

# **George Washington Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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

**2009**

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<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78044693>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

## Collection Summary

**Title:** George Washington Papers

**Span Dates:** 1592-1943

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1748-1799)

**ID No.:** MSS44693

**Creator:** Washington, George, 1732-1799

**Extent:** 77,000 items ; 506 containers plus 19 oversize ; 215.2 linear feet ; 125 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** United States president, United States Army officer, and patriot. Correspondence, letterbooks, diaries, accounts, military papers, and other papers documenting Washington's relations with the Continental Congress, his command of the Continental Army, his presidency, and other aspects of his career.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Adams, John, 1735-1826--Correspondence.  
Adams, Samuel, 1722-1803--Correspondence.  
Bland, Theodorick, 1742-1790--Correspondence.  
Boucher, Jonathan, 1738-1804--Correspondence.  
Boudinot, Elias, 1740-1821--Correspondence.  
Burgoyne, John, 1722-1792--Correspondence.  
Carrington, Edward, 1749-1810--Correspondence.  
Carroll, Charles, 1737-1832--Correspondence.  
Dayton, Jonathan, 1760-1824--Correspondence.  
Dinwiddie, Robert, 1693-1770--Correspondence.  
Duer, William, 1747-1799--Correspondence.  
Forman, David, 1745-1797--Correspondence.  
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790--Correspondence.  
Gates, Horatio, 1728-1806--Correspondence.  
Gist, Mordecai, 1742-1792--Correspondence.  
Gordon, William, 1728-1807--Correspondence.  
Greene, Nathanael, 1742-1786--Correspondence.  
Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804--Correspondence.  
Hand, Edward, 1744-1802--Correspondence.  
Hazard, Ebenezer, 1744-1817--Correspondence.  
Heath, William, 1737-1814--Correspondence.  
Henry, Patrick, 1736-1799--Correspondence.  
Jay, John, 1745-1829--Correspondence.  
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Correspondence.  
Johnson, Thomas, 1732-1819--Correspondence.  
Laurens, Henry, 1724-1792--Correspondence.  
Lear, Tobias, 1762-1816--Correspondence.  
Lee, Arthur, 1740-1792--Correspondence.  
Lee, Charles, 1758-1815--Correspondence.  
Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794--Correspondence.  
Lewis, Lawrence, 1767-1839--Correspondence.  
Lincoln, Benjamin, 1733-1810--Correspondence.  
Livingston, Robert R., 1746-1813--Correspondence.  
Livingston, William, 1723-1790--Correspondence.

Madison, James, 1751-1836--Correspondence.  
McHenry, James, 1753-1816--Correspondence.  
Mitchell, John, 1711-1768--Correspondence.  
Monroe, James, 1758-1831--Correspondence.  
Morgan, Daniel, 1736-1802--Correspondence.  
Morris, Gouverneur, 1752-1816--Correspondence.  
Morris, Robert, 1734-1806--Correspondence.  
Morse, Jedidiah, 1761-1826--Correspondence.  
Moylan, John--Correspondence.  
Nelson, Thomas, 1738-1789--Correspondence.  
Nicola, Lewis, 1717-1807--Correspondence.  
Ogden, Matthias, -1791--Correspondence.  
Paca, William, 1740-1799--Correspondence.  
Paine, Thomas, 1737-1809--Correspondence.  
Paterson, William, 1755-1810--Correspondence.  
Peale, Charles Willson, 1741-1827--Correspondence.  
Pendleton, Edmund, 1721-1803--Correspondence.  
Peters, Richard, 1743-1828--Correspondence.  
Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829--Correspondence.  
Reed, Joseph, 1741-1785--Correspondence.  
Rush, Benjamin, 1746-1813--Correspondence.  
Rutledge, John, 1739-1800--Correspondence.  
Schuyler, Philip John, 1733-1804--Correspondence.  
Ward, Artemas, 1727-1800--Correspondence.  
Washington, George, 1732-1799.  
Young, Arthur, 1741-1820--Correspondence.

#### **Organizations**

United States. Continental Army.  
United States. Continental Congress,

#### **Places**

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.  
United States--Politics and government--1789-1797.

#### **Titles**

*George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799.*

#### **Occupations**

Army officers.  
Presidents--United States.

## **Administrative Information**

#### **Provenance**

The papers of George Washington, United States president, United States Army officer, and patriot, were purchased by the Library of Congress from the Washington family in 1834 and 1849. Other material was received by gift, deposit, exchanges, transfers, reproduction with permission, and purchases between circa 1867 and 1998, including Washingtoniana formerly cataloged as part of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection.

#### **Processing History**

The George Washington papers were arranged, indexed, and microfilmed in 1964. Subsequent additions were arranged and described in 1973, 1979, and 1985, and a finding aid to the additions was revised and expanded in 1999. In 2009 the finding

aid was expanded by including description of the main collection from the published index. The finding aid was revised in 2015.

### **Additional Guides**

The microfilm edition of these papers (not including additions) is indexed in the *Index to the George Washington Papers* (Washington, D.C.: 1964), prepared as part of the President's Papers Index Series. The index is available online in [PDF](#) and [page view](#) versions.

A card index listing the writers and recipients of letters is available for most of the photostatic copies in the 1973 Addition under Washington's name in the Special Indexes in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. The General Index in the Reading Room includes a partial index for originals and reproductions of Washington items in the 1973 addition and in other collections in the Manuscript Division. Subsequent additions to the George Washington Papers have not been indexed.

### **Copyright Status**

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

### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of George Washington are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### **Microfilm**

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on 125 reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

### **Online Content**

Part of the papers of George Washington is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000010>.

### **Preferred Citation**

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

## **Biographical Note**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1732, Feb. 22	Born, Westmoreland County, Va. (1731, Julian calendar)
1748	County surveyor, Culpeper County, Va.
1752	Inherited Mount Vernon estate in Virginia after the death of his elder half brother, Lawrence Washington Commissioned district adjutant by Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia
1753-1758	Engaged in fighting the French and Indian wars in Ohio and Pennsylvania
1759	Married Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of Daniel Parke Custis Returned to Mount Vernon
1759-1774	Member, Virginia House of Burgesses

1774-1775	Member of First and Second Continental Congresses
1775-1783	Commander of all continental armies during the Revolutionary War
1781	Adopted two of his step-grandchildren after the death of their father, John Parke Custis
1783	Held Continental Army together until British evacuated New York Resigned commission and again returned to Mount Vernon to resume supervision of plantation
1787	Presided at Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pa.
1789	Unanimously chosen president of the United States under the new constitution
1793	Unanimously reelected president of the United States
1797	Declined a third term as president of the United States and retired from political life after a farewell address to the American people
1798	On threat of war with France, accepted commission as lieutenant general and commander in chief of United States Army
1799, Dec. 14	Died, Mount Vernon, Va.

## History of the Collection

[From *Index to the George Washington Papers* Washington, D.C.: 1964), pp. v-xvii]

In August 1776, when George Washington prepared to withdraw from New York City before an expected attack by the British, he took measures to protect the papers that had accumulated at headquarters during the first year of his command of the Continental Army. "I have thought it advisable to remove all the papers in my hands respecting the Affairs of the States, from this place," he wrote John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress. "They are all contained in a large Box nailed up and committed to the care of lieutenant Colonel Reed . . . to be delivered to Congress, in whose custody I would beg leave to deposit them, until our Affairs shall be so circumstanced as to admit of their return." [1] Washington reminded Hancock of these papers soon after the Congress had moved its meeting place from Philadelphia to Baltimore the following December; apparently as an afterthought he asked Hancock to break open the container and send him the letterbooks—he had "frequent occasion to refer to 'em." [2] The other papers in the container, left with Congress, were later moved to York, Pa. It was from there, in February 1779, that Washington finally reclaimed them. [3]

Meanwhile the papers at the Commander-in-Chief's headquarters continued to grow in number, and each time the headquarters location changed they had to be packed, transported, then unpacked. It was one of the duties of the group of "sober, young, active, and well made" soldiers who formed the Commander-in-Chief's Guard to see to the safety of the manuscripts. [4] No provision had been made for keeping the quickly multiplying mass in order, however, and Washington finally sought help on this problem from the President of Congress on April 4, 1781. He wrote that his papers, "which may be of equal public utility and private satisfaction" remained in loose sheets "in the rough manner in which they were first drawn," and that their unarranged state exposed them to damage and loss and made their use inconvenient. He asked, therefore, for authority to employ a "Man of character" and a "set of Writers" to work steadily at a quiet place near his camp to arrange and register the manuscripts. The Congress promptly complied by a resolution of April 10, [5] and Washington was able to appoint Lt. Col. Richard Varick of New York as his recording secretary on May 25.

The Commander-in-Chief's careful plan for the arrangement of his Revolutionary War papers was set down in a memorandum of instructions that accompanied the letter of appointment. This directed that the papers be grouped into six classes:

- A.1. All letters to Congress, Committees of Congress, the Board of War, Individual Members of Congress In their public Characters and american ministers Plenipotentiary at Foreign Courts . . .
- B.2. All letters, orders, and Instructions to officers of the line, of the Staff, and all other Military Characters . . .
- C.3. All Letters to Governors, Presidents and other Executives of States, Civil Magistrates and Citizens of every Denomination . . .
- D.4. Letters to foreign ministers, Foreign Officers, and subjects of Foreign Nations not in the immediate service of America . . .
- E.5. Letters to officers of every Denomination in the service of the Enemy, and to British subjects of every Character with the Enemy, or applying to go in to them. . . .
- F.6. Proceedings of Councils of War in the Order of their dates.

A seventh class, "P," was established later, to consist of Washington's private letters. The General Orders were likewise recorded in a separate series by copyists in the Adjutant General's office. [6]

Varick was instructed first to set up a chronological arrangement within each class and then to supervise the recording, in uniform "Books of Entries," by clerks who were sworn to be upon their honor and to be careful of the papers. The letters *to* Washington were to be similarly grouped, endorsed, filed in neat order, and stowed in "proper Boxes."

At the beginning of his project, Varick took with him from Washington's headquarters at New Windsor, N.Y., the papers dating from 1775 to 1778. After waiting for transportation for his precious "Charges," he traveled to nearby Poughkeepsie where he established his work shop in the home of Dr. Peter Tappan, "an honest Patriot" and a brother-in-law of Governor George Clinton. [7] By 1782, he and his copyists had covered the existing files and from then on they were able to deal with current documents, usually received in weekly shipments. Washington was sending Varick both public and private letters to handle as late as October 2, 1783, and in a letter of that date he cautioned that these papers contained "sentiments upon undecided points" and that it was therefore more than ever necessary "that there should be the strictest guard over them, & the most perfect silence with respect to their contents." By the end of the year the work had come to an end, and on the first day of 1784 Washington thanked his recording secretary for the work he had done, writing that he was "fully convinced that neither the present age or posterity will consider the time & labour . . . unprofitably spent."

The volumes of Varick transcripts which now compose most of Series 3 of the Washington Papers are the only reflection of Washington's own plan for the arrangement of his Revolutionary War correspondence. The drafts and letters he received during that period became disarranged and Varick's work on them can be seen only in the neat dockets they bear.

Looking forward to the time his papers would be transported to Mount Vernon, Washington ordered from Daniel Parker of New York, on June 18, 1783, "Six strong hair Trunks well clasped and with good Locks." He added that he would be glad to have on each trunk a brass or copper label containing his name and "the year of each." On November 9, when he no longer had real need to refer to the papers, they were packed in the trunks and loaded on wagons, and Bezaleel Howe, lieutenant of the New Hampshire line and a member of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, was placed in charge of the escort that was to take them to Mount Vernon. "As you know," Washington wrote to Howe, "[the wagons] contain all my Papers, which are of immense value to me." Then the route Howe was to follow was given and he was cautioned not to cross the ferries if the wind was high or there was the least danger. In Philadelphia he was to deliver the bundle containing Washington's accounts as Commander-in-Chief to Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance. Unfortunately, Howe's own account of expenses for the trip to Mount Vernon has not been located; it is not known exactly when he reached there with his cargo, which, even now after segments have been removed, composes more than half of the Library's Washington Papers.

In 1782, and again in 1783, the Reverend William Gordon had asked Washington's permission to use his papers for a history of the American Revolution. Each time this permission was denied—until such time as the Continental Congress should open its records to historians. Washington explained in reply to the first request: "It appears to me impracticable for the best Historiographer living, to write a full & correct history of the present Revolution who has not free access to the Archives of Congress, those of Individual States, the Papers of the Commander in Chief, and Commanding Officers of separate departments. Mine—while the War continues—I consider as a species of Public property, sacred in my hands." [8] Similar requests from others were received after Washington had retired to Mount Vernon. For John Bowie, whose request

came through an old friend, Dr. James Craik, Washington offered to open his papers on public affairs for the period prior to his appointment to the command of the American army. [9]

Perhaps it was due to such requests that he determined, but never found the time, to put all of his papers in order. Nevertheless it was probably during this period of retirement that he reviewed and amended the texts in his early letterbooks of 1755 and 1758, and employed Robert Lewis to transcribe them and other early drafts in the amended form. [10] If this was designed as a parallel to the Varick transcripts of his later papers, it came out a poor second; Lewis was not an accurate copyist, and in the process many of the unbound drafts were apparently discarded.

