



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Abraham Yates, Jr. papers

1688-1920s [bulk 1754-1795]

MssCol 3405

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Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2023; Archives Unit, 2016; Manuscripts and Archives Division, 2009; accessioned by Richard Salvato, August 1985.

Summary

Creator: Yates, Abraham, 1724-1796

Title: Abraham Yates, Jr. papers

Date: 1688-1920s [bulk 1754-1795]

Size: 2.68 linear feet (7 boxes, 1 oversize folder, 1 volume)

Source: Donated by Victor Hugo Paltsits in 1919.

Abstract: Abraham Yates Jr. (1724-1796) of Albany, New York, was an American lawyer, politician, and political essayist of the Founding Era. He was an Anti-Federalist during the Confederation and Constitutional periods, known for his writings as "Rough Hewer" and "Sidney" in the New York press. Yates held many elected and appointed offices, notably Albany alderman (1753-1773), high sheriff of the city and county of Albany (1754-1759), chairman of the Albany Committee of Correspondence (1775-1776), and member of the four New York Provincial Congresses and the State's first legislative convention (1775-1777), chairing the committee to write the State's constitution. He then served as New York State senator (1777-1790), Continental Loan Officer for New York (1779-1786), delegate to the Confederation Congress (1787-1788), and mayor of Albany (1790-1796). The Abraham Yates Jr. papers, 1688-1920s (bulk 1754-1795), chiefly span his professional and political activities in New York from 1754 until his death in 1796, reflecting his work as sheriff, lawyer, Revolutionary War patriot, public official, political essayist, and avocational historian. The papers comprise correspondence, documents, and printed matter, 1688-1825; a letter book kept while Continental Loan Officer, 1779-1782; journals, including a record of his time as sheriff during the French and Indian War, 1750s-1790s; drafts of his political and historical writings for publication, 1783-1796?; research materials serving his legal, political and historical endeavors, 1750s-1790s; and papers concerning the Manor of Rensselaerswyck, 1761-1700s. Also present are early 20th-century typescript copies of materials in the collection.

Alternative Form Available: Abraham Yates Jr. letterbook, 1779-1782: Available on microfilm; New York Public Library; *ZL-447. Selected items in Series I: Published in The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, edited by John P. Kaminsky and others (Digital Edition, UVA Press; Print Edition, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, also via University of Wisconsin Digital Collections.)

Preferred citation: Abraham Yates, Jr. papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English In English, Dutch, and Latin.

Processing note: Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2023; Archives Unit, 2016; Manuscripts and Archives Division, 2009; accessioned by Richard Salvato, August 1985.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Rare Book Division: Wentworth, Thomas, 1568?-1628. *The office and duty of executors.....* London: Printed by John Streater, for Henry Twiford in Vine-Court, Middle Temple, 1663. From the library of Abraham Yates, Jr.

Creator History

Abraham Yates Jr. (1724-1796) of Albany, New York, was an American lawyer, politician, and political essayist of the Founding Era. He was an Anti-Federalist during the Confederation and Constitutional periods, known for his writings as "Rough Hewer" and "Sidney" in the New York press. Yates held many elected and appointed offices, notably Albany alderman (1753-1773), high sheriff of the city and county of Albany (1754-1759), chairman of the Albany Committee of Correspondence (1775-1776), and member of the four New York Provincial Congresses and the State's first legislative convention (1775-1777), chairing the committee to write the State's constitution. He then served as New York State senator (1777-1790), Continental Loan Officer for New York (1779-1786), delegate to the Confederation Congress (1787-1788), and mayor of Albany (1790-1796). Abraham Yates was the son of blacksmith Christoffel Yates (1684-1754) and Catalyntje Winne, and the grandson of Joseph Yates (d. 1730), an English soldier who settled in Albany. For a time, the family spelled its name as Yetts. Yates added the suffix "Jr." to distinguish himself from others bearing his name. Notable relatives in the Albany-Schenectady area included his eldest brother, Joseph C. Yates (1707-1748); nephews Peter W. Yates (1747-1826) and Christopher P. Yates (1750-1815); and his cousin, the legislator and jurist Robert Yates (1738-1801). Robert Yates was the son of Joseph Yates (born 1714) and Maria Dunbar, and the grandson of Christoffel's brother Robert Yates (1688-1748).

Yates worked his way from shoemaker to merchant, lawyer and officeholder. He entered Albany's civic life in his twenties as fire warden and constable, and served annual terms as an assistant alderman and alderman for the Third Ward in Albany's Common Council from 1753 to 1773.

Abraham Yates Jr. married Antje De Ridder (1726-1795) sometime before the baptism of a son in 1747. Of their several children, only their daughter Susanna (1762-1840) survived to adulthood. She married Abraham G. Lansing (1756-1834) in 1779, residing in the Yates household with her husband. Lansing assisted Yates in his Continental Loan Office duties and later held positions in county and state government. He and his brother John Lansing Jr. (1754-1829?), a lawyer and politician, were both early political proteges of Yates. Robert Yates and John Lansing Jr., along with Alexander Hamilton, were the three New York delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787; Anti-Federalists Yates and Lansing left the Convention in protest.

In Yates' lifetime, Albany grew from an Anglo-Dutch provincial fur-trading center and Hudson River market town to become the capital of New York State (1797). It was incorporated as a chartered city in 1686, and held strategic importance during the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and the Revolutionary War (1775-1783).

After attending the Albany Congress in June-July 1754, Yates was a secretary to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs for several months. In the Fall of that same year, Lieutenant Governor James De Lancey appointed Yates as high sheriff of the city and county of Albany, a position he held until 1759. Yates benefitted from the support of Robert Livingston (1708-1790), third lord of Livingston Manor. His duties as sheriff included enforcing tenant evictions on manor lands and dealing with New England squatters.

His tenure coincided with the most active years of the French and Indian War in the province. The growth of Albany as a garrison and staging area for troops in northern campaigns placed great stress on the populace. Yates confronted British military authorities in Albany such as the Fourth Earl of Loudoun, commander of British forces in North America, for disregarding civil law; quartering troops in households, including Yates' home; and condoning the disorderly and sometimes brutal behavior of troops.

Yates was admitted to the bar in October 1759. Details of his legal education and clerking are uncertain, but his name has been associated with attorneys Peter Silvester (1734–1808) and William Corry (about 1710-1763). William Livingston (1723-1790) of Albany and New York, an attorney and future Revolutionary leader, advised Yates during Yates' conflict with the British while sheriff.

Yates now supported his family as a lawyer and merchant, in addition to income gained from his public duties and real property interests. At times, he fell afoul of prevailing alliances and class interests. Yates lost the sheriff's appointment in 1759, the race for a provincial General Assembly seat in 1761, and re-election to the Common Council in 1773. His artisan past and reliance on public offices for his livelihood provided campaign fodder for his conservative and well-to-do political rivals, who called him a cobbler. Lacking the social standing and wealth of elite families such as the Schuylers, the Van Rensselaers, and the Livingstons, Yates in fact represented a rising and more radical middle-class, a new force in politics.

The American Revolution marked Yates' rise to prominence in provincial and state affairs. He chaired the Albany Committee of Correspondence, the de facto government of Albany, in 1775 and 1776. Yates was elected to the four New York Provincial Congresses spanning May 1775 to July 10, 1776, when the Fourth Congress, meeting at White Plains after British forces occupied lower New York, became the Convention of Representatives of the State of New York. On August 1, 1776, the Convention created a committee to form a plan of government and bill of rights, and Yates, already a member, was appointed chairman not long after. He joined others in drafting the document, although illness accounted for his absence from the Convention from late December, probably until his attendance was again recorded in mid-April, 1777. The Convention adopted the final draft of the Constitution at Kingston on April 20, 1777. Yates had participated in the final deliberations, and joined a small group charged with implementing the constitution, completing their plan on May 8, 1777.

Yates was also a member of the Committee of Safety (later the Council of Safety), which acted from 1775 to early 1778 as an executive body for the formative state government when not in session. He served as temporary president on several occasions in the Provincial Congress, the Convention, and later in Congress, and as president of the Convention in late August-September, 1776.

The New York State Legislature met for the first time at Kingston on September 9, 1777. It met variously at Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Albany, and New York City (beginning in 1784), finally settling at Albany in 1797. Yates served in the state senate from 1777 to 1790 during the long administration of Anti-Federalist Governor George Clinton, twice serving on the State's Council of Appointment. In 1790 Clinton appointed him mayor of Albany.

The British defeat at Saratoga in October 1777 led to France's alliance with the United States by treaty

in February 1778. On November 15, 1777, Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation (ratified March 1, 1781.) France's entry into the war and resulting European loans gave impetus to the reorganization of the Treasury (1778-1781) and its financial system. Yates saw this as an important marker in the movement for a strong national government, manifested in a new executive department exercising fiscal control under Robert Morris ("the Financier"), the Superintendent of Finance from 1781 to 1784.

Clinton appointed Yates as Continental Loan Officer for the State of New York on October 20, 1779. Yates held that office until May 1, 1786, when he was removed by a Congressional resolution for refusing to take a new oath of office with a secrecy clause. The position brought him into conflict with Robert Morris, who appointed Alexander Hamilton as Continental Receiver of Taxes for New York in 1782, and then with the Board of Trade, re-established in 1785.

In the Spring of 1781, the nation faced financial disaster. State requisitions to Congress, the method of funding under the Articles, were erratic and unreliable in wartime. The need for a stable income to meet expenses and pay debt led to two failed attempts to establish federal taxation, the Impost of 1781 and the Impost of 1783. Each resolution required unanimous ratification, difficult to achieve. After Rhode Island blocked the first impost in 1782, nationalists offered a modified version in 1783.

Like others, Yates supported the first impost to fund the war, but during the post-war period came to see the independent source of revenue, collected by Congressional officers, as a threat to state sovereignty. Yates took to the Albany and New York newspapers to fight the 1783 impost, writing essays under the pen name "Rough Hewer." The first, by "A Rough Hewer," appeared on August 4, 1783. Yates was a prolific writer and sometimes wrote extended pieces in serial form. The names "Sidney," "Grotius," and "A Citizen" are also found in his draft writings.

Yates wrote two political pamphlets in 1786. After his removal as Continental Loan Officer, Yates published relevant papers defending himself in *Resolutions and Extracts from the Journals of the Honorable the Congress relative to the Continental Loan-Offices in the Several States; and Certain Letters* (Albany: printed by Charles R. Webster, 1786; Evans 20080). His *Political Papers, Addressed to the Advocates for a Congressional Revenue in the State of New-York* (New York: printed by Shepard Kollock, 1786; Evans 20168) reprinted four 1785 newspaper essays against the impost by "Rough Hewer" (Yates) and one by "Rough Hewer Jr." (a different writer, according to Yates).

Anti-impost forces in the New York State Legislature, Yates among them, defeated ratification of the tax measure in February 1787, despite earlier vacillation by the state, and efforts to save it by Senator Philip Schuyler and Assemblyman Alexander Hamilton. Yates abhorred the "funding system" of the nationalists and opposed the maintenance of a national debt for the rest of his life. The failure of the impost was the last in a series of events leading to the call for a constitutional convention, which met in May.

It angered Yates that the nationalists, now Federalists, overstepped Congress's charge to amend the Articles at the Philadelphia Convention, replacing them with a new constitution for a federal form of government. Recalling political writings of the English Radical Whigs and historical examples of conspiracies and cabals from his readings, Yates questioned the motivations and means behind Federalist goals. He feared that corruption and the abuse of power would lead to tyranny and the loss of liberty if left unchecked.

After the Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787, Yates warned against ratification without amendment and a bill of rights. The New York Ratifying Convention met in Poughkeepsie on June 17, 1788, ratifying the Constitution and proposing amendments on July 26. During that time, New

Hampshire ratified, and the Constitution was officially adopted. Yates and other Anti-Federalists continued pushing for amendments to guarantee the protection of rights, promised by Federalists to ensure ratification. In February 1790, New York approved eleven of the original twelve proposed amendments. The ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights were ratified in 1791 by a majority of the state legislatures.

Abraham Yates served as a delegate to the Confederation Congress in New York City for two terms, in 1787 and 1788. In 1788 Yates helped establish the *Albany Register*, an Anti-Federalist newspaper printed by Robert Barber. Yates was not a member of the Ratifying Convention of June-July 1788. He was then sitting in Congress in New York City, having attended the State legislative session earlier that year. Yates was not, however, one of the New York delegates voting on September 13, 1788 to set the date and place for the new federal government to go into effect, although he had earlier agreed to vote affirmatively if circumstances required his presence. In the previous term, he was the only delegate to vote against passing the Northwest Ordinance on July 13, 1787.

Yates' lifelong belief in the usefulness of historical knowledge permeated his writings. Like other seekers in the Age of Enlightenment, he explored early and contemporary works on natural law and the nature of government, and studied histories of nations and empires for lessons to be gleaned from them. His life in Albany led him to early sources on the history of New Netherland and relations of the Dutch West India Company and European settlers with Native Americans, the loss of the colony to Great Britain in 1664, and the creation of Albany's charter. At some point in his busy career, most likely in the 1780s and 1790s, he applied himself to writing a history of Albany to 1776, left unfinished at his death.

Abraham Yates Jr. continued holding offices in Albany after the Common Council was re-established in 1778, serving variously as recorder, receiver of goods, and postmaster. His mayoral administration (from 1790 until his death on June 30, 1796) was marked by public improvements. The Legislature appointed Yates to be a presidential elector in 1792 when Anti-Federalist (now Democratic-Republican) George Clinton ran for president. Yates demonstrated his belief in the importance of education as a founding trustee of Union College, established in Schenectady in 1795. He wrote for the press until the end of his life.

Sources include:

Bielinski, Stefan. *Abraham Yates, Jr., and the New Political Order in Revolutionary New York*. Albany : New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1975.

Shorto, Russell. *Revolution Song : a Story of American Freedom*. New York : W.W. Norton & Company, [2018]

Wolf, Stephan. *Abraham Yates, Jr. : vergessener Gründervater der amerikanischen Republik*. Münster : LIT Verlag, 1997.

Custodial History

The papers were purchased by Abraham Lansing (1835-1899) and willed to his wife, Catherine Gansevoort Lansing (1838-1918), who deposited the collection with The New York Public Library in 1915. She bequeathed it to Victor Hugo Paltsits, the Library's Keeper of Manuscripts, who donated the collection to the library in 1919. The collection also contains purchases and donations made after the deposit date, notably donations by Howard Townsend in 1917.

Scope and Content Note

The Abraham Yates Jr. papers, 1688-1920s (bulk 1754-1795), chiefly span his professional and political activities in New York from 1754 until his death in 1796, reflecting his work as sheriff, lawyer, Revolutionary War patriot, public official, political essayist, and avocational historian. His mercantile and property interests, his mayoral administration, and his family life are represented to a lesser extent.

The papers comprise correspondence, documents, and printed matter, 1688-1825; a letter book kept while Continental Loan Officer, 1779-1782; journals, including a record of his time as sheriff during the French and Indian War, 1750s-1790s; drafts of his political and historical writings for publication, 1783-1796?; research materials serving his legal, political and historical endeavors, 1750s-1790s; and papers concerning the Manor of Rensselaerswyck, 1761-1700s. Also present are early 20th-century typescript copies of materials in the collection.

