

Connecticut Historical Society  
museum & library

Roger Wolcott Papers

A Guide to the collection at the Connecticut Historical Society

---

Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut
<b>Creator :</b>	Wolcott, Roger
<b>Title :</b>	Roger Wolcott Papers
<b>Dates :</b>	1631-1889
<b>Extent :</b>	1.5 Linear feet (3 boxes)
<b>Abstract :</b>	Correspondence, diaries, promissory notes, papers concerning the Spanish ship case and papers about trouble in the Second Church in Windsor.
<b>Location:</b>	Ms Wolcr1767
<b>Language:</b>	English

---

Biographical Sketch

Roger Wolcott was born in Windsor, Connecticut on January 4, 1679, the youngest son of Simon and Martha (Pitkin) Wolcott. He was apprenticed to a clothier in 1694 and left five years later to set up a successful business of his own. On December 3, 1702, he married Sarah Drake (1684?-1748) the daughter of Sgt. Job and Mary (Wolcott) Drake.

Wolcott's public career began in 1707 when he was chosen a selectman of the town of Windsor. Two years later, in May 1709, he was admitted to practice at the bar. He served as a Representative of South Windsor in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1709, was raised to the bench of justices in 1710, was elected member of Council in 1714, Judge of the County Court in 1724, and Judge of the Superior Court in 1732. In 1741 he was named Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Deputy Governor. He was elected Governor in 1750, a position he held for four years.

Wolcott was appointed Commissary of the Connecticut Forces in the 1711 expedition against Canada in Queen Anne's War (the War of Spanish Succession, 1702-1713). In 1745, at the age of 66, Wolcott was commissioned Major General by Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts and was second in command to Sir William Pepperell in the expedition

against Louisbourg during King George's War (the War of the Austrian Succession, 1744-1748).

Wolcott kept a journal during the Louisbourg expedition which was printed in the Connecticut Historical Society's Collections, Volumes XVI and XVII. He was the author of one of the earliest volumes of poetry printed in Connecticut, *Poetical Meditations being the Improvement of some Vacant Hours*. He also published a small quarto, *A Letter to the Reverend Mr. Noah Hobart*. In 1895, the Connecticut Historical Society published, as part of the third volume of its Collections, *A Memoir for the History of Connecticut, By Roger Wolcott, 1759*, from the original manuscript in possession of the Watkinson Library in Hartford.

Roger and Sarah Wolcott had fifteen children, including Oliver, a governor of Connecticut and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Roger Wolcott died May 17, 1767, and is buried in Windsor Cemetery.

---

## Scope and Content

Collection consists of correspondence to and from Roger Wolcott, financial papers, legal papers, diaries and literary papers with transcriptions. The correspondence also includes some early 17th century Wolcott family letters.

### Arrangement

Materials are organized into three series: Correspondence, Diaries, and Literary Papers.

**Series I: Correspondence** consists of Wolcott family letters, including Henry Wolcott, Josiah Wolcott, Oliver Wolcott, Sr., Sarah Chauncy, and Matthew Allyn, and letters to and from Roger Wolcott. The letters concern relations with Native Americans, military, legal, political, and religious matters, and material concerning the Spanish ship case.

**Series II: Diaries** contains an original diary and two transcriptions.

**Series III: Literary Papers** comprises a manuscript and transcription of narrative of the troubles in the Second Church in Windsor between 1735-1741

---

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on access to the collection. When material is fragile, researcher may be directed to microfilm copies.

### **Use Restrictions**

Use of the material requires compliance with the Connecticut Historical Society's Research Center regulations.

---

## **Subject Headings**

### **Personal Names**

Allyn, Matthew, d. 1758.  
Chauncey, Sarah Wolcott.  
Wolcott, Henry, 1643-1709.  
Wolcott, Oliver, 1726-1797.

### **Subjects**

Indians of North America.

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut Politics and government Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.  
United States History King George's War, 1744-1748.

### **Genre Forms**

Holographs; holographs, signed.

---

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

### **Processing Details**

EAD finding aid updated to EAD 2002 in December 2010.

### **Accruals**

The collection is open, but additional material is not expected.

