

# WELLES FAMILY.

## Welles family papers, 1712-1871

Emory University  
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### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Welles family.  
**Title:** Welles family papers, 1712-1871  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 402  
**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel (MF)  
**Abstract:** Microfilm copy of a scrapbook containing letters, legal documents, compositions and memoranda related to the Welles family of Vermont and Connecticut from 1712 to 1871.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### Administrative Information

#### Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

#### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### Related Materials in Other Repositories

Mary Jane Hale Welles papers, University of Michigan, William L. Clements Library; [Gideon Welles papers](#), Library of Congress; and the [Gideon Welles papers](#), Connecticut Historical Society.

#### Source

Loaned for microfilming, 1963.

#### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Welles family papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### Processing

Processed by MRD, 1964.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Gideon Welles (July 1, 1802-February 11, 1878), the son of Samuel and Ann (Hale) Welles, was born in Glastonbury, Connecticut. His father was a shipping merchant and fervent Jeffersonian. Gideon graduated from the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy in Vermont and eventually became editor of the Hartford Times, served in the state legislature (1827-1835), and in other government offices. He left the Democratic Party over the slavery issue and helped organize the Republican Party. In 1861, President Lincoln selected Welles as his Secretary of the Navy. Welles continued at that post until the end of Andrew Johnson's term, supporting the embattled President against the Radical Republicans. *Dictionary of American Biography*, v.19, p. 632.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a microfilm copy of the papers of the Gideon Welles family from 1712-1871. The papers, contained in a scrapbook, consist of approximately 120 pieces, some pasted and some laid in, the majority of which are dated about the time of the American Revolution. There are four pieces of Gideon Welles correspondence with his family (1830, 1861), Edward Everett (1864), and George Bancroft (1866). Fifteen pieces are concerned with Gideon's grandfather, Samuel Welles, Sr., a Captain in the American Revolution; 60 letters and a few poems were written by Gideon's father, Samuel Welles, Jr.; and the rest are mainly letters, legal documents, compositions and memoranda by or to other members of the family, including Ann Hale, Gideon's mother; Lucy, his grandmother; Oliver and Thaddeus, his brothers; Joseph, Thaddeus and John, his uncles. The legal documents include a chart of land lots, a deed, and a will.

### Arrangement Note

Organized on microfilm in seven groups: Gideon Welles letters, Old legal papers, Samuel Welles, Sr. papers, Samuel Welles, Jr. papers, Welles family letters, Other papers (probably of relatives or friends), and Miscellaneous papers (poems, maxims, compositions, hymns, etc.).

