

# Guide to the Henry Leavitt Ellsworth Papers

MS 196



compiled by Marguerite S. Witkop and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

July 1981

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 196

**CREATOR:** Ellsworth, Henry Leavitt, 1791-1858

**TITLE:** Henry Leavitt Ellsworth papers

**DATES:** 1811-1838

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of several letters and two journals of Henry Ellsworth's travels to New Connecticut (1811) and to the West (1832) after his appointment as Commissioner to the Indians. In this capacity, he was to superintend the removal of Indian tribes to the south and west of Arkansas, and his journal of 1832 describes the life of the Indians in eastern Oklahoma. There is also one letter from Henry Leavitt Ellsworth to his son, Henry William Ellsworth, 27 July 1834.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0196>

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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.0196>.

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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 Chauncey S. Goodrich, Jr., Dr. E.G. Whitney and Mrs. Frances G. Leon, 1942; gift of Ann Fayles in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. Russell Fayles, 2017.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Henry Leavitt Ellsworth Papers (MS 196). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Existence and Location of Copies

Journal of 1811 is also available on microfilm (156 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM174.

Journal of trip west while Commissioner to the Indians has been digitized as is available through Manuscripts and Archives.

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## Biographical / Historical

Henry Leavitt Ellsworth graduated from Yale in 1810. He studied law at Litchfield Law School, and in 1832 he was appointed Commissioner of Indian tribes in Arkansas and Oklahoma. In 1835, Ellsworth was elected mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, but only served one month. In 1835, he was appointed U.S. Commissioner of Patents, remaining until 1845. Following this, Ellsworth settled in Lafayette, Indiana, acting as an agent for purchase and settlement of public land.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of several letters and two journals of Henry Ellsworth's travels to New Connecticut (1811) and to the West (1832) after his appointment as Commissioner to the Indians. In this capacity, he was to superintend the removal of Indian tribes to the south and west of Arkansas, and his journal of 1832 describes the life of the Indians in eastern Oklahoma. There is also one letter from Henry Leavitt Ellsworth to his son, Henry William Ellsworth, 27 July 1834.

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## Collection Contents

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	1833, 1838, undated	1833, 1838, undated
b. 1A, f. 1	Letter to son, Henry William Ellsworth	1834 July 27
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Journal. Tour to New Connecticut. This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 174 instead of the originals.	1811
b. 1, f. 3	Copy of journal while Commissioner to the Indians, written in the form of letters to his first wife, Nancy (Goodrich) Ellsworth [Copy made by his third wife, Catharine (Smith) Ellsworth]	1832-1833
f. 2	Journal of trip west while Commissioner to the Indians 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.	1832
f. 3	Photostatic copy of the journal of trip west while Commissioner to the Indians	1832

## **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**

Indians of North America  
Indians of North America -- Oklahoma  
Lawyers

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut -- Description and travel  
Middle West  
Oklahoma -- Description and travel  
West (U.S.)

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries

### **Occupations**

Politicians

### **Names**

Ellsworth, Henry Leavitt, 1791-1858