

# Guide to the Yates Family Papers

MS 568



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

October 1980

Yale University Library  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 568

**CREATOR:** Yates family

**TITLE:** Yates family papers

**DATES:** 1678-1923

**BULK DATES:** 1714-1868

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (7 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Principals in this collection are the Yates family of Schenectady, New York, the Delancy family and James Duane (1733-1797) and his descendants. The major part of the papers is made up of financial and legal papers relating to land transactions in New York state between the 1760s and the 1820s. Included are leases, rent receipts, boundary agreements, survey field books, account books and charts. Most of the correspondence consists of letters from Yates family members to their land agent, Charles Fuller. Of these, approximately fifty were written by Ann Elizabeth Delancy Yates, widow of Joseph Christopher Yates, governor of New York state. Other correspondents are James Duane and his descendants and members of the Delancy family.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0568>

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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.0568>.

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

The Yates Family Papers were purchased in 1968 from the Winterthur Museum, which had acquired them from the estate of Helen Delancy Watkins of Schenectady, N.Y.

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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

Yates Family Papers (MS 568). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

James Duane: jurist, mayor; admitted to N.Y. bar, 1754; member of Committee of Correspondence, 1774; delegate, Continental Congress, 1774-1784; member, N.Y. Provincial Convention, 1775, 1776, 1777; helped draft Articles of Confederation; advocated ratification of U.S. Constitution; first mayor of N.Y.C., 1784; member, N.Y. Senate, 1782-1785, 1789-1790; first U.S. judge, district of N.Y., 1789-1794.

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## Scope and Contents

The Yates Family Papers consist of 2.5 inches of correspondence, and 30 inches of legal and financial papers and descriptions of land holdings of the Yates family of Schenectady and other New York families. Most of the collection has to do with land. There are a few copies of seventeenth-century documents, but the concentration of legal and financial papers falls between the 1760s and the 1820s. The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters from Yates family members to the land agent Charles Fuller (fl. 1845-1869) and others concerning land holdings and transactions and the collection of rents. Approximately fifty of the letters are from Ann Elizabeth (Delancy) Yates, widow of the New York State Governor Joseph Christopher Yates (1768-1837), written during the 1840s and 1850s. Other persons represented include Christopher Yates and his descendants from mid-eighteenth century to mid-nineteenth century, and James Duane (1733-1797) and his descendants, and members of the Delancy family.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1678-1923

#### Correspondence

##### Yates family

b. 1, f. 1 - 2	Christopher Yates	1767-1796
b. 1, f. 3	_____ Yates English	1767
	Richard August Yates	1807
b. 1, f. 4 - 6	Ann Elizabeth (Delancy) Yates	1843-1863
b. 1, f. 7	_____ Yates English	1843
	Stephen Yates	1847

##### Others

b. 1, f. 8	James Duane	1762-1815
b. 1, f. 9	Will Cockburn	1766
	William Seeber	1774
	John Delancy	1839
b. 1, f. 10	John Delancy Watkins	1846-1868
	James C. Yates Paige	1850-1856
b. 1, f. 11	Charles Fuller	1846-1863
b. 1, f. 12	Delancey W. Watkins	1923
b. 1, f. 13	Unidentified	1842, undated

##### Legal and financial papers

b. 2, f. 14 - 32	1678-1764	1678-1764
b. 3, f. 33 - 40	1765-1771 March	1765-1771 March
	Indenture	1765
	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.	
	Original indenture reported missing October 2020.	
b. 4, f. 41 - 44	1771 June-1772	1771 June-1772
b. 5, f. 45 - 55	1773-1780	1773-1780

## Legal and financial papers (continued)

b. 6, f. 56 - 68	1781-1810 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.	1781-1810
b. 7, f. 69 - 79	1811-1924, undated	1811-1924, undated
Maps, charts, and field books		
b. 7, f. 80 - 87	1735-1787, undated	1735-1787, 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**

Families

### **Geographic Names**

New York (State) -- History  
Schenectady (N.Y.) -- History

### **Genres / Formats**

Account books  
Deeds

### **Names**

Duane, James, 1733-1797  
Fuller, Charles, fl. 1845-1869  
Yates, Ann Elizabeth Delancy  
Yates, Christopher, 1947-  
Yates, Joseph Christopher, 1768-1837

### **Families**

Delancey family  
Yates family