When Washington left Mount Vernon for New York City in April 1789 to assume his duties as first President of the United States, his papers for the previous years were left at the estate. A month after his inauguration Mathew Carey applied for permission to select from the papers documents relative to skirmishes, battles, and "interesting circumstances" of the Revolution. Washington replied on May 21 that "all the papers in my possession, relative to the revolution, are packed up in trunks and boxes at Mount Vernon."

During the presidential years, Washington used paper with a distinctive watermark, which was manufactured for him by an unidentified paper maker. Examples have been located in three different weights, for ledgers or journals, letters, and press copies; each bears a watermark with the name G EORGE W ASHINGTON enclosed in concentric circles. The largest circle measures 3-3/8 inches in diameter and is surmounted by the figure of a dove on an inverted "W." Many recipients' copies and almost all of the press copies of his letters for those years were written or reproduced on this paper. The President's correspondence with each of the Government departments—State, Treasury, and War—and with the Congress was transcribed in a separate series of letterbooks.

At the end of his term of office, Washington employed Tobias Lear and Bartholomew Dandridge, who had served as his secretaries, to separate from his papers those files which were intended for his successor in office, John Adams, and to pack and send the remainder to Mount Vernon. It was later discovered, as the result of a request from Attorney General Charles Lee, that two bundles containing original opinions of the Heads of Departments were still in the possession of the Secretary of State, who had borrowed and failed to return them. [11] He promptly made arrangements for their return.

Soon after he reached Mount Vernon, Washington wrote James McHenry that he planned to erect a building on the estate "for the accommodation & security of my Military Civil & private Papers which are voluminous, and may be interest[ing]." He then added, "yet I have not one [building] or scarcely anything else about me that does not require considerable repairs." [12] Apparently the many demands on his time and other more pressing repairs to existing buildings prevented him from carrying out this plan. [13]

He also hoped to sort and arrange his papers. When he employed Albin Rawlins of Hanover County, Va., as a new assistant in February 1798, one of Rawlins' duties was "to copy and record letters and other Papers." [14] Washington was able to make some headway on this self-imposed task during his leisure hours, as his letters for this period tell, but his appointment by President Adams as the commander-in-chief of a newly forming army in the summer of 1798, and the heavy correspondence this entailed, finally compelled him to abandon the task.

Washington died at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1799. In his will he bequeathed to his nephew Bushrod Washington, eldest son of his favorite brother John Augustine, "all the Papers in my possession, which relate to my Civil [*sic*] and Military Administration of the affairs of this Country . . . [and] also, such of my private Papers as are worth preserving." This nephew, who had been appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court the previous year, was also to receive the mansion house and a portion of the acreage of Mount Vernon after the death of Martha Washington. [15]

Tobias Lear, who had been a trusted friend and secretary for many years and who was at Mount Vernon when Washington died, was the first person to handle the papers. According to Lear's published journal, he spent Tuesday, December 24, 1799, "in looking over & arranging papers in the General's Study." [16] He had possession of them, presumably at Mount Vernon, for about 8 months after Washington's death. [17] Perhaps during this period he removed and turned over to Martha Washington the correspondence she and her husband had exchanged; her granddaughter, Martha Parke Custis Peter, told Jared Sparks many years later that Mrs. Washington had burned all but two letters, which were saved by accident, "shortly after General Washington's death." [18]

Although Bushrod Washington thus did not take immediate possession of the papers—and no evidence has been found to show that he actually removed them from Mount Vernon before Martha Washington's death—he must have started soon after his uncle's death to arrange for the preparation of a biography. He first approached Tobias Lear on December 26,

1799, and proposed that they write a biography of George Washington, in partnership; Lear would arrange the papers and do the preliminary work and Bushrod Washington assist in the later stages. This apparently did not lead to any formal agreement. There appeared in Philadelphia, in the *True American* for August 18, 1800, the following announcement printed over his signature: "Having at length engaged a gentleman of distinguished talents to assist in writing a History of the Life of the late General Washington, this work will be immediately commenced, and will be completed as expeditiously as the nature of such an undertaking will permit." [19]

The "gentleman of distinguished talents" was John Marshall, then Secretary of State and soon to be appointed Chief Justice of the United States, who optimistically thought he could complete the biography in the winter following George Washington's death. Thomas Jefferson was among those who were worried lest it come out in time to influence the presidential election of 1804. [20] As it turned out, the first volume did not appear until 1805 and the fifth and final volume until 1807. [21]

While this biography was in preparation, and for many years thereafter, a large part of the Washington papers was in Richmond, where Marshall lived and worked on them. He did not require manuscripts for the first volume, an introduction which barely mentioned Washington. He received what appears to have been the first shipment of papers late in 1803 and reported this in a letter he wrote to his publisher, Caleb P. Wayne of Philadelphia, on December 23, 1803: "The trunks containing the papers relative to the civil administration have reached me only this week, & have not yet been opened." He added that he could not examine them until the following spring after he was relieved from circuit court duties and the session of the Supreme Court. [22] By 1805, he had received more papers, because in the introduction to the first volume of the biography he stated that "with infinite labour" he had examined the "immensely voluminous" correspondence of the commander-in-chief during the war. Marshall probably never had some of the early papers; when the first volume of Jared Sparks' edition of Washington's writings reached him in 1834, he told Sparks that he had never before heard of Washington's boyhood "rules of civility." [23]

Apparently groups of the Washington papers passed back and forth between Richmond and Mount Vernon not only while the biography was being prepared but later as well. Marshall first worked slowly on corrections he hoped to incorporate into a revised edition; then the two men worked, mainly between 1823 and 1825, on what was to be a three-volume selection of Washington's letters. [24] Judging from Bushrod Washington's letters during this period, the larger part of the papers was with Marshall in Richmond. The latter finally returned "six trunks & a box" on board the schooner *John* on August 6, 1823. He thought these contained "all the manuscript books & papers" in his possession, [25] but actually he had many others until 1827. Evidently no precautions to care for the papers were taken in the long weeks Marshall was away from home during court sessions; Bushrod Washington, writing to James Madison in 1819, admitted that "the papers sent to the Chief Justice, and which are still in Richmond, have been extensively mutilated by rats and otherwise injured by damp as he not long since informed me." [26]

In contrast, Judge Washington attempted to provide some care of the papers in his possession during those years. They were stored in his office, a separate building close to the mansion house at Mount Vernon, which had been occupied by the white servants in George Washington's time, and the building was covered by insurance. [27]

Bushrod Washington received many calls for the letters of given individuals and many requests for autographs, while the papers were in his keeping, and he was generous to a fault in complying with the requests. In 1811, the Marquis de Lafayette told Judge Washington of the loss of his correspondence with George Washington "in the revolutionary storms of Europe." He asked that his letters, and copies of Washington's letters, be sent to him. The favor was granted. [28]

Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, the widow of Alexander Hamilton, visited Mount Vernon for a fortnight in the summer of 1818 and asked to borrow certain letters her husband had written to George Washington of which she did not have copies. Judge Washington turned over to her those that he could find at Mount Vernon and asked John Marshall to "look amongst the letters in your possess[ion] for the balance & forward them." He later wrote apologetically to Mrs. Hamilton, when Marshall did not reply, that he thought it "highly probable that the C. J. got the papers into some disorder whilst he was preparing the material for the life . . . and now finds it a task of no ordinary difficulty to make a successful search through them for any particular papers which may be called for." [29] He was still promising James A. Hamilton in 1822 to send the other letters as soon as he received the remainder of the trunks from Richmond. [30] The list Mrs. Hamilton supplied has not been located, and so it is not known how many of Hamilton's letters were lent to her. There was some difficulty in getting them back; they were finally returned only in 1827 when they were urgently needed by Jared Sparks. [31]



James Madison, in looking over his papers in 1818, found that he had lost or failed to retain copies of a number of letters he had written to George Washington and asked Judge Washington's permission to "fill up the chasm" from the originals. "This may be done either by letting the papers be copied by some good penman among the clerks in Washington . . . or by forwarding through some safe channel, the originals to be copied here, in which case they shall be carefully returned." He added that he possessed all of the correspondence on the other side and would gladly furnish copies. Judge Washington first waited for a favorable change in the weather and the disappearance of a cold he had had for some time "to go into an outhouse where my papers are kept and to select those you want," and he was at last able, in the Spring of 1820, to send five original letters to Madison. [32] He was sure that many more would be in Marshall's keeping in Richmond.

Of autograph seekers there were many. Christopher Hughes, diplomat son-in-law of Gen. Samuel Smith of Baltimore, Md., was one who benefited from Judge Washington's generosity. Hughes received in 1818, for forwarding to the Russian Minister at Stockholm, manuscript letters of John Marshall, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Jay, and George Washington; [33] and for himself he received, in 1825, Washington's diary for 1797 [34] and a gathering of Washington's autograph notes on a book on husbandry, which provided the diplomat with many a leaf to distribute among his friends. [35]

Hughes was a minor figure compared to the Reverend William B. Sprague. According to Lyman C. Draper, Sprague, who was graduated from Yale in 1815, spent the following year as an instructor at Woodlawn, in the family of Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis (a granddaughter of Martha Washington) and Lawrence Lewis (George Washington's nephew), and during this period obtained Bushrod Washington's permission "to take whatever letters he might choose from Gen. Washington's voluminous correspondence, provided only that he would leave copies in their stead." Draper added that, as a result, Sprague "came into possession of some 1,500 letters, many of which were included in the three sets of the Signers which he completed." [36] This story has been accepted by other writers, Justin Winsor among them, and it is a fact that Sprague wrote from Mount Vernon in 1816 to Jared Sparks, who had been an Exeter classmate, and sent him "a scrap of General Washington's handwriting." [37] Nevertheless, Sparks himself is authority for the statement that Sprague removed the manuscripts many years later, after they were in Sparks' hands—but, as he wrote, with Judge Washington's permission. [38]

A part of Sprague's collection went to Simon Gratz and is now in the Gratz Collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, by whose permission the Library of Congress has obtained photostatic copies of many of the letters to Washington that strayed. These are filed by date in Series 4 of the Washington Papers and can be distinguished from original manuscripts because they are in negative form.

A request of a different type was directed to Judge Washington in 1824. Jared Sparks, then editor of the *North American Review*, wrote him on behalf of one of his former schoolmates at Exeter, Charles Folsom, who was interested in preparing an edition of George Washington's writings. The Judge did not offer to open the papers at Mount Vernon, and Folsom lost interest in the project. Sparks, on the other hand, started to assemble information on George Washington from official records and the papers of his contemporaries, and again wrote to Bushrod Washington on January 16, 1826, on his own behalf, incorporating in his letter a plan for an edition of the Washington writings. His friend, Judge Joseph Story, delivered this letter, but even under these auspices the result was disappointing; Story reported that John Marshall and Bushrod Washington had already prepared a three-volume edition of Washington's letters and that the Judge did not incline to favor Sparks' project. Although the news was "somewhat of a damper" to Sparks' zeal, as he wrote Story in March 1826, he added that "all the important materials may be obtained from other quarters, though with great trouble, & my present impression is that I shall pursue the project. Washington's public letters and papers are the property of the nation." After a tour through the South that summer, Sparks again wrote to Judge Washington, offering to halve the profits of an edition (after deducting expenses) if he was allowed to examine the Washington papers. Chief Justice Marshall, as well as Judge Story, was now a force in swaying the decision; he advised his friend to accept the offer, and Judge Washington finally agreed, in January 1827. [39] Sparks recorded in his journal for January 17: "I am to have full access to the whole [of the papers], and publish such as I think proper . . . The papers are not to be taken from Mount Vernon, except some of them by his consent." On March 7, a contract was signed with John Marshall and Bushrod Washington forming one party, Jared Sparks the other. Exactly one week later Sparks arrived at Mount Vernon to survey the papers, [40] and continued this survey for slightly more than 2 months. Bushrod Washington was away on circuit court service during the entire time and saw Sparks "for only an hour or two" after returning to Mount Vernon in May. [41]

In contrast to the amateur efforts of Marshall and Washington in handling and copying George Washington's papers, Sparks entered into the work with incredible energy. Within the 10 weeks he was at Mount Vernon he notified the Judge (April 3) that he had received from Marshall "General Washington's letters during the French War" and "a volume of letters for the

year 1787," which Marshall had retained by accident, and asked Washington to have "Hamilton's and Lafayette's letters" returned; located, on April 17, nearly 50 original Lafayette letters "out of place" in loose parcels containing the volumes of General Orders, [42] and, on April 28, "some new and valuable papers . . . in a large chest in a garret" where it was "merely accidental" that he found them; [43] suggested to the Judge that, in addition to the "Life and Writings" for which they had contracted, he also prepare a separate edition of letters addressed to Washington; [44] solicited James Madison's acquaintance by informing him, on April 12, that he had found about 70 Madison letters in the Washington papers; [45] and prepared a long description of the papers for publication. [46]

Sparks was amazed at the richness and the number of papers, and he soon realized that his primary task of preparing an edition of Washington's writings could not be accomplished at Mount Vernon, but that he would need copying assistance and a good library nearby. He therefore directed a long letter to Judge Washington on April 17, in which he stated the problems, asked for permission to take a large part of the papers to Boston, and elaborated his plans for their care. [47] Hoping for approval—he received it in a letter of April 29—he then doubled his efforts to assemble and select the papers he would need. By May 18, he was able to write to Joseph Story that the papers he proposed to remove to Boston were "assorted and arranged . . . and with one hour's work more" would be packed. "Thus, Sir," he continued, "you see what a little perseverance on my part, and a good deal of kind assistance on yours have effected. I trust you will not be disappointed in the results at a future day." [48]

Actually Sparks finished packing the papers at Mount Vernon on May 22. They were in eight large boxes, six of which, filled with letterbooks and volumes of Varick transcripts, were shipped from Alexandria to Boston; the other two, which contained "the most valuable papers"—miscellaneous original papers, including a "free selection" of letters addressed to Washington—Sparks carried with him. He made stops to do research in several locations in Maryland and in Philadelphia and New York, and reached Boston on June 10. The papers that had been shipped arrived safely a few days later.

