

Samuel Holten Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1995

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm74026419>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms007048>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Holten Papers

Span Dates: 1630-1843

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1744-1843)

ID No.: MSS26419

Creator: Holten, Samuel, 1738-1816

Extent: 2,000 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 1.6 linear feet

Extent: 4 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm74026419>

Summary: Delegate to the United States Continental Congress from and United States representative of Massachusetts, jurist, and physician. Correspondence, account books, and bills and receipts relating primarily to Holten's public service career in Massachusetts, the federal government, and his medical practice.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Adams, Samuel, 1722-1803--Correspondence.
Bowdoin, James, 1726-1790--Correspondence.
Cushing, William, 1732-1810--Correspondence.
Dane, Nathan, 1752-1835--Correspondence.
Gerry, Elbridge, 1744-1814--Correspondence.
Gordon, William, 1728-1807--Correspondence.
Gorham, Nathaniel, 1738-1796--Correspondence.
Hancock, John, 1737-1793--Correspondence.
Holten, Samuel, 1738-1816.
Hutchinson, Israel, 1727 or 1728-1811--Correspondence.
Lowell, John, 1743-1802--Correspondence.
Partridge, George, 1740-1828--Correspondence.
Sullivan, James, 1744-1808--Correspondence.
Wadsworth, Benjamin, 1750-1826--Correspondence.
Wallcut, Thomas, 1758-1840--Correspondence.

Organizations

Massachusetts. Council.
Massachusetts. Provincial Congress.
United States. Congress. House.
United States. Continental Congress.

Subjects

Medicine--Practice--Massachusetts.

Places

Danvers (Mass.)--Social life and customs.
Massachusetts--Politics and government--1775-1865.
United States--Politics and government--1775-1783.
United States--Politics and government--1783-1809.

Occupations

Delegates, U.S. Continental Congress--Massachusetts.
Judges.
Physicians.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Massachusetts.

Provenance

The papers of Samuel Holten, delegate to the United States Continental Congress from and United States representative of Massachusetts, jurist, and physician, were purchased by the Library of Congress between the years 1908 and 1994.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Holten is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Samuel Holten are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on four reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Samuel Holten Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1738, June 9	Born, Salem Village, later Danvers, Mass.
circa 1756	Practiced medicine, Gloucester, Mass.
1758	Married Mary Warner
	Returned to medical practice, Danvers, Mass.
1768-1776	Member, Massachusetts General Court
1774	Represented Danvers in Essex County, Mass., convention
1775	Represented Essex County, Mass., in Provincial Congress; appointed to Committee of Safety
1778-1780	Massachusetts delegate, Continental Congress
1781	Signer, Articles of Confederation
	Incorporator, Massachusetts Medical Society
1782-1787	Massachusetts delegate, Continental Congress
1785	Joined with Elbridge Gerry and Rufus King in refusing to present to Congress the Massachusetts Resolves requesting revision of the Articles of Confederation
1788	Anti-federalist delegate to Massachusetts convention on the Constitution
1793-1795	Member, United States House of Representatives
1796-1815	Judge of probate, Essex County, Mass.

1812-1813 One of early founders of temperance movement in Massachusetts
1816, Jan. 2 Died, Danvers, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Samuel Holten (1738-1816) span the years 1630-1843, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1744-1843. The collection consists of correspondence, account books, and bills and receipts. The correspondence relates chiefly to Holten's service in the Massachusetts Provincial General Court, Massachusetts Governor's Council, Continental Congress, and United States House of Representatives. Other papers relate to his medical practice and to his life and work in Danvers, Massachusetts. Correspondents include Samuel Adams, James Bowdoin, William Cushing, Nathan Dane, Elbridge Gerry, William Gordon, Nathaniel Gorham, John Hancock, Israel Hutchinson, John Lowell, George Partridge, James Sullivan, and Thomas Wallcut.

The addition to the papers of Samuel Holten spans the years 1783-1785 and consists of draft copies of Holten's correspondence, including letters to William Cushing, Elbridge Gerry, and Benjamin Wadsworth, and a letter from Thomas Wallcut to Holten.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,046

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	1630-1660, 1744-1749, 1753-1790 (15 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	1791-1816, undated (16 folders)
REEL 3 REEL 3	Financial papers
BOX 3 REEL 3	Legal fees, 1796-1811 (4 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 3	Bills, accounts, and receipts
BOX 3 REEL 3	1744-1793 (9 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 4	1794-1843, undated (8 folders)
BOX 4 not filmed	Addition
BOX 4 not filmed	Correspondence, 1783-1785