



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Rufus & James Backus letters received**

1794

MssCol 24488

Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2018

## Summary

**Creator:** Rufus & James Backus

**Title:** Rufus & James Backus letters received

**Date:** 1794

**Size:** .1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Purchased from W. Todd, 1931.

**Abstract:** Rufus Backus and James Backus (1764-1816) were merchants in Norwich, Connecticut. The partnership of Rufus & James Backus dissolved in 1796. The collection comprises eight letters to the firm dated 1794 March 19-September 7, written chiefly by Gilbert Saltonstall at New York, as well as John D. Blanchard at Philadelphia, and William Stewart at New London. Letters refer to the British seizure of American vessels trading in the French West Indies, the resulting U.S. embargo of March 26, 1794, and the depressed domestic trade in provisions.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Rufus & James Backus letters received, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2018

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Merchants -- Connecticut

Merchants -- New York (State) -- New York

Merchants -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

### Occupations

Merchants.

**Geographic Names**

Norwich (Conn.) -- Commerce

United States -- Commerce -- West Indies

United States -- History -- 1783-1815

West Indies -- Commerce -- United States

**Names**

Saltonstall, Gilbert

Rufus & James Backus

Rufus & James Backus -- Correspondence