

**Oliver Ellsworth Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2007**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm95081076>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007118>

Prepared by Michael McElderry

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

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Oliver Ellsworth Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1762-1907

**ID No.:** MSS81076

**Creator:** Ellsworth, Oliver, 1745-1807

**Extent:** 900 items

**Extent:** 9 containers

**Extent:** 3.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm95081076>

**Summary:** Delegate to the Continental Congress, United States senator, and chief justice of the Supreme Court. Correspondence, estate, family, financial, and legal papers, and printed matter documenting Ellsworth's personal life, career as a Connecticut lawyer and judge, and his bank and real estate ventures.

## 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

Ellsworth family.

Ellsworth, Henry Leavitt, 1791-1858.

Ellsworth, Martin, 1783-1857.

Ellsworth, Oliver, 1745-1807.

Ellsworth, Oliver, 1781-1805.

Ellsworth, William Wolcott, 1791-1868.

Taintor, Lucy Strong, 1871-1940.

Williams, Abigail Ellsworth, 1774-1860.

Williams, Delia Ellsworth, 1789-1840.

Wood, Frances Ellsworth, 1786-1868.

### Subjects

Bank investments--Connecticut.

Judges--Connecticut.

Land speculation--Ohio--Western Reserve.

Practice of law--Connecticut.

### Occupations

Judges.

Justices, U.S. Supreme Court.

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Connecticut.

## Provenance

The family papers of Oliver Ellsworth, delegate to the Continental Congress, U. S. senator, and chief justice of the Supreme Court, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1991.

## Processing History

The papers of the Oliver Ellsworth family were arranged and described in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2007.

## **Additional Guides**

A printed guide, "A Calendar of the Personal Papers of Oliver Ellsworth," was compiled by Norman F. Boas for the collection prior to purchase by the Library of Congress and is located in container one. The calendar assigns an identification number to each item in the collection and describes all of the material. Although the organization of the Oliver Ellsworth Family Papers reflects that of the calendar, it does not duplicate it. As an aid in locating individual items from the calendar within the present arrangement, corresponding identification numbers are recorded on the outside front flap of each folder wherever possible.

## **Copyright Status**

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

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Oliver Ellsworth family 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.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Oliver Ellsworth Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of the family of Oliver Ellsworth (1745-1807) span the years 1762-1907 and contain letters and financial and legal papers documenting Ellsworth's personal life and professional career, records relating to the administration of his estate, and family papers consisting of correspondence, legal documents, and printed matter. The collection's seventeen letters written to Ellsworth and one written by him recount details of his career as a Connecticut lawyer and judge but lack information regarding his public and political life. The accounts, bills, receipts, and land deeds, which comprise the bulk of Ellsworth's papers, provide further particulars relating to his bank and real estate investments, including land interests in Connecticut's Western Reserve, his personal life and finances, and his legal career. A letter written by Ellsworth's son, William, while serving in Congress, 13 March 1830, portrays political and social life in Washington. The remainder of the family papers contains letters written by Ellsworth's children and other family members.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	"A Calendar of the Personal Papers of Oliver Ellsworth"
BOX 1	Documents and letters
BOX 1	1762-1791 (12 folders)
BOX 2	1792-1807, undated (12 folders)
BOX 3	Estate of Oliver Ellsworth, 1799, 1808-1830, 1839, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Family papers
BOX 3	Family members
BOX 3	Ellsworth, Frances (daughter), 1800-1807
BOX 3	Ellsworth, Henry Leavitt (son), 1818-1819, 1840
BOX 3	Ellsworth, Martin (son)
BOX 3	Documents and letters, 1805-1843, 1856, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Land deeds, 1808-1851 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Military papers, 1811-1813
BOX 3	Photograph, undated
BOX 3	Ellsworth, Oliver, Jr. (son), 1802, 1810-1814, 1832-1836
BOX 3	Ellsworth, William Wolcott (son), 1830
BOX 3	Other family members, 1806-1812, 1818-1822, 1830-1841, 1848-1853, 1859, 1865-1873, 1885, 1891, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Taintor, Lucy Strong
BOX 3	1885-1888
BOX 4	1894-1907, undated
BOX 4	Williams, Abigail Ellsworth (daughter), 1794, 1825
BOX 4	Williams, Delia Ellsworth (daughter), 1833-1837
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Books
BOX 4	<i>A Digest of Patents Issued by the United States from 1790 to January 1, 1839</i> , 1840
BOX 4	<i>Domestic Medicine or a Treatise on the Prevention and Care of Diseases</i> , 1789
BOX 5	<i>Hartford, Conn. as a Manufacturing, Business and Commercial Center</i> , 1889
BOX 5	Cards, envelopes, and other items, 1904-1907, undated
BOX 5	College and school catalogs, 1826-1837, 1843-1844, 1850 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Photocopies of financial documents, 1800-1807
BOX 5	Printed matter
BOX 5	1804-1808, 1818-1823 (2 folders)

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	1826-1839 (7 folders)
BOX 7	1840-1855, 1878 (7 folders)
BOX 8	Undated
BOX 8	Notebook and notes, 1857-1862, 1879, undated
BOX 8	Religious pamphlets and sermons
BOX 8	1805-1809, 1817, 1825-1835 (4 folders)
BOX 9	1843-1844, 1854, 1881-1885, undated (3 folders)