I. Title Humphreys, David (1752-1818) Collection, 1687-1819.

II. The papers of David Humphreys and members of his family

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3 1/2"
Approximate number of items: 45 plus a 16 page typed manuscript

IV. Restrictions: none

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on

VII. Biographical note: David Humphreys was born in Derby Conn., the son of
the Rev. Daniel and Sarah Riggs Bowers Humphreys. He entered Yale at
15 and received an M.A. degree in 1774. In 1776 Humphreys volunteered
as adjutant of the 2nd Conn. Militia Regiment. By age 28 he was a
lieutenant-colonel and aide-de-camp to George Washington, who became
a close personal friend. After the war Humphreys embarked upon a
career as a diplomat. He spent two years in England and France
negotiating commercial treaties, returning to the United States in
1786 where he was elected to the Conn. General Assembly and appointed
commander of a new regiment created for operations against Indians
on the middle-western frontier. In 1790 he resumed his diplomatic
career when he returned to Europe as special agent to obtain inform­
ation for the American government about the war threatened between
England and Spain. He remained in Europe as minister to Spain until
he was recalled by President Jefferson in 1801. In 1797 he married
Ann Frances Bulkeley in Lisbon.

Returning to the United States in 1802, Humphreys shifted his
interests to manufacturing cloth at Humphreysville, near Derby, and
to raising Merino sheep which he had imported from Europe. His
interests in public service and writing poetry, which he had pursued
since his days at Yale, continued. His poems have been included in
anthologies of American poetry. Humphreys died in 1818.

See the Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 9, pp. 373-375,
Dexter, Yale Biographies, Vol. 3, pp. 414-420, and The Humphreys
Family in America by F.L. Humphrey, pp. 151 ff.

Biographies of family members whose papers are in the collection
can be found in The Humphreys Family in America. See the Table of
Contents below for page references.
Biographical note - continued:

John and William Humphreys were nephews, sons of David Humphreys' brother. They were engaged in business with their uncle after he returned to the U.S. in 1802.

The letters and reports written during the French and Indian Wars in 1755-1760 were by an uncle, John Humphreys, to his two sons, Elihu and Nathaniel, David Humphreys' first cousins. Asher and Samuel Humphreys were distant relatives, descended from the brother of David Humphreys' great-grandfather. Ozias Humphry was an English cousin. Tobias Humphreys is not listed in the genealogy but is assumed to be a family member.

VIII: Analysis: The collection is housed in a half-box and two oversized containers. The first part consists of papers of and about General David Humphreys and cover the years 1776-1819. It includes letters written during the American Revolution, poetry by Humphreys and papers concerning the Merino sheep he imported from Europe. There is also a biographical sketch of Humphreys written by F.L. Humphreys in 1936. This document is not in the inclusive dates because it is not original source material.

The remainder of the collection includes papers of other members of the Humphreys family, pre-dating and post-dating those of David Humphreys.

The documents that came from the Leffingwell Collection are indicated by asterisks and the George Washington letters which have been microfilmed have an "o" beside them in the Table of Contents.
Table of Contents

Box I -

Folder A - ALS - Humphreys to: (1776-1803) [8]

- Lt. Samuel Webb, Derby, Conn., July 8, 1776
- Thomas Wooster, Headquarters, Oct. 24, 1780
- Capt. Munson, Headquarters, Feb. 22, 1783
- George Washington, Philadelphia, May 19, 1784
- Ralph Pomeroy, New Haven, Nov. 16, 1786
- Mrs. Green, Lisbon, June 20, 1792
  (including poetry by D.H.)
- William Willis, Madrid, Jan. 2, 1801
- John Trumbull, New Haven, Oct. 25, 1803

Folder B - ALS - Humphreys to: (1810-1815) [7]

- open letter re Elihu Ives, Philadelphia
  March 12, 1810
- Fearing (?) & Gloman, Humphreysville, Oct. 15, 1810 (copy in D.H.'s hand)
- open letter re Merino sheep, Humphreysville,
  July 8, 1812
- Selectmen of Derby, Humphreysville, April 10, 1813 (partially obscured by biography of
  D.H.)
- William Woodbridge, Humphreysville, June 7, 1814
- Elihu Ives, Philadelphia, April 27, 1814
- Elihu Ives, Boston, July 7, 1815

Folder C - Incoming Correspondence [1]