Correspondents include Governor George Clinton, Abraham G. Lansing, John Lansing Jr., Robert Livingston (1708-1790), Robert Morris, Melancton Smith, Christopher P. Yates, and Robert Yates. Notable items include Yates' incomplete manuscript draft copy of the New York State Constitution, 1777; his conditional pledge concerning a vote in Congress, 1788 August 8, signed by Alexander Hamilton and others; a bound gathering of political writings known as the "Rough Hewer" manuscript, as well as drafts for a history of Albany; and a 1794 memorandum on his efforts to establish a college in Schenectady, the future Union College.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Albany (N.Y.) -- History
Albany (N.Y.) -- Politics and government
New York (State) -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
New York (State) -- History -- French and Indian War, 1754-1763 -- Personal narratives
New York (State) -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865
New York (State) -- Politics and government -- To 1775
Rensselaerswyck (N.Y.) -- History
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
United States -- History -- Confederation, 1783-1789
United States -- History -- Constitutional period, 1789-1809
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
United States -- Politics and government -- 1775-1783
United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1809

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Broadsides (notices)
Correspondence
Diaries
Financial records
Indexes (reference sources)
Legal documents
Letter books
Local histories
Manuscripts

Property records
Transcripts

Subjects

Constitutional history -- United States -- 18th century
Education -- New York (State) -- Schenectady
Finance, public -- United States
Indians of North America -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
Real property -- New York (State)

Occupations

Essayists.
Lawyers.
Politicians.
Public officers

Names

Clinton, George, 1739-1812
Lansing, Abraham Gerrit, 1756-1834
Lansing, John, 1754-1829
Livingston, Robert, 1708-1790
Morris, Robert, 1734-1806
Smith, Melancton, 1744-1798
Yates, Abraham, 1724-1796
Yates, Christopher Peter, 1750-1815
Yates, Robert, 1738-1801
Van Rensselaer family
New York (State) -- Constitution (1777)
United States -- Constitution
United States. Continental Loan Office -- Correspondence

Container List

Series I. Letters and Documents 1688-1825

Letters and Documents, 1688-1825, pertain to Abraham Yates Jr.'s professional and political activities. The series comprises a large group of letters and documents, 1754-1795, numbered and arranged chronologically by the Library at an earlier time; a small group of documents and fragments not included in the initial numbered arrangement, 1750s-circa 1800; and a letter book, 1779-1782, kept by Yates while Continental Loan Officer for New York State.

Numbered Letters and Documents, 1754-1795, comprise nearly 250 numbered letters and documents in chronological order, pertaining chiefly to the professional and political activities of Abraham Yates Jr. from 1754 to 1795. Present are letters received and sent by Yates; legal and business documents, including affidavits, complaints, invoices and receipts, wills, writs, and property records; printed circulars; and a broadside. The series notably contains an incomplete draft of New York State's first constitution (item 142a, 1777), and Yates' conditional pledge to vote in the affirmative on an act establishing the date and place for the new federal government to meet (item 225, 1788 August 8), signed by Alexander Hamilton and others. An early document, 1688, dates from Peter Schuyler's mayoralty, and two items post-dating Yates' death, 1807 and 1825, are also found. The series includes draft copies and some third-party letters and documents.

Correspondence and documents within this numbered group shed light on his role as sheriff of Albany and Albany County, 1754-1759, his mercantile and legal work during the 1760s and 1770s; his chairmanship of the Albany Committee of Correspondence, 1775-1776; and his dealings with Robert Morris and later the Board of Treasury during his tenure as Continental Loan Officer for the State of New York. Also included are letters to and from Yates in early 1788 while state senator at Poughkeepsie, and later that year while attending Congress in New York City, where he received letters from other Anti-Federalists reporting on the State's ratifying convention in June and July 1788. There are numerous letters from his patron Robert Livingston (1708-1790) during the 1750s-1760s (then signing as Robert Livingston Jr.), and from Abraham G. Lansing, Yates' son-in-law and associate in business and politics. The Yates-Lansing correspondence also contains family news. Other correspondents include Governor George Clinton, John Lansing Jr., Melancton Smith, Christopher P. Yates, and Robert Yates.

Unnumbered documents, 1750s-circa 1800, comprise a manuscript copy of the colonial charter of Albany, with revisions conforming the document to the new state government, 1779; a legal document in a case before the Albany Mayor's Court, circa 1760; and notably, Yates' memorandum of 1794 November 24, recounting his visit to Schenectady to promote the founding of the future Union College. A document wrapper and paper fragments are also included.

Yates' letter book, 1779 October 31-1782 August 11, contains copies of letters sent and received by him during the early years of his tenure as Commissioner of the Continental Loan Office for the State of New York, including accounts of monies, written in several clerical hands. Correspondents include Loan Office and Treasury officials in Philadelphia, among them Treasurer of Loans Francis Hopkinson, Treasurer Michael Hillegas, and Superintendent of Finance Robert Morris; as well as New York State Governor George Clinton.

Numbered Letters and Documents 1688-1825 [bulk 1754-1795]

These materials are grouped here because the Library numbered them at an earlier time. Item descriptions follow a chronological calendar acquired with the collection, with some revision. Calendar collation practice was retained in this series only; pages bearing only endorsements or addresses were not then included in the page count. Item 2, misdated 1697, was a clipped newspaper article entitled "Albany's Population in 1697" (Historical Fragments No. 40), The Argus (Albany, N.Y.), December 10, 1899. It is now placed with its partial transcript in the Transcripts series. The article provided the census taken June 16, 1697, available in print and online sources. See the Abraham Yates Jr. letterbook for copies of his Continental Loan Office correspondence.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Schuyler, Peter [Mayor of Albany] 1688 Dec 4**
1 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
A reply to Dom. Godevridus van Dell's application in regard to the highway.
- b. 1 f. 1 **Ten Eyck, John [Recorder] 1754?**
3 (1 page) (1 page)
Bill of costs in the suit of Andries Wies against Sybrant G. Van Schaick.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 1 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Esq., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1754 Oct 7
4 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Congratulating him on his appointment as Sheriff and requesting that Patrick Magie be retained as "Jaylkeeper."
- b. 1 f. 1 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff of the City and County of Albany 1754 Oct 21
5 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Regretting the appointment of Thos. Morrell as jail-keeper.
- b. 1 f. 2 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates], Esq., High Sheriff of the County of Albany 1754 Dec 12
6 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Requesting him to come down to Claverack and bring a "Writt" with him.
- b. 1 f. 2 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yets [Yates] Junr. Esqr. at Albany 1755 Jan 31
7 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
- b. 1 f. 2 De Lancey, James, addressed to the Corporation of Albany 1755 Feb 10
8 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 2 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1755 Mar 3
9 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
- b. 1 f. 2 Livingston, Robert, Junr. addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1755 Apr 14
10 (quarto 3 pages) (quarto, 3 pages)
- b. 1 f. 3 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1755 May 2
11 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
- b. 1 f. 3 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1755 Jul 16
12 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 3 Hardy, Sir Charles, to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr 1755 Sep 11
13 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Refers to the Lieut. Governor's proclamation and orders Yates to apprehend and carry to goal all persons in his bailiwick guilty of desertion.
- b. 1 f. 3 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esq., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1756 Feb 9
14 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 3 Swart, Dirck, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr, Esqr. at Albany 1756 Mar 18
15 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Referring to five plates sent up to Yates by Esq. Fonda's sloop. Also, bill for same (oblong strip) in Dirck Swart's autograph.
- b. 1 f. 4 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr. at Albany 1756 Mar 31
16 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Relating to some escapes from goal and the best measures to take for the recapture of one called Shoemaker.
- b. 1 f. 4 Murray, Joseph, addressed to William Corry Esquire, Attorney at Law in Albany 1756 Aug 2
17 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Relating to various legal cases.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 4 Banyar, [Goldsbrow], addressed to Abraham Yates Jun. Esq., high Sheriff of the City and County of Albany 1756 Oct 4
18 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Mentions Mr. Silvester.
- b. 1 f. 4 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yettes [Yates] Esqr., High Sheriff of the City and County of Albany 1756 Oct 20
19 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Relating to judgments against rebellious tenants.
- b. 1 f. 4 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Esqr., High Sheriff of the City and County of Albany 1756 Nov 16
20 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 5 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1756 Nov 23
21 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 5 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1756 Dec 15
22 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 5 Werth, Johann Jacob, addressed to Mstr. Abraham Yates, Sheriff lieving [living] in Albany 1757 Apr 9
23 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Reminding him of this promise to send the undersheriff to Schoharie. English translation (20th c.) located in Transcripts.
- b. 1 f. 5 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1757 Apr 14
24 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 5 Wendell, Hermanus 1757 Apr 18
25 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Draft of his will. Signed by Jacop Pruyn, John Ja. Lansingh and Pet. Silvester as witnesses.
- b. 1 f. 6 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1757 Apr 27
26 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Repeating the request in a former letter and desiring him to come down without any loss of time.
- b. 1 f. 6 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff at Albany 1757 May 9
27 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 6 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1757 May 15
28 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Relating to the release from goal of John Van Gelden and his son.
- b. 1 f. 6 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1757 May 18
29 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 6 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Junr. Esqr., Sheriff of County of Albany 1757 Jun 23
30 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Enclosing a proclamation received from Mr. Banyar.
- b. 1 f. 7 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr 1757 Jul 3
31 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Refers to Peter Dow's illness and Col. Schuyler.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 7 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1757 Jul 6
32 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to John Van Gelden's demand for the restitution of his horse, saddle, bridle, guns, etc., which had been taken from him when he was committed to jail.
- b. 1 f. 7 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1757 Jul 19
33 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to the French and Indian War.
- b. 1 f. 7 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yetts [Yates] Esqr. at Albany 1757 Nov 5
34 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Inquiring whether Mr. Bleeker intended to come down to run a line for him.
- b. 1 f. 7 Egbertse, Egbert 1758
35 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
His complaint against Alexander McLane.
- b. 1 f. 8 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1758 Feb 17
36 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Relating to the expedition against Ticonderoga.
- b. 1 f. 8 Wendell Henry I., addressed to Abraham Yates Esq., Sheriff in Albany 1758 Apr 4
37 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 8 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1759 Jan 11
38 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 8 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1759 Feb 10
39 (folio 4 pages) (folio, 4 pages)
Relating to the politics of Albany.
- b. 1 f. 8 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr., High Sheriff of City and County of Albany 1759 Jun 8
40 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to the death of "our old friend, Capt. Winne."
- b. 1 f. 9 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1759 Jun 15
41 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Relating to the French and Indian War.
- b. 1 f. 9 Banyar, [Goldsbrow], addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., High Sheriff of Albany 1759 Jul 16
42 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Enclosing a copy of the Naturalization Act and mentioning Sir William Johnson's tenants.
- b. 1 f. 9 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yeats [Yates] Esqr., High Sheriff for the City and County of Albany 1759 Aug 6
43 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Relating to the French and Indian War.
- b. 1 f. 9 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1759 Aug 30
44 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Referring to Gen. Amhurst [Amherst], Sir William Johnson, Gen. Wolfe, Admiral Rodney and others.
- b. 1 f. 9 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. at Albany 1759 Nov 24
45 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 10 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. at Albany 1760 Jan 3
46 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to his lot in the Saratoga Patent.
- b. 1 f. 10 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1760 Jan 24
47 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Referring to Yates having been removed from office by his enemies.
- b. 1 f. 10 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1760 Feb 8
48 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 10 Cobham, William, addressed to Abram [Abraham] Yates Esq. at Albany 1760 Feb 11
49 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Stating his account against Lewis Deluze and putting same in Yates' hands for collection.
- b. 1 f. 10 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1760 Feb 29
50 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to Yates' work organizing a library in Albany.
- b. 1 f. 11 Cobham, William addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. at Albany 1760 Mar 11
51 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 11 Ven Eps, John E., addressed to Mr. Abram [Abraham] Yates, attorney at law at Albany, to the care of Joseph Yates at Schonechdadie 1760 May 22
52 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Mentions Andries Gardenier and his brother Jacob.
- b. 1 f. 11 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr., Esqr. at Albany 1760 May 30
53 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Contains news about French and Indian War.
- b. 1 f. 11 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Mr. Abraham Yates Junr., Merchant in Albany 1760 Jul 17
54 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to the Albany election, certain lands in Saratoga Patent, making mention of Col. Bradstreet, the Bleckers, Ten Broecks and De Ridders.
- b. 1 f. 12 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr., Esqr. at Albany 1760 Aug 11
55 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to the damage to crops caused by heavy rains all the way from Fishkill up to Albany.
- b. 1 f. 12 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Mr. Abraham Yates Junr., at Albany 1760 Sep 3
56 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to the good news that "our Armyes are now in possession of all Canada...." Also mentions Yates' desire to again obtain the office of sheriff.
- b. 1 f. 12 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr. at Albany 1760 Sep 9
57 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 12 Whitney, Thomas, addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. at Albany 1760 Oct 6
58 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Asking Yates to take care of two "rites" [writs?] against Robert Noble.
- b. 1 f. 12 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Mr. Abraham Yates Junr. Merchant in Albany 1760 Oct 13
59 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 12 Whitney, Thomas, to Abraham Yates Junr 1760 Oct 29
60 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Telling him he had settled his action with Robert Noble.
- b. 1 f. 13 Yates, Abraham, Junr., addressed to "Sir." 1760 Oct 29
61 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Relative to the sale of certain lands.
- b. 1 f. 13 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. at Albany 1760 Nov 7
62 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Responds to Yates' letter of Oct. 29; refers to the sale of lands in the Saratoga Patent by the Bleekers, Mr. Ten Broeck and Schuyler and "your old uncle Killiaen."
- b. 1 f. 13 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. at Albany 1760 Nov 13
63 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 13 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. at Albany 1760 Dec 10
64 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to Killiaen De Ridder's title to lands in the Saratoga Patent.
- b. 1 f. 13 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. in Albany 1761 Jan 22
65 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to a petition addressed by the Corporation of the City of Albany to "the President and Council."
- b. 1 f. 14 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1761 Feb 4
66 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Referring to the election in Albany and mentioning various candidates.
- b. 1 f. 14 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1761 Feb 6
67 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Referring to the coming election and the difference of opinion existing between Yates and Ten Broeck.
- b. 1 f. 14 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. at Albany 1761 Feb 8
68 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to Yates' standing for the coming election.
- b. 1 f. 14 Livingston, Robert, Junr 1761 Feb 8
69 (1 page) (1 page)
Copy of a letter sent by Livingston to Messrs. Douw and Ten Eyck. It was enclosed in Livingston's letter to Yates dated Feb. 16, 1761 [item 71].
- b. 1 f. 14 Yates, Abraham, Junr 1761 Feb 16
70 (folio 6 pages) (folio, 6 pages)
Relating to the election in Albany. Mentions Abraham Ten Broeck's dishonorable conduct toward Yates, Sir William Johnson's influence, etc.
- b. 1 f. 15 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Mr. Abraham Yates, Junr., merchant at Albany 1761 Feb 16
71 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Refers to dishonorable methods used at elections.
- o. 1 Yates, Abraham, Junr 1761 Feb 21
72 (folio 4 pages) (folio, 4 pages)
Endorsed: "A. Yates Junrs. observation on Limits of the City 1761."

