

# Guide to the Sergeant Family Papers

MS 806



compiled by C. Anthony Myrans and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

April 2018

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  
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(203) 432-7441  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 806

**CREATOR:** Sergeant family

**TITLE:** Sergeant family papers

**DATES:** 1751–1953

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.92 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence and other papers of several members of the Sergeant family of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Major correspondents include George Sergeant (1822-), of Northampton, Massachusetts; his sister, Catharine Sedgwick Sergeant De Forest, married to Dr. Henry A. De Forest; and his daughter, Catharine De Forest Sergeant (1848-). The collection contains correspondence on female education in Syria and education of women in the United States. Later letters, mainly in the 1870s, describe the experiences of women as students and as teachers in Princeton, New Jersey, Chicago, West Haven, Connecticut and elsewhere. Also includes family photographs and daguerreotypes.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0806>

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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.0806>.

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 the estate of Katharine S. White, 1977-1978.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. 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

Sergeant Family Papers (MS 806). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Processing Information

The materials were arranged by the donor. Manuscripts and Archives created the collection level description and did minimal level description in the 1970s or 1980s. In 2018, staff of Manuscripts and Archives augmented the description of the collection and the description of the files.

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### Related Materials

Associated material: Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant Papers (YCAL MSS 3), American Literature Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

George Sergeant was a resident of Northampton, Massachusetts and Seymour, Connecticut.

Catharine Sedgwick Sergeant De Forest (approximately 1817-1896), sister of George Sergeant, was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. She was a descendent of John Sergeant (1710-1749, Yale 1729), a missionary to Native Americans in western Massachusetts who established a boarding school for Native American children in Stockbridge. De Forest and her husband, Henry De Forest (Yale 1832, MD 1835), established and administered the first school for girls in Syria in the 1840s and early 1850s, where Henry De Forest was stationed as a medical missionary. John W. De Forest, author, also spent several years at the school in Syria.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence and other papers of several members of the Sergeant family of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Major correspondents include George Sergeant (1822-), of Northampton, Massachusetts; his sister, Catharine Sedgwick Sergeant De Forest, married to Dr. Henry A. De Forest; and his daughter, Catharine De Forest Sergeant (1848-). The collection contains correspondence on female education in Syria

and education of women in the United States. Later letters, mainly in the 1870s, describe the experiences of women as students and as teachers in Princeton, New Jersey, Chicago, West Haven, Connecticut and elsewhere.

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## **Arrangement**

The material is arranged as received from the donor.

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## Collection Contents

### Original accession

b. 1, f. 1	Genealogical and biographical notes and photographs regarding the De Forest, Partridge, Quincy, and Sergeant families Also includes two photographs of a Chippendale side chair.	1878-1977
b. 1, f. 2	Genealogical notes regarding the Clark, Hadley, Partridge, and Sergeant families Also includes a biographical note on Erastus Sergeant (1742-1814).	Undated
b. 1, f. 3	Financial records, correspondence, photographs, and artifacts Includes deeds, accounts, receipts, promissory notes, and credit orders payable in kind of Dr. Oliver Partridge; a letter to Sewall Sergeant; a photograph of an unidentified woman; and the red leather pouch of Dr. Oliver Partridge, in which the folder contents were stored.	1796-1841
b. 1, f. 4	Genealogical notes, legal and financial documents, and correspondence Includes genealogical notes regarding the Clap, Clark, Sergeant, and Williams families; a copy of the last will and testament of Dr. Oliver Partridge; deeds, quit claims, plans, and maps regarding division of property in Partridgeville; apothecary notes and note book of Dr. Oliver Partridge; transcripts (manuscript and typescript) of letters by Ephraim Williams, Jr. and Caleb Strong; bills and receipts; and a recipe-book of Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant.	1751-1847
b. 1, f. 5	Papers of Erastus Sergeant regarding the disposal of the estate of John Fowler, Tory refugee Includes receipts, inventories, accounts, promissory notes, and credit orders payable in kind.	1775-1790
b. 1, f. 6	Indentures, leases, accounts, inventories, and other papers regarding John Fowler's estate	1780-1782
b. 1, f. 7	Printed material and writings Includes printed material and newspaper clippings on the history of Stockbridge, Massachusetts; a poem by (Mrs. Theodore) Pamela (Dwight) Sedgwick, titled 'Address to the Bridge from the honorable body of Nations'; and a photograph of an unidentified woman.	1930-1948, Undated
b. 1, f. 8	Letters to Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant from George Sergeant	1846-1848
b. 1, f. 9	Correspondence between George Sergeant, Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, and Dr. Henry De Forest	1842-1850
b. 1, f. 10	Correspondence between George Sergeant, Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, and Dr. Henry De Forest Also includes correspondence with Susan (Sereant) Dashiell, George F. De Forest, Sewall Sergeant, Sr., Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant, Sewall Sergeant, Jr., F. A. Sergeant, Charles Spencer Sergeant, Cary (Mrs. Elliott) Sergeant, and other family members.	1842-1861
b. 1, f. 11	Correspondence between George Sergeant, Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, Dr. Henry De Forest, and Elliott Sergeant	1841-1860