Even before he reached his destination, Sparks decided that he should have all of the letters addressed to Washington, and he wrote to Judge Washington about them on June 4. The latter left in his papers a memorandum that "On the 13th June 1827 . . . I put on board the schooner Alexandria for Boston a large box containing the residue of the letters to Genl Washington." [49] Sparks notified the Judge on August 14 that the papers had arrived, and that he had insured them in the Judge's name for \$10,000. A further group was taken from Mount Vernon by Sparks when he visited there on February 27, 1828; these consisted of Washington's private journals and diaries. [50]

The letters to Washington were in loose bundles, filed alphabetically by the names of the writers, when they came into Sparks' hands. [51] Within a few weeks after he had received them, he assembled the John Marshall letters and sent them by stagecoach to Judge Story, then in Salem, to assist him in an article he was writing for the *North American Review*. "I do not suppose it would be advisable to quote any of them in form," Sparks wrote, "but the facts may be used freely without reference the source whence they come." He asked Story to preserve them with great care; he held them only in trust. [52] He also assembled and packed James Madison's letters, late in 1827, and entrusted the parcel to Col. Samuel A. Storrow of Culpeper, Va., who was visiting in Boston, for delivery to Madison. Although Madison promptly had copies made of those missing from his files, he held the originals to hand to Sparks during a visit the latter made to Montpelier in April 1830. [53]

In March 1828, Sparks sailed for Europe to examine and copy material he needed for the several writing and editorial projects he had undertaken. Before he left, he had the Washington papers "put up in chests, and deposited in the safety vault of an insurance office." One may wonder whether he first removed some autographs from them. In the preceding months he had collected Washington autograph letters from Timothy Pickering and James A. Hamilton and had tried, unsuccessfully, to obtain examples from James Madison; these he proposed to distribute to public libraries and other institutions in Europe, where he felt that they would be preserved with care and to "much better purpose than in the hands of individuals." [54]

Soon after Sparks returned to Boston in 1829, he started to examine the Washington papers in detail, and he soon sought, and received, Bushrod Washington's permission to rearrange the letters addressed to George Washington in a chronological order. [55] The work of rearrangement was accomplished in the early months of 1830 by the Reverend Doctor Thaddeus M. Harris, in Dorchester, and, after the letters had been bound (in 107 volumes), Dr. Harris was asked to index them. [56]

On November 26, 1829, before Jared Sparks had made any substantial progress toward his edition of the Washington writings, Judge Bushrod Washington died. In his will, "All the papers and letter books" and many of the printed books which had been devised to him by General Washington were bequeathed to his nephew George Corbin Washington, a

lawyer, agriculturalist, and Member of Congress from Maryland. Some time in the following spring the new owner of the papers moved those that had remained in his uncle's possession from Mount Vernon to his office in Georgetown, D.C. [57]

Sparks continued his work on the edition, first in Boston, and then, when the time came to begin sending manuscript to the printer, in Cambridge. [58] His principal advisers were Samuel A Eliot, a friend who gave much needed financial assistance, and Charles Folsom (the friend in whose behalf Sparks had originally written to Judge Washington), who saw the work through the press. It is unnecessary to refer here to Sparks' editorial practices, about which so much has been written, except to point out that even his longtime friend Joseph Story feared that "antiquarians and devout admirers of Washington" would object to the changes of wording that were made "merely to express the thought more appropriately." [59]

Officers of the Government had from time to time been allowed to consult the Washington papers—mainly the military returns—at Mount Vernon, and they continued with greater frequency to seek this privilege from George Corbin Washington. Finally, on December 10, 1833, Secretary of State Louis McLane wrote to Washington that he was "desirous of rendering as complete as possible the Archives of the United States" and asked if the latter would consent to deposit the papers in the Department of State. In Washington's reply, on January 3, he first emphasized the extent and importance of the papers, then agreed to transfer his title to all but those papers which were "of a private nature, or which it would be obviously improper to make public" for a sum that would be mutually satisfactory. He referred to Sparks' publication, which he understood—too optimistically—was then nearly through the press, and agreed that delivery of the papers could be made "as soon as practicable, after the publication above alluded to." [60] The Secretary sought an appropriation from Congress the following month.

The question was referred to the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; the committee, through Edward Everett, was furnished with a description of the papers by Jared Sparks; and a bill to enable the Secretary of State to purchase "the manuscript papers and a portion of the printed books of General George Washington," for \$25,000, was taken up by the House on June 26, 1834. In the course of debate on the bill, Representative Job Pierson of New York moved to raise the purchase price to \$35,000, and he was supported by Representative Richard Henry Wilde of Georgia, who pointed out that the Washington papers contained the only surviving copies of lists of all officers of the American Army who held their commissions at the time the Army was disbanded. Duplicate copies had been destroyed when the War Office was burned in 1800, and by reference to the lists in the Washington papers, the Government had already "saved to itself a large proportion of the money asked for these manuscripts." The amendment was nevertheless defeated; the bill as submitted was passed by the House on June 28 and was approved by the Senate on June 30, 1834. [61]

The papers covered by the bill were turned over to the Department of State in several steps. Early in the summer of 1834, George Corbin Washington delivered the public papers that were then in his possession. [62] These consisted largely of the military returns which the Government had found so valuable and drafts of Washington's own letters. During a visit to Cambridge in August, he received 10 volumes of Army returns from Jared Sparks and promptly turned them over to the Department. In November, Sparks himself sent "several *first drafts* of Washington's Letters, which belong to the collection already in the Dept. of State" and urged that one of them (Washington's famous reply to Col. Lewis Nicola), being "curious," should be carefully preserved. [63] In April of the following year Colonel Washington found a few manuscripts relating to public transactions among the "3 or 4 bundles" of private papers he had retained, and he sent these to the Secretary of State. [64]

That officer was obliged to wait for the rest. Sparks had letterbooks, Varick transcripts, and the long series of original letters addressed to Washington at his home in Cambridge when the bill for purchase was approved, and there he sought to keep them until he had finished his work. Only 5 of the 12 volumes of his edition of Washington's writings had been published. By relying on the terms of the contract he had made with Bushrod Washington and John Marshall in 1827 and supported by letters Joseph Story and Edward Everett wrote on his behalf to the Secretary of State, Sparks was able to win a stay in the transfer. A contract between the Department of State and Colonel Washington on August 22, 1834, provided that the remainder of the papers would be handed over not later than the close of the next session of Congress (March 3, 1835). One-fifth of the purchase price was withheld until the transfer was completed. Apparently a further delay was won later, for it was not until October 11, 1836, that Colonel Washington could turn over 188 volumes and a bundle of lists of appointments and claim that he had finally fulfilled the terms of the contract. He had delivered "every paper and manuscript" devised to him by Judge Washington "in any wise connected with Genl. Washington's public life from 1754 to 1799." He had gone to Boston to bring the final segment with him by steamboat and railroad so that they could be given greater security. [65]

The Department of State, meanwhile, had employed Peter Force—then at the beginning of his work of compiling material for the American Archives—to examine and arrange the unbound papers that were part of the first segment received from George Corbin Washington. By September 23, 1834, Force was able to inform the Secretary of State that these papers, mainly military returns, had been arranged as nearly as possible by subject and, within each class, in chronological order. They were ready to be bound in 37 volumes. He added that he had also found a number of letters addressed to Washington, which probably belonged to the bound volumes then in Sparks' possession; these he had laid aside for later attention. There were, in addition, several bundles of papers that related "to the present government," which he could, if so instructed, "put up with those of the Revolution." [66] No further instructions to him have been located.

After receipt of the last segment from Colonel Washington in 1836, the Department proceeded to examine its holdings and check them for completeness against the volumes of Sparks' edition of Washington's writings. Certain papers, presumably missing, were reported by the Department's William A. Weaver to the Secretary of State in mid-1838, and the latter got in touch with Colonel Washington. The list included the third volume in the series of orderly books; [67] the early journals and papers from Washington's boyhood to 1754; two volumes of his letters and invoices, 1758-75; and several hundred original letters which had been removed from the bound volumes and copies substituted. [68]

Colonel Washington, in reply, [69] reminded Secretary John Forsyth that he had expressly reserved from the deposit papers "of a private nature, or which it would be obviously improper to make public." Those he had retained were of this character and were contained "in a small drawer." He had withheld "the correspondence between Genl. Washington and John Nicholson [sic], in relation to an anonymous letter addressed to the former over the signature of John Langhorne," because he considered that it deeply implicated the conduct of "a distinguished individual of that time," and he had not been aware that Sparks had published any portion of it. (He submitted this correspondence for inspection by the Secretary, to be retained or returned as that officer deemed proper.) Washington considered that Sparks' use of and publicity given to certain of the private papers did not affect his rights in the few papers he had expressly reserved. As to the orderly book, it had been reported missing while the papers were owned by Bushrod Washington; and he was not aware that any original papers had been taken from the bound volumes except those described by Sparks, in a letter of which he enclosed a copy, as having been removed by Dr. Sprague with Judge Washington's permission. [70]

Finally, in 1849, the Department of State, with Colonel Washington's approval, proposed that the Government buy the remaining papers in his possession. A clause providing for their purchase, for \$20,000, was inserted into the general appropriation bill, which was approved on March 3, 1849. [71]

While the Washington papers were in the custody of the Department of State they were used by various persons from time to time. William A. Weaver transcribed the first two volumes of general orders for Peter Force in 1838. [72] In mid-century, John Church Hamilton examined the papers while he was preparing his seven-volume edition of *The Works of Alexander Hamilton* and six-volume *History of the Republic*, and he is credited with having transferred to the Hamilton papers, which were also in the Department at that time, the recipient's copies of certain letters Hamilton had written to Washington. [73] Historians who were allowed access to the papers later in the century included Moncure D. Conway and Worthington C. Ford. [74]

Much more extensive use was contemplated. President Grover Cleveland, on April 12, 1888, transmitted to Congress and commended for favorable attention a letter of April 10 from Secretary of State Thomas F. Bayard, in which a plan for publishing all of the important collections of historical manuscripts then deposited in the Department of State was outlined. Accompanying the outline were a copy of a circular letter Bayard had sent to and the replies he had received from some 40 historians and public figures, who heartily endorsed the plan. As a sample of what was proposed, Bayard also sent printed texts of all the Washington papers dated from June 15 to August 4, 1775; letters and memoranda by and addressed to Washington were included as were all papers they had enclosed, and the various versions of a given communication were cited. The first footnote is followed by the initials "W. C. F."—evidently Worthington C. Ford had been asked to edit the specimen pages. [75] The following year saw the publication of the first volumes of Ford's edition of *The Writings of George Washington*.

Between 1889 and 1892 the Congress appropriated \$14,000 for the restoration, mounting, and binding of manuscripts in the Department. The first to be treated were the Continental Congress papers. These were followed by the papers of Madison, Monroe, and Washington. [76] Before this time, and perhaps many years before, some 800 manuscripts—drafts or retained copies of Washington letters as well as letters addressed to him, mainly by Government officers while he was President—had lost their identity as Washington papers and had become part of the miscellaneous letters series in the Department's records. It may be that these manuscripts were in the bundles which Peter Force set aside in 1834 for later attention. [77]



The Department had also extracted from the Washington papers and other groups of Presidential papers in its keeping and had formed into a separate bound series the correspondence exchanged between the Presidents and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. [78]

In November 1894, in accordance with Acts of Congress of 1892 and 1894, the Department transferred to the Record and Pension Office of the War Department all the military records in its custody, including the "Army returns" that Washington had used in camp and retained in his papers [79] and that Peter Force had arranged in 1834. Although the original manuscripts no longer form a unit in the records of the War Department, individual items can be traced to the Washington papers by reference to the transcripts of the series, which were made for Peter Force and acquired by the Library of Congress when it purchased the Force library in 1867.

