



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Bushrod Washington letters**

1786-1826 and undated

MssCol 4674

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

**Summary**

**Creator:** Washington, Bushrod, 1762-1829

**Title:** Bushrod Washington letters

**Date:** 1786-1826 and undated

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

**Source:** Donated by John S. Kennedy, 1896 as part of the Emmet Collection and J. Pierpont Morgan, 1899 as part of the Ford Collection; various purchases.

**Abstract:** Virginia lawyer Bushrod Washington (1762-1829) was an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and a nephew of President George Washington. He inherited the estate of Mount Vernon upon Washington's death. The collection consists of letters written by Bushrod Washington to various recipients concerning personal, business and legal matters, 1786-1826 and undated, including a signed check. Letters to his friend Samuel Hodgdon at Philadelphia, dated 1785 [i.e., 1786] and 1786, tell of his recent marriage and express his views on political and economic matters. His letter "to Chancellor de Saussure" (as endorsed in another hand), dated November 29, 1814, includes a description of British fleet movements on the Potomac River in late August and praises Commodore Gordon (British naval captain James Alexander Gordon) for preserving Mount Vernon from destruction. Henry W. de Saussure was a South Carolina judge and a director of the United States Mint. Two items, 1802-1803, pertain to the settlement of George Washington's estate.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Bushrod Washington letters, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

**Related Materials:**

Forms part of [Emmet collection](#)

## **Key Terms**

### **Geographic Names**

Alexandria (Va.) -- History -- Capture by the British, 1814

Mount Vernon (Va. : Estate)

United States -- History -- War of 1812 -- Naval operations, British

### **Occupations**

Judges

Lawyers

### **Names**

De Saussure, Henry William, 1763-1839 -- recipient

Gordon, James Alexander, 1782-1869 -- Sir

Hodgdon, Samuel, 1745-1824 -- recipient

Washington family

Washington, Bushrod, 1762-1829

Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Estate