Historical Society of Delaware Collection: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Huntington staff in 1979, re-keyed by Brooke M. Black, June 1, 2013.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
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URL: http://www.huntington.org
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Historical Society of Delaware Collection

Dates (inclusive): 1660-1929

Bulk dates: 1700s

Collection Number: mssDelaware historical society

Extent: Approximately 900 photostat items in 5 boxes

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Abstract: This collection contains photostat reproductions of original letters and documents held by the Historical Society of Delaware, including state and county records, military documents, and about 350 letters, mostly from the time of the American Revolution. The inclusive dates are 1660 to 1929, with an emphasis on the 18th century.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. Historical Society of Delaware Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

The photostats were acquired through E. Terry in 1939 from the Historical Society of Delaware. The originals at the Historical Society of Delaware were gifts of Willard S. Morse in 1923, 1928 and 1929.

Biographical Note

The Delaware Historical Society is located in Wilmington, Delaware. It changed its name in 2008.

Scope and Content

The collection contains photostat reproductions of original letters and documents in the Historical Society of Delaware, including state and county records, military documents, and about 350 letters, mostly from the time of the American Revolution. The inclusive dates are 1660 to 1929, with an emphasis on the 18th century.

Within the correspondence, virtually all the governors and holders of important offices of Delaware are represented. Many of the letters have to do with local government and many concern Delaware's part in the American Revolution. A few have no value beyond autograph-collector interest.

The state records consist of: executive orders by Presidents and Governors of Delaware (1798-1908), court records (1738-1898); documents and letters of the General Assembly Council and House (1775-1849); State Treasurer's papers (1779-1869); and State Auditor's papers (1789-1898).

The county records reflect Kent County (1679-1849); New Castle County (1706-1849); and Sussex County (1748-1877). Finally, the military returns (1775-1808) include the Delaware Line of the Continental Army and Delaware Militia.

Notable authors represented by 4 or more pieces are: James Asheton Bayard (4 pieces), Benjamin Chew (4 pieces), Joshua Clayton (7 pieces), John Dagworthy (5 pieces), John Dickinson (4 pieces), David Hall (5 pieces), John Jay (4 pieces), Thomas Jefferson (6 pieces), Thomas McKean (6 pieces), John McKinly (4 pieces), Allan McLane (4 pieces), Samuel Osgood (4 pieces), Samuel Patterson (4 pieces), Timothy Pickering (8 pieces), Edmund Randolph (5 pieces), George Read (4 pieces), Caesar Rodney (9 pieces), and Thomas Rodney (7 pieces).

The collection was formerly known as the Delaware State Archives Collection. The name of the collection was changed in 1979.
Arrangement
This material is made up of all photostats in 5 boxes:
- Boxes 1-3: Correspondence (arranged alphabetically)
- Box 4: State and County Records
- Box 5: Military Documents

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
- Historical Society of Delaware.
- Governors -- Delaware -- Correspondence.
- Delaware -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775 -- Sources.
- Delaware -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Sources.
- Delaware -- History -- Sources.
- Delaware -- History, Military.
- Delaware -- Militia.
- Delaware -- Politics and government.
- United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Sources.
- United States -- Politics and government -- 18th century -- Sources.

Forms/Genres
- County government records Delaware.
- Letters (correspondence) Delaware.
- Military records Delaware.
- State government records Delaware.

Additional Contributors
- Bayard, James A. (James Asheton), 1767-1815.
- Chew, Benjamin, 1722-1810.
- Clayton, Joshua, 1744-1798.
- Dagworthy, John, 1721-1784.
- Dickinson, John, 1732-1808.
- Hall, David, 1752-1817.
- Jay, John, 1745-1829.
- Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826.
- McKean, Thomas, 1734-1817.
- Osgood, Samuel, 1748-1813.
- Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829.
- Randolph, Edmund, 1753-1813.
- Read, George, 1733-1798.
- Rodney, Caesar, 1728-1784.
- Rodney, Thomas, 1744-1811.

Photostat facsimiles
- Box 1: Correspondence, A-G
- Box 2: Correspondence, H-Q
- Box 3: Correspondence, R-Y
- Box 4: State and County Records
- Box 5: Military Documents