b. 1, f. 12	Correspondence between George Sergeant, Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, and Dr. Henry De Forest Also includes correspondence with Frank Fowler, C. A. Ely, and other family members and friends.	1843-1852
b. 1, f. 13	Correspondence between George Sergeant, Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, and Dr. Henry De Forest Also includes correspondence with Caroline (Sergeant) De Forest, S. H. Colton, Egbert Starr, Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant, and other family and friends.	1815-1848
b. 1, f. 14	Correspondence between George Sergeant, Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, and Dr. Henry De Forest Also includes correspondence between Oliver Partridge and numerous friends, acquaintances, and family members, including E. A. Clarke, S. H. Colton, E. Dewey, Frank Fowler, Joseph Lathrop, Samuel P. Putnam, George W. Root, and Egbert Starr; additional family correspondence among Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Sewall Sergeant Sr., Sewall, Jr., and others; and social invitations to George Sergeant and family members from friends.	1839-1850
b. 1, f. 15	Letters to George Sergeant from Sewall Sergeant, Sr., Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Sewall Sergeant, Jr., Caroline (Sergeant) De Forest, Elliott Sergeant, George F. De Forest, Alfred H. Dashiell, S. H. Colton, Joseph Lathrop, E. B. and William Williams, and other associates	1821-1852
b. 1, f. 16	Letters to George Sergeant from Sewall Sergeant, Sr., Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Sewall Sergeant, Jr., Caroline (Sergeant) De Forest, Elliott Sergeant, George F. De Forest, Alfred H. Dashiell, S. H. Colton, Joseph Lathrop, E. B. and William Williams, and other associates Also includes correspondence with Dr. Oliver Partridge, Susan (Sergeant) Dashiell, Edwin A. Clark, Frank and Henry Fowler, James O. Root, Frances Searle, J. M. Whitcomb, Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant, and Ely family members.	1845-1856
b. 2, f. 1	George Sergeant correspondence and invitations Includes letters to George Sergeant from Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant and Joseph Lathrop, as well as social invitations to George Sergeant from friends and acquaintances.	1840s
b. 2, f. 3	George Sergeant American Tract Society membership certificate	1849
b. 2, f. 4	Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant correspondence Includes letters to Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant from Catharine M. Clark and Emma (Mrs. Marvin M.) French.	1852-1857
b. 2, f. 5	Catharine M. Clark letters from Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant	1853-1855
b. 2, f. 6	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant, Emma (Mrs. Marvin M.) French, and Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant letters Includes letters to Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant (born 1848) from Catharine (Kate) (Sergeant) De Forest and T. Searilt [?]; letters to Emma (Mrs. Marvin M.) French from Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant; and letters to Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant from Sewall Sergeant, Sr. and George Sergeant.	1814-1854

