Guide to the Doolittle Family Papers

MS 961

compiled by John Espy

September 1983

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 961

**CREATOR:** Doolittle family

**TITLE:** Doolittle family papers

**DATES:** 1687–1859

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Legal and financial papers, deeds, and correspondence concerning the Doolittle family of Cheshire, Connecticut. Also included are prints engraved by Amos Doolittle, who settled in New Haven. Many of the papers concern Andrew Hull, a member of the Connecticut legislature.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0961

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 http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0961.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Purchased from Hurwitz in 1946.

**Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.
**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Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain.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.

**Preferred Citation**

Doolittle Family Papers (MS 961). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

**Inventory**

For a listing of collection contents, please consult the [Collection Inventory](#).

**Biographical / Historical**

Amos Doolittle: engraver; born in Cheshire but lived most of his adult life in New Haven, Conn.; charter member of the Governor’s Foot Guard; worked also as a silversmith; one of his principal works was an engraving entitled “Display of the United States of America.”

**Scope and Contents**

This is a collection of papers, mostly legal and financial, concerning the Doolittle family of Cheshire, Connecticut; and of prints engraved by Amos Doolittle, who settled in New Haven. The nineteen different prints include a late version of one of the famous “Battle of Lexington” series, and a complete set of the “Prodigal Son” prints. There is also one engraving plate.

The family papers are mostly deeds and wills concerning Cheshire, Connecticut; these include a survey of land, 1687 Oct 23, a plan for a highway, 1737 Sept. 23, and 49 deeds. There are only three items of correspondence. A principal figure in the papers is Andrew Hull (1754-1824); for information about him, and a more detailed description of the family papers, see the appendix to this register, which consists of obsolete catalog cards.

Further engravings by Amos Doolittle are in Miscellaneous MSS (Sattig Collection) and at the Yale Art Gallery, a copy of a lease signed by him is in Miscellaneous MSS (Freemasons Miscellaneous), and printed material about him is at the Beinecke Rare Book Library.

The papers were purchased from Hurwitz in July 1946, at least partly with the help of C. Sanford Bull.
## Collection Contents
### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1798, 1832–1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2-7</td>
<td>Deeds</td>
<td>1760–1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8-12</td>
<td>Legal and financial papers</td>
<td>1687–1850, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 13</td>
<td>Miscellaneous papers: lottery ticket, recipe for green dye, Constitution of the Female Beneficent Society</td>
<td>1781, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 14</td>
<td>List of engravings by Amos Doolittle, compiled by Everett Hale Whitlock</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 15</td>
<td>Oversize papers: deed, estate inventory, property map</td>
<td>1811–1821, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Engravings by Amos Doolittle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 16</td>
<td>The Prodigal Son</td>
<td>1814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 17</td>
<td>Certificates</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 18</td>
<td>Bookplates (one with engraving plate), banknotes</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 19</td>
<td>Battle of Lexington</td>
<td>1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 19</td>
<td>George Washington, with Benjamin Trumbull’s <em>Funeral Discourse</em></td>
<td>[1800?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 19</td>
<td>Alexander I</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Geographic Names
Cheshire (Conn.)

Genres / Formats
Deeds
Engravings (prints)

Occupations
Engravers

Names
Doolittle, Amos, 1754-1832
Hull, Andrew

Families
Doolittle family