



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

George Washington papers

1694-1979 [bulk 1750-1799]

MssCol 3231

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Compiled by Casey Babcock, 2016

Summary

Creator: Washington, George, 1732-1799

Title: George Washington papers

Date: 1694-1979 [bulk 1750-1799]

Size: 5.52 linear feet (11 boxes, 15 volumes, 9 oversized folders)

Source: Various gifts and purchases, 1895-1975

Abstract: George Washington (1732-1799) was a Virginia planter, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution, and first President of the United States. The Washington Papers comprise manuscript items by or related to George Washington and his family acquired by The New York Public Library and its predecessor the Lenox Library through various gifts and purchases. Among the items in the collection are Washington's notebook as a colonel in the Virginia militia (1757), the manuscript of his Farewell Address to the nation (1796), and letters he sent and received, 1757-1799.

Preferred citation: George Washington papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Casey Babcock, 2016

Creator History

George Washington (1732-1799) was a Virginia planter, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution, and first President of the United States.

Scope and Content Note

The George Washington papers combine manuscript items by or related to George Washington acquired by The New York Public Library and its predecessor the Lenox Library; reproductions of Washington materials held by other repositories and individuals; and correspondence, research files,

and printed material, bearing on the study of Washington. Original material in the collection includes Washington's notebook as a colonel in the Virginia militia (1757), the manuscript of his Farewell Address to the nation (1796), and letters he sent and received (1757-1799). Notable correspondents include James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Timothy Pickering, James Ross, and Noah Webster.

Family papers contain letters, deeds, and receipts of Washington family members, including one letter of his wife Martha Washington and a bill of exchange for slaves signed by his nephew William Augustine Washington. The collection also includes papers of researchers, chiefly concerning the provenance and authenticity of Washington manuscripts, primarily the Farewell address. Correspondents include James Lenox, David Claypool, Jared Sparks, Moncure D. Conway, Worthington C. Ford, and Victor Hugo Paltsits. In addition, there are transcripts, photostats, and facsimiles of Washington documents not held by the New York Public Library, and Washington-related ephemera.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Land surveys
Notebooks
Orderly books

Occupations

Presidents -- United States

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- 1783-1815
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
United States -- Politics and government -- 1775-1783

Names

Ford, Worthington Chauncey, 1858-1941
Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804
Madison, James, 1751-1836
Paltsits, Victor Hugo, 1867-1952
Ross, James, 1762-1847
Sparks, Jared, 1789-1866
Washington, George, 1732-1799
Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Anniversaries, etc.
Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Farewell address
Washington, Martha, 1731-1802
Webster, Noah, 1758-1843
Washington family
United States. President (1789-1797 : Washington)

Container List

I. Correspondence of George Washington 1757-1799

- b. 1 f. 1 William Peachey to George Washington 1757 November 14
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter to Rev. Jonathan Boucher 1769 October 14
Missing
- b. 1 f. 3 George Mason to George Washington 1769 October 14
Sabin Collection
Letters to Rev. Jonathan Boucher
- b. 1 f. 4 1770 February 3
- b. 1 f. 5 1770 June 2-9
- b. 1 f. 6 Carter Braxton to [George Washington] 1771 December 23
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 7 Letter to James Mercer 1774 April 11
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 8 Letter to George Clinton 1775 August 25
- b. 1 f. 9 Letter to [Committee of Safety, New York] [1776] April 24
Lenox Library
- b. 1 f. 10 William Grayson to Gen. Charles Lee 1776 November 20
Though not in Washington's hand, the letter contains his direct orders
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 11 Letter to Carpenter Wharton or Capt. Jeremiah Wadsworth 1777 February [16
or 18]
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 12 Letter to unidentified correspondent 1777 July 13
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 13 Gen. John Lacey to George Washington 1778 January 21
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 14 Letter to [Captain Nathaniel Jarvis] 1778 June 13 (Name of subject cut out; address
panel not present)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 15 Letter to Col. [Theodorick] Bland 1778 November 29
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 16 Letter to Gen'l. [John] Sullivan 1779 March 19
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 17 Letter to Gov. [George] Clinton 1779 July 14
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 18 Jeremiah Wadsworth to George Washington 1779 August 27 (Copy)
Purchase, S.V. Henkels, 1919
- b. 1 f. 19 Letter to unidentified correspondent 1780 December 9
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 20 Letter to [Lt. Col. Barber] 1781 January 21 (In the hand of Alexander Hamilton and
signed by George Washington)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 21 Letter to Major [Moore] Fauntleroy 1781 February 6
Gift of Harry Kahn, 1975