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 15 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Mr. Abraham Yates Junr., Merchant at Albany 1761 Mar 26
73 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to Yates' failure at the recent election.
- b. 1 f. 15 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1761 May 11
74 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to Yates' desire to be appointed sheriff on the death of the person then holding the office.
- b. 1 f. 15 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Mr. James Stevenson, Merchant in Albany 1761 Jul 9
75 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 16 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. in Albany 1761 Jul 21
76 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to Mr. Stevenson and some business with the sheriff.
- b. 1 f. 16 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. at Albany 1761 Jul 28
77 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 1 f. 16 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. at Albany 1761 Aug 5
78 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Refers to the disposition of the troops then stationed on Staten Island; to the war on the Continent; mentions Col. Grant, Sir William Johnson and Gen. Monckton.
- b. 1 f. 16 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. at Albany 1761 Dec 2
79 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Wishes Hendrick Bogart to come down to put a new bottom in his sloop.
- b. 1 f. 16 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr., Esqr., Attorney at Law in Albany 1761 Dec 8
80 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Relating to affairs in Germany, Spain, Denmark, Russia, etc.; also commenting on domestic news.
- b. 2 f. 1 Wendell, Harmanus H., addressed to his father, Harmanus Wendell, Merchant in Albany 1762 Jan 16
81 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 2 f. 1 Wendell, Harmanus 1762 Jan 23
82 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Memorial addressed by Harmanus Wendell, Lucas Van Veghten and another to Sir Jeffrey Amherst, Commander in Chief of all his Majesties forces in America, requesting a pass to go from Albany to Montreal.
- b. 2 f. 1 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr., Attorney at Law in Albany 1762 Feb 8
83 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Referring to a "white seader swamp" and enclosing a letter of Yates' relating to Van Bergen's land.
- b. 2 f. 1 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Attorney at Law in Albany 1762 Mar 4
84 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Referring to the unpleasant feeling existing between the late and present mayors, and mentioning the sale of lots in the Saratoga Patent.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)

Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 1 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr.,
Attorney at Law in Albany 1762 Mar 13
85 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Mentions Killiaen De Ridder, Mr. Lydius, Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Silvester.
- b. 2 f. 2 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr.,
Attorney at Law in Albany 1762 Apr 19
86 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to the request of the English "Prisbaterians" for a meeting-house, where the "Grenery" now stands.
- b. 2 f. 2 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr.,
Attorney at Law in Albany 1762 May 8
87 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 2 f. 2 Duncan, John, addressed to Mr. William Corry Esq. in Albany 1762 Aug 17
88 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Refers to the cost of some suit.
- b. 2 f. 2 Livingston, Robert, Junr., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. at
Albany 1762 Sep 13
89 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Referring to trouble in the church and mentioning the birth of a child in Yates' family.
- b. 2 f. 2 Yates, Abraham, Junr 1762 Sep 27
90 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to the division of a Patent "that Joins on the Half Moon."
- b. 2 f. 3 Livingston, Robert, Junr., to Abraham Yates Junr 1762 Dec 2
91 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Referring to Col. Van Rensselaer's meeting with his tenants and the validity of their leases. Also mentions Mr. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer.
- b. 2 f. 3 Corry, William, addressed to Mr. Joseph Howard, Merc[han]t in Montreal
1763 Mar 11
92 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Enclosing a bond of Hans Legar due to Alexander McKay.
- b. 2 f. 3 Williston, John, addressed to Mr. Wm. Yates at Albany, Attorney at Law
1764 Jul 18
93 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Asking advice as to how he should proceed in his action with Parsons.
- b. 2 f. 3 Van Rensselaer, Jeremiah, addressed to Robert Yates, Esqr., Attorney at
Law, Albany 1764 Sep 9
94 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Asking him to arrest immediately one Jacob Coha[...] [...] Cloverack.
- b. 2 f. 3 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Samuel Dunham 1764 Sep 13
95 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Relative to his suit with Thomas Smith Junr. of Charles Town, South Carolina.
- b. 2 f. 4 Van Rensselaer, Stephen 1764 Sep 17
96 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Receipt given by him to Abraham Yates Junr.
- b. 2 f. 4 Winne, Jellis 1765 Jan
97 (1 page) (1 page)
His bill against Abraham Yates Junr., the same being receipted July 10, 1765.
- b. 2 f. 4 McKay, Alexander, addressed to Mr. Abraham Yatts [Yates] Esqr. Attorney
at Law in Albany 1765 Feb 7
98 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
His bill against Jno. McFall for the amount of which he brings suit.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 4 **Ten Eyck, Jacob C. [Judge]** 1765 May 25
99 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Affidavit of Christian Ehl in his case against Thomas Winn.
- b. 2 f. 4 **Yates, Abraham, Junr** 1766 Nov 4
100 (1 page) (1 page)
His affidavit relative to the head of a wolf brought before him by Michael Lantman.
- b. 2 f. 5 **Yates, Robert** 1767 Jan
101 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Copy of complaint of Thomas Winn, through Robert Yates his attorney, against Christian Aile, for selling him a bay stallion under false pretences and asking damages to the extent of eighteen pounds.
- b. 2 f. 5 **Silvester, Peter** 1767 May 19
102 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Bill of costs in suit of Janneke Van Hoosen against Dirck Van Derheyden, receipted by Silvester as attorney for defendant.
- b. 2 f. 5 **Wendall, Evert** 1767 Jun
103 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Draft of indenture (part of it in the autograph of Abraham Yates Junr.) between Evert Wendell and Hendrick Wendell of Sinckhaick, of the one part, and John Johannis Fonda, son of Susanna, one of the daughters of Abraham Wendell deceased of the Colony of Rensselaer Wyck, of the other part.
- b. 2 f. 5 **De Lancey, Stephen [Clerk]** 1767 Jun 5
104 (1 page) (1 page)
Order issued to the Sheriff of Albany County to sell the "chattels, lands & Tenements of James Howells" to satisfy his debt to John Magee. Endorsed on the back by Har. Schuyler, Sheriff.
- b. 2 f. 5 **Yates, Peter** 1767 Nov. 16, circa 1776
105 (folio 5 pages) (folio, 5 pages)
Abstract prepared 1767 Nov. 16 by Stephen De Lancey, clerk, of an indenture of mortgage from William Regel on the one part and Johannis S. Pruyn and Peter Yates of the other part for a house and lot of ground in the Second Ward of Albany (1 p.); followed by a document (4 p., numbered p. 2-5) copying the assignment of the mortgage from Pruyn and Yates to Johannis Goewy Jr. on May 30, 1769, and Johannis J. Goewy's assignment of same to Robert Hoaksley on April 10, 1776. Originally signed by Johannis Samuel Pruyn and Peter Yates (1769), and Johannis J. Goewy (1776); witnesses include Matthew Visscher and Christopher P. Yates (1769).
- b. 2 f. 6 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., draft of letter to Alexander McKay** 1768 Feb 8
106 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Relative to his various legal suits.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Taylor, William, addressed to Mr. Ome La Grange living at the Hellebargh**
1768 Mar 23
107 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Mentioning his father's will and advising him to subject Ary La Grange to a strict cross-questioning regarding the same.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Rogers, John, addressed to Mr. Abraham Yates, attorney at law in Albany**
1768 Sep 24
108 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Asking information regarding some cases at law.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., addressed to Mr. Hyde, son of Capt. Hide at Sarachtoge, behind Walran Clute** 1769 Apr 11
109 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Requesting him to come down, get his lease and pay the debt which his father owed.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Wendell, Harmanus** 1769 May 25
110 (folio 4 pages) (folio, 4 pages)
Draft of his will, part of it in the writing of Abraham Yates Junr.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)

Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 7 **Winne, Anthony, addressed to Mr. Abraham Yeats [Yates] at Albany 1769**
Sep 5
111 (small quarto 1 page) (small quarto, 1 page)
Requesting him to collect from Peter Bronck the money he was owing Winne for a load of hay.
- b. 2 f. 7 **Van Schaick, Wessel 1770 Aug 24**
112 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Two bills of exchange drawn on Messrs. Sargent Chambers and Co., Merchants in London, in favor of Wessel Van Schaick and signed by Reade and Yates.
- b. 2 f. 7 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Samuel Jones Esqr., in behalf of Corporation**
1771 Feb 3
113 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Requesting his opinion in a case on behalf of the Corporation of Albany with reference to the Van Baalens or Normans Kill Patent and the Colony of Rensselaerwyck Patent.
- o. 1 **Yates, Abraham, Junr 1771 Mar 19**
114 (large folio 6 pages) (large folio, 6 pages)
Relating to the first settlement of Albany. Endorsed by Samuel Jones: "Letter from Abraham Yates, Junr."
- b. 2 f. 7 **Ten Eyck, Henry, Junr 1771 May 14**
115 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
His receipt for 42 pounds 6 schillings.
- b. 2 f. 8 **Banyar, George [Goldsbrow], to the Hon. Robert R. Livingston and George Duncan Ludlow, Esquires 1771 Jun 5**
116 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 2 f. 8 **Jones, Samuel, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr in Albany 1771 Jul 12**
117 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Responds to Yates' request for his opinion on land rights and the early settlement of Albany.
- b. 2 f. 8 **De Lancey, Stephen [Clerk] 1772 Jan 24**
118 (1 page) (1 page)
Order issues to the Sheriff of Albany to bring one Benjamin Springer before the next Inferior Court of Common Pleas.
- b. 2 f. 8 **Yates, Abraham 1772 Jun**
119 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Complaint made by John Mohawney, through Abraham Yates, his attorney, against Benjamin Springer for failure to pay him various sums of money borrowed from said Mohawney.
- b. 2 f. 8 **De Lancey, Stephen [Clerk] 1772 Jun 5**
120 (1 page) (1 page)
Order issued to the Sheriff of Albany County to bring John Mohany before the next Inferior Court of Common Pleas.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Douw, Volckert P. [Judge] 1772 Sep 22**
121 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Referring to Benjamin Springer's delivery to Bail.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Mohawney, John 1772 Sep 30**
122 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
An order to pay Cornelius Glen the amount due him. Signed by Matthew Visscher, Abraham Yates Junr. and Cornelius Glen.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Winn, John. Addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr 1773 May 4**
123 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Asking him to call on him as soon as possible to give his advice regarding action toward his creditors.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 9 **Schuyler, Philip; Ten Broeck, Abraham; Livingston, Peter R.; addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. Chairman of the Committee of Correspondance, Albany 1774 Feb 25**
124 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Referring to important decisions of the House of Assembly.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Yates, Richard 1774 March 23**
125 (1 page) (1 page)
Order on Messrs. Sargent Chambers and Co. of London to pay one hundred pounds to Evert Bancker. Endorsed by Evert Bancker.
Photocopy only. Original is missing
- b. 2 f. 10 **Yates, Abraham, Junr 1774 Dec 10**
126 (folio 10 pages) (folio, 10 pages)
Drafts of a letter and resolutions passed at a meeting of the Committee of Correspondence of the City and County of Albany. Refers principally to the needs of the inhabitants of Boston and the determination of the citizens of Albany to send them a contribution of feed, money, etc.
- b. 2 f. 10 **Low, Isaac [Chairman], to Mr. Jacob Lansingh, Chairman of the Committee of the City and County of Albany 1774 Dec 15**
127 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Relating to some goods forwarded to Mr. Abraham Schuyler and Mr. Andrew McFarlin.
- b. 2 f. 10 **Six Nations 1775**
128 (quarto 3 pages) (quarto, 3 pages)
Endorsed: "Answer of the Six Nations to the Speech of the 12 United Colonies 1775". Also, Document, 1 p. quarto, endorsed "Speech to the Indians when they recd the Presents."
- b. 2 f. 10 **Bleecker, Henry, to John N. Bleecker and Rutger Bleecker, Committee 1775 Mar 21**
129 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Stating two questions on which it is requested "that the Inhabitants of this ward Signify their assent or Dissent". Also signed Jacob Bleecker, Jacob Guyler, Baren Roseboom and others.
- b. 2 f. 10 **Yates, Robert, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Chairman of the Comittee [sic], Albany 1775 Sep 6**
130 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Introducing Col. Flemming, "a gentleman appointed by this Congress adjutant General to the Army under the Command of General Schuyler.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Brewster, Samuel, Addressed to Abraham Yates Junr., Esquire, Albany 1776 Jan 2**
131 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Also signed by Jno. Morin Scott, Pierre Van Cortlandt, Paul Spooner and others.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Gansevoort, Leonard, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Chairman of the Comittee [sic] of the City and County of Albany 1776 Feb 13**
132 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Transmitting parcels of pamphlets. Also signed by Henry Oothoudt and Robert Van Rensselaer.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Benson, Robert (Secretary) 1776 Mar 13**
133 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
A copy of Resolves of Congress to give money on loan to the counties mentioned.
- b. 2 f. 11 **McKerlie, John 1776 May 18**
134 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
His affidavit concerning Ensign Howard.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 11 **Jansen, Dirck, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Chairman of the Committee at Albany 1776 May 19**
135 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Asking for six gentleman to come down to assist the militia of Dutchess County in their movement against the disaffected people in his district.
- b. 2 f. 12 **Yates, Christopher P., addressed to Abraham Yates Esq. and in his absence to Matthew Visscher Esq. in Albany 1776 Jun 8**
136 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Asking assistance from the Albany Committee.
- b. 2 f. 12 **Yates, Abraham, Junr 1776 Jun 10**
137 (Small square piece, dated Albany)
Draft of letter in his autograph, endorsed: "to Rd. Yates." Concerning the sale of some wine.
- b. 2 f. 12 **Gansevoort, Leonard 1776 Jun 27**
138 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Summons to William Badkers of Westchester County, issued by a Committee of the Congress of the Colony of New York, ordering him to appear before said committee and give proof of his allegiance to the American cause. Also signed by Philip Livingston, Thomas Randall, Gouv. Morris, Thomas Tredwell and Lewis Graham.
- b. 2 f. 12 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., addressed to the Committee of Albany 1776 July 26**
139 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Also signed by Mat. Adgate and Jno. J. Bleecker.
- b. 2 f. 12 **Visscher, Matthew, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr 1776 Aug 19**
140 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Narrating the experiences of Major Bigelow, who was sent with a flag from the American Army at Isle aux Noir to the Commander of the British troops.
- b. 2 f. 13 **Yates, Robert 1776 Oct 29**
141 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Extracts from the Resolves of the Committee of Safety for the State of New York. In reference to the purchase of wheat for the use of the Continental Army and the exemption of certain coopers from militia duty.
- b. 2 f. 13 **Visscher, Matthew, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Kingston 1777 Aug 15**
142 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Referring to the condition of Schoharie, mentioning Gen. Arnold as "gone to the westward," and repeating Col. Willett's description of affairs at Fort Schuyler (Stanwix).
- o. 1 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., draft of the New York State Constitution 1777**
142a (folio 18 pages) (folio, 18 pages) (folio, 18 pages)
This is an incomplete manuscript draft of the first Constitution of the State of New York, including sections on voting procedures, election or appointment of state officials, duties of the governor and lieutenant governor, pardons and impeachment, and other matters. The document (18 pages on 9 leaves) is paginated 11-16, 17-18 (four pages numbered on rectos only), 22-29. The handwriting on pages 11 through part of 15, and parts of pages 25 and 26, is unidentified; the remainder, as well as the pagination, is in Yates' handwriting. The text bears only a few revisions. The draft can be dated to early 1777 based on published sources. This document was initially numbered 224, with a supplied date of 1788. It was removed to this location with a revised date of 1777 prior to early microfilming.
The final draft from which the Constitution was printed is held at the New York State Archives (New York State. Secretary of State. First Constitution of the State of New York, 1777.) Digital images are available online, with suggested resources. See Charles Z. Lincoln, *Constitutional History of New York* (1906), Volume 1, page 490 and following. Lincoln collated two drafts at the State Library which were later destroyed by fire in 1911. The sections corresponding to the Yates draft are found on pages 507-539. For a detailed discussion of Yates' manuscript in comparison with those and other drafts and records, in a chronological context, see Bernard Mason, *The Road to Independence: The Revolutionary Movement in New York, 1773-1777* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2014), pages 213-249 at muse.jhu.edu/book/37946 and William A. Polf, *The Political Revolution And New York's First Constitution* (Albany: New York State Bicentennial Commission, 1977), page 62.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 13 **Congress, Committee of 1780 May 25-Jun 23**
143 (folio, 2 separate pieces 8 pages) (folio, 2 separate pieces, 8 pages)
Copies of letters sent to His Excellency George Clinton, Govr. of the State of New York. Also several copies of letters of Gen. Washington.
- b. 2 f. 14 **New York Legislature to Continental Congress 1781 Feb 5**
144 (folio 16 pages) (folio, 16 pages)
Contemporary copy, explaining the inability of New York State to comply with the requisitions of Congress. Endorsed by Yates: 1781 Feb 5 Legislature to Congress.
- b. 2 f. 14 **Yates, Christopher P., addressed to Henry Glen Esq., A.D.Q.M. Genl., Schenectady 1781 Apr 7**
145 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Declining to accept a seat in either House of the Legislature, for family reasons.
- b. 2 f. 14 **Morris, Robert, to His Excellency, the Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of New York 1781 Jul 16**
146 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Concerning the account of the United States against the State of New York.
- b. 2 f. 15 **Morris, Robert, to Governor Clinton 1781 Jul 25**
147 (folio 5 pages) (folio, 5 pages)
Concerning the account against the State of New York for specific supplies and seeking information of Gov. Clinton on various points.
- b. 2 f. 15 **Morris, Robert, probably addressed to Gov. Clinton 1781 Oct 19**
148 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Pointing out the erroneous ideas held by Americans as to the financial aid given by France, Spain and Holland to the United States.
- b. 2 f. 15 **Clinton, George [Governor], to His Excellency, John Hanson Esq., President of Congress 1781 Nov 24**
149 (folio 7 pages) (folio, 7 pages)
Contemporary copy of his letter; with: Copy of the concurrent resolutions of the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York of the 21st November 1781.
- b. 2 f. 16 **Robert Morris to the President of Congress 1782 July 29**
150 (quarto 24 pages) (quarto, 24 pages)
Incomplete contemporary copy of Morris' letter, explaining at length his scheme for funding the national debt. A typescript copy of the concluding text only, copied from the Robert Morris letter books in the Library of Congress, is found in the Transcripts.
- b. 2 f. 17 **L'Hommedieu, Ezra, addressed to the Honble Abraham Yates Junr. Esquire, Albany 1782 Aug 2**
151 (quarto 3 pages) (quarto, 3 pages)
Refers to Yates' desire to obtain the position of Receiver of Taxes; mentions the acknowledgment of American Independence by Holland, and the death of Col. Lawrence near Charles Town.
- b. 2 f. 17 **Queres proposed by the Auditors appointed to settle the Accots. of the States of Maryland & New Jersey with the United States with the answers thereto by the Comptroller of the Treasury. Loan Office Papers Miscelaneous. [Endorsement] 1782 Sep 7**
152 (8 pages) (8 pages)
Letter of James Milligan to the Commissioner for Settling the Accounts of the State of New York, dated Comptrollers office, Philadelphia, 1 Apr 1783, with Letter of Robert Morris to the Commissioners for Settling Accounts of the States, dated Office of Finance, 7 Sep 1782 (contemporary copies by William Barber, 3 p. folio). And: Queries proposed [to the Comptroller of Continental Congress] by Commissioners for liquidating accounts of New Jersey and Maryland with answers. (2 p. folio). Also, a newspaper clipping giving a statement of the Maryland Intendent's Office, Annapolis, 3 Sep. 1782, respecting monies emitted.
- b. 2 f. 18 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to James Duane Esq 1782 Sep 7**
153 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to his disappointment in not being appointed Receiver of Taxes.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 18 Morris, Robert, to Abraham Yates Esq., Loan Officer for New York 1782 Sep 9
154 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
- b. 2 f. 18 Duane, James to Abraham Yates Junr 1782 Sep 15
155 (quarto 4 pages) (quarto, 4 pages)
Stating the Financier's (Morris') reasons for keeping the offices of Receiver and Loan Officer separate.
- b. 3 f. 1 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to the Honble Robert Morris Esq., Superintendent of Finance 1782 Sep 21
156 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Refers to the Bill of Exchange which he will transmit with the returns for the present month.
- b. 3 f. 1 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to the Honble Robert Morris, Esq., Superintendent of Finance 1782 Oct 4
157 (small quarto 1 page) (small quarto, 1 page)
Transmitting a return for the month of September and also a bill of exchange.
- b. 3 f. 1 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to the Hon'ble James Duane and Ezra L'Hommedieu 1782 Oct 19
158 (quarto 3 pages) (quarto, 3 pages)
Draft of letter giving the substance of a conversation with Col. Hamilton.
- b. 3 f. 1 Morris, Robert, to Abraham Yates Junr. Esquire, Contl. Loan Officer for the State of New York 1782 Oct 23
159 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 1 McCall, J. [Secretary], to Abraham Yates Esqr., Commissioner of the C.L.O for the State of New York 1782 Oct 23
160 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Concerning a Bill of Exchange.
- b. 3 f. 2 L'Hommedieu, Ezra, addressed to The Honorable Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Albany, favoured by Colo. Gonsavolt [Gansevoort] 1782 Oct 28
161 (quarto 3 pages) (quarto, 3 pages)
Referring to his demands for compensation for his services as Loan Officer.
- b. 3 f. 2 Loan Office. Endorsed: "Return for October, 1782. Copy." 1782 Mar 18
162 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 2 Appleton, Nathaniel, addressed to Mr. Abraham Yates Junr., Commisr. of Loans N. York, Albany 1782 Nov 1
163 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 2 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to the Honbl. Robert Morris Esq., Superintendent of Finance, Philadelphia 1782 Nov 4
164 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 2 Morris, Robert, to Abraham Yates Esqr., Loan Officer of the State of New York at Albany 1782 Nov 29
165 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 3 Petry, William; Frank, John; Fox, Friedenrich 1785 Feb 10
166 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Their appraisal of certain lands forfeited by John Tompson. Endorsed: "The within supposed to have been sold by Gen. Gansevoort & Jeremiah Van Rensselaer."
- b. 3 f. 3 Howell, David [Judge], addressed to Honorable Abraham Yates Junr. Esquire, Albany 1785 Jul 12
167 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 3 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Judge David Howell** 1785 Aug 29
168 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Refers to the pamphlets of Dr. Price and the Abbe De Mably and the five points discussed in them, relative to the dangers threatening the government.
- b. 3 f. 3 **[Gansevoort, Leonard, Sr.], to "Mr. Printer."** 1786
169 (folio 7 pages) (folio, 7 pages)
Draft of a letter to a newspaper, relative to the superior claims of Abraham Ten Broeck to receive the suffrages of his countrymen rather than Abraham Yates.
- b. 3 f. 3 **Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esq., New Y ork**
1786 Jan 25
170 (3 pages) (3 pages)
- b. 3 f. 4 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to [Abraham G. Lansing]** 1786 Feb 1
171 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Encloses copy of his letter to the Board of Treasury. He will dine at the Governor's where he expects to see Col. Monson and others who will probably give him information about the Loan Office. With: Autograph copy of his letter to the Board of Treasury, signed by Yates. 3 p. folio, dated New York, 30 Jan. 1786.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Bancker, Gerard [Treasurer]** 1786 Feb 20
172 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Receipt given Abraham Yates Junr. for "Interest Facility Certificates" amounting to \$72,405.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Yates, Abraham Junr., addressed to Abm. G. Lansing, Post Master, Albany**
1786 Mar 1
173 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Mentions Duer, Bancker, Osgood and refers to the oath of office which he was required to take.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Osgood, Samuel; Livingston, Walter; Lee, Arthur, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., New York** 1786 Mar 1
174 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Regarding his oath of office as Commissioner of the Loan Office.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Visscher, Matthew, to Abraham Yates Esq** 1786 Mar 6
175 (folio 4 pages) (folio, 4 pages)
Refers to a petition of George G. Klock's and touches upon many political points.
- b. 3 f. 5 **Osgood, Samuel; Livingston, Walter; Lee, Arthur, to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr** 1786 Mar 28
176 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Transmitting a resolve of Congress in reference to the oath of office and returning the oath left by Yates at the office of the Board of Treasury. With: Oath of office, signed by Abraham Yates Junr. and witnessed by John Sloss Hobart, dated March 3, 1786.
- b. 3 f. 5 **Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Mr. Hendrick Gardineer, near Upper Ferry** 1786 Apr 19
177 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Referring to the approaching election and the "Great Exertions made by the Manor and Schuyler Interest to prevent the Election of our Old Friend Abraham Yates Junr."
- b. 3 f. 5 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Doc [John] Cochran, Esq., Commissioner of the Contin[ental] Loan Office for the State of New York** 1786 May 30
177a (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Referring to delivery of monies and transmittal of books and papers.
This item was not listed on the original calendar but appears after item 177 on old microfilm. Original bears the pencilled notation "C.G.L. 1910 [Catherine Gansevoort Lansing.]"
- b. 3 f. 5 **Smith, William, addressed to Abraham Yates Esqr. in Albany** 1786 Jul 18
178 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to his serious illness and sends remembrances to his friends in Albany.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 5 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to William Smith, Long Island 1786 Jul 27**
179 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Expressing sympathy on account of his illness and extending an invitation to Smith and his wife to make a visit in Albany.
- b. 3 f. 5 **Lansing, Abraham G., to Abraham Yates Junr 1786 Dec 3**
180 (quarto 4 pages) (quarto, 4 pages)
Referring to a report of the Loan Office and mentioning Col. Barber, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Osgood and others. Also mentions Mr. Bancker's serious injury by a fall from a horse.
- o. 1 **Milligan, James [Comp. of the Treasury], to "The Honorable The Board of Treasury" 1786 Dec 9**
181 (large folio 4 pages) (large folio, 4 pages)
Refers to the settlement of Abraham Yates Junr's accounts as Loan Officer.
- b. 3 f. 6 **Barber, William, to Abraham Yates Esquire 1787 Feb 1**
182 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Requesting his assistance in procuring an appointment as a member of the Board of Commissioners.
- b. 3 f. 6 **Lansing, Abraham, G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. to the care of Wm. Bedlow Esqr., New York 1787 Apr 8**
183 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Relating to Loan Office matters, an altercation with the Treasury Board, etc.
- b. 3 f. 6 **Yates, Robert, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Member of Congress at New York 1787 Jun 1**
184 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Refers to the Philadelphia Convention.
- b. 3 f. 6 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to an unidentified recipient 1787 Jun 2**
185 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to canvassing the votes for Senator.
- b. 3 f. 7 **Lansing, Abraham, G., to Abraham Yates Junr 1787 Jun 4**
186 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 7 **Silvester, Peter, addressed to The Honble Abraham Yates Esqr., New York 1787 Jun 19**
187 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Concerning the overpayment of a certain Mr. Beache.
- b. 3 f. 7 **Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junior Esquire, New York 1787 Aug 26**
188 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Refers to his brother John Lansing Jr. and Mr. Hamilton.
- b. 3 f. 7 **Yates, Peter W., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr., Leonard Gansevoort and John D. P. Ten Eyck, Esquires, Pokeepsy 1788 Jan 21**
189 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to a petition presented to the Legislature by Mary Elmendorph.
- b. 3 f. 7 **Lott, Abraham, to The Honorable Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., of the Senate at Poughkeepsie 1788 Jan 22**
190 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to his confinement in goal and a memorial which he wished to have laid before the Legislature.
- b. 3 f. 8 **Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Poughkeepsie 1788 Jan 23**
191 (quarto 3 pages) (quarto, 3 pages)
- b. 3 f. 8 **Smith, Melancton, addressed to The Honl. Abraham Yates Junr. Esq., Poughkeepsie 1788 Jan 23**
192 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 8 Smith, Melancton, addressed to The Honl. Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr.,
Poughkeepsie 1788 Jan 28
193 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Refers to the adoption of the Constitution.
- b. 3 f. 8 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., to the care
of postmaster, Poughkeepsie 1788 Jan 31
194 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 8 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Abraham G. Lansing 1788 Feb 28
195 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 9 Lansing, Abraham G 1788 Mar 1
196 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Requesting that a printer be sent up from New York with his press to look after the publication
of a paper to be called The Albany Register. Signed by Abraham G. Lansing, John Lansing
Junr., Jeremiah Van Rensselaer and others.
- b. 3 f. 9 Lansing, Abraham G., to Abraham Yates Junr 1788 Mar 2
197 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to the desire of Lansing and his friends to have an unprejudiced printer in Albany. A
postscript in handwriting of and signed by Henry Oothoudt.
- b. 3 f. 9 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., to the
house of Mr. Powers, Poughkeepsie 1788 Mar 12
198 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 9 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Abraham G. Lansing 1788 Mar 14
199 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Relating to politics.
- b. 3 f. 9 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Abraham G. Lansing 1788 Mar 18
200 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 10 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. in
Congress, New York 1788 May 27
201 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 10 Yates, Abraham Junr., addressed to Abm. G. Lansing Esqr., Albany 1788
May 28
202 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Reports a conversation held with Col. Hamilton.
- b. 3 f. 10 Visscher, Matthew, addressed to Ab. Yates Junr., John McKesson and
Melancton Smith Esqr., New York 1788 May 30
203 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 10 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. in
Congress, New York 1788 Jun 1
204 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Refers to the returns of the recent election and the probability of a majority in the state.
- b. 3 f. 10 Yates, Abraham Junr., to Abraham G. Lansing 1788 Jun 1
205 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to the Assembly Election and the hopes of the Federalists for the adoption of the
Constitution.
- b. 3 f. 11 Smith, William, to Abraham Yates Esqr 1788 Jun 12
206 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Refers to the new Constitution.
- b. 3 f. 11 Van Rensselaer, Jeremiah, to Abraham Yates Junr 1788 Jun 13
207 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 11 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., New York
1788 Jun 15
208 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 11 Yates, Abraham, Junr., addressed to Abraham G. Lansing Esq., Post
Office, Albany 1788 Jun 15
209 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Refers to the adoption of the Constitution.
- b. 3 f. 11 Oothoudt, Henry, addressed to Honorable Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. in
Congress, New York 1788 Jun 21
210 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Recounts events of the first days of the Constitutional Convention; encloses copy of
resolution, agreed, that the proposed plan of government be discussed clause by clause, and
no question put until the whole had been gone through. With: text of resolution, 1 p., in
another hand.
- b. 3 f. 12 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. to the care
of Willm. Bedlow Esqr., New York 1788 Jun 22
211 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Refers to the Ratifying Convention.
- b. 3 f. 12 Yates, Abraham, Junr., addressed to Abm. G. Lansing Esq., Post Master,
Albany 1788 Jun 23
212 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to his suit against Claxton, the printer, and gives some of his ideas in regard to the
education of children.
- b. 3 f. 12 Yates, Abraham, Junr., addressed to Abraham G. Lansing Esqr., Albany
1788 Jun 25
213 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
- b. 3 f. 12 Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Governor Clinton 1788 Jun 27
214 (quarto, dated New York 2 pages) (quarto, dated New York, 2 pages)
Refers to the news from New Hampshire and the loan from Holland. Both drafts are endorsed
by Yates, the first dated June 27, 1788 at New York.
- b. 3 f. 12 Yates, Christopher P., addressed to the Hon. Abraham Yates Esq., in
Congress, New York 1788 Jun 27
215 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Relating to the adoption of the Constitution.
- b. 3 f. 13 Oothoudt, Henry, addressed to Honorable Abraham Yates Junr. in
Congress, New York 1788 Jun 27
216 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 13 Clinton, George [Gov.], to the Honble Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr 1788 Jun 28
217 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
- b. 3 f. 13 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr. to the care
of William Bedlow Esqr., New York 1788 Jun 29
218 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Referring to the Constitutional Convention.
- b. 3 f. 13 Yates, Abraham, Junr., addressed to Abraham G. Lansing, Post Master,
Albany 1788 Jun 29
219 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Refers to debate over ratification of the Constitution in New York and Virginia, and payment of
the country's debts in Europe.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 13 Yates, Christopher P., addressed to Hon. Abraham Yates Esquire, New York 1788 Jun 30
220 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Referring to a heated argument between Mr. Lansing and Mr. Hamilton, in the Ratifying Convention, on the necessity of the existence of the State governments to uphold the General Government.
- b. 3 f. 14 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., New York 1788 Jul 9
221 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Referring to a quarrel in the city of Albany between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists, caused by "our Friends and their Antagonists being heated with Liquor."
- b. 3 f. 14 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esq., New York 1788 Jul 20
222 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Referring to the Ratifying Convention.
- b. 3 f. 14 Lansing, Abraham G., addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esquire, New York 1788 Aug 3
223 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Referring to the plans of the Federalists in Albany for a celebration in honor of the adoption of the Constitution.
- b. 3 f. 14 See 142a
224
- b. 3 f. 14 Yates, Abraham Junr 1788 Aug 8
225 (quarto 2 pages) (quarto, 2 pages)
Statement in the hand of Abraham Yates Jr. with his revisions, and certification in another hand, signed by Ezra L'Hommedieu, Egbert Benson and Alexander Hamilton, while at Congress. Yates confirms that he will vote yes on the ordinance putting the adopted Constitution into operation, depending on the attendance of other delegates when the final vote takes place. He states his reasons for doing so, although opposed to the Constitution in principle. Also present is a fair copy entirely in Yates' hand (2 p. quarto), with an endorsement in the hand of Abraham G. Lansing, "Ab[raha]m Yates Jun[ior]r's Cautionary Certificate Respecting His Conduct on the United States Constitution 8 August 1788."
- b. 3 f. 15 Lansing, Abraham G., to William Barber 1788 Aug 31
226 (folio 3 pages) (folio, 3 pages)
Referring to the Commissioners of Forfeitures and also to Mr. Robert Barber, "a young gentleman who served some part of his time with Webster and in the Course of a Month I hope he will be enabled to Commence printing."
- b. 3 f. 15 Metcalfe, George 1789 Apr 25
227 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Acknowledgment of himself as author of an article in the *Federal Herald* Feb. 18, 1788, derogatory to Abraham Yates Junr. and admitting the falseness of the same. Also signed by Thos. Q. Witbeck and Abm. Reynolds.
- b. 3 f. 15 Burr, Aaron, addressed to Abraham Yates Junr. Esqr., Albany 1790 Jun 13
228 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Refers to his illness for several weeks.
- b. 3 f. 15 Yates, Robert 1790 Nov 5
229 (large folio 3 pages) (large folio, 3 pages)
Ordering the Sheriff to discharge from custody Thomas Lewis Spotten and James Spotten of the town of Lansingburg.
- b. 3 f. 15 Yates, Abraham, Junr 1791 Feb 25
230 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
William Angell's Warrant of Attorney to Abraham G. Lansing. In autograph of Abraham G. Lansing. With the mark of William Angell, also signed by John H. Cook and John De Wandelaer as witnesses. Also: William Angell's Transfer of Class Right to Abraham G. Lansing. In autograph of Abraham G. Lansing. With the mark of William Angell, also signed by John H. Cook and John De Wandelaer as witnesses. Document signed, 2 p. folio. Both documents notarized and signed by Yates as mayor of Albany.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 16 **Yates, Robert** 1791 Mar 3
231 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
Discharge of Joseph Tobias, who had been confined in the Albany jail.
- b. 3 f. 16 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., draft of letter to Aaron Burr** 1791 Apr 24
232 (quarto 2 pages)
Refers to the case against Mr. Ten Broeck, for which Burr was Yates' attorney. This draft was apparently sent to Robert Yates Esq. for his approval before sending the letter to Burr.
- b. 3 f. 16 **Ten Broeck, Dirck, addressed to the Honbl Abraham Yates Junr. Esquire, Albany** 1791 Jun 16
233 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Referring to some document which he enclosed in the letter.
- b. 3 f. 16 **Ten Broeck, Dirck, to the Honbl. Abm. Yates Junr. Esqr** 1791 Jun 16
234 (folio 2 pages) (folio, 2 pages)
An acknowledgment of his error in judgement as an Inspector of Election in not allowing Abraham Yates' suffrage.
- b. 3 f. 16 **Yates, Abraham, Junr., to Dirck Ten Broeck Esq** 1791 Jun 18
235 (quarto, dated Albany 1 page) (quarto, dated Albany, 1 page)
Relative to the withdrawal of Yates' suit against Ten Broeck.
- b. 3 f. 17 **Ten Broeck, Dirck** 1791 Jul 25
236 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
An acknowledgment of his error in refusing Yates' vote and agreeing to pay all the costs of the suit brought against him by Yates.
- b. 3 f. 17 **Leonard, Enoch** 1791 Jul 26
237 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
An acknowledgment of his error as Inspector of Election in refusing Abm. Yates' vote, and agreeing to pay all the costs of the suit brought against him by Yates.
- b. 3 f. 17 **Yates, Christopher P., addressed to Mr. John Pourteous** 1791 Aug 14
238 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Referring to three judgments against some small estates.
- b. 3 f. 17 **Jay, John [Chief Justice], addressed to The Hon'ble Ab. Yates Esq., Mayor of the City of Albany** 1792
239 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Written in the third person, declining Mr. Yates' invitation to take breakfast with him.
- b. 3 f. 17 **Ten Broeck, Abraham [Chairman]** 1793 Apr 19
240 (small square, printed form 1 page) (small square, printed form, 1 page)
Abraham Yates Junr's license for six years to use the books of the Albany Library. Also signed by James Van Ingen, Treasurer.
- b. 3 f. 18 **Yates, Abraham, Junr. [Mayor]** 1793 Jun 21
241 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
An Act of the Corporation of the City of Albany "allowing and permitting a Ferry Stairs to be erected in the Wharf opposite to Mark Lane."
- b. 3 f. 18 **To the electors of the State of New-York. Fellow-Citizens, The period is approaching at which you are again to exercise your right of suffrage** 1795 Feb 10
242 (Double-page printed folio, detached.)
Circular letter issued by Matthew Clarkson, chairman of a committee at New York City, requesting the electors to support John Jay and Stephen Van Rensselaer as candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. The names of over 80 prominent supporters are listed. Item is addressed to John Porteous, Little Falls.