Under authority of an Act of Congress of February 25, 1903, and following an Executive Order of March 9, 1903, the Department of State transferred the papers of George Washington to the Library of Congress on June 29, 1904. Three letterbooks were retained; these contain a record of Washington's correspondence with the Department. [80]

Some of the many manuscripts that became separated over the years from the main body of Washington papers have already been noted. It may be well at this point to refer to others of the kind. There is evidence that certain private papers of Washington were distributed among members of the Washington family, who later gave them away or sold them. There must have been considerable pressure brought to bear on these owners by autograph seekers. In 1857, George Washington Parke Custis sent John Pickett of Warrenton, Va., a "Relic" taken from the accounts George Washington had kept of the estates of Custis' father and grandfather. He wrote: "I am now cutting up fragments from *old letters & accounts*, some of 1760 . . . to supply the call for *Any thing that bears the impress of his venerated hand*. One of my correspondents says send me only the dot of an I or the cross of a t, made by his hand, & I will be content." [81] Mrs. John Washington of Mount Vernon gave Washington's diary for 1762 to James K. Paulding; now owned by his descendants, it is on deposit in the Library of Congress. In the last quarter of the 19th century a number of Washington papers were sold at auction by members of the family and eventually became part of large private collections or the holdings of historical societies and libraries. [82]

Among these papers, press copies of 236 Washington letters (June 1792-December 1799) and an original notebook kept by Washington in 1757 were purchased by the New York Public Library in 1895 and 1919, respectively. [83] In addition to Washington papers in its Gratz collection, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania has a household account book for 1793-97 and Washington's pocket diary for 1796, and the Detroit Public Library has his diary for 1789-90; the Henry E. Huntington Library has a survey field book, a "pocket-day-book," and a number of letters addressed to Washington; the Lloyd W. Smith Collection, now in the Morristown National Historical Park, includes Washington's Ledgers "C" and "G," accounts of the Mount Vernon mansion house and other farms for 1797-99, and numerous other Washington papers. Finally, the Library of Congress acquired with the Peter Force library, in 1867, Washington's diary for 1787; his letterbook for 1775-76 (now volume 9 of Series 2 of the Washington Papers); the volume of General Orders for 1778, which is mentioned earlier; and a number of letters addressed to Washington. [84] A portion of the letterpress copies now in Series 4 was received with the Joseph Meredith Toner Collection between 1882 and 1896.

To this nucleus were added the main body of Washington papers acquired in 1904, the series of applications for office during Washington's administration, transferred by the Department of State in 1909, and, in the same year, from the Treasury Department, Washington's accounts and vouchers for the Revolutionary War period. The papers were kept in the arrangement in which they were received until about 1920, and during the interval the Library published guides to the papers dated prior to June 1775 and to the papers that had been included in classes A and B of the Varick arrangement. [85]

The drafts, press copies, the contents of two letter and invoice books, memoranda, and vouchers were combined with the letters and documents addressed or referred to Washington in one chronologically arranged series in about 1920. This is the basis for the present Series 4 of the Washington Papers, although in their recent reorganization the vouchers and the reconstituted letter and invoice books have become part of Series 5.

In the late 1920's and 1930's, the Library intensified its longtime effort to assemble photocopies of Washington manuscripts in other institutions and in private hands in order to supplement the Washington Papers, and cooperated closely with John C. Fitzpatrick, the editor for *The United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission of the Writings of George Washington From the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799*, which was published by authority of Congress, in 39 volumes, between 1931 and 1944. The supplementary photocopy material acquired during those years does not appear on the microfilm but may be consulted in the Library's Manuscript Division.

As part of the Library's program to ensure the safety of its most valuable manuscripts during World War II, certain miscellaneous volumes of the Washington Papers were given special protection in the city of Washington while the bulk was sent to the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia for storage. The papers were brought together again in 1944, when the material which had been evacuated from Washington was returned under the direction of Alvin W. Kremer, then Keeper of the Collections.

The Washington Papers, which now number 64,786, were studied and the arrangement perfected during the period 1960-63. A microfilm that reproduces them in this arrangement was released in 1964. A description of the Washington papers appears in the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, 1962*, published by the Library of Congress in 1964.

Note: This essay was written by Mrs. Dorothy S. Eaton, Specialist in Early American History, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

1. Grateful acknowledgement is made to Charles Cecil Wall, resident director of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, and to Frank E. Morse, Christine Meadows, and Mrs. Helen Maggs Fede, members of his research staff, for information and for their willingness to read and comment on a draft of this paper. Dr. Francis S. Ronalds, superintendent of the Morristown National Historical Park, and the chief historian on his staff, S. W. Perry, kindly provided information and gave assistance in connection with the writer's use of the rich Lloyd Wadell Smith collection and certain supplementary materials in the National Park Service records in their keeping. Mrs. Julia B. Carroll of the National Archives was characteristically generous in sharing her knowledge of the records of the Department of State and suggesting pertinent materials to search.
2. Washington to Hancock, August 13 and December 24, 1776, respectively. In No. 152, Papers of the Continental Congress, National Archives. The request for the letterbooks (now volumes 7-10 in Series 2 of the Washington Papers) appears only in the recipient's copy of the letter of December 24. Washington had instructed his overseer at Mount Vernon, Lund Washington, to protect his earlier papers in case of a British raid on the estate (letter of August 20, 1775), and the papers were removed early the following year. See the *Writings of George Washington . . .*, edited by John C. Fitzpatrick, vol. 4 (Washington, 1931). p. 446n.
3. See draft instructions to Lt. Col. Anthony Walton White, February 17, 1779. Washington Papers, Library of Congress. Manuscripts quoted hereafter are in these papers unless otherwise noted.
4. These qualities were mentioned in a letter from Washington to the Commanding Officer of the Fourteenth Virginia Regiment, June 4, 1777. Photostat in the Library of Congress, reproducing original in the Massachusetts Historical Society.
5. *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 19 (Washington, 1912), p. 368.
6. The third volume of General Orders (for 1778) was reported missing by Jared Sparks when he examined the Washington papers at Mount Vernon in 1827, and it was not a part of the papers sold to the Government in 1834 or in 1849. A volume of general orders for this year, which was copied in the Adjutant General's office (in a smaller volume than those used by Varick), was acquired by the Library of Congress before 1901—almost certainly with the Peter Force Library in 1867—and this is now shelved as volume 3 of the general orders series.
7. Varick to Washington, July 19, 1781.
8. Washington to Gordon, October 23, 1782.
9. Washington to Craik, March 25, 1784.
10. The original letterbooks of the Braddock and Bouquet expeditions are now volumes 2 and 6 of Series 2 of the Washington Papers; Robert Lewis's transcripts of these and other early Washington letters form volumes 1, 3, 4, and 5 of this series.
11. Washington to Timothy Pickering, August 4, 1797.
12. Washington to McHenry, April 3, 1797. Photostat in the Library of Congress, reproducing original in the New York Public Library.

13. Washington's "List of Houses at Mount Vernon as Taken by Mr. Dulan," dated March 13, 1799, does not include a building of this description, and no evidence that one was built later has been found by the research staff at Mount Vernon.
14. Washington to Rawlins, February 12, 1798.
15. The original will, dated July 9, 1799, is preserved in the Courthouse of Fairfax County, Va.
16. *Letters and Recollections of George Washington, Being Letters to Tobias Lear and Others Between 1790 and 1799* . . . (New York, 1906), p. 141. According to Lear's account of the death of Washington, he received the following instruction just before Washington died: ". . . Do you arrange and record all my late military letters and papers. Arrange my accounts and settle my books, as you know more about them than any one else, and let Mr. Rawlins finish recording my other letters which he has begun." *Ibid*, p. 133. Certain manuscripts had been lost or separated from the papers during Washington's lifetime. Among these were the papers that had been captured with Washington's baggage at the time of Braddock's defeat and the holograph manuscript of The Farewell Address, which Washington himself gave to David C. Claypoole in 1796. The latter is now in the New York Public Library.
17. Report of a conversation with Bushrod Washington in Jared Sparks' journal entry for January 17, 1828. Printed in *The Life and Writings of Jared Sparks*, by Herbert Baxter Adams, vol. 2 (Cambridge, 1893), pp. 46-47. Hereafter cited as Adams, *Sparks*.
18. Sparks' journal entry for February 26, 1828. *Ibid*, p. 47.
19. A photostat of a Lear journal covering the years 1799-1801 is in the William L. Clements Library. The Philadelphia announcement is quoted in *Bibliotheca Washingtoniana: A Descriptive List of the Biographies and Biographical Sketches of George Washington*, by W.S. Baker (Philadelphia, 1889), p. 21.
20. Press copy. Jefferson to Joel Barlow, May 3, 1802. Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress.
21. The story of this biography, which was to prove a disappointment to Marshall from beginning to end, is told in *The Life of John Marshall*, by Albert J. Beveridge, vol. 3 (Boston and New York, 1919). chapter 5.
22. Marshall to Wayne, December 23, 1803. Transcript in the Marshall Papers. Library of Congress, copied from original in the Dreer Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
23. Adams, *Sparks*, II, 285.
24. *Ibid*. , I, 403. Certain details are given in letters of this period from Marshall to Bushrod Washington, in the latter's papers, Library of Congress.
25. Marshall to Bushrod Washington. August 6. 1823. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, N. J.
26. Washington to Madison, September 14. 1819. Madison Papers, Library of Congress.
27. Report of the librarian at Mount Vernon. This building is now the office of Mr. Wall, resident director. An insurance policy covering the office building, issued to Bushrod Washington by the Mutual Assurance Society on August 18. 1803, was one of the items in the sale of Washington relics by the American Art Association (February 6-7, 1920), and there are records of other policies of the kind in the library at Mount Vernon. If, however, James Fenimore Cooper was correct in thinking that a page from a farming journal (used by a Mount Vernon gardener to wrap a bouquet for a visitor) was actually in Washington's autograph, the care of the papers was less than complete. See letter, Cooper to Princess Golitsyna. October 22, [1826] . Original in the Leningrad Manuscript Collections; text printed in *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* for June 5, 1961, p. 329.
28. Lafayette to Bushrod Washington, December 15, 1811. Collection of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. The more than 170 letters became part of the archives at Lafayette's chateau of Lagrange Bléneau, and the Marquis allowed Jared Sparks to use them there in 1828. The letters remained at Lagrange until after World War I. when they were sold to Mrs. John Hubbard of New York, who later presented them to Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. See *The Letters of Lafayette to Washington, 1777-1799*. Edited by Louis Gottschalk (New York, 1944). xxiv-xxv.

29. Drafts of Washington to Marshall, August 10, 1818; and Washington to Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, November 27, 1818. Microfilm copy in Library of Congress, reproducing Bushrod Washington papers owned by Senator Nat Washington, Seattle, Wash.
30. *Ibid.*, draft, Washington to James A. Hamilton, March 12, 1822.
31. According to Victor Hugo Paltsits, in *Washington's Farewell Address*, Judge Washington was informed by James A. Hamilton, in a letter of June 9, 1827 [in the New York Public Library], that he had delivered the letters to Sparks the preceding day. Nevertheless, Sparks, on March 24, 1830, asked Hamilton for the return of 8 manuscripts then in his possession. Alexander Hamilton Papers, Library of Congress, vol. 84, pp. 13655-56.
32. Retained copy, Madison to Washington, August 28, 1819; and letters from Washington to Madison, January 31 and March 23, 1820. Madison Papers, Library of Congress.
33. Draft, Washington to General von Suchtelen, August 10, 1818. Microfilm copy, reproducing original owned by Senator Nat Washington.
34. This diary, now at Mount Vernon, is mentioned in "Washington's Manuscript Diaries of 1795 and 1798," by Roland Baughman, in *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, vol. 45, 2d quarter, 1951, p. 119. Mr. Baughman also points out that the diaries of 1795 and 1798, now owned by Columbia University, were originally given by Bushrod Washington to Robert and Margaret Adams of Philadelphia.
35. One leaf of this gathering, covered by a letter from Hughes to Hamilton Fitzgerald (June 1, 1830) is in the Washington Papers, Library of Congress. Another leaf is in the Morgan Library in New York, and three leaves are in a collection of American autographs in the Kungliga Biblioteket in Stockholm, Sweden, where Hughes served first as secretary of legation and later as chargé d'affaires.
36. *An Essay on the Autographic Collections of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution*, by Lyman C. Draper (New York, 1889). p. 14.
37. Adams, *Sparks*, I, [389].
38. Jared Sparks to George Corbin Washington, September 20, 1836[1838?]. Copy in Record Group 59 [Acc. 161. Item 248, Env. 4], National Archives.
39. This is a summary of Adams, *Sparks*, I, 390-412. Sparks' letter to Story, March 14, 1826, is in the Story Papers, Library of Congress. Marshall's letter to Washington, December 27, 1826, is in the Bushrod Washington Papers, Library of Congress.
40. Adams, *Sparks*, II, 2, 8-11.
41. Washington to Story, May 21, 1824. Story Papers, Library of Congress.
42. Sparks to Washington, April 3 and 17, 1827. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown. The texts in the Sparks Papers are printed in Adams, *Sparks*, II, 14-23.
43. Sparks' journal entry for April 28, 1827, which included a description of the papers he thus located, is printed in *ibid.*, II, 39-40.
44. *Ibid.*, II, 13.
45. Sparks to Madison, April 12, 1827. Madison Papers, Library of Congress.
46. Sparks' description of the Washington papers, written in the form of two letters, May 4 and 7, 1827, to Judge Story, was printed in the issues for May 19 and 27, 1827, of the *National Intelligencer*.
47. Sparks to Washington, April 17, 1827. As mentioned in note 42, this letter is in the Lloyd W. Smith Collection, where it is part of a large group of letters comprising the Washington family side of the correspondence with Jared Sparks.
48. Sparks to Story, May 18, 1827. Story Papers, Library of Congress.