b. 2, f. 7	Letters to Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant, Mary Louise Sergeant, and George Sergeant Includes letters to Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant from Charles Spencer Sergeant and Elliott Sergeant; letters to Mary Louise Sergeant from Sewall Sergeant, Jr.; and letters to George Sergeant from E. R. Williams.	1843-1875
b. 2, f. 8-9	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters from Charles Spencer Sergeant	1872-1875
b. 2, f. 10-11	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters from Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant	1869-1871
b. 2, f. 12	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters from Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant and George Sergeant	1866-1872
b. 2, f. 13	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant correspondence Includes letters from Carrie H. Sergeant, "Nellie" Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, Margaret Dickey, George Sergeant, and Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant. Also includes letters to Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant and Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest.	1857-1875
b. 2, f. 14	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters from Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest and Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant	1874
b. 2, f. 15	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters from Charles Spencer Sergeant	1873-1875
b. 2, f. 16	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant and George Sergeant letters from Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant and Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest	1866-1875
b. 2, f. 17	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant and George Sergeant letters from Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant	1867-1874
b. 2, f. 18	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant school reports	1856-1857
b. 2, f. 19	George Sergeant, Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant, Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest, and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters Includes letters to George Sergeant, Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant, and Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest from Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant. Also includes letters to George Sergeant and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant from C. A. Ely.	1843-1869
b. 2, f. 20	Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters Includes letters to Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant from Caroline (Sergeant) De Forest. Also includes letters to Lydia Ann (Clark) Sergeant and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant from Susan (Sergeant) and Alfred Dashiell.	1844-1874
b. 2, f. 21	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant, Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant, and Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant letters Includes letters to Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant and Mary Louise (Mollie) Sergeant from Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest. Also includes letters to Catharine De Forest Sergeant and Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant from Mary Louise Sergeant and letters to Mary Louise Sergeant from George Sergeant.	1861-1873
b. 2, f. 22	Mary Louise and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant, George Sergeant, Lydia Ann (Clark), and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters Includes letters to Mary Louise and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant from George Sergeant and Sewall Sergeant, Jr. Also includes letters to George Sergeant, Lydia Ann (Clark), and Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant from Catharine (Sergeant) De Forest.	1864-1874



b. 2, f. 23	Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant letters Includes letters to Catharine (Kitty) De Forest Sergeant from Catharine and Martha P. Clark and other family members.	1859-1880
b. 3, f. 1	Diaries and notebooks Includes a diary by an unidentified writer, 1845; an account book by an unidentified writer, 1848; and an undated inventory book and undated notebook by unidentified writers.	1845-1848
b. 3, f. 2	Typescripts and photostats of Sergeant correspondence Includes copies of letters by Clarissa (Partridge) Sergeant, Caroline (Sergeant) De Forest, Charles Spencer Sergeant, and Abigail (Williams) Sergeant Dwight (died 1791).	1754, 1832-1845
b. 3, f. 3	"Some Old Letters Relating to Early Stockbridge, 1749-1754" English Reprint from <i>Scribner's Magazine</i> , 16 pages.	1895 February
b. 3, f. 4-5	Katharine (Sergeant) Angell White letters from Caroline Belle Sergeant	1944-1953
b. 3, f. 6	Katharine (Sergeant) Angell White letters from Marjorie Rose Ryan Includes a photostat of a letter by Abigail (Williams) Sergeant Dwight.	1751
b. 3, f. 7-8	Katharine (Sergeant) Angell White letters from Caroline Belle Sergeant	1938-1954
b. 2, f. 2	George Sergeant correspondence	1840-1849

**Additional material**

Additional Sergeant family papers, etc., bequeathed to Yale University under the will of Katharine S. White and received by Manuscripts and Archives, Sterling Memorial Library, June 1978.

