Rodney Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

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Collection Summary

Title: Rodney Family Papers
Span Dates: 1771-1824
ID No.: MSS38141
Creator: Rodney family
Extent: 200 items; 4 containers plus 1 oversize; 2.2 linear feet; 4 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Cabinet officers, diplomats, farmers, jurists, lawyers, senators, soldiers, and statesmen. Correspondence and other material of Caesar Rodney, Thomas Rodney, and C. A. Rodney.

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
Blaine, Ephraim, 1741-1804--Correspondence.
Claiborne, William C. C. (William Charles Cole), 1775-1817--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.
Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817--Correspondence.
Dickinson, John, 1732-1808--Correspondence.
Eustis, William, 1753-1825--Correspondence.
Madison, James, 1751-1836--Correspondence.
Monroe, James, 1758-1831--Correspondence.
Randolph, John, 1773-1833--Correspondence.
Rodney family--Correspondence.
Rodney family.
Rodney, C. A. (Caesar Augustus), 1772-1824. C.A. Rodney papers.
Rodney, Caesar, 1728-1784. Caesar Rodney papers.
Rodney, Thomas, 1744-1811. Thomas Rodney papers.

Organizations
United States. Continental Army--Recruiting, enlistment, etc.
United States. Continental Army--Supplies and stores.
United States. Continental Congress.

Subjects
Princeton, Battle of, Princeton, N.J., 1777.
Trenton, Battle of, Trenton, N.J., 1776.

Places
Delaware--Description and travel.
Mississippi--Description and travel.
New Jersey--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
United States--History--Confederation, 1783-1789.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Diplomats.
Farmers.
Jurists.
Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Delaware.
Soldiers.
Statesmen.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Rodney Family Papers were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1919, 1968, and 1982.

Other Repositories

Significant collections of Rodney Family papers can also be found at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Historical Society of Delaware, the New York Public Library, the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, and the John Hay Library, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Rodney Family 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 these papers is available on four 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Scope and Content Note

The Rodney Family Papers span the years 1771-1824 and consist of correspondence and other papers of Caesar Rodney (1728-1784), Revolutionary statesman, president of Delaware, and member of the Continental Congress; his brother Thomas Rodney (1744-1811), farmer, Revolutionary war soldier, member of the Continental Congress, judge of the Supreme Court of Delaware, and United States judge for the Mississippi Territory; and Thomas's son Caesar Augustus Rodney (1772-1824), statesman, lawyer, United States senator from Delaware, United States attorney general, and first United States minister to Argentina.

The papers include several diaries of Thomas Rodney. One written December 1776-January 1777 describes Rodney's participation in the Trenton and Princeton campaigns. Another written in 1781 and 1786 while he was a member of Congress. A journal was also kept by Rodney while traveling from Delaware to the Mississippi Territory, 1803. Also included is an account book kept during Rodney's service as a clothier and agent for the Delaware Regiment, April 1778-January 1779, legal papers, judicial cases, and miscellaneous writings (1776-1803).

Correspondence consists chiefly of family letters but also includes correspondence with Ephraim Blaine, William C. C. Claiborne, Henry Clay, Alexander James Dallas, John Dickinson, William

Eusitis, Henry Laurens, James Madison, James Monroe, Robert Morris, Samuel Patterson, John Randolph, John Vining, and George Washington concerning topics such as the Confederation, military recruiting and supply, and Thomas Rodney's business activities, especially related to his Poplar Grove plantation.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1 REEL 1	Diaries
BOX 1 REEL 1	1776, Dec. 1-1777, Jan. 28
BOX 1 REEL 1	1795, Aug. 30-Sept. 8
BOX 1 REEL 1	1800, Dec. 29-1801, Sept. 23
	(5 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1771-1824, undated
	(14 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1	Mississippi court cases, 1809-1810, undated
BOX 2 REEL 1	Legal notes, undated
BOX 2 REEL 1	Miscellany, 1775-1798, undated
BOX 3 (oversize) REEL 2	Account book and journal, 1771-1775; 1798, Nov. 5-1799, Jan. 21
BOX 3 REEL 2	Account book and journal, 1774-1791, 1799-1800; 1799, Nov. 20-1800, July 11
BOX 4 REEL 3	Mississippi court notebooks, 1804-1809
	(4 vols.)
BOX 5 REEL 4	Account book and diary, 1778-1783; 1796, July-Aug.
BOX 5 REEL 4	Diary, 1781-1786
BOX 5 REEL 4	Diary and account book, 1803, Aug.-Oct.