49. Adams, *Sparks*, II, 4445. The Bushrod Washington memorandum is included in the group of his papers owned by Senator Nat Washington, as is also Sparks' detailed, signed memorandum of the papers he removed from Mount Vernon in May 1827.
50. Sparks to Washington, August 14, 1827, and March 12, 1828, respectively. Both are in the Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown.
51. Sparks to Washington, September 7, 1829. *Ibid.*
52. Sparks to Story, August 6, 1827. Story Papers, Library of Congress.
53. See Madison to Sparks, April 8, 1830, and Sparks to Madison, May 5, 1830. Madison Papers, Library of Congress.
54. Sparks to Madison, December 29, 1827, and February 27, 1828; and Madison to Sparks, January 25, 1828. *Ibid.* Among Washington holograph fragments known to have been distributed by Sparks as mementos are leaves from a 73-page manuscript which was apparently intended for use (but not used) as Washington's first inaugural address. For the text of leaves known to have survived, and an exchange of letters between Sparks and Madison in regard to the manuscripts, see "The Discarded Inaugural Address of G. Washington," by Nathaniel E. Stein, in *Manuscripts*, vol. X, no. 2 (Spring 1958), 247, and "Two New Letters," by Ralph Ketcham and Nathaniel E. Stein, in *ibid.*, vol. XI, no. 2 (Spring 1949), 54ff. The earlier issue also contains (page 5) a facsimile of a letter from Sparks to William Lee, May 10, 1856, in which he states that "collectors have long ago exhausted my stock [of Washington autograph letters]."
55. Sparks' letter requesting the permission (September 7) and a retained copy of Washington's reply (September 28) are in the Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown. In the latter, Judge Washington wrote that he was then "engaged in erecting fire proof building" for the purpose of insuring the safety of the papers on their return to Mount Vernon.
56. Adams, *Sparks*, II, 275, 306-8. In 1842, Sparks offered to sell the index to the Department of State for what he had paid Dr. Harris. It was acquired by the Department and is now part of the Washington Collection in the Library of Congress. The page numbers to be seen on letters to Washington were placed there by Dr. Harris.
57. The original will of Bushrod Washington is filed in the courthouse of Fairfax County, Va. John A. Washington, one of the executors of the estate, notified Sparks in a letter written at Mount Vernon on April 4, 1831, that George Corbin Washington had "removed [the military books] together with all the other papers from this place to Georgetown twelve months since." Draft in Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown.
58. When Sparks first took the papers to Boston he was living at 74 Washington Street. After his return from Europe he lived for a time in Dr. Walter Channing's house on Tremont Street and later at 3 Somerset Court. In April 1833 he moved to the Craigie house in Cambridge and noted in his journal: "It is a singular circumstance that, while I am engaged in preparing for the press the letters of General Washington which he wrote at Cambridge after taking command of the American army, I should occupy the same rooms that he did at that time." Adams, *Sparks*, II, 277.
59. *Ibid.*, II, 268, 282-83.
60. A retained copy of McLane's letter and the recipient's copy of Washington's letter are in a folder of papers relating to purchase of the Washington papers in Record Group 59 (Acc. 161, Item 248, Env. 4), National Archives.
61. Statutes at Large, IV, 712. The text of Sparks' letter of March 3, 1834, is printed in Adams, *Sparks*, II, 302-3. Discussion prior to the vote on the bill for purchase is in *Gales & Seaton's Register of Debates in Congress*, vol. X, part IV, 4781-82.
62. His list of "Papers in my office in George Town to be delivered at the State Dept." is printed in *Some Account of George Washington's Library and Manuscript Records and Their Dispersion from Mount Vernon . . .*, by Joseph Meredith Toner (Washington, 1894). pp. 86-87.
63. George Corbin Washington to John Forsyth, October 11, 1836; Jared Sparks to Forsyth, August 11 and September 22, 1834; and Sparks to Asbury Dickins, November 10, 1834. Record Group 59, National Archives.
64. Washington to Forsyth, April 28, 1835. *Ibid.*
65. The letters and contract mentioned here, and a policy of the American Insurance Company of Boston, insuring the withheld papers against fire for \$10,000 are also in the record group cited above. On January 8, 1835, Edward Everett

- introduced a joint resolution that Congress authorize the Secretary of State to pay Colonel Washington the balance of the purchase price, but this was defeated the following day by a vote of 101 to 87. *Gales & Seaton's Register of Debates in Congress*, vol. XI, part 1, 966. Neither of Sparks' editions drawn from the Washington papers was completed at this time. His edition of *The Writings of George Washington . . .*, in 12 volumes, was completed in 1837; and his *Correspondence of the American Revolution; Being Letters of Eminent Men to George Washington*, was published in 4 volumes in 1853.
66. Peter Force to John Forsyth. September 23, 1834. Force Papers, Library of Congress. The letter is printed in J.M. Toner, *op. cit.*, pp. 89-90.
67. See *ante*, note 6.
68. William A. Weaver to John Forsyth, May 10, 1838. Peter Force Papers, Library of Congress.
69. Washington to Forsyth, December 24, 1838. Record Group 59, National Archives. For the letters Washington exchanged in 1797-98 with "John Langhorne" and John Nicholas, see *Writings of George Washington . . .*, edited by John C. Fitzpatrick, vol. 36 (Washington, 1941), pp. 52-53, 81.
70. See *ante*, note 38.
71. Statutes at Large, IX, 370. A schedule of the papers, which consisted principally of school copybooks, early letterbooks, ledgers, and diaries, is in Record Group 59, National Archives, and the text is printed in Toner, *op. cit.*, pp. 93-95.
72. Weaver's bill for \$276.82, presented and paid on September 15, 1838, is in the Force Papers, Library of Congress.
73. Letters of this description found in the Hamilton Papers in the Library of Congress have recently been restored to the Library's Washington Papers and a record kept of each manuscript thus moved.
74. A number of applicants were denied access to manuscripts in the Department, and Congress was asked to investigate charges of favoritism to certain writers. The Committee on the Library submitted a report in this regard on February 15, 1893, which was printed as House Report no. 2510 (52nd Cong., 2d. Sess.).
75. Senate Exec. Doc. no. 142 (50th Cong., 1st. Sess.). The printed texts of Washington papers occupy 96 pages.
76. "The Repair of Documents—American Beginnings," by James L. Gear, in *The American Archivist*, vol. 26, no. 4 (October 1963), p. 470. A "List indicating Arrangement of the Washington Papers" is printed in *Bulletin of the Bureau of Rolls and Library of the Department of State*, no. 3 (Washington, 1894), pp. 5-21.
77. These manuscripts are individually described in *Calendar of the Miscellaneous Letters Received by the Department of State. From the Organization of the Government to 1820* (Washington, 1897). This calendar was marked "Confidential.—For Exclusive Use of the Department of State."
78. The items in this series (transferred to the Library of Congress by the Department of State in 1922) are gradually being restored to the groups of which they were once part.
79. *Preliminary Inventory of the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records (Record Group 93)*, compiled by Mabel E. Deutrich, pp. 1-2.
80. Negative photostats of these letterbooks have been substituted for the originals. These are volumes 28, 29, and 30 in Series 2 of the Washington Papers.
81. Custis to Pickett, April 17, 1857. Collection of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.
82. Among auctions involving the sale of Washington papers by members of the family were those held by M. Thomas & Sons of Philadelphia in 1876-79; by Thomas Birch's Sons of Philadelphia on December, 10-12, 1890, and April 21-23, and December 15-16, 1891; by the Anderson Galleries in New York on April 19, 1917; and by the American Art Association in New York on February 6-7, 1920.
83. *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*, vol. 1, p. 208, and vol. 23, pp. 87-88.
84. These are described in *A Calendar of Washington Manuscripts in the Library of Congress*, compiled under the direction of Herbert Friedenwald (Washington, 1901).

85. *List of the Washington Manuscripts from the Year 1592 to 1775*, prepared by John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, 1919); *Calendar of the Correspondence of George Washington Commander in Chief of the Continental Army with the Continental Congress*, prepared by John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, 1906); and *Calendar of the Correspondence of George Washington Commander in Chief of the Continental Army with the Officers*, prepared by John C. Fitzpatrick, 4 vols. (Washington, 1915).

## Scope and Content Note for Additions to the Collection

The papers of George Washington (1732-1799) were organized in eight series and microfilmed and indexed prior to publication of the *Index to the George Washington Papers* by the Library of Congress in 1964. From 1998 to 2000 the collection was digitized for online presentation as *The George Washington Papers*, available on the Library of Congress Web site.

Items omitted from the first eight series as extraneous to the papers and other Washington material acquired since 1970 have been added to the papers as [Series 9, Addenda](#). The Addenda spans the years 1732-1943 and includes original documents, contemporary copies, reproductions of letters, accounts, diaries, surveys, memorabilia, printed matter, clippings, and items relating to the preservation and study of Washington documents. Series 9, Addenda, is organized in subseries identified by the year each addition was processed.

The 1973 addition includes the material omitted from the microfilm copy of the first eight series of the papers. It includes originals and reproductions of Washington correspondence, diaries, surveying and business records, and miscellaneous items in other repositories and in private hands. Other items document the work of collectors, transcribers, and indexers. A volume of material compiled by Worthington Chauncey Ford includes an original Washington letter of 1781.

The 1979-1985 addition, formerly designated as Series 10, includes four original letters by Washington, 1770-1788, and reproductions of twenty others primarily from Washington dated 1770-1798. The originals and reproductions are arranged separately in chronological order.

The 1996 addition contains two original letters. One letter conveys orders from Washington by Aquila Giles, aide-de-camp of General Israel Putnam, 1777. The second is a fragment of a letter from Washington to his nephew, Howell Lewis, acting manager of Mount Vernon, 1793. A photocopy of a Washington letter to Jeremiah Olney, 1799, is also included.

The 1999 addition includes four letters from Washington, a survey, and a collection of Washingtoniana formerly cataloged as part of the Library's Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection. Three of the letters are originals and include a letter dated 1773 from Washington to Robert Cary concerning the finances of Washington's step-son, John Parke Custis, a letter dated 1777 from Washington to John Cadwalader offering him a commission in the continental forces, and a letter dated 1780 from Washington to Cadwalader discussing the need for a United States regular army. The fourth letter is a facsimile of a letter dated 1785 from Washington to Francis Hopkinson agreeing to sit for a portrait to be painted by a "Mr. Pine." The holograph survey of a tract of land in Frederick County, Virginia, was prepared and signed by Washington and is dated 1750.

The Washingtoniana collection in the 1999 addition includes correspondence and reports about Washington documents and commemorative broadside prints, ribbons, portraits, seals and signatures, cloth from a bier, hair samples, and memorial copies of letters and commissions.

