a daughter of the family in 1839. Also mentioned in the papers are the Hooker, Cowles and Brownson families.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0265>

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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.0265>.

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. Walter E. Crittenden, 1940; additional papers purchased in 1947.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. 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

Hart Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

These papers of the inter-related Hart and Norton families of Connecticut include correspondence, legal and financial papers dealing with estates and land holdings in Connecticut, and miscellaneous writings and other papers.

The bulk of the papers are deeds, writs, and other estate papers belonging to several branches of the Hart and Norton families, 1721-1876. They include deeds and indentures for land in Wallingford and Barkhamsted belonging to Hawkins Hart (1736-1824) and his descendants and estate papers of Hawkins Hart, Jr. (1781-1836), and deeds of properties in Farmington and Berlin belonging to Isaac Hart (b. 1686), his descendants, and members of the Norton family of Berlin. Also mentioned are members of the Hooker, Cowles, and Brownson families.

The correspondence consists of approximately forty-five letters of the Norton family of Berlin, being for the most part letters written to William H. Norton, who lived in Georgia and Troy, New York, from his parents, Albert (d. 1847) and Lucy (Hart) Norton, and his brother Albert R. Norton. The letters, written between 1819 and 1885, describe family financial matters and events such as the death of Harriet Norton (1839 Sep 8), while the letters of Albert Norton in particular express antislavery sentiments and strong religious beliefs.

Other miscellaneous items in the collection include a catalogue of members of the family of Solomon Dunham, a roll of the Kensington, Connecticut, militia, and writings on religious topics, including a printed copy of a sermon preached by Royal Robbins at the funeral of Ruth Hart.

The papers of the Hart and Norton families of Farmington and Berlin were placed in Yale University Library by Mrs. Walter E. Crittenden in 1940. The remaining papers were purchased from Dawson's Book Shop in 1947.

## Collection Contents

### Hart and Norton families of Farmington and Berlin, Connecticut

b. 1, f. 1	"A Catalogue of the Family of Solomon Dunham from Thursday March 2d 1758" English	[post-1853]
b. 1, f. 1	"Roll of militia in Kensington [part of Berlin, Connecticut]" English	[1812-1815?]
b. 1, f. 2 - 7	Norton family: correspondence [Albert and Lucy (Hart) Norton; their children, Albert R., William H., Lucy H., and Harriet; and a few of their Hart relations. Between 1835 and 1846, when most of the letters were written, the parents and daughters were living in Berlin, Albert R. was living there and in Troy, New York, and William H. was living in Troy and in various places in Georgia.]	1819-1820, 1835-1846, 1855, 1885-1886, undated
Hart family (including Selah Hart) and Norton family (principally Roger Norton, Roger Norton, Jr., and Albert Norton): legal and financial papers		
b. 1, f. 8 - 11	Farmington deeds	1721-1782
	Berlin	
b. 1, f. 12 - 14	Deeds	1786-1831, 1876
b. 1, f. 15 - 17	Estate papers	1803-1806, 1825-1838
b. 1, f. 18	Miscellaneous papers	1844-1850
	Religious papers	
b. 1, f. 19	"Questions for discussion at Maternal meetings" English	1837
b. 1, f. 19	Royal Robbins: <i>The Happiness of a Long and Useful Life...</i>	1844
b. 1, f. 19	Poems and notes	1894, undated
Hart family of Wallingford and Barkhamsted, Connecticut		
b. 1, f. 20	Hawkins Hart (1736-1824) of Wallingford: deeds  A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1760-1791
b. 1, f. 21 - 22	Hawkins Hart, Jr. (1781-1836) of Barkhamsted, Connecticut: deeds, writs, estate papers	1808-1809, 1826-1838
b. 1, f. 22	William Henry Harrison Hart (1812-1864) of Barkhamsted, Connecticut: deeds	1838-1842

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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

Death  
Families  
Slavery -- United States

### Geographic Names

Barkhamsted (Conn.)  
Berlin (Conn.)  
Connecticut  
Farmington (Conn.)  
New York (State)  
Southern States  
United States -- Religion  
Wallingford (Conn.)

### Genres / Formats

Deeds  
Wills

### Names

Hart, Hawkins, 1736-1824  
Hart, Hawkins, 1781-1836  
Hart, Selah, 1732-1806  
Norton, Albert, d. ca. 1847  
Norton, Lucy Hart

### Families

Branson family  
Cowles family  
Hart family  
Hook family  
Norton family