

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



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78035550>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009334>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Jennifer Eidson, 2010  
Revised 2023 July

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Parsons Family Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1769-1878

**ID No.:** MSS35550

**Creator:** Parsons family of Connecticut and Ohio

**Extent:** 80 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** .2 linear feet

**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78035550>

**Summary:** Parsons family of Connecticut and Ohio. Correspondence, legal documents, newspaper clippings, account book, printed matter, and other papers, chiefly of Samuel Holden Parsons (1737-1789), Continental Army officer; his son, Enoch Parsons (1769-1846), public official and banker of Middletown and Hartford, Connecticut; and Enoch's son, Samuel Holden Parsons (1800-1871), lawyer and banker of Middletown.

## 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

Butler, Richard, 1743-1791--Correspondence.  
Dickson, Mary Sullivan Parsons, -1841--Correspondence.  
Ellsworth, Oliver, 1745-1807--Correspondence.  
Greenleaf, Jonathan, 1785-1865--Correspondence.  
Huntington, Benjamin, 1736-1800--Correspondence.  
Munsell, Joel, 1808-1880--Correspondence.  
Parsons family.  
Parsons, Enoch Thomas, -1830--Correspondence.  
Parsons, Enoch, 1769-1846. Enoch Parsons papers.  
Parsons, Henry Ethelbert--Correspondence.  
Parsons, Jonathan, 1705-1776--Correspondence.  
Parsons, Mehetable Mather, 1743-1802--Correspondence.  
Parsons, Samuel Holden, 1737-1789. Samuel Holden Parsons papers.  
Parsons, Samuel Holden, 1800-1871. Samuel Holden Parsons papers.  
Putnam, Israel, 1718-1790--Correspondence.  
Wade, B. F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1878--Correspondence.  
Walter, William, 1737-1800--Correspondence.  
Whittlesey, Elisha, 1783-1863--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Ohio Company (1786-1796)  
United States. Continental Army--Officers.

### Subjects

American loyalists.  
Indians of North America--Northwest, Old.  
Land companies--Ohio.  
Land speculation--Ohio--Marietta.  
Land speculation--Ohio--Western Reserve.  
Nullification (States' rights)

**Places**

Connecticut--History--1775-1865

Ohio--History.

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

**Occupations**

Army officers.

Bankers.

Lawyers.

Public officials--Connecticut.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of the Parsons family of Connecticut and Ohio were given to the Library of Congress by Benjamin F. Wade and John P. Wade in 1941.

## Processing History

The papers of the Parsons family were processed and prepared for microfilming in 1978 by Clifford L. Muse, Jr. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Parsons 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.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

## Preferred Citation

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

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Parsons family span the years 1769-1878 and consist of correspondence, legal documents, newspaper clippings, account book, printed matter, and other papers, chiefly of Samuel Holden Parsons (1737-1789), Continental Army officer and general, his son, Enoch Parsons (1769-1846), public official and banker of Middletown and Hartford, Conn., and Enoch's son, Samuel Holden Parsons (1800-1871), lawyer and banker of Middletown. The collection includes a 1778 letter from General Parsons (1737-1789) to his friend, American loyalist William Walter, in which he argues

the colonists' cause. Also included is material on Parsons's work for the Ohio Company relating to land development near Marietta, Ohio, and in the Western Reserve. Other topics include Native Americans in the Old Northwest, the nullification controversy, and family matters. Family correspondents include Mary Sullivan Parsons Dickson, Enoch Thomas Parsons, Henry Ethelbert Parsons, Jonathan Parsons, and Mehetabel Mather Parsons. Other correspondents include Richard Butler, Oliver Ellsworth, Jonathan Greenleaf, Benjamin Huntington, Joel Munsell, Israel Putnam, B. F. Wade, and Elisha Whittlesey.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material.

## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,351

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1769-1868, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Legal documents, 1787-1856
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miscellaneous documents, 1790-1878
BOX 1 REEL 1	Inventory of the estate of Samuel Holden Parsons and Henry Ethelbert Parsons
BOX 1 REEL 1	Ledger of Henry Ethelbert Parsons
BOX 1 REEL 1	Printed documents, 1813-1814
BOX 1 REEL 1	<i>Sketch of the Character of the Late Chief Justice Parsons</i> (Boston, 1813. 32 pp.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	<i>Catalogue of the Law Library of the Honorable Theophilus Parsons</i> (Boston, 1814. 8 pp.)