None of the papers in Series 9, Addenda, has been microfilmed. Selected original items from the Addenda have been digitized and added to the online collection.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- [Series 1, Exercise Books, Diaries, and Surveys, 1745-1799](#)
- [Series 2, Letterbooks, 1754-1799](#)
- [Series 3, Varick Transcripts, 1775-1785](#)
- [Series 4, General Correspondence, 1697-1799](#)
- [Series 5, Financial Papers, 1750-1796](#)

- Series 6, Military Papers, 1755-1798
- Series 7, Applications for Office, 1789-1796
- Series 8, Miscellaneous Papers, circa 1775-1799
- Series 9, Addenda, circa 1732-1943
- Oversize, circa 1750-1914

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
REEL 1-2	<b><u>Series 1, Exercise Books, Diaries, and Surveys, 1745-1799</u></b>
REEL 1	<b><u>Subseries 1A, Exercise Books, 1745-1747</u></b> One volume of "Form of Writing," containing transcripts by Washington and "Rules of Civility." Two volumes of school copybooks.
REEL 1-2	<b><u>Subseries 1B, Diaries, 1748-1799</u></b> Washington's record of his activities, weather observations, and memoranda on agriculture and other subjects. Arranged chronologically.
REEL 2	<b><u>Subseries 1C, Surveys, 1749-1752</u></b> Notes and records of surveys and land entries. Arranged chronologically.
REEL 2-14	<b><u>Series 2, Letterbooks, 1754-1799</u></b> Mainly copies of Washington's correspondence. Arranged chronologically within groups with some overlapping dates.
REEL 14-29	<b><u>Series 3, Varick Transcripts, 1775-1785</u></b> Transcripts of Washington's Revolutionary War correspondence in the following subseries, each chronologically arranged:
REEL 14-16	<b><u>Subseries 3A, Continental Congress, 1775-1783</u></b>
REEL 16-22	<b><u>Subseries 3B, Continental and State Military Personnel, 1775-1783</u></b>
REEL 22-24	<b><u>Subseries 3C, Civil Officials and Citizens, 1775-1785</u></b>
REEL 24	<b><u>Subseries 3D, Foreign Officers and Subjects of Foreign Nations, 1775-1783</u></b>
REEL 24-25	<b><u>Subseries 3E, Enemy Officers and British Subjects, 1775-1783</u></b>
REEL 25-26	<b><u>Subseries 3F, Continental Army Council Proceedings, 1775-1782</u></b>
REEL 26-28	<b><u>Subseries 3G, General Orders, 1775-1783</u></b>
REEL 28-29	<b><u>Subseries 3H, (Originally P) Personal Correspondence, 1775-1783</u></b>
REEL 29-115	<b><u>Series 4, General Correspondence, 1697-1799</u></b> Letters sent and received by Washington, drafts of letters, military returns, and other documents. Chronologically arranged and alphabetized, within the day, by names of correspondents.

- REEL 115-117      **Series 5, Financial Papers, 1750-1796**  
 Accounts and financial records of Mount Vernon, Colonial Virginia militia, Washington's Revolutionary War expenses, and Society of the Cincinnati travelling expenses. Arranged chronologically.
- REEL 117-118      **Series 6, Military Papers, 1755-1798**
- REEL 117            **Subseries 6A, French and Indian War and the American Revolution, 1755-1783**  
 Mainly orderly books and other military records relating to the Colonial Virginia militia and the Revolutionary Army, including records of enemy deserters and Continental Army officers' commissions. Arranged chronologically.
- REEL 117-118      **Subseries 6B, Captured British Orderly Books, 1777-1778**  
 Arranged chronologically.
- REEL 118            **Subseries 6C, Miscellaneous Military Records, 1769-1798**  
 Sundry records relating to the Revolutionary War and later period, including account books, 1777-1779, of the quartermaster of Yorktown, proceedings of a trial held by the British in New York, 1782, and records compiled by several unknown soldiers. Arranged chronologically.
- REEL 119-124      **Series 7, Applications for Office, 1789-1796**  
 Applications for office during the administrations of Washington. Arranged alphabetically by names of applicants.
- REEL 124            **Series 8, Miscellaneous Papers, 1738-1799**
- REEL 124            **Subseries 8A, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Notes, 1757-1799**  
 Correspondence and miscellaneous notes. Arranged in rough chronological order.
- REEL 124            **Subseries 8B, Military Commissions, Honorary Degrees, Memberships, and Certificates, 1775-1798**  
 Military commissions, honorary degrees, memberships, and certificates. *See Oversize, Containers OV 12-OV 15*. Arranged in rough chronological order.
- REEL 124            **Subseries 8C, Survey Warrants, 1750-1752**  
 Surveying instructions. *See Oversize, Container OV 16*. Arranged in rough chronological order.
- REEL 124            **Subseries 8D, Extracts, Abstracts, and Notes, 1738-1799**  
 Extracts, abstracts, and notes. Arranged in rough chronological order.
- BOX 9:1-9:35      **Series 9, Addenda, circa 1732-1943**  
 Items omitted from the first eight series as extraneous to the papers and other Washington material acquired since 1970. Organized in subseries identified by the year each addition was processed.

**BOX 9:1**

**1973 Addition**

Arranged by type or topic of material.

**BOX 9:35**

**1979-1985 Addition**

Arranged by type or topic of material.

**1996 Addition**

Arranged by type or topic of material.

**1999 Addition**

Arranged by type or topic of material.

**BOX OV 1-OV 18**

**Oversize, circa 1750-1914**

Originals and reproductions of correspondence, maps, commissions, presidential proclamations, broadsides, land surveys, certificates, and diplomas.

Unarranged and described according to the series and containers from which the items were removed.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL 1-2	<b>Series 1, Exercise Books, Diaries, and Surveys, 1745-1799</b> <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
REEL 1	<b>Subseries 1A, Exercise Books, 1745-1747</b> One volume of "Form of Writing," containing transcripts by Washington and "Rules of Civility." Two volumes of school copybooks.
REEL 1	1745-1748
REEL 1-2	<b>Subseries 1B, Diaries, 1748-1799</b> Washington's record of his activities, weather observations, and memoranda on agriculture and other subjects. Arranged chronologically.
REEL 1	1748-1774
REEL 2	1775-1799
REEL 2	<b>Subseries 1C, Surveys, 1749-1752</b> Notes and records of surveys and land entries. Arranged chronologically.
REEL 2	1749-1752
REEL 2-14	<b>Series 2, Letterbooks, 1754-1799</b> <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Mainly copies of Washington's correspondence. Arranged chronologically within groups with some overlapping dates.
REEL 2	General correspondence, 1754-1797
REEL 2	Vol. 1: 1754-1755 Aug. 2
REEL 3	Vols. 1-5: To 1758 May 28
REEL 4	Vols. 5-10: To 1776 Aug. 24
REEL 5	Vols. 10-13: To 1786 July 31
REEL 6	Vols. 13-16: To 1789 Mar. 31
REEL 7	Vols. 16-19: To 1794 May 25
REEL 8	Vols. 19-21: To 1799 Feb. 10
	Vols. 22-23: To 1790 Oct. 15
REEL 9	Vols. 23-24: To 1797 Mar. 3
REEL 9	Congress, 1789-1797
	Vols. 25-26: To 1794 Jan. 27
REEL 10	Vols. 26-27: To 1797 Dec. 3
REEL 10	Department of State, 1789-1796
	Vols. 28-30: To 1795 Apr. 26



## Series 2, Letterbooks, 1754-1799

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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REEL 11	Vol. 30: To 1796 Oct. 11
REEL 11	Department of the Treasury, 1789-1796 Vols. 31-33: To 1793 Dec. 2
REEL 12	Vols. 33-34: To 1796 Sept. 11
REEL 12	Department of War, 1789-1796 Vols. 35-37: To 1796 July 2
REEL 13	Vol. 37: To 1796 Dec. 10
REEL 13	Civil, fraternal, and religious groups, 1789-1797 Vols. 38-40: To 1797 Mar. 28
REEL 13	"Journal of the Proceedings of the President, 1793-1797" Vol. 41: To 1794 Nov. 25
REEL 14	Vol. 41: To 1797 Feb. 21
REEL 14-29	<b>Series 3, Varick Transcripts, 1775-1785</b> <u>Digital content available</u> Transcripts of Washington's Revolutionary War correspondence in the following subseries, each chronologically arranged:
REEL 14-16	<b>Subseries 3A, Continental Congress, 1775-1783</b>
REEL 14	1775 June 24-1778 Jan. 27
REEL 15	1778 Jan. 31-1781 Jan. 16
REEL 16	1781 Mar. 1-1783 Dec. 23
REEL 16-22	<b>Subseries 3B, Continental and State Military Personnel, 1775-1783</b>
REEL 16	1775 June 25-1776 Sept. 10
REEL 17	1776 Sept. 11-1777 Nov. 4
REEL 18	1777 Nov. 4-1778 Nov. 19
REEL 19	1778 Nov. 19-1779 Sept. 29
REEL 20	1779 Sept. 29-1780 Oct. 24
REEL 21	1780 Oct. 24-1782 Apr. 8
REEL 22	1782 Apr. 10-1783 Dec. 23
REEL 22-24	<b>Subseries 3C, Civil Officials and Citizens, 1775-1785</b>
REEL 22	1775 July 6-1776 Dec. 1
REEL 23	1776 Dec 10-1781 May 27
REEL 24	1781 June 2-1785 Apr. 10
REEL 24	<b>Subseries 3D, Foreign Officers and Subjects of Foreign Nations, 1775-1783</b>
REEL 24	1775 Sept. 6-1783 Oct. 10
REEL 24-25	<b>Subseries 3E, Enemy Officers and British Subjects, 1775-1783</b>
REEL 24	1775 Oct. 11-1777 Mar. 13

## Series 3, Varick Transcripts, 1775-1785

### Container

### Contents

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REEL 25	1777 Mar 22-1783 Dec. 1
REEL 25-26	<b>Subseries 3F, Continental Army Council Proceedings, 1775-1782</b>
REEL 25	1775 July 9-1780 July 21
REEL 26	1781 Mar. 24-1782 May 9
REEL 26-28	<b>Subseries 3G, General Orders, 1775-1783</b>
REEL 26	1775 July 3-1778 Dec. 30
REEL 27	1779 Jan. 1-1782 Sept. 3
REEL 28	1782 Sept. 4-1783 Aug. 17
REEL 28-29	<b>Subseries 3H, (Originally P) Personal Correspondence, 1775-1783</b>
REEL 28	1775 May 31-1782 Apr. 22
REEL 29	1782 Apr. 22-1783 Nov. 15
REEL 29-115	<b>Series 4, General Correspondence, 1697-1799</b> <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Letters sent and received by Washington, drafts of letters, military returns, and other documents. Chronologically arranged and alphabetized, within the day, by names of correspondents.
REEL 29	1697-1756 Feb. 17
REEL 30	1756 Feb. 17-1757 Aug. 20
REEL 31	1757 Aug. 22-1758 Nov. 16
REEL 32	1758 Nov. 17-1773 Nov. 9 <a href="#">See also Oversize, Container OV 5</a>
REEL 33	1773 Nov. 10-1775 Sept. 6 <a href="#">See also Oversize, Container OV 5</a> and <a href="#">OV 17</a>
REEL 34	1775 Sept. 7-1775 Dec. 16 <a href="#">See also Oversize, Container OV 7</a>
REEL 35	1775 Dec. 17-1776 Apr. 27
REEL 36	1776 Apr. 28-1776 July 9 <a href="#">See also Oversize, Container OV 7</a>
REEL 37	1776 July 10-1776 Aug. 28
REEL 38	1776 Aug. 29-1776 Nov. 3
REEL 39	1776 Nov. 4-1777 Feb. 3
REEL 40	1777 Feb. 4-1777 Apr. 5
REEL 41	1777 Apr. 6-1777 May 29
REEL 42	1777 May 30-1777 July 22
REEL 43	1777 July 23-1777 Sept. 3
REEL 44	1777 Sept. 4-1777 Oct. 25
REEL 45	1777 Oct. 26-1777 Dec. 3
REEL 46	1777 Dec. 3 cont'd-1778 Jan. 24
REEL 47	1778 Jan. 25-1778 Mar. 16
REEL 48	1778 Mar. 17-1778 Apr.
REEL 49	1778 May 1-1778 June 14
REEL 50	1778 June 15-1778 July 23
REEL 51	1778 July 24-1778 Sept. 12
REEL 52	1778 Sept. 13-1778 Oct. 10