I. Correspondence of George Washington (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 22 Letter to Colonel [Timothy] Pickering 1781 February 15
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 23 Letter to unidentified correspondent 1781 March 10 (Missing left-hand panel)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 24 Letter to unidentified correspondent 1781 May 10
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 25 Letter to Col. [Timothy] Pickering 1781 June 25
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 26 Letter to Major Gen. Greene 1781 July 30 (In hand of Jonathan Trumbull, signed by George Washington)
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 27 Letter to [Thomas Chittenden] 1782 January 1 (Copy by Benjamin Walker)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 28 David Cobb to [William Alexander] Lord Stirling 1782 July 28
- b. 1 f. 29 Letter to Col. [Timothy] Pickering 1783 October 10
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 30 Letter to Fielding Lewis 1784 February 27
McAlpin Collection
- Letters to Noah Webster
- b. 1 f. 31 1785 July 30
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 32 1785 December 18
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 33 1786 April 17
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 34 Letter to Henry Lee 1786 October 31 (Last page only. With autograph note in French, signed by Lee, on verso)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 35 La Comtess des Essarts to George Washington 1787 May 1 (In French. Endorsed by George Washington)
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 36 Letter to Noah Webster 1787 November 4 (Signature cut out)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 37 Le Comte de Moustier to George Washington 1788 January 24 (In French)
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 38 Letter to Mathew Carey 1788 June 25 (Address leaf frank cut out)
- b. 1 f. 39 Letter to Robert Lewis 1789 March 24
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 40 Letter to Richard Potts 1789 September 30
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 41 Letter to Noah Webster, Jun'r 1790 January 10 (Signature cut out)
- b. 1 f. 42 Letter to Noah Webster 1790 August 28
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 43 J[ohn] Dandridge to George Washington 1790 September 21
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 44 Lord Wycombe to George Washington 1791 November 9
Sabin Collection

I. Correspondence of George Washington (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 45 **Letter to Charles Carter** 1792 May 19 (Draft, with initials. Incomplete)
Montague Collection
- b. 1 f. 46 **Letter to James Madison** 1792 May 20 (Draft)
Washington asking for advice about his Farewell Address
- b. 1 f. 47 **James Madison to George Washington** 1792 June 20
Enclosed is Madison's draft of a farewell address for Washington
- b. 1 f. 48 **Letter to Gouverneur Morris** 1792 October 20
- b. 1 f. 49 **Tobias Lear to Daniel Bowen** 1792 December 28
Written in third person ("Mr. Lear....") by Washington's personal secretary, regarding pictures
Washington had ordered
- b. 1 f. 50 **Letter to Anthony Whiting** 1793 January 6
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 51 **Letter to Robert Lewis** 1793 March 7
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 52 **Letter to Mr. Whiting** 1793 March 26 (Fragment. Signed on verso by Jared Sparks)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 53 **John Gwinn to George Washington** 1794 March 14
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 54 **John F. Mercer to George Washington** 1794 April 13
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 55 **Letter to James Ross** 1794 June 16
Delafield-Sloane Collection
- b. 1 f. 56 **Letter to Francis Deakins** 1794 July 1
Letters to James Ross
Delafield-Sloane Collection
- b. 1 f. 57 1794 August 1
- b. 1 f. 58 1794 August 6
- b. 1 f. 59 **William Pearce to George Washington** 1795 February 15
Ford Collection
Letters to James Ross
Delafield-Sloane Collection
- b. 1 f. 60 1795 August 29
- b. 1 f. 61 1795 September 5
- b. 1 f. 62 **Letter to Thomas Jefferson** 1795 October 4 (Draft)
Ford Collection
- b. 1 f. 63 **Jonathan Trumbull to George Washington** 1797 January 23 (Draft)
On verso of 1796 December 29 letter to Trumbull from Zephaniah Swift
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 64 **Letter to James McHenry** 1797 April 3 (Draft)
Ford Collection
Letters to James Ross
Delafield-Sloane Collection
- b. 1 f. 65 1797 July 2
- b. 1 f. 66 1798 February 12 (Fragment)
- b. 1 f. 67 **Letter to John McDowell** 1798 March 5
Ford Collection