Series I. Letters and Documents (cont.)
Numbered Letters and Documents (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 18 **Abraham Yates, Mayor of the City of Albany addressed to the Sheriff of the City and County of Albany** 1795 March 11-12
242A (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Order to Sheriff to receive Ralph Phelps in custody for passing counterfeit bill, signed by Abraham Yates on March 11, 1795. Endorsed: Nittimus. The People vrs Ralph Phelps, the 12th day of March in the y[ea]r 1795.
This item was not listed on the original calendar but appears after item 215 on old microfilm.
- b. 3 f. 18 **Circular letter** 1795 Apr 2
243 (folio 1 page) (folio, 1 page)
Printed circular letter recommending General Philip Schuyler as a candidate for the vacant seat of a member of the New York State Senate for the Western District. Issued by Abraham Ten Broeck as chairman of a committee at Albany. Addressed to John Porteous at Little Falls.
- b. 3 f. 18 **Federalism Unmasked!** 1807 Apr 27
244 (folio 1 page)
Printed broadside, signed "A Republican Elector, Herkimer, April 27, 1807." Vigorous attack upon the Federalists and Burr.
- b. 3 f. 18 **Yates, Joseph C. [Governor], addressed to Christopher Y. Lansing, Esquire, Albany** 1825 May 29
245 (quarto 1 page) (quarto, 1 page)
Subscribing for 500 shares of stock of the Commercial Bank.

Unnumbered Documents 1750s-circa 1800

- b. 4 f. 1 **Declaration of William Corry in the matter of Charles Connor and John M. Myer v. Philip Wessell** circa 1760 (1 item 2 pages) (1 item : 2 pages)
Copy of a declaration submitted in the Albany Mayor's Court in 1760 by William Corry, attorney for plaintiffs. The case concerned a claim of debt.
- b. 4 f. 2 **Charter of the City of Albany** 1779 (1 volume 123 pages) (1 volume : 123 pages) (1 volume : 123 pages)
Manuscript fair copy of Albany's Dongan charter dated in the 9th regnal year of George III (25 October 1768-24 October 1769), with alterations in the copyist's and Yates's hands conforming the document to the new state government in the year 1779; city and state officials are named.
- b. 4 f. 3 **My journey to Schenectady in favour of the intended college** 1794 November 24 (1 item 4 pages)
An unfinished autograph draft letter or memorandum dated Albany, 24th November 1794, addressed to "Gent[lemen]." Yates describes his visit to Schenectady on November 19, 1794, on their mutual behalf, to promote the building of what is now Union College. He recounts meetings and discussions with residents.
Title from Yates's endorsement.
- b. 4 f. 4 **Document wrapper with endorsement** circa 1800 (1 item 1 page) (1 item : 1 page)
- b. 4 f. 5 **Fragments** 1750s-1790s (Two torn fragments with stab-holes from an unidentified manuscript, one bearing text ("It was already").)
- b. 4 f. 6 **Letter book** 1779 October 31-1782 August 11 (1 volume 109 pages) (1 volume : 109 pages)
See also Series I, Numbered letters and documents, for related letters.

Several letters are published in: Yates, Abraham. *Resolutions and extracts ... relative to the Continental loan-offices in the several states; and certain letters* Albany: Charles R. Webster, [1786]. (Evans 20080)

Series II. Journals, 1750s-1790s

This series consists of Abraham Yates' journal and copybook for 1754 June-1758 September 12, a roughly contemporary record of his tenure as high sheriff of the city and county of Albany during the French and Indian War; a brief journal for 1754 August 28-1756 August, possibly a reworking of journal text for his projected history of Albany; and a journal of rent inspections made by Yates in Saratoga County, 1792 October 24-27.

Series II. Journals, 1750s-1790s (cont.)

- b. 5 **Journal and copybook for 1754 June-1758 September 12 1750s?** (1 volume 153
v. 3 pages) (1 volume : 153 pages)
- Yates' autograph journal of events in Albany during his tenure as high sheriff of the city and county of Albany, coinciding with the British military presence there during the French and Indian War. Included are copied letters and documents supporting his account of conflicts with British officers and Provincial officials. The entries, or memoranda, are not strictly chronological, but appear to be roughly contemporaneous to events, and chiefly concern his own experiences. Initial entries are brief summaries of recent events. The copied documents, in multiple hands, sometimes bear Yates' transcription corrections and commentary. These include a letter written by William Livingston, 1757 November 28, advising Yates on his dispute with the Earl of Loudoun.
- b. 5 **Journal for 1754 August 28-1756 August 1750s-1790s** (1 item 20 pages) (1 item : 20
v. 2 pages) (1 item : 20 pages)
- This manuscript, written entirely in Yates' hand, appears to be a reworking of some events recorded in the Journal and copybook, with variant content. It bears the same identification number (A 18) as Yates' manuscript History of Albany to 1776.
- b. 4 f. 7 **Journal of rent inspections 1792 October 24-27** (1 item 4 pages)
- Autograph manuscript journal notes of meetings with individual tenants residing in the same land lot number, to review the status of their rent payments. Yates was at the house of Mr. Ensign (for lot 3) on October 24th-25th, and then traveled to the house of Samuel Shelden at Saratoga (for lot 30). Surnames at the Ensign location (Scidmore, Cole, Newland, Woodworth, etc.) point to the vicinity of Stillwater in Saratoga County. Miscellaneous lots appear at end. Title supplied by archivist.

Series III. Political and Historical Writings 1783-1796? (Several collected items have hand-made stab-hole bindings at the top edge. Loose items previously separated from such bindings are best flipped vertically rather than horizontally to read and retain order. Some bindings and writings bear cover titles in Yates' hand or that of Abraham G. Lansing.)

Yates' political and historical writings, 1783-1796?, comprise bound collected essays, loose essays, and essay segments, on contemporary political topics of local and national interest; and two draft histories of Albany, with their related source notes. Many of his political writings incorporate his historical research. These are autograph draft manuscripts in varying states of completion; some political drafts are signed with a pseudonym. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

The most comprehensive political collection is the bound "Rough Hewer" manuscript, containing forty-two essays expressing his positions on national and local events, written from 1783 up to the year of his death in 1796, including text from two pamphlets published in 1786. Other writings from the 1780s are a collection of Fourteen political essays, 1786, warning against increasing the powers of Congress regarding the Imposts of 1781 and 1783, and other topics. His Response to an oration before the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New York on July 4, 1787, circa 1787, addresses his fear that conservative elites would create an order of American nobility. Three political essays, circa 1787-circa 1790, date from the post-Constitution period to the ratification of the Bill of Rights by New York State. Also present is a group of loose essay segments, previously described as part of an intended history of the movement for a federal constitution, circa 1787-circa 1789.