## Series 4, General Correspondence, 1697-1799

### Container

### Contents

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REEL 53	1778 Oct. 11-1778 Nov. 6
REEL 54	1778 Nov. 7-1778 Dec. 17
REEL 55	1778 Dec. 18-1779 Feb. 9
REEL 56	1779 Feb. 10-1779 Mar. 25
REEL 57	1779 Mar. 25 cont'd-1779 Apr. 26
REEL 58	1779 Apr. 27-1779 May 24
REEL 59	1779 May 25-1779 July 9
REEL 60	1779 July 10-1779 Aug. 21
REEL 61	1779 Aug. 22-1779 Oct. 20
REEL 62	1779 Oct. 21-1779 Dec. 8
REEL 63	1779 Dec. 9-1780 Jan. 27
REEL 64	1780 Jan. 28-1780 Mar. 18
REEL 65	1780 Mar. 18-1780 Apr. 24
REEL 66	1780 Apr. 25-1780 June 6
REEL 67	1780 June 7-1780 July 10
REEL 68	1780 July 11-1780 Aug. 4
REEL 69	1780 Aug. 5-1780 Aug. 25
REEL 70	1780 Aug 26-1780 Sept. 16
REEL 71	1780 Sept. 17-1780 Oct. 21
REEL 72	1780 Oct. 22-1780 Nov. 26
REEL 73	1780 Nov. 27-1781 Jan. 6 <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 6</i>
REEL 74	1781 Jan. 7-1781 Feb. 6
REEL 75	1781 Feb. 7-1781 Mar. 20
REEL 76	1781 Mar. 21-1781 Apr. 23
REEL 77	1781 Apr. 24-1781 May 15
REEL 78	1781 May 16-1781 June 24
REEL 79	1781 June 25-1781 July
REEL 80	1781 Aug. 1-1781 Sept. 12
REEL 81	1781 Sept. 13-1781 Nov. 4
REEL 82	1781 Nov. 5-1782 Jan. 27
REEL 83	1781 Jan. 28-1782 Apr. 6 <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 5</i>
REEL 84	1782 Apr. 2-1782 May 12
REEL 85	1782 May 13-1782 June 25
REEL 86	1782 June 26-1782 Aug. 16
REEL 87	1782 Aug. 17-1782 Sept. 25 <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 9</i>
REEL 88	1782 Sept. 26-1782 Nov. 24
REEL 89	1782 Nov. 25-1783 Jan. 20
REEL 90	1783 Jan. 21-1783 Mar. 20
REEL 91	1783 Mar. 21-1783 May 29
REEL 92	1783 May 30-1783 Sept. 1
REEL 93	1783 Sept. 2-1783 Dec. 28 <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 8</i>
REEL 94	1783 Dec. 31-1785 Jan. 31
REEL 95	1785 Feb. 1-1786 Feb. 7
REEL 96	1786 Feb. 8-1787 Apr. 5
REEL 97	1787 Apr. 6-1788 Sept. 17 <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 10</i>
REEL 98	1788 Sept. 18-1789 Dec. 5 <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 18</i>

## Series 4, General Correspondence, 1697-1799

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL 99	1789 Dec. 6-1790 Dec. 20
REEL 100	1790 Dec. 21-1791 Sept. 10
REEL 101	1791 Sept. 11-1792 May 7
REEL 102	1792 May 8-1793 Jan. 9
REEL 103	1793 Jan. 10-1793 July 15
REEL 104	1793 July 16-1794 Jan. 11
REEL 105	1794 Jan. 12-1794 July 14
REEL 106	1794 July 15-1795 Feb. 28
REEL 107	1795 Mar. 1-1795 Aug. 24
REEL 108	1795 Aug. 25-1796 Mar. 18
REEL 109	1796 Mar. 20-1796 Oct. 14
REEL 110	1796 Oct. 15-1797 May 7
REEL 111	1797 May 8-1798 mar. 25
REEL 112	1798 Mar. 27-1798 Sept. 19
REEL 113	1798 Sept. 20-1799 Jan. 23
REEL 114	1799 Jan. 24-1799 Aug. 24
REEL 115	1799 Aug. 25-1799 Dec. 21 & undated

## REEL 115-117 **Series 5, Financial Papers, 1750-1796**

### Digital content available

Accounts and financial records of Mount Vernon, Colonial Virginia militia, Washington's Revolutionary War expenses, and Society of the Cincinnati travelling expenses. Arranged chronologically.

REEL 115	Vol. 1, General ledger A, 1750-1772
REEL 115	Vol. 2, General ledger B, 1772-1793
REEL 116	Vol. 3, Copybook of letters and invoices, 1755-1766
REEL 116	Vol. 4, Copybook of letters and invoices, 1767-1775
REEL 116	Vol. 5, Invoices, 1766-1773; Lists of taxed lands, slaves, and other possessions, 1760-1774
REEL 116	Vol. 6, Weaving accounts, 1767-1771
REEL 116	Vol. 7, Virginia Military Accounts: Ledger, 1755, Sept.-1758, Dec.
REEL 116	Vol. 8, Virginia Military Accounts: Receipt Book, 1755, Sept.-1758, Feb.
REEL 116	Vol. 9, Virginia Military Accounts: Pocket Book, 1755, Oct.-1758, Mar.
REEL 116	Vol. 10, Virginia Military Accounts: Pocket Book, 1758, Apr.-May
REEL 116	Vol. 11, Virginia Military Accounts: Pocket Book, 1758, May-June
REEL 116	Vol. 12, Virginia Military Accounts: Receipt Book, 1758, June
REEL 116	Vol. 13, Pocket Book of Cash Expenses, 1772, Aug.-1773, May
REEL 116	Vol. 14, Pocket Book of Cash Expenses, 1773, May-1774, Mar.
REEL 116	Vol. 15, Pocket Book of Cash Expenses, 1774, Oct.-1775, May
REEL 116	Vol. 16, Pocket Book of Cash Expenses, 1775, May-1776, Jan.; 1783, Sept.-1784, Dec.
REEL 116	Vol. 17, Revolutionary War Warrant Book 1, 1775, Aug.-1776, Aug.
REEL 116	Vol. 18, Revolutionary War Warrant Book 2, 1776, Aug.-1778, Aug.
REEL 116	Vol. 19, Revolutionary War Warrant Book 3, 1778, Aug.- 1779, July
REEL 116	Vol. 20, Revolutionary War Warrant Book 4, 1779, July -1780, Jan.
REEL 116	Vol. 21, Revolutionary War Warrant Book 5, 1780, Jan.-1783, Aug.
REEL 116	Vol. 22, George Washington's Revolutionary War Expense Account, 1775-1783
REEL 116	Vol. 23, Revolutionary War Journal of Expenses, 1783, July-Dec.

## Series 5, Financial Papers, 1750-1796

### Container

### Contents

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REEL 117	Vols. 24 cont'd-34
REEL 117	Vol. 24, Revolutionary War Receipts, 1775, June-1783, Dec.
REEL 117	Vol. 25, Revolutionary War Cashbook of Household Expenses, 1775, July-Oct.
REEL 117	Vol. 26, Revolutionary War Cashbook of Household Expenses, 1774, Oct.-1776, Apr.
REEL 117	Vol. 27, Revolutionary War Receipt Book, 1776, May-1780, Nov.
REEL 117	Vol. 28, Revolutionary War Journal of Household Expenses, 1776, July-1780, Nov.
REEL 117	Vol. 29, Revolutionary War Vouchers and Receipted Accounts, 1776-1780
REEL 117	Vol. 30, Revolutionary War Vouchers and Receipted Accounts, 1780-1784
REEL 117	Vol. 31, Accounts, General Meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati, 1784, May
REEL 117	Vol. 32, Pocket Book of Daily Expenses, Constitutional Convention, 1787
REEL 117	Vol. 33, Pocket or Waste Book of Daily Expenses, 1793-1794
REEL 117	Vol. 34, Mount Vernon Ledger, 1794-1796

### REEL 117-118 **Series 6, Military Papers, 1755-1798**

[Digital content available](#)

#### REEL 117 **Subseries 6A, French and Indian War and the American Revolution, 1755-1783**

Mainly orderly books and other military records relating to the Colonial Virginia militia and the Revolutionary Army, including records of enemy deserters and Continental Army officers' commissions.

Arranged chronologically.

REEL 117	Vol. 1, General Edward Braddock, orderly book, 1755, Feb. 26-June 17
REEL 117	Vol. 2, Virginia militia memorandum book, 1756, Apr.-May
REEL 117	Vol. 3, Colonel John Forbes, orderly book, 1758, Sept.-Nov.
REEL 117	Vol. 4, List of Continental Army officers discharged by George Washington, 1755, Sept.-1776, Aug.
REEL 117	Vol. 5, Continental Army, commissioned field officers, list, 1776, Jan. 1
REEL 117	Vol. 6, List of Continental Army officers by state, 1778-1783
REEL 117	Vol. 7, British deserters, 1782, Apr. 15-Dec. 12
REEL 117	Vol. 8, British deserters, 1782, Dec. 21-1783, Apr. 4

#### REEL 117-118 **Subseries 6B, Captured British Orderly Books, 1777-1778**

Arranged chronologically.

REEL 117	Vol. 1, 40th and 46th Regiments, 1777, Apr. 20-Aug. 28
REEL 117	Vol. 2, Captain James Wilson, 49th Regiment, 1777, June 25-Sept. 10
REEL 117	Vol. 3, 64th Light Infantry, 1777, Sept. 14-Oct. 3
REEL 118	Vol. 4, Brigade of Guards, 1778, Jan. 29-Aug. 10
REEL 118	Vol. 5, 1778, June 1-27
REEL 118	Vol. 6, 1778, Aug. 4-Oct. 13

#### REEL 118 **Subseries 6C, Miscellaneous Military Records, 1769-1798**

Sundry records relating to the Revolutionary War and later period, including account books, 1777-1779, of the quartermaster of Yorktown, proceedings of a trial held by the British in New York, 1782, and records compiled by several unknown soldiers.

Arranged chronologically.

## Series 6, Military Papers, 1755-1798

### Container

### Contents

---

- REEL 118 Vol. 1, Captured British officer's account ledger, 1769-1771, 1774, and Journal, 1777
- REEL 118 Vol. 2, John McAlister, assistant commissary, records, 1777-1779; Letterbook, 1781-1782
- REEL 118 Vol. 3, John McAlister, assistant commissary, provision returns, 1777, Oct. 27-1778, July 29
- REEL 118 Vol. 4, John McAlister, assistant commissary, provision returns, 1777-1779
- REEL 118 Vol. 5, Troop returns, Second Virginia Regiment, 1779; Siege of Charleston, copies of correspondence and drafts of the Articles of Capitulation, 1780; notes on military strategy, undated; Charleston purchases, 1781
- REEL 118 Vol. 6, John Smith, 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment, Army enlistment record, 1778, June 14
- REEL 118 Vol. 7, Timothy Pickering, return of all public property belonging to the Quartermaster General's Department from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania and with the Main Army 1782, Apr. 1 [\*See Oversize, Container OV 11\*](#)
- REEL 118 Vol. 8, Proceedings of the Court Martial of Captain Richard Lippincott, New York, 1782, May 3-June 22
- REEL 118 Vol. 9, *Rules and Regulations for the Formations, Field-Exercise, and Movements of His Majesty's Forces*. War-Office, printed and sold by J. Walter at Homer's Head, Charing Cross. [London, June 1, 1792],
- REEL 118 Vol. 10, *Light Infantry Exercise, as Ordered in his Majesty's Regulations for the Movement of the Troops*. Printed for the War-Office by T. Egerton at the Military Library, near Whitehall, [London], 1797.
- REEL 118 Vol. 11, James Simons. *A New Principle of Tactics Practised by the Armies of the Republic of France: Illustrated and Recommended to be Practised by the Regular and Militia Armies of the United States*. Charleston: From the Press of Timothy and Mason, 1797
- REEL 118 Vol. 12, [James McHenry]. *Rules and Regulations Respecting the Recruiting Service*. By John Adams, President of the United States. [1798]

REEL 119-124

### Series 7, Applications for Office, 1789-1796

#### [Digital content available](#)

Applications for office during the administrations of Washington.

Arranged alphabetically by names of applicants.

- REEL 119 Abercrombie-Cockle
- REEL 120 Coffyn-Gunby
- REEL 121 Hague-McComb
- REEL 122 McCormick-Read (N.C.)
- REEL 123 Read (Pa.)-Varle
- REEL 124 Vaughan-Zuckerbecker

REEL 124

### Series 8, Miscellaneous Papers, 1738-1799

#### [Digital content available](#)

REEL 124

#### Subseries 8A, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Notes, 1757-1799

Correspondence and miscellaneous notes.

Arranged in rough chronological order.

REEL 124

#### Subseries 8B, Military Commissions, Honorary Degrees, Memberships, and Certificates, 1775-1798

Military commissions, honorary degrees, memberships, and certificates. [\*See Oversize, Containers OV 12-OV 15\*](#)

Arranged in rough chronological order.