I. Correspondence of George Washington (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 68 Timothy Pickering to George Washington 1798 October 20
- b. 1 f. 69 Letter to Jno. [John] Greenwood 1798 November 5
McAlpin Collection
- b. 1 f. 70 Jacob Read to George Washington 1798 December 19
Enclosed with the letter was "Scheme of a Review." Enclosure is not present
- b. 1 f. 71 Letter to [Samuel Washington] 1799 April 2 (Letterpress copy)
Sabin Collection
- b. 1 f. 72 Letter to James Ross 1799 June 26
Delafield-Sloane Collection
- b. 1 f. 73 Letter to Bushrod Washington undated (Fragment)
- b. 1 f. 74 Autograph cover addressed to Oliver Wolcott undated (Fragment)
- b. 1 f. 75 Letter to unidentified correspondent undated (Fragment)

Copy-press letters

- b. 7 1-60 1792-1797
- b. 8 61-120 1797-1798
- b. 9 121-180 1798-1799
- b. 10 181-236 1799
Calendar 1898
Printed in the NYPL Bulletin, Vol. 2.

II. Manuscripts by or concerning George Washington 1751-1798

- b. 2 f. 1 Land survey 1751 April 3
Undertaken for Owen Thomas
Notebook as a Virginia colonel 1757
See MssCol 23122
- b. 2 f. 2 Receipt to Capt. Josh. Morton 1760 April 25
Ford Collection
- b. 2 f. 3 Order for clothing for Martha Parke Custis 1768 June 20 (Endorsed by George Washington)
Sabin Collection
- b. 2 f. 4 Mountain Road Lottery ticket No. 409 1768 (Endorsed by George Washington)
- b. 2 f. 5 James Clurtan receipt for cash received from Washington 1776 March 5
Sabin Collection
- v. 1 Orderly book 1778 May-Sept
- b. 2 f. 6 Poem in honor of Washington by a native of Maryland, 1778 July 10 1778
(Copy)
- b. 2 f. 7 Certificate of discharge of Samuel Parson Matross from the American Army
1783 June 9 (Endorsed by George Washington)
- b. 2 f. 8 Commission to Arthur St. Clair as governor of the Northwest Territory 1789
September 1 (Endorsed by George Washington)
Ford Collection
- b. 2 f. 9 Certificate of purchase of lots in the City of Washington 1793 September 18
(Duplicate endorsed by commissioners David Stuart (1753-circa 1814) and Daniel Carroll (1730-1796))
- b. 2 f. 10 Memorandum to Gen. Henry Knox circa 1794 March
Sabin Collection
- b. 2 f. 11 Power of Attorney to James Ross 1795 August 29 (Endorsed by George Washington)
Delafield-Sloane Collection

II. Manuscripts by or concerning George Washington (cont.)

Farewell Address 1796

See MssCol 3230

- b. 2 f. 12 **Bank of Alexandria check made payable to William Pearce 1797 January 2**
Check no. 179, made out to himself by "William Pearce for the President U. States"
Sabin Collection
- b. 2 f. 13 **Receipt for Col. Israel Shreve via James Ross 1798 January 22 (Endorsed by George Washington)**
\$1961.30 in payment for lands
Delafield-Sloane Collection
- b. 2 f. 14 **Accounts for River Farm and Muddyhole Farm 1798 March 24-May 26**
Sabin Collection
- b. 2 f. 15 **Deed for land in Washington City from Daniel Carroll to Washington 1798 October 3**
Sabin Collection
- b. 2 f. 16 **Receipted bill signed by Ja[m]es Thackara against [Tobias] Lear 1798 November 27**
Receipted bill for gold seal engraving of Washington
Emmet Collection
 - o. 1 **Draft of the New Road from No. 32 to No. 43 undated**
Relates to Bouquet Road which was referred to in a letter from Washington to Colonel Henry Bouquet, 1758 July 25
 - o. 2 **Course of the Road from Suffolk to Norfolk - by Mr. King undated**
- b. 2 f. 17 **List of certificates held by Washington undated (Fragment)**
- b. 2 f. 18 **Clipped signature from a letter by Washington undated**