Writings pertinent to his time as a state senator and as mayor of Albany, aside from materials in the "Rough Hewer" manuscript, are: Observations on toll of Water Vliet, circa 1786-1787, on Albany tolls and property rights; finished and incomplete essays on State canal legislation concerning the Northern and Western Inland Lock Navigation Companies and constitutional issues of eminent domain, circa 1793-circa 1794; and five collected essays contesting a trespass warning on common lands within the Manor of Rensselaerswyck, 1794?-1795.

The collection contains two draft histories of Albany. The first, covering Albany's settlement to 1711, is an early draft of a more comprehensive history up to 1776, including his personal observations on contemporary events. Both drafts refer to events occurring after the chapter titles' end date. A separate manuscript of source notes keyed to the first history often supports the later draft. Typically, however, Yates wrote brief source citations on the same page as his text.

Among the many contemporary and early sources cited are John Adams, Jeremy Belknap, James Burgh, Adrian van der Donck, William Douglass, Hugo Grotius, David Hume, Thomas Hutchinson, Peter Kalm, Joannes de Laet, Gabriel Bonnot de Mably (Abbé de Mably), Edward Wortley Montagu, Montesquieu, Richard Price, David Ramsay, William Robertson, Charles Rollin, Algernon Sidney, William Smith Jr., and David Pietersz. de Vries, as well as the Bible, and Addison and Steele's *The Spectator*.

Yates had various methods for ordering his work. He often used alpha-numeric patterns of foliation and pagination to order his writings; he usually wrote on both sides of a page even if only the leaf itself was numbered. It appears that he may have avoided using the letter "J" in alphabetical sequences. The patterns may offer connecting clues within his papers, as seen in the Albany history source notes. Because Yates wrote these notations at very edge of the page, some have been lost to time. Yates' writings for publication may bear the number of their publishing sequence, and may open or close by referring to the connecting topic. He consistently used catchwords and catchphrases. Additionally, a numeric or alpha-numeric code is found on some writings (e.g., "A 18"), either in the hand of Yates or his son-in-law Abraham G. Lansing. Unfortunately, a listing is not found. With the exception of Numbered items in Series I, quotations from Yates' text transcribe his wording and spelling as written, but not necessarily his punctuation or capitalization.

Published works cited with Evans numbers were accessed in the Readex AllSearch database, *America's Historical Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800* via NYPL Articles & Databases at <https://www.nypl.org/research>. Additional published works may be found in *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition*, ed. John P. Kaminski, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Charles H. Schoenleber and Margaret A. Hogan. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009 (via the UVA Press Rotunda platform); Print Edition, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, also via University of Wisconsin Digital Collections. See also *The Complete Anti-Federalist*, ed. Herbert J. Storing with the assistance of Murray Dry, Vol. 6, *New York and Conclusion* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1981) for works by "Sidney," mentioning Abraham Yates, Jr. as possible author.

Please note that collection materials have not been comprehensively reviewed for publication; details are provided as found. Abraham Yates Jr.'s source citations were checked only as needed to help identify certain undated materials.

b. 5
v. 5

"Rough Hewer" manuscript 1783-1796? (1 volume approximately 535 pages) (1 volume : approximately 535 pages)

The "Rough Hewer" manuscript, 1783-1796?, is a bound volume containing forty-two autograph draft essays written by Abraham Yates Jr. for publication, one of which is an essay excerpt with his publication notes. The third through fifth items were republished as part of his 1786 pamphlet *Political papers, Addressed to the Advocates for a Congressional Revenue in the State of New-York* (Evans 20168). These are the essay dated March 11 [i.e. 17], 1785 signed "A Rough Hewer;" the essay excerpt dated March 17, 1785 addressed "Mr. Printer," with Yates' publication notes; and the following essay dated "publish'd 1785 and republish'd in pamphlet 1786," signed "Rough Hewer." The excerpted essay, signed "Sidney" and dated March 13, 1785 in the pamphlet, was published on March 17. For a nearly complete text of his pamphlet *Resolutions and Extracts from the Journals of the Honorable the Congress relative to the Continental Loan-Offices in the Several States; and Certain Letters ...* (Evans 20800), see the item dated 1786 June 14, partly in the hand of a copyist. Essays dating 1783 August-1787 April, prior to the Constitutional Convention, discuss the Imposts of 1781 and 1783 and their attempted ratification; revision of the Articles of Confederation and the leadup to a convention; Continental Loan Offices; and toll collection at Watervliet, Albany. The bulk of the essays, resuming in October 1787, through April 1790, address the politics of the Constitution and amendments to the same, and national fiscal policy. The next essays, published 1793-1794, pertain to New York State canal legislation, and to the Constitution. These are followed by the last four pieces, published 1795-1796, protesting the Jay Treaty between the United States and Great Britain. Yates typically provided the publication date(s) of the essay, any essay sequence numbers and, in some cases, the pen name he used. These are "A Rough Hewer" or "Rough Hewer" for the earliest pieces, followed by "A Citizen," "Grotius" and, most frequently, "Sidney." The newspaper name seldom appears, those few instances being the *Albany Gazette* or the *Albany Register*. The first essay, dated 1783 August 4, is identified as Rough Hewer No. 1. The first two items are followed by a sheet bearing a note in Yates's hand: "Manuscripts that follow nearly agree with the prints." Notable essay series delineated by sequence numbers and/or foliation or pagination, all bearing the name "Sidney" on at least some essays, are as follows: A group of eleven essays published between December 8 (and 4), 1788, and March 23, 1789, begin with a discussion of the Federalist position on a bill of rights. The sequence is marked by a continuous foliation from 1-[68], with some gaps in numbering. The January 5, 1789 essay was republished from March 13, 1788. Ten essays, dated 1789 December 24-1790 April 12, express concerns about the new Treasury Department in comparison with the financial reorganization of 1781 under a Superintendent of Finance (Robert Morris). The second through sixth essays are numbered "No. 2" - "No. 6;" the foliation or pagination for each essay carries only the essay's number throughout, running from 1 to 10. The last four essays (numbered 1-4) on the Jay Treaty were published not long before Yates' death on June 30, 1796. Numbers 1 and 2 have Yates' publishing dates of December 18 and 25, 1795, but Numbers 3 and 4 are not dated. Number 3 was published in the *Albany Register* of January 1, 1796 and the date for Number 4 is not found. Essays are not in strict chronological order, and multiple dates on an item may represent republication, or publication in installments. A few are not dated. Not found here are two essays addressed to the Citizens of the State of New-York, published in the *New York Journal* under the name "Sydney" on June 13 and 14, 1788, attributed to Yates. See *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition* (hereafter *DHRC*) (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 2009; <https://rotunda-upress-virginia-edu.i.ezproxy.nypl.org/founders/RNCN-02-20-02-0004-0204>; original source: *Ratification by the States, Volume XX: New York, No. 2.*), citing Yates' letter to Abraham G. Lansing of June 15, 1788 (item 209); the essays also appear in *The Complete Anti-Federalist*, Vol. 6. Published essays are also found elsewhere in this series.

Series III. Political and Historical Writings (cont.)

- b. 5 The essay of October 18, 1787 as published in the *New York Journal* (extraordinary issue) is
v. 5 found in *DHRC* (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 2009; <https://rotunda-upress-virginia-edu.i.ezproxy.nypl.org/founders/RNCN-02-19-02-0002-0044>; original source: *Ratification by the States*, Volume XIX: *New York*, No. 1.)
- b. 6 **Fourteen political essays 1786** (1 volume approximately 280 pages) (1 volume :
v. 3 approximately 280 pages) (1 volume : approximately 280 pages) (1 volume : approximately 280 pages)
- The volume, dated 1786, is a compilation of political essays numbered I-XIII, followed by one unnumbered essay. All are autograph manuscript drafts bearing titles, with some text in the hand of a copyist. The essays, written against the background of the government's fiscal administration from roughly 1779 to 1786, share many of the topics and themes found in his writings. Yates addresses nationalist arguments for increasing the powers of Congress, especially the need for an independent revenue (the Imposts of 1781 and 1783), and the dangers they claimed would arise without a strong central government. The essays also consider forms of government, means by which the abuse of power leads to tyranny, and revolutions in government. Other topics include Congressional control over pensions, annuities and salaries; oaths of office and secrecy, with reference to the Continental Loan Office; foreign loans and the national debt; liberty of the press; and voting by ballot.
- This manuscript was formerly known as "Speeches to the Delegates to Congress" and "Speeches to Congressional Delegates" with a supplied date of 1786-1787. The titles were derived from the Library's early assessment of the collection in 1915, based perhaps on the first essay title ("To the delegates who advocate [sic] the propriety of vesting a revenue...."). However, Yates' references to his audience of readers, the possibility of publication and his decision to withhold his identity, as well as format, all point to writing for occasional or serial publication. The binding date of 1786 and internal references to that year support a date of 1786.
- b. 4 f. 8 **Observations on toll of Water Vliet** circa 1786-circa 1787 (1 item 12 pages) (1 item : 12 pages) (1 item : 12 pages)
- Autograph manuscript draft by Yates addressing further remarks to the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of Albany on the subject of tolls and property rights, referring to potential litigation with the millers of Watervliet. Although Lansing's endorsement dates the text to 1789, an essay signed "A Citizen," to the same addressees on the same subject, is found in the "Rough Hewer" manuscript, dated December 14, 1786.
- This manuscript was previously located in a folder entitled "Miscellaneous Notes."
- b. 4 f. 9 **Response to an oration before the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New York on July 4, 1787** circa 1787 (1 volume 8 pages) (1 volume : 8 pages)
- Untitled autograph manuscript draft essay, written by Yates upon his reading of an oration before the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New York on July 4, 1787, by a person he does not identify.
- Title supplied from the beginning of the text.
- The speaker was Robert R. Livingston (1746-1813), whose text was printed as *An Oration Delivered before the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New-York : in commemoration of the Fourth Day of July*. New York: printed by Francis Childs, 1787 (Evans 20464).

Series III. Political and Historical Writings (cont.)

Segments of essays on various political subjects circa 1787-circa 1789 (These disbound pages of Yates's draft writings show evidence of previous attachment by stab-hole binding or pins, or both. Physical similarities indicate that segments 1, 2 and 5 were likely bound in the same volume at one time. Segments 1 and 2 appear to form continuous text, but segment 5 does not connect sequentially to either. Segments 3 and 4 form a separate continuous text, and physically resemble each other.)

These incomplete autograph manuscripts form three groups of fragmentary draft writings, dated circa 1787-circa 1789, warning of the abuse of power and loss of liberty in the context of Federalist strategies to create a strong national government. Segments 1 and 2, continuous text, cover the period 1778-1783, beginning with the treaty with France in 1778 and the subsequent reorganization of the Treasury. The draft focuses on the concentration of fiscal authority in the executive Superintendent of Finance, Robert Morris; his efforts to establish Federal revenues and fund the public debt; and his dealings with Congress. Segments 3 and 4, continuous text, address the behavior of Federalist leaders before, during, and after the establishment of the Constitution; Yates reviews the means he believes they used to accomplish their goals. Segment 5 analyzes the Congressional resolution of October 20, 1786, ordering the reinforcement of the Continental Army in connection with Shay's Rebellion. It is the conclusion of a piece arguing that Americans were as capable as the British of abusing power in government.

This group of incomplete documents was previously known as "Essays on various political subjects," a title supplied by the Manuscripts and Archives Division at an early date on a folder containing additional loose materials. Pages are now reordered, based on continuities in text and physical format, and in comparison with the transcription published by Staughton Lynd (see Publication/Citation note). The other segments previously located in this group have been removed to Yates' writings on the Northern and Western Inland Navigation Companies. Segments 1, 2 and 5 are dated circa 1787-circa 1789. Without precluding the 1789 attribution by Staughton Lynd, two citations in footnotes for segments 1 and 2 have earlier publication dates: In segment 1, Yates cites "7 Hume 471" (David Hume's *History of England*, volume 7, page 471). The Hume citation, referring to "dark counsels" of the "Cabal" in the reign of King Charles II, appears elsewhere in Yates' writings. It has since been identified as page 471 in the London 1767 edition, rather than page 461 in the London 1789 edition identified by Lynd. See footnote 13 for Yates' published "Sidney" essay of December 4, 1788 in DHRC; <https://rotunda-upress-virginia-edu.i.ezproxy.nypl.org/founders/RNCN-02-23-02-0003-0002-0055>; Original source: Ratification by the States, Volume XXIII: New York, No. 5. In Segment 2, Yates makes uncited reference to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis "from which time says Dr. Ramsey [Ramsay] every thing tended to peace and an acknowledgment of our Independence." The phrase is found nearly verbatim in David Ramsay's *History of the Revolution of South Carolina* (Trenton 1785 edition, volume 2, page 328; Evans 1921), perhaps a likelier source than a similar statement in Ramsay's *History of the American Revolution* (Philadelphia 1789 edition, volume 2, page 306; Evans 22090), as cited in Lynd, page 238, footnote 32. Segment 5 contains no dated references aside from a Congressional journal. Segments 3 and 4 can be dated to 1789 or later, based on Yates' references to "Barber's paper 24 May 1789;" Yates' footnote citation ["1 Ramsey (sic) 103, 147"], conforming to David Ramsay's *History of the American Revolution* (1789); and Staughton Lynd's identification of 1789 legislative acts, all in the fourth segment.

The historian Staughton Lynd (1929-2022) transcribed selected pages from a folder of loose writings in this collection for his 1963 journal article "Abraham Yates's History of the Movement for the United States Constitution," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Ser., Vol. 20, No. 2 (April 1963), pages 223-245. The text is presented as a projected narrative history or pamphlet, with supplied section titles and commentary. Due to omissions and transcription problems within the published text, and the omission of related segment 3, the article is not a viable surrogate for the writings, but it should be consulted for Lynd's analysis and factual context. For reference purposes only, the segments are correlated here to their pagination in the journal article: Segments 1 and 2: pages 230-241; Segment 3: not published; Segment 4: pages 241-244; Segment 5: pages 244-45. The article was later reprinted as Chapter 9 in Lynd's 1967 book *Class Conflict, Slavery, and the United States Constitution* (New Edition, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009). The original manuscripts must be consulted for accuracy, and Yates' source citations supporting date attributions, and other internal evidence, require further analysis. Similarities with other drafts in the collection, especially pieces in the latter portion of the "Rough Hewer" manuscript, point towards publication for political purposes in serial form rather than a single historical narrative.

b. 4 f. 10

Segment 1 circa 1787-circa 1789 (1 item 12 pages) (1 item : 12 pages)

Begins: "It will appear unaccountable" Ends: ... to put a stop to this inequitable [sic] measure [cancelled phrase following: when a vast sum had already been expended for [the?] purpose"]

Series III. Political and Historical Writings (cont.)