## Series 8, Miscellaneous Papers, 1738-1799

### Container

### Contents

---

- REEL 124                    **Subseries 8C, Survey Warrants, 1750-1752**  
Surveying instructions. *See Oversize, Container OV 16*  
Arranged in rough chronological order.
- REEL 124                    **Subseries 8D, Extracts, Abstracts, and Notes, 1738-1799**  
Extracts, abstracts, and notes.  
Arranged in rough chronological order.
- BOX 9:1-9:35              **Series 9, Addenda, circa 1732-1943**  
[Digital content available](#)  
Items omitted from the first eight series as extraneous to the papers and other Washington material acquired since 1970.  
Organized in subseries identified by the year each addition was processed.
- BOX 9:1                    **1973 Addition**  
Arranged by type or topic of material.
- Originals and contemporary copies, 1751-1797, undated  
                                  Correspondence and related material, 1764-1797 *See also Oversize, Container OV 1*  
                                  (21 folders)  
                                  Potomack Co., 1786, undated *See also Oversize, Container OV 19*  
                                  Surveys and related records  
                                  Dismal Swamp Co., 1763-1785  
                                  (1 folder)
- BOX 9:2                    (1 folder)
- BOX 9:3                    Dawson, Isaac, property, 1751  
                                  (1 vol.)
- BOX 9:4                    Map, "Allegany copied from a map of Doctr. [Thomas] Walkers laid before the assembly," circa 1769-1770 *See Oversize, Container OV 2*
- Reproductions, circa 1732-1936, undated  
                                  Correspondence and related material  
                                  Unbound  
                                  1736-1775
- BOX 9:5                    1776  
                                  1777  
                                  Jan.-Apr.
- BOX 9:6                    May-Dec.  
                                  1778  
                                  Jan.-May
- BOX 9:7                    June-Dec.  
                                  1779  
                                  Jan.-Aug.
- BOX 9:8                    Sept.-Dec.  
                                  1780  
                                  Jan.-June
- BOX 9:9                    July-Dec.  
                                  1781  
                                  Jan-Feb.

**Series 9, Addenda, circa 1732-1943**

**Container**

**Contents**

---

<b>BOX 9:10</b>	Mar.-Dec.
<b>BOX 9:11</b>	1782 1783 Jan.-Feb.
<b>BOX 9:12</b>	Mar.-Dec. 1784-1785
<b>BOX 9:13</b>	1786-1789
<b>BOX 9:14</b>	1790-1794
<b>BOX 9:15</b>	1795-1796 1797 Jan.-Aug
<b>BOX 9:16</b>	Sept.-Dec. 1798 1799 Jan.-June
<b>BOX 9:17</b>	July-Dec. 1800, undated
<b>BOX 9:18</b>	Bound Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, Calif., photostatic copies, 1757-1799 (1 vol.)
<b>BOX 9:19</b>	J. Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, N.Y., photostatic copies Vol. 1, miscellaneous, 1752 Mar.-1782 Mar.
<b>BOX 9:20</b>	Vol. 2, miscellaneous, 1782 Dec.-1834 July
<b>BOX 9:21</b>	Vol. 3, Washington to George and James Clinton, 1776-1783
<b>BOX 9:22</b>	Vol. 4, war map, 1777
<b>BOX 9:23</b>	Correspondence and related material Rosenbach, A.S.W., private collection, New York, N.Y., copies, Washington to Arthur Young, 1786-1794 (1 vol.)
<b>BOX 9:24</b>	Diaries Vol. 1, Virginia Almanack, 1762 Vol. 2, 1789 Oct. 1-1790 Mar. 10 Vol. 3, 1795 Vol. 4, 1798
<b>BOX 9:25</b>	Surveys and maps Notebooks Vol. 1, 1767 Nov. 17-1770 Mar. 17
<b>BOX 9:26</b>	Vol. 2, 1770 Mar. 17-1799 Apr. 30
<b>BOX 9:27</b>	Vol. 3, 1770-1772, and Four Mile Run, 1799 Miscellaneous, 1749-1751, 1766[?], 1788[?], undated <i>See also Oversize, Container OV</i> <u>3</u>
	Business papers Memorandum books Miscellaneous, 1756-1792 Cash accounts, 1774, 1785 (2 vols.)



## Series 9, Addenda, circa 1732-1943

### Container

### Contents

---

- BOX 9:28** Lear, Tobias, 1791-1792 accounts, transcripts, 1932  
Miscellaneous accounts, 1754-1789  
Muse, Battaile, accounts, 1785-1790  
Plantations  
    Accounts, 1791-1792  
    Journal of work, 1786-1787  
Potomack Co., 1774-[1785]  
President of the United States, accounts, 1789-1790
- BOX 9:29** Miscellaneous  
Bible facsimiles, recording birth, circa 1732, and artifact from Masonic induction at Fredericksburg, Va., 1752-1753, and Harewood Manor certificate, 1901  
Last will and testament, 1799  
    (3 folders)  
Military records  
    Commission by congress as general and commander in chief, 1775 (multiple copies)  
    *See Oversize, Container OV 4*  
    Miscellaneous extracts, 1758-1807  
Monroe, James, *A View of the Conduct of the Executive* (1797), pages annotated by Washington  
Mount Vernon, memoranda and extracts, 1936  
Presidential proclamation establishing Thanksgiving holiday, 1789 (multiple copies)  
    *See Oversize, Container OV 4*  
Printed matter, 1754-1943, undated *See also Oversize, Container OV 4*  
    (3 folders)
- BOX 9:30** Forgeries of Washington documents, dated 1777-1799, by Robert Spring and others  
    (15 folders)
- BOX 9:31** Material about Washington's papers  
    Ford, Worthington Chauncey, "Washington Papers," 1888  
    (1 vol.)
- BOX 9:32** Sparks, Jared, "Alphabetical Index to the Letters Received by George Washington with Reference to the Bound Volumes. Prepared from the Original Letters," 1830  
    Vol. 1
- BOX 9:33** Vol. 2
- BOX 9:34** List of letters by Washington and from George W. P. Custis  
Photostatic copies from the New York Public Library relating to transcriptions by Washington's secretary, Richard Varick, 1775  
Washington papers in the Jonathan Trumbull collection, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.  
Miscellaneous notes  
    Contents of book containing an account of Washington's journey over the mountains  
    Contents of field or survey book, 1749-1750  
    Washington diaries  
    Washington papers in the office of George C. Washington  
Original binding for Washington ledger
- BOX 9:35** **1979-1985 Addition**  
    Arranged by type or topic of material.

## Series 9, Addenda, circa 1732-1943

### Container

### Contents

---

Original Washington letters  
1770, May 13, to Jonathan Boucher  
1773, Aug. 9, to Burwell Bassett  
1788, June 23, to David Stuart  
Undated, to "Madam"  
Reproductions, 1770-1798

#### 1996 Addition

Arranged by type or topic of material.

Letters  
Originals, 1777, 1793  
Reproduction, 1799

#### 1999 Addition

Arranged by type or topic of material.

Letters  
Originals, 1773-1780  
Reproduction (facsimile), 1785  
Survey, 1750  
Washingtoniana  
Original material  
Correspondence, 1859-1863, 1918-1921, undated  
Commemorative memorabilia, seals, signatures, and portraits, cloth from a bier, and hair samples, 1832, 1889, 1894, undated  
Reproductions  
Miscellaneous, 1785, 1807, 1837, 1863, 1882, 1889  
Printed matter, 1817, 1846, 1869, 1914, undated *See also Oversize, Container 4*  
Reports and notes  
Miscellaneous, 1937, undated  
Posey family claim of Washington paternity, 1886, 1908

#### BOX OV 1-OV 18

#### Oversize, circa 1750-1914

Originals and reproductions of correspondence, maps, commissions, presidential proclamations, broadsides, land surveys, certificates, and diplomas.  
Unarranged and described according to the series and containers from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 1 Letter, Washington to John Sullivan, original, 1778 July 22 (Series 9, Container 1)  
BOX OV 2 Map, "Allegany copied from a map of Doctr. [Thomas] Walkers laid before the assembly," circa 1769-1770 (Series 9, Container 4)  
BOX OV 3 Map sketch, portion of Potomac River including Mount Vernon, undated (Series 9, Container 27)  
BOX OV 4 Commission, Washington as general and commander in chief, 1775 June 19, multiple undated reproductions and three facsimile broadsides dated 1873, 1875, and 1891 (Series 9, Container 29)  
BOX OV 4 Presidential proclamation establishing Thanksgiving holiday, 1789, multiple printed reproductions (Series 9, Container 29)

## Oversize, circa 1750-1914

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX OV 4	Broadside, facsimile letter dated 1783 from Washington to Israel Putnam, 1897 (Series 9, Container 29)
BOX OV 4	Broadside, facsimile of commission of Jonathan Taylor as lieutenant, signed by Washington in 1795 (Series 9, Container 29)
BOX OV 4	Broadside, facsimile of commission of Washington as commander in chief signed by John Adams in 1798, facsimile (Series 9, Container 29)
BOX OV 4	Broadside, "In Commemoration of British American Peace Centenary, Christmas Eve A.D. 1814-1914," 1914 (copy 1 of 2) (Series 9, Container 29)
BOX OV 4	Broadside, "In Commemoration of British American Peace Centenary, 1:13 Christmas Eve A.D. 1814-1914," 1914 (copy 2 of 2) (Series 9, Container 35, from "Printed matter")
BOX OV 4	Broadside, eulogy of Washington by Benjamin Tyler, 1817 (Series 9, Container 35, from "Printed matter")
BOX OV 5	Plat, 29,753 acres at the fork of the Ohio and Great Kanhawa rivers, 1771(Series 4, Volume 11, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Table, "A table to explain this plat, being the tract laying between the Ohio and Great Kanhawa", 1771 (Series 4, Volume 11, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Plat, 4232 acres on the south side of the Great Kanhawa river, 1771 (Series 4, Volume 11, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Plat, 28,627 acres surveyed on Sandy Creek, patented in the names of John Savage and others (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Plat, 51,302 acres of land in the fork of the Ohio and Kanhawa rivers, granted to George Muse and others, 1772 (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Grant, 1395 acres in Boutetourt county to Washington from John Murray, the Earl of Dunsmore, 1772 (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Grant, 2314 acres in Boutetourt county to Washington from John Murray, the Earl of Dunsmore, 1772 (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Grant, 2448 acres in Boutetourt county to Washington from John Murray, the Earl of Dunsmore, 1772 (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 32)
BOX OV 5	Grant, 28,627 acres in Fincastle county to John Savage and others from John Murray, the Earl of Dunsmore, 1772 (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 32) (2 pieces)
BOX OV 5	Grant, 7276 acres in Boutetourt county to GW and George Muse from John Murray, the Earl of Dunsmore, 1773, Dec. 1 (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 33)
BOX OV 5	Grant, 28,400 acres in Boutetourt county to David Richardson and others from John Murray, the Earl of Dunsmore, 1773, Dec. 1 (Series 4, Volume 12, Reel 33)
BOX OV 5	"State of the Army under the command of his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton", 1782, Apr. 1 (Series 4, Volume 194, Reel 83)
BOX OV 6	Address, Washington to the inhabitants of Canada, 1775, Sept. 7-20 (Series 4, Volume 18, Reel 34)
BOX OV 6	Sketch, Henry Bawbee's sketch of Fort Detroit, 1780 (Series 4, Volume 159, Reel 73)
BOX OV 7	"Dunlap" broadside, Declaration of Independence, fragment, 1776 (Series 4, Volume 29A, Reel 36)
BOX OV 8	Ledger, "Return of ordnance and military stores in the garrison of West Point," 1783, Dec. 28 (Series 4, Volume 228, Reel 93)
BOX OV 9	Commission, to Washington from Continental Congress, 1782, Sept. 16 (Series 4, Volume 206, Reel 87)
BOX OV 10	Draft copy, Washington's copy of the Committee of Style report from the Constitutional Convention, 1787, Sept. 9 (Series 4, Volume 239, Reel 97)
BOX OV 11	Ledger, Return of Quartermasters Stores, 1782 (Series 6C, Volume 7, Reel 118)
BOX OV 12	Commission, Washington as general and commander in chief, 1775, reproductions (Series 8B, Reel 124)

**Oversize, circa 1750-1914**

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX OV 13	Certificate, Board of Agriculture, Whitehall, London, England, Foreign Honorary Member of the Board, 1795 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 14	Commission, Washington as Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief, signed by John Adams, 1798, original (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Honorary degree, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., 1776 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Envelope addressed to "George Washington esq., Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States of America" (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Membership certificate, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa., 1780 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Membership certificate, American Society of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Mass., 1781 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Honorary law degree, Yale College, New Haven, Conn., 1781 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Proclamation by Abraham Ten Broeck, Mayor of Albany, N.Y., 1784 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Honorary law degree, University of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Penn., 1783 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Membership certificate, New York Marine Society, New York, N.Y., 1783 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Membership certificate, Charles Town Library Society, Charleston, S.C., 1784 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Proclamation by James Duane, Mayor of New York City, 1784 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Honorary Membership Certificate, Holland Lodge of Freemasons, New York, N.Y., 1789 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Honorary law degree, Washington College, Chestertown, Md., 1789 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 15	Extra impression of wax seal from honorary law degree from Washington College, 1789 (Series 8B, Reel 124)
BOX OV 16	Survey instructions, 1750-1752 (Series 8C, Reel 124)
BOX OV 17	Letter, Continental Congress to Washington, 1775, July 24 (Series 4, Volume 14-15, Reel 33)
BOX OV 18	Holographic reading copy of first inaugural address, 1789, Apr. 30 (Series 4, Volume 243A, Reel 98)
BOX OV 19	Payroll, Potomack Co., 1786 (Container 9:1)