III. Washington family papers 1694-1914

- b. 2 f. 19 **Letter from Robert and Thoms Lystun to Lewis Markham 1694 December 25**
Authorizing the sale of a parcel of land
Letters from Lawrence Washington to Lewis Markham
- b. 2 f. 19 **1695 June 15**
- b. 2 f. 19 **1695 June 18**
 - o. 3 **Deed for land in Washington Parish, Westmoreland County, Virginia 1695 May 20**
Between Lawrence Washington and Lewis Markham
 - o. 4 **Augustine Washington, "Articles of agreement and copartnership..." 1737**
- b. 2 f. 20 **Lawrence Washington letter to unknown person 1749 November 7**
Sabin Collection
- b. 2 f. 21 **Bills of exchange for slaves from William Augustine Washington to Major Lawrence Lewis 1783 October 2 (Endorsed by John Augustine Washington)**
- b. 2 f. 22 **Martha Washington letter to "My Dear Fanny" 1794 March 16**
"My dear Fanny" was Frances Bassett Washington, widow of George Washington's nephew, George Augustine Washington
Harkness Collection
- b. 2 f. 23 **George Washington Parke Custis letters and writings 1798-1856, undated**
Contains a George Washington Park Custis autographed extract from his "Recollections and Private Memoirs..."
- b. 2 f. 24 **"Public Sales made by the Executors of Genl. George Washington, deceased, of his estate," 1800-1803 1811 July 15**
Ford Collection

III. Washington family papers (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 25 John Augustine Washington signed receipt 1832 March 7
 - b. 2 f. 26 Letter from Joseph Washington to Mabel T.R. Washburn of the Journal of American History 1914 August 25
- IV. Transcripts and facsimiles 1846-1979
- b. 3 f. 1 Facsimiles of correspondence and maps, transcripts of correspondence, 1754-1789 circa 1895-1979
Photostats and copies of originals not owned by NYPL
 - b. 3 f. 2 1754-1780
 - b. 3 f. 3 1781-1789
 - b. 3 f. 4 1790-1799, undated
Ledger A, 1750-1774
from the original in the Library of Congress
 - v. 2 Ff. 1-109 1922
 - v. 3 Ff. 110-233 1922
 - v. 4 Ff. 234-356 1922
 - b. 11 George and James Clinton letters and documents, 1752-1825 1921 (Photostats)
Originals are held by the Morgan Library
Letters of George Washington, 1768-1799 1937 (Photostats)
Originals are held by the Rosenbach Museum and Library
 - v. 5 Volume 1 1937
 - v. 6 Volume 2 1937
 - v. 7 Volume 3 1937
 - v. 8 Letters to Arthur Young, 1786-1794 1930 (Photostats)
Originals are held by the Rosenbach Museum and Library
 - v. 9 Robert Erskine - Washington War Map of New York and New Jersey - 1777 1921 (Photostat)
Original is held by the Morgan Library
 - o. 5 Plan of redoubt near Philadelphia, 1778 1846 July 20 (Tracing of the original)
 - o. 6 Heliotype of Washington's Autograph Address to the Officers of the American Army, at Newburg, N.Y., March 15, 1783 1876 (Printed copy)
 - v. 10 Washington's prayer book 1891 (Facsimile)
 - v. 11 Surveys of Frederick County, Virginia, 1750 1932 (Photostats)
 - v. 12 Survey book, 1770-1772, 1779 undated (Photostats)
 - b. 3 f. 5 Maps of Washington's birthplace, Wakefield 1926, 1929 (Photostats, copies)
 - o. 7 Deed and Plan of Wakefield, birthplace of Washington 1929 (Photostats)
 - b. 3 f. 6 Receipt signed by Gilbert Stuart for \$850.00 for portraits of Washington and William Constable, 1797 July 13 undated (Photostat)
Family papers
 - b. 3 f. 7 John Washington (great-grandfather), 1675 1931, undated (Photostats)
 - b. 3 f. 8 Mary Washington (mother), 1756-1940 1919-1940 (Photostats)
 - b. 3 f. 9 Martha Washington (wife), 1791-1801 1893-1930, undated (Photostats, transcripts, printed portrait)

V. Materials on the study and commemoration of Washington 1848-1976

Correspondence, transcripts, facsimiles, etc. chiefly concerning the authenticity and ownership of George Washington manuscripts. Correspondents include, Jared Sparks, Moncure D. Conway, Worthington C. Ford, and Victor Hugo Paltsits.