b. 4, f. 1-4	Photographs of Sergeant family members, including Bessie B. Shepley, Katharine Sergeant, and Charles Sergeant	1879-1918, Undated, 1879-1918
b. 4, f. 5	Resolution from the board members at the Hampshire County Trust Company to the family of George H. Shepley expressing their sorrow at his passing	April 20, 1923
b. 4, f. 6	George Sergeant's declaration of love to Lydia A. Clark and her reply	January 30, 1846
b. 4, f. 7	Mortgage deeds, discharges, and an insurance policy	March 1863- February 1873
b. 4, f. 8	Mary Sergeant letters Includes seventeen letters from Mary Sergeant, August 1861-October 1868 and two letters to Mary Sergeant, August 1861-May 1866. Also includes one letter to George Sergeant, January 3, 1860.	1860-1868
b. 4, f. 9	Letters to Mrs. William Heinsdale from Sergeant family members Includes fifteen letters to Mrs. William Heinsdale from Lydia, Kittie, and other Sergeant family members.	June 1848- January 1861
b. 4, f. 10	Letters to Lydia Sergeant and George Sergeant Includes forty-seven letters to Lydia Sergeant from her father, S. Clark, and others, August 1847-March 1860. Also includes nine letters to George Sergeant, March 1852-January 1864.	1847-1864
b. 4, f. 11	Letters to George Sergeant	1858-1861
b. 4, f. 12	"Address to the Bride" poem, written by Mrs. Theodore Sedgwick English	Undated
b. 4, f. 13	Covenant to God written by Spencer Clark (died in Northampton)	April 10, 1955
b. 4, f. 14	Letters to Kittie Sergeant Includes twenty-three letters to Kittie Sergeant from Winnie and Nellie (her nieces?), Cousin Elsend's, and other family members.	July 1852- September 1868
b. 4, f. 15	Will of Oliver Partridge	1825
b. 4, f. 16	Letters to Kitty and Mary Sergeant	August 1848- September 1858
b. 4, f. 17	Sergeant family letters and writings Includes seven letters written by various members of the Sergeant family and a poem, titled "The Farmer," written by Kittie.	April 1847-June 1860
b. 4, f. 18	Book belonging to Lydia H. Clark containing poems and quotes	Undated
b. 4, f. 19	Copy of a map of Niagara Falls	Undated
b. 4, f. 20	Supplement to <i>The Independent</i>	October 6, 1864

b. 4, f. 21	Notes on books and manuscripts in an unidentified hand	Undated
b. 4, f. 22	Mrs. George Sergeant's calling card	Undated
b. 4, f. 23	Letters to Charles S. Sergeant Includes twenty-five business letters to Charles S. Sergeant and one letter from his sister, "Puss."	April 1905-July 1907
b. 4, f. 24	Business documents of Charles S. Sergeant	1902-1905
b. 4, f. 25	"Historical Pageant of Northhampton, Mass., 1911" English	1911
b. 4, f. 26	Letters to Rosamond and Katharine Sergeant	December 1903
b. 4, f. 27	Business letters to Charles S. Sergeant	January 1904- April 1911
b. 4, f. 28	Letters to Charles S. Sergeant from his mother and other correspondents	December 1903- April 1905
b. 4, f. 29	Letter to Elizabeth Sergeant	April 8, 1904
b. 4, f. 30	Letters to Charles S. Sergeant and "Miss" Sergeant Includes fifty-four letters to Charles S. Sergeant from his daughter Elsie and other correspondents. Also includes a letter to "Miss" Sergeant.	June 1904- January 1905
b. 4, f. 31	Letters to Charles S. Sergeant Includes twenty-seven letters to Charles S. Sergeant from Elsie, "Puss," and other correspondents.	December 1903- June 1905
b. 4, f. 32	Letters to Charles S. Sergeant and Katharine Sergeant Includes sixty letters to Charles S. Sergeant from Elsie, "Puss," and others. Also includes a letter to Katharine Sergeant.	March 1904- January 1905
b. 4, f. 33	Photograph album Includes two loose photographs, inserted.	1800s and early 1900s
b. 4, f. 34	Photograph album	1800s and early 1900s
b. 4, f. 35-42	Family portraits and photographs	early and mid 1900s
b. 4, f. 43	Family photographs	1800s and early 1900s
b. 6, f. 1-2	Family portraits and photographs	1800s and 1900s
b. 5	Family daguerreotypes Includes thirty-two daguerreotypes of members of the Sergeant family.	

## **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**

Clergy  
Education  
Educators  
Families  
Women -- Education -- Syria  
Women teachers

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut  
Middle East  
New England  
New Haven (Conn.)

### **Names**

De Forest, Catharine Sedgwick Sergeant,  
1819-1896  
De Forest, Henry A.  
Fowler, John  
Sergeant, Catharine De Forest  
Sergeant, Charles Spencer, 1852-  
Sergeant, Elliott  
Sergeant, George  
Sergeant, Lydia Ann Clark, -1863  
Sergeant, Mary Louise