Segments of essays on various political subjects (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 10 **Segment 2** circa 1787-circa 1789 (1 item 7 pages) (1 item : 7 pages)
Cancelled text begins: "of ways and means...."; text begins: "While this was in agitation...."
Ends: "...when there [sic] masters have employed them to pursue indirect measures[.]"
- b. 4 f. 10 **Segment 3** circa 1789 (1 item 4 pages)
Cancelled text begins "York (catchword). The citizens of the Dutch United States have yet preserved...."; text begins "I have he[re]tofore proved or if you please attempted to prove from History...."; ends: "...that a tirannicle [sic] government is by every means to be avoided. If" (catchword).
- b. 4 f. 10 **Segment 4** circa 1789 (1 item 8 pages) (1 item : 8 pages)
Begins: "If we advert to the crooked measures; ends: "... and what will ye do in the end thereof."
- b. 4 f. 10 **Segment 5** circa 1787-circa 1789 (1 item 4 pages)
Begins: "I shall ad [sic] an other transaction more ... I mean the Resolution of Congress of the 20 October 1786." Ends: "...which we will entail upon our [descendants] without amendments." A cancelled ending follows.
- b. 6
v. 2 **Three political essays** circa 1787-circa 1790 (1 volume 94 pages) (1 volume : 94 pages)
(1 volume : 94 pages)
Bound gathering of what appear to be three rough, unfinished, autograph draft essays by Yates on political subjects, dating circa 1787-circa 1790. Substantial segments were reused from other drafts, as can be seen in the various paginations, and the texts are somewhat fragmentary. The first text reviews the legacy of aristocratic power in New York and warns of the possible establishment of a system of nobility or ranking in America, with respect to "the amendment to the Constitution now under consideration" (first leaf verso.) The draft likely dates to early 1790 when the New York State legislature was considering the original twelve amendments presented to the states in 1789 for ratification, particularly the second regarding compensation for Congressional members (later the 27th Amendment.) The essay continues with discussion of political developments during the Revolution through the Confederation period. In the second text (beginning "In these discussions"....), dating from 1787 or 1788, Yates discusses Federalists' strategies to promote the adoption of the Constitution, and their characterization of opponents. Historical analysis of governments in the aftermath of revolution follows. The author's name "Sidney" is crossed out (verso of the fifth leaf); the following conclusion advises against adoption of the Constitution. The third text surveys fiscal policies of Congress from the Revolutionary War to 1786 and the potential for abuse of power in government. Topics include rotation of members, Continental Loan offices, oaths of secrecy, funding a national debt, and the power to grant sinecures, pensions and annuities. Reference to Robert Livingston's oration to the Society of the Cincinnati on July 4, 1787 provides a date of 1787 or later. The text of the first leaf, beginning with a quote cited "De Lalmé 133," does not continue on to the second leaf, which begins "The fifth article in the Confedera[tio]n...." after cancelled text beginning "by every body be the cause of it what it may,"
Previously located in folder "Notes on early history of New York, etc."
The second essay as published under the name "Sidney" in the *Albany Gazette* [probable date January 24, 1788], and reprinted in the *Country Journal* of February 5, 1788, is found in *DHRC* (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 2009; <https://rotunda-upress-virginia-edu.i.ezproxy.nypl.org/founders/RNCN-02-20-02-0002-0055>; original source: *Ratification by the States*, Volume XX: *New York*, No. 2.)

Series III. Political and Historical Writings (cont.)

Essays on the Northern and Western Inland Lock Navigation Companies by "Sidney" circa 1793-circa 1794

Abraham Yates Jr.'s "canal" writings, dated circa 1793-circa 1794, address constitutional aspects of the New York State Legislature's Acts of December 22, 1792 (dated by Yates as December 24, 1792) and March 9, 1793. The acts vested additional rights and powers of eminent domain in the Northern and Western Lock Navigation Companies, incorporated on March 30, 1792 for contractual improvement of navigation on rivers and lakes. In his published essay of March 3, 1794, Yates referred to possible further attention to the acts in the current legislative session. At least two serial essays were published under the name "Sidney:" the first on July 18, 1793 in the *Albany Gazette*, republished February 10, 1794 in the *Albany Register*, and an essay published on March 3, 1794 in the *Albany Register*. Complete autograph manuscript drafts for those pieces appear in the "Rough Hower" manuscript under the dates of July 18, 1793 and March 3, 1794. Four related manuscript texts previously found in miscellaneous groupings are now arranged here: a fair copy draft of the July 18, 1793 essay; two variant incomplete or unfinished texts of an intended third essay; and an unidentified loose segment. The fair copy draft is in the hand of a copyist, with revisions by Yates; the remainder are in Yates' hand. The writings address the nature of sovereignty over natural resources in the state, rights of public and private property, and the potential abuse of power in matters of eminent domain.

- b. 4 f. 11 **Untitled essay on canal legislation 1793 (1 item 10 pages) (1 item : 10 pages)**
A corrected fair copy manuscript draft in the hand of a copyist, with a few revisions in Yates's hand, of an untitled essay published in the *Albany Gazette* on July 18, 1793.
Title supplied by archivist. Previously located in folder "Notes on early history of New York, etc."
- b. 4 f. 12 **No. 3. Canal materials circa 1794 (1 item 8 pages) (1 item : 8 pages)**
Autograph manuscript draft segment consisting of six pages of the beginning of an essay followed by a two-page chronology documenting legislative actions from November 4, 1792 to March 6, 1793. Begins: "Having in my former remarks...."
Title supplied from document heading. Previously located in folder "Notes on early history of New York, etc."
- b. 4 f. 13 **Variant text of No. 3. Canal materials circa 1794 (1 item 10 pages)**
Begins after one page of cancelled text: "No. 3. I have in my former remarks" Some pages bear previous pagination or foliation numbers.
Title supplied by archivist. Previously located in folder "Essays on various political subjects."
- b. 4 f. 14 **Essay segment on canal legislation circa 1793-circa 1794 (1 item 4 pages)**
Segment of an autograph manuscript draft; after cancelled text begins: "But the same observation will not apply in respect to encroachments along rivers."
Title supplied by archivist. Previously located in folder "Essays on various political subjects."
- b. 6
v. 1 **Essays on the Rensselaerswyck trespass warning by "A Citizen" 1794?-1795**
(1 volume 51 pages) (1 volume : 51 pages) (1 volume : 51 pages) (1 volume : 51 pages)
Compiled autograph manuscript drafts of essays numbered 1 through 5, intended for serial publication as stated within, with an additional fair copy draft of the fourth essay. The essays were published in Albany newspapers under the name "A Citizen," which appears at the end of the second draft essay. Yates wrote the pieces in response to a published notice dated December 15, 1794, that anyone cutting or carrying wood from the commons of Stephen Van Rensselaer in his manor, without permission, would be prosecuted for trespass. Yates characterized the action as a deprivation of rights already held rather than a warning of trespass, and an example of private encroachment on common lands. His analysis covers the settlement of Albany through the loss of New Netherland to the English in 1664, the acquisition of land by the Van Rensselaers and others, and the legacy of the patroon system.
Title supplied by archivist. Previously located in folder "Notes on early history of New York, etc."
The trespass warning by Van Rensselaer agent Thomas L. Witbeek, dated December 15, 1794, was published in the Albany papers. Yates' first untitled essay was published in the *Albany Register* on February 2, 1795; the remainder, titled Numbers II-IV, appeared in the *Albany Gazette* on February 9 and March 6 and 20. Essay Number V was published in two parts, the first as Number V on March 27, and the continuation as Number VI on April 3, 1795.

Series III. Political and Historical Writings (cont.)

Drafts for a history of Albany 1780s-1790s

The papers contain two unfinished, incomplete, and undated autograph draft histories of the Dutch settlement and development of Albany, ending at different points in the 18th century. Also present is an incomplete autograph manuscript of source notes keyed to the draft history of Albany to 1711, the draft first written, although the sources also support the later draft. Not all draft chapters are represented or complete in the source notes, and some notes refer to pages no longer extant in the draft history. The draft history of Albany to 1711 (chapters 1-14, 93 pages), has a single cancellation line running through it, and appears to be an earlier draft of the following manuscript, a draft history of Albany to 1776 (chapters A-P, approximately 150 pages). The narratives are complementary, but not identical in topical coverage or depth of treatment. Both histories have tables of contents denoting a chronological narrative; some chapters, however, lack content. Chapter titles in the narrative themselves may vary slightly from those in the tables. Both contain references to events occurring after the last chapter's date span. The draft history of Albany to 1711 contains in-depth coverage for the period 1673-1686 (Chapter 12), focusing on the Van Rensselaer patent and the Albany Charter of 1686. By its table of contents title, Chapter 13 (two pages) addresses the period 1686 to 1711, respecting "the management of the English and French in regard to the Indians and settlers as well as their wars," but focuses rather on events in Five Nations history from 1664 to 1758. This is covered more extensively in Chapter G of the Draft history of Albany to 1776. The manuscript lacks content for Chapter 14, covering the period 1701-1711. The draft history of Albany to 1776 lacks narrative for the period 1674 to the 1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (Chapters H-I, K-M), but carries on with new content (Chapters O-P) for the years 1756-1776. Chapter O draws extensively on material in Yates' journals for the French and Indian War period. Chapter P addresses the boundary dispute between New Hampshire and New York, and then events leading to revolution, from 1763 through the spring of 1776. The table of contents is preceded by a brief preface (2 pages) describing his interest in history and his modest goals in recording his "researches." The manuscript also contains a draft copy of Yates's response (4 pages) to a letter dated 1788 [June?] 23 from an unidentified correspondent. Yates acknowledges receipt of that person's geography book and offers corrections relating to the discovery of the Hudson River and early settlement of Albany. The letter follows blank leaves at the end of the text.

Titles supplied by archivist, based on chapter headings. The supplied date for the History of Albany to 1776 is based on reference in the text to events in 1777-1783 (page C 49) and the final source citation closely matching the 1793 edition of *Memoirs of the life of the late Charles Lee, Esq.* The earlier draft, the History of Albany to 1711, cites the initial volume of Jeremy Belknap's *History of New Hampshire* (1784), as does the later draft. A closer examination of printed sources and text may provide a more precise range for each manuscript.

- b. 4 f. 15 **History of Albany to 1711 1780s** (1 item 93 pages) (1 item : 93 pages) (1 item : 93 pages)

This untitled manuscript was previously identified as "Notes on early history of Albany."
- b. 5 **History of Albany to 1776 1780s-1790s** (1 volume approximately 150 pages) (1 volume

v. 4 : approximately 150 pages) (1 volume : approximately 150 pages) (1 volume : approximately 150 pages)
- b. 5 **Source notes for History of Albany to 1711 1780s** (1 volume 39 pages) (1 volume :

v. 1 39 pages) (1 volume : 39 pages)

The source notes are presented in two columns. At the left, each note is coded by the narrative chapter number, followed by the chapter's lettered pagination location. Below it is the entry citation: volume number if appropriate, author surname, abbreviated title, page number(s), and occasionally the year of publication, as typically formulated by Yates. The column to the right contains the quoted text. An example can be found in Chapter 6 of the History and in sheets numbered 6 in the Source notes. The citation "N 6(e)" on page 6e of the History, identified as "Van der Donk [sic, i.e. Donck] [pages] 28:29:30," matches the extensive quotation on the leaf 6 (first instance) of the Sources, with the citation "No. 6e Van Der Donk 28:29:30." "N" and "No." likely stand for note and/or number. The coding towards the end of the manuscript is inconsistent, as Yates allows this manuscript's pagination system and each citation to suffice for location in the narrative chapter. The manuscript appears to be incomplete, as not all of the numbered history chapters are represented.

This manuscript was previously located in a folder entitled "Miscellaneous Notes."
- b. 4 f. 16 **Loose notes 1780s-1790s** (2 items)

Items comprise a sheet with chapter content or notes numbered 10-12, possibly related to the History of Albany to 1711, and three index sheets of alphabetical headings (names, places, subjects) referring to the History of Albany to 1776 (each two pages). Entries provide the lettered chapter/numbered page, e.g. "G93") with some reference to the earlier draft history of Albany to 1711 (numbered chapter/lettered page, e.g. "12k").

Series IV. Research Materials, 1750s-1790s

Research materials, 1750s?-1790s, consist of three manuscript volumes of indices compiled by Yates from published works to support his professional and writing activities: his notes on proceedings of Congress and the New York State Legislature, covering events from 1774-1776 and 1777-1779, respectively; and a biographical index and a chronological index of New York history with reference to the Albany area, from early exploration to the mid-18th century. The chronological index contains indices for other purposes created by Yates and an earlier owner of the volume.

- b. 6
v. 5 **Biographical index of New York history 1780s-1790s** (1 volume approximately 550 pages) (1 volume : approximately 550 pages) (1 volume : approximately 550 pages)

Autograph manuscript biographical index compiled by Yates, encompassing a broad range of people figuring in the settlement of eastern North America. The focus is on colonial New York and New England, from the early-17th to the mid-18th centuries. Biographical subjects span A (Alricks) to W (Wynne), including explorers, soldiers, colonial governors and officials, Dutch West India Company administrators, and others. Personages closer to Yates in time and place include members of the Morris and Schuyler families. The text for each biographical subject, running from one to several pages, consists of brief summaries of their participation in historical events and authors' characterizations of the person, taken from published works and local government records. The source citation appears to the left of each listed item. Sources in this volume, as in his chronological index, compare to those cited in his Albany histories.

Alphabetical guide letters, written by Yates, are found on each page.

Title supplied by archivist.
- v. 1 **Chronological index of New York history and index rerums 1750s-1790s** (1 volume) (1 volume)

This bound manuscript volume reflects use by two individuals: Abraham Yates Jr., and, at an earlier time, an unidentified scholar writing in Dutch and Latin, who created an index rerum keyed to sacred and theological texts. Working from both ends of the volume, Yates used substantial blank space to compose an index rerum of legal terms, a chronological index of early New York history from 1601 to 1761, and an index rerum for items of interest to him in *The Spectator*, the British periodical founded by Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, and *The Independent Whig* by Thomas Gordon and John Trenchard. Yates used the index rerum format (a means of easily locating and citing information extracted from multiple sources) in his research work. The original front of the volume begins with the scholar's title page (*Excerpta ex eruditiss...*), dated 1738, written on the front paste-down endpaper. Explanation of the index structure and the index words (A to Z) are in Dutch. Appearing directly below those entries is Yates's chronological index to the history of colonial New York, paginated in the upper corner by year from 1601 to 1761, and preceded by a page of "Observations" noting events in the 16th century. Events are selected from sources commonly cited by Yates; entries also include his analyses and comments. The chronology is followed by another index rerum, running from A (Affectation) to Z (Zeal). Under each term, brief descriptive phrases are keyed to the abbreviation "Sp" or "Spec" followed by a number, referring to the *The Spectator* and its issue number. Citations also include page references to volumes 1 and 2 of an unidentified edition of *The Independent Whig*. The wording of Yates' notes on *The Spectator* closely follow entries found in 18th-century published indices to the periodical. Compare, for example, Yates's entry for "Handkerchief - the great machine for moving pity Sp:44." The most substantial use, and perhaps the earliest by Yates, begins from the end of the volume, turned so that writings from the other direction appear upside down. The text is a legal index rerum, from A (Abatement) to W (Writs), followed by miscellaneous terms. Citations for various legal works appear under each term. Yates paginated that side of the volume (575 [i.e. 576] pages), and his ownership signature appears twice on the inside "front" cover of that usage.