Washington's Farewell Address

- b. 4 f. 1 Letters relating to the authorship, etc. of the Farewell Address 1797-1850
Published in the volume on the Farewell Address by Victor Hugo Paltsits, 1935
- b. 4 f. 2 Letters between Mrs. Hamilton, James A. Hamilton, Charles King, John Marshall, J. Jay Smith, Jared Sparks, and Bushrod Washington 1818-1852
Details the controversy over the document's ownership
- b. 4 f. 3 Letter from William Rawle to David Claypoole 1826 January 31
An account of a conversation between Rawls and Claypoole regarding the latter's conversation with President Washington regarding the printing of the Farewell Address
- b. 4 f. 4 Wrappers endorsed by Bushrod Washington before 1830
which originally contained letters of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison concerning the Farewell Address
- b. 4 f. 5 Papers from Mr. James Lenox which came with the original manuscript of the Farewell Address 1849-1850
- b. 4 f. 6 Letters and clippings sent to James Lenox by Samuel Cassedy regarding the controversy over the authorship of the Farewell Address 1852
- b. 4 f. 7 Letter of James Lenox to Evert A. Duyckinck regarding the purchase of the Farewell Address 1855 February 27
- b. 4 f. 8 Correspondence and notes of George H. Moore 1881
- b. 4 f. 9 Papers of Victor Hugo Paltsits re: Farewell Address 1932-1935
- b. 4 f. 10 Miscellaneous papers relating to the Farewell Address 1896-1961
Includes correspondence and notes pertaining to the NYPL's copy of the Farewell Address and its reproduction
- b. 5 f. 1 Papers regarding the James Sharpless miniature of Washington 1850-1890
- b. 5 f. 2 National monument 1852-1859
- b. 5 f. 3 George Bancroft's notes on Washington and extracts from letters dated 1784-1797 1881
- b. 5 f. 4-5 Washington inaugural celebration 1888-1889
- b. 5 f. 6 Washington Centennial 1889
Responses to a circular sent out by the New York Mail and Express asking for contributions regarding Washington and the Centennial
- b. 5 f. 7 Documents pertaining to "George Washington and Mount Vernon: A Collection of Washington's Unpublished Agricultural and Personal Letters" 1889-1890 (Facsimiles and transcripts)
- b. 5 f. 8 Notes on Washington's farm book by J. Percy Sabin
- b. 5 f. 9 Genealogical charts and notes on the Washington family by Worthington Ford 1860s-1892
- v. 13 Duche-Washington letter, 1777 1893, 1900 (Photostats, printed documents, and original correspondence)
- b. 6 f. 1 Portraits 1890s
Statement by Sir Croker Barrington relating to the portrait. Transcript copy of patent signed by Washington
- o. 8 Certification for Dunlap Hopkins as a member of the George Washington Association 1912 January 25

V. Materials on the study and commemoration of Washington (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 2 Commission as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, 1775 1848, 1937-1976 (Facsimiles, transcripts, and original correspondence)
- b. 6 f. 3 *Monograph of the Washington Will* 1891, 1929, 1936 (Printed copy)
- b. 6 f. 4 *Washington's Jeopardy on Manhattan in 1776 by Victor Hugo Paltsits* 1921
- b. 6 f. 5 Bicentennial of Washington's birth 1928-1936
 - v. 14 *Washington's secret of 1782 by Chapman, Clowry* 1937
An unpublished manuscript with a forward by Victor Hugo Paltsits
- b. 6 f. 6 *Letters between Jane C. Washington and Colonel William Popham, 1838-1839, and Washington as a Communicant of the Church* 1899, 1940 (Photostats and printed copy)
Washington as a Communicant of the Church was printed in *The Churchman* on June 3, 1899
- b. 5 f. 7 Tributes [1799?], [1828?]
 - o. 9 *The Character of Washington* undated (broadside)
- b. 6 f. 8 *George Washington, Descendant of the Saints* undated
- b. 6 f. 9 Printed material, transcripts, original correspondence re: the Washington papers 1848-1945
- b. 6 f. 10 Printed ephemera, portraits 1859, undated
- b. 6 f. 11 Letter paper with Washington's name in the watermark undated