---

## Contents:

**I. Correspondence****Box Folder**

1	1	Letters to, from, and concerning Wolcott family members, including Henry Wolcott and Josiah Wolcott 1631-1693 (22 items)
1	2	Letters primarily to Henry Wolcott 1695-1702 (23 items)
1	3	Letters to, from, and concerning Wolcott family members, including Matthew Allyn, Sarah Chauncey, and Roger Wolcott. Account list for the Connecticut Colony, 1730. 1703-1742 (18 items)
1	4	Letters to Roger Wolcott, petitions, accounts, Roger Wolcott's commission from William Shirley 1743-1744 (11 items)
1	5	Letters to, from, and concerning Roger Wolcott 1745 (25 items)
1	6	Letters primarily to Roger Wolcott 1746 (17 items)
1	7	Letters primarily to Roger Wolcott 1747 (12 items)
1	8	Letters primarily to Roger Wolcott 1748-1749 (9 items)
1	9	Letters to and from Roger Wolcott; bills of exchange 1750 (11 items)
1	10	Letters to and from Roger Wolcott; petitions, 1751 (10 items)
1	11	Letters to and from Roger Wolcott; resolutions of the Consociation Meeting of Churches within the County of Litchfield 1752 (13 items)
1	12	Letters to and from Roger Wolcott 1753-1754 (19 items)
1	13	Letters primarily to and from Roger Wolcott; letter from Oliver Wolcott; enlistment of Price Abbot 1754 (9 items)
1	14	Letters, manifests, will and testament of Henry Wolcott with testimony of Roger Wolcott; printed page from The Citizen (April 27, 1889); list of letters to Henry Wolcott 1753-1889 (10 items)
<b>Box Folder</b>		
2	1	Orders, lists of governors, legal statements, accounts of ships' merchandise, depositions, and letters in Spanish and English 1749-1752 (20 items)
2	2	Letters and legal documents concerning the Spanish ship case, one in Spanish 1752 (8 items)
2	3	Letters, promissory notes, and documents concerning the Spanish ship case January - June, 1753 (19 items)
2	4	Declaration in 18 pages of Joseph Miguel de San Juan regarding the Spanish ship case 1753 (1 items)
2	5	Letters to and from Roger Wolcott, two in Spanish June - August, 1753 (17 items)

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 2 | 6  | Letters to and from Roger Wolcott concerning the Spanish ship case September - December, 1753 (12 items)                          |
| 2 | 7  | Letters and documents concerning the Spanish ship case January, 1754 (7 items)  |
| 2 | 8  | Letters and documents concerning the Spanish ship case October, 1754 (5 items)  |
| 2 | 9  | Letters and documents concerning the Spanish ship case November, 1754 (18 items)  |
| 2 | 10 | Letters and documents concerning the Spanish ship case December, 1754 (22 items)  |
| 2 | 11 | Letters and documents concerning the Spanish ship case, two in Spanish January, 1755 (18 items)                                   |
| 2 | 12 | Letters concerning the Spanish ship case, one in French October - December, 1755 (4 items)  |
| 2 | 13 | Letters to and from Roger Wolcott and concerning the Spanish ship case; printed extract; proclamation (copy) 1756-1766 (11 items) |

**Box Folder**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 3 | 1 | Typewritten carbon copies of letters from Roger Wolcott; typed carbon copy of Power of Attorney, Joseph Drake to Ezakiah Bliss; list of important dates in Roger Wolcott's life 1728-1748 (12 items) |
|---|---|--|

**II. Diaries**

**Box Folder**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | Major General Roger Wolcott's Diary of the Siege of Louisbourg, 1745, Together with his Autobiography and Religious Reflections, transcribed by Doris E. Cook [between 1969-1974] 1747-1755 (1 (30 pp) items) |
| 3 | 3 | Roger Wolcott's Diary of the Siege of Louisbourg in 1745, together with his Autobiography and Religious Reflections. Transcribed by Henry Stevens, Jr., 1845 1745 (1 (58 pp) items)                           |
| 3 | 4 | Roger Wolcott's Journal 1745-1755 (1 items)   |

**III. Literary Papers**

**Box Folder**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 3 | 5 | Roger Wolcott's A Narrative of the Troubles in the Second Church in Windsor from the Year 1735 to the Year 1741...Transcribed by Doris Cook [between 1969 and 1974] 1741 (1 (55 pp) items) |
| 3 | 6 | Roger Wolcott's A Narrative of the Troubles in the Second Church in Windsor from the Year 1735 to the Year 1741 1741 (1 items)   |