Title supplied by archivist. This volume was previously stored in a Library slipcase with a supplied title: "Notes on the early history of New York, 1601-1761."

In English, Dutch and Latin.

Series IV. Research Materials, 1750s-1790s (cont.)

b. 6 Notes on proceedings of Congress and the New York State Legislature

v. 4 1770s-1790s (1 volume 56 leaves with text on one or both sides) (1 volume : 56 leaves with text on one or both sides) (1 volume : 56 leaves with text on one or both sides)

Undated autograph manuscript containing two index rerums, digesting proceedings of the Continental Congress (the predominant work), and proceedings of the New York State Legislature. Dated entries for Congressional proceedings span 1774 September-1776 April. The text of the New York proceedings lacks dates, but events noted roughly span the period 1777-1779. The works begin from opposite ends of the volume. Index headings for both works fall into three general categories: subjects, people, and places. Congressional index headings span C (Canada) to W (George Washington) with unsorted headings following. Entries for each heading contain the date of occurrence in Congress and a brief summary. Yates collected the information from published journals of Congress. Each entry has a coded citation: the number assigned to the journal or book, the letter B [for "book"; see entry for Henry Wisner], and page number. Book numbers range from 1B (1774) to 5B (1776). A random sampling of citations in *Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans (1639-1800)*, found correlations as follows: 1B (Evans 13737 and later edition 13738); 2B (Evans 14569); and 3B (Evans 15186). Volumes 4B and 5B refer to two separate paginations in one volume (Evans 15145), for 1776 January and 1776 February-April. New York index headings A (Accessories) to W (Witnesses) focus on legislative committees more so than individuals (e.g., Council of Appointment), in addition to topics and places. Entries comprise a heading, a summarized occurrence without date, and page number for an unidentified source. A sampling of paged entries conform to the published *Votes and Proceedings of the Senate of the State of New-York ... commencing September 9th, 1777*, Kingston and Fishkill editions, 1777 [i.e. 1777-1779] (Evans 15479 and 15480).

Title supplied by archivist.

Series V. Papers relating to the Manor of Rensselaerswyck 1761-1700s

Abraham Yates provided legal assistance to the Van Rensselaers during the 1760s and possibly later. The Patroon at that time was Stephen Van Rensselaer II (1742-1769). After his death the patroonship was administered by Abraham Ten Broeck, the uncle and guardian of the young Stephen Van Rensselaer III (1764-1839), and one of the executors of the will.

Papers relating to the Manor of Rensselaerswyck consist of two unfinished autograph legal memoranda drafted by Yates for the Van Rensselaer patroonship, dating from the 1760s, and several 18th-century copies held by Yates of early Van Rensselaer legal and property records, and Albany government records, in English and Dutch. The papers were donated to the Library in 1917 by Howard Townsend (1858-1935), the son of Justine Van Rensselaer and Howard Townsend, M.D., with one exception. The copy of Minutes from 1638 to 1658, retained in the Lansing donation as an undescribed miscellaneous item, is included here.

The two legal memoranda were originally described as one manuscript in two parts, entitled with the endorsement of the undated manuscript. They are now described as two distinct items. The remaining descriptions are based on an early Library inventory of the Townsend donation.

The memoranda analyze or present the "state of the case" in two unrelated real property lawsuits, concerning early land transactions by the Dutch West India Company, the patroons and other settlers, and Native Americans. Both documents assess the extent to which the Van Rensselaers met conditions for settlement in New Netherland established in the Dutch States General's Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions (1629, printed 1630), often called the "Articles of Encouragement" by Yates, and cited with respect to Van Rensselaer rights in the suits. Yates addresses opposing claims and apparent disparities in early deeds, and describes efforts to clarify the boundaries of the Van Rensselaer patent during the transition of the colony from Dutch to English control. For Yates' continued interest in legal aspects of early settlement see his 1771 correspondence with Samuel Jones in the Numbered Letters and Documents series.

References to Abraham Yates Jr.'s legal work for Stephen Van Rensselaer II are found in the Stephen Van Rensselaer estate inventory, 1787 (MssCol 3138) published as "Inventory of the Rensselaerswyck Manuscripts" Parts I-III in *Bulletin of The New York Public Library* 28, nos. 5-7 (May-July 1924; separate offprint, 1924). Many of the Manor records listed in the inventory were destroyed in the New York State Library fire of 1911. The two memoranda are cited in footnote 31, Vol. 28, No. 7, page 539, offprint page 46. The *Inventory* contains a number of items pertaining to the Normans Kill dispute mentioned below.

Series V. Papers relating to the Manor of Rensselaerswyck (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 17 **Memorandum on the State of the Case regarding the Van Baal patent and Normans Kill 1762** (1 item 18 pages) (1 item : 18 pages)
The lawsuit can be placed in an ongoing legal battle between the Van Rensselaers and the holders of lands under the patent of Jan Hendrickse Van Baal (also Van Bael, Van Baalen) at Normans Kill. The dispute was resolved by arbitration in the mid-1770s.
An autograph draft memorandum analyzing the State of the Case in a legal action, possibly that identified as ""Ejectment Coenradt Luke Ads. John H: Lidius"" in the *Inventory* (Bundle 48, undated, offprint page 47). Yates's spelling of the plaintiff's name appears variously as Koenraat or Caunraat [La ... k], referring to his land "now in dispute" (page 8). The parties' names appear in John R. Bleeker's keyed *Map of the Manor Rensselaerwyck* (1767) as Koerad Louak (112) and John Lidie (84). Yates analyzes the validity and boundaries of the Van Rensselaer and Van Baal patents, referring to numbered documents (prefixed "no.") cited by a legal adversary, and, in response, outlines a strategy supporting the Van Rensselaer position. Numbered articles (prefixed "art.") refer to the Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions. He characterizes his writing as "an historical account of the proceedings agreeable [sic] to the vouchers as I conceive it may be pertinent [sic] to this case." The endorsement leaf also bears Yates's "Memorandum of Points ..." relating to a deed dated July 18, 1672, presented by their opponent.
Title supplied by archivist.
- b. 4 f. 18 **Historical account of the Colony of Rensselaerswyck 1760s** (1 item 14 pages)
Autograph draft legal memorandum addressed to an unidentified recipient ("Sir"), reviewing that person's case against "Lansing." The heavily-emended opening begins "Sir / In stating your case with Lansing I have not traced but only slightly touched upon your Dutch title" The legal case concerns the boundaries of the Patroon's lands on the east side of the Hudson River. Although there are points at which Yates addresses the recipient directly (the Patroon himself at first, it appears), he mostly refers to the Patroon and the Van Rensselaers in the third person. The paper, apparently unfinished, ends with analysis of a deed introduced by the Van Rensselaers while the Albany Charter of 1686 was being drafted. The "case with Lansing" may possibly refer to Stephen Van Rensselaer II's dispute with Abraham Jacob Lansing in the late 1760s. (See *Inventory*, unbundled items, 1769, offprint page 10; items in Bundle 47, 1767 and later, offprint page 45.)
Title supplied by the Library at an earlier time, based on Yates' endorsement: "Historical Account of Colony of Rensselaer Wyck."
- b. 4 f. 19 **Extracts from minutes in Council from 1638 to 1658** 1761 May (1 volume 18 pages) (1 volume : 18 pages) (1 volume : 18 pages) (1 volume : 18 pages)
Extracts "translated from the Dutch Record for this Province" and abstracts from same by Jacob Goelet, dated 1761 May at New York, with corrections and notes by Abraham Yates Jr.
Text from earlier documents is included.
In English.
- b. 4 f. 20 **A protest by the court of the Colony of Rensselaerswyck dated 1664 March 25** 1700s (1 item 3 pages)
Protest to the the Director-General and Council of New Netherland regarding the patent or groundbrief received by Jan Tomassen and Volchert Jansen [Douw] in November, 1663, for the island of Schodack and lands on the east bank of the Hudson River.
Eighteenth-century copy of Dutch text with source noted in English and Dutch. Document date noted by Abraham Yates Jr.
In Dutch and English.
- b. 4 f. 21 **Extracts from minutes of the extraordinary sessions of the magistracy of Albany from 1680 to 1685** 1700s (1 item 4 pages) (1 item : 4 pages)
Extracts from Minutes in Dutch of sessions held 1680-1684 and brief notes in English referring to 1685 minutes. Extracts relate to elections to the Albany bench of justice, to the general Court of Assizes, and to the request for the rights and privileges of a corporation of Albany similar to that granted by Governor Dongan to the people of the City of New York.
In Dutch and English.

Series V. Papers relating to the Manor of Rensselaerswyck (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 22 **Appointment of militia officers at Fort Orange and order of the Council of War dated 1689 March 24 1700s (1 item 3 pages) (1 item : 3 pages)**
Resolution of commissioners for the city and county of Albany appointing militia officers at Fort Orange under the command of Captain Jochim Staets [Staats], and a related order establishing officers' duty to the authority of the Council of War, signed by John de Bruyn, Johannes Provoost, and Jacob Milborne.
In Dutch and English.
- b. 4 f. 23 **Van Rensselaer, Jeremias and Maria Van Cortlandt. Joint last will and testament recorded 1675 August [24?] 1700s (1 item 4 pages) (1 item : 4 pages)**
The original joint will of Jeremias Van Rensselaer (died October 12, 1674) and his wife Maria Van Cortlandt (1645-1688), dated October 10, 1674, was presented in court by his widow on August 24, 1675. This copy lacks the initial text dating the document, but ends with a copied secretarial attestation dated August [14 or 24], 1675. Yates's endorsement carries the date August 14, 1675.
In Dutch.
An English translation of the will appears in: (Albany, N.Y.) *Minutes of the court of Albany, Rensselaerswyck and Schenectady*, ed. and trans. A.J.F. Van Laer, vol. 2, 1675-1680 (Albany: University of the State of New York, 1928), 13-16 (Court minutes for August 24, 1675).
- b. 4 f. 24 **Van Rensselaer, Kiliaen [son of Jan Baptist]. Agreement with Kiliaen Van Rensselaer [son of Jeremias], dated 1695 November 1 1700s (1 item 10 pages) (1 item : 10 pages)**
Indenture relating to their interests in lands in The Netherlands and Rensselaerswyck.
In English.
- b. 4 f. 25 **Van Rensselaer, Kiliaen. Petition to Governor Cornbury dated [1703] circa 1767 (2 items 4, 4 pages) (2 items : 4, 4 pages)**
Copied petition of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer to Governor Cornbury (1661-1723) requesting confirmation of patent received from Governor Dongan in 1685 granting the manor of Rensselaerswyck, with Cornbury's referral to the Council dated 1703 November 3; their response; and certification of the original copy on 1767 July 31.
- b. 4 f. 26 **Van Rensselaer, Kiliaen. Deed conveying property to Henry Van Rensselaer dated 1704 June 1 1700s (1 item) (1 item) (1 item)**
Deed of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, Lord Proprietor of Rensselaerwyck, conveying the tract known as Claverack, the farm called Greenbush, etc., to his brother Henry Van Rensselaer.
In English.
- b. 4 f. 27 **Van Rensselaer, Kiliaen. Lease of certain lands to the Corporation of the City of Albany dated 1716/17 February 18 1770 April 23 (1 item 4 pages) (1 item : 4 pages)**
Lease of lands for the common use of the freeholders and inhabitants of Albany for grazing and supplying wood and stone, for the term of 22 years.
- b. 4 f. 28 **Van Rensselaer, Kiliaen. Last will and testament dated 1719 September 4 1700s (1 item 18 pages) (1 item : 18 pages)**

Series VI. Transcripts circa 1901-1920s

Early 20th-century transcripts of materials in the collection comprise single-spaced typescript copies of calendared letters and documents and selected writings, prepared by or for the donor Catherine Gansevoort Lansing, circa 1901-1915, and double-spaced typescript copies of calendared items prepared by Library staff for a projected publishing project, 1915-1920s. The Library copies predominate, with some reuse and correction of Lansing copies. Not all of the originals are represented by typescripts, and some typescripts are partial copies only. A few contain additional staff notes. Lansing transcripts of selected Yates writings are: the Rough Hewer manuscript; a combined transcript for two separate items, Fourteen political essays and Response to an oration before the Society of the Cincinnati ... 1787; the History of Albany to 1776; and Observations on Toll of Water Vliet.

There are significant problems with the accuracy of the Lansing transcriptions of the writings, affecting their use as surrogates for the originals. For example, Yates' footnotes for cited sources, appearing to the side of the text, are seldom transcribed. Keyed inserts may be omitted, misplaced, or incorporated as parenthetical statements, while other transcription errors may affect the meaning of the sentence.

The initial transcript date is based on the typed initials "C.G.L." dated 1901 on the typescript of a Gansevoort document not in the collection; it is found on the verso of the typescript for Yates' Observations on Toll on Water Vliet essay. The Library's editorial planning began in 1915, and efforts probably continued into the 1920s or later.

- b. 7 f. 1-11 **Numbered letters and documents** circa 1901-1920s
Item numbers not represented by transcript, note, or brief identification are: 3, 25, 52, 97, 107, 112, 118-121, 125, 229-231, 237, 242-244. Item 224 was renumbered as 142a.
- Political and historical writings** circa 1901-1915
Transcripts of Yates' writings, or at least the "Rough Hewer" manuscript, were described in early finding aids as "Critical Essays on the Constitution, etc. (typescripts)."
- b. 7 f. 12 **"Rough Hewer" manuscript** circa 1901-1915 (1 item [1], 98 pages)
- b. 7 f. 13 **Fourteen political essays and Response to an oration before the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New York on July 4, 1787** circa 1901-1915 (1 item 65 pages)
Transcription of the Fourteen political essays ends on page 63, followed by the transcription of the Response to an oration ... 1787 (begins "In perusing the Oration"). The original manuscripts are separately bound.
- b. 7 f. 14 **History of Albany to 1776** circa 1901-1915 (1 item [1], 38 pages)
Transcription includes a table of contents numbered chapters 1-15 instead of alphabetical chapters A-P as in the original manuscript. The title "Revolutions of New York," was the title originally supplied by Abraham G. Lansing.
- b. 7 f. 15 **Observations on toll of Water Vliet** circa 1901-1915 (1 item 2 pages)
The transcription is typed on the back of two sheets, each transcribing a document signed by Peter Gansevoort Jr. They comprise a draft letter to General George Washington dated Albany, 1780 November 17, and the Petition of the Grenadier Company of the City of Albany to the Committee of Safety of the City of Albany, undated (circa 1775?). Those original documents are not in the Yates papers. The typescript of the 1780 letter is dated "May 2nd, 1901 C.G.L. [Catherine Gansevoort Lansing]."