- Elihu Ives, Pittsburgh, August 15, 1813

Folder D - Accounts [5]

- with Society of Cincinnati of Conn.,
  (signed by D.H.) list of expenses
  incurred attending meeting, June 1, 1790
- Bill to Pres. Jefferson for cloth
  (John Humphreys, Jr., Dec. 26, 1808)
- Bill from Laurence Whitney for shipment of
  Merinos, Oct., 1813
- Western Adventure - account with Elihu Ives
  to Gen. Humphreys' estate
  verso - statement by adjustors of accounts
  between estate and Ives, et. al, 1819
- Typescript of Western Adventure

Folder E - Power of Attorney (1810-1813) [3]

- John Humphreys, Jr., as agent for D.H.,
  to Elihu Ives for sale of Merino rams,
  March, 1810
  verso - D.H. signature ratifying power of attorney

- on George Washington microfilm
- from Leffingwell Collection
Box I - continued
Folder E - continued
• D. Humphreys power of attorney to Elihu Ives to sell lands in Penn. and Ohio, July, 1812
• William Humphreys power of attorney to Elihu Ives for sale of patent right for improvement of wool machine, Humphreysville, May, 1813
(See Humphreys Family, pp. 196 & 202)
Folder F - Personal papers, David Humphreys [5]
- marriage certificate - D.H. & Ann Frances Bulkeley, Lisbon, 1797
- pre nuptial agreement, 1797
- invitation Commencement Ball - Miss M. Lane, 1803 (D.H. listed as a manager)
- wax impression, seal of David Humphreys, n.d.
Folder G - Ann Frances Humphreys - correspondence [2]
ALS to Col. John Trumbull, Boston, May 14, 1819
ALS, J. Trumbull to A.F.H., New York, July 3, 1819
Folder H - Biographical sketch of David Humphreys [4]
"A Forgotten Man" by the Rev. Frank Landen Humphreys, 1935 16 typed pp.
- two newspaper clippings, June, 1936, F.L.H. address to Sons of American Revolution newspaper clipping, N.H. Register, May, 1980
Folder I - Family Papers - drawings [3]
Daniel Humphreys (father of D.H. 1707-1787) copy of his seal and coat of arms (Geneal. p. 127)
Ozias Humphry (cousin of D.H. 1742-1812) Book plate designed by Ozias Humphry facsimile of page of Doomsday Book, signed by O.H. - portrait painter to George III (Genealogy, p. 59)
Folder J - Family Papers - report, correspondence [3]
Report from Lake George, Sept, 1755 re battle, sent to John Humphreys (1700/1-1760) uncle of D.H. (Genealogy, p. 123-124)
ALS - John Humphrey to his son, Capt. Elihu (1738-1777), July, 1759 (Genealogy, p. 136)
ALS - Lt. Nathaniel Humphrey (1735-1822) to his father John, Camp Fort Ontario, Oct., 1760
# all reproduced in Humphreys Genealogy after p. 136
Folder K - Family Papers - deeds [1]
Asher Humphrey (1759-1826) to his son, Erastus (1785-1845) for land in Farmington, Conn. May, 1806 (Genealogy, p. 396 & p. 537)
(see Oversize 1 for Samuel Humphreys deed)
Box I - continued

Folder L - Family papers - English document 1687
Bond given by Tobias Humphreys and Samuel Potts to abide by arbitration decision.
(Tobias was assumed to be an ancestor. He cannot be traced in the Genealogy)

Folder M - Xerox copies of selected documents from Folders A-L

Folder N - Papers concerning collection 1935-6, 1975
Correspondence, inventories of weapons, memorabilia and documents given to the Society by F.L. Humphreys.

Folder O - Miscellaneous
Photographs

Folder P - Letter from D.H. (addressee unknown), Oct. 13, 1817
Concerning sea serpent and mentioning Sir Joseph Banks.
(Gift of Fairfield Historical Society, 1996)

Oversize Item 1 - Family papers
- Drawing of Sir John Humphrey, ca. 1390
  (original in British Museum) (Genealogy, p. 33 and index)
- Deed, 1741 - from Samuel Humphreys (1686-1750) to Samuel Talcott for land in Simsbury (Genealogy, p. 252)
- Enlistment certificate, George Humphreys, 19th Reg. Volunteers, New York, June 24, 1861 (Genealogy, p. 954)

Oversize Item 2 - Humphreys Family Coat of Arms