

Chapin Collection of Washington & Custis family documents RM.1201.RM.1202

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1758-1829

Title Statement

Chapin Collection of Washington & Custis family documents RM.1201.RM.1202

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

RM.1201.RM.1202

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/71

Unit Date

1758-1829

Text

G:5 (Shelf)

Language

English .

Creator

Lewis, Eleanor Parke Custis, 1779-1852

Creator

Washington, George, 1732-1799

Extent

.5 Linear Feet (2 boxes)

Repository

Special Collections at The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during scheduled appointments. Researchers must complete the Washington Library's Special Collections and Archives Registration Form before access is provided. The library reserves the right to restrict access to certain items for preservation purposes.

Preferred Citation

[Name and date of item], Chapin Collection of Washington & Custis family documents, [Folder], Special Collections, The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon [hereafter Washington Library], Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis (1779-1852): Eleanor was born on March 31, 1779. She was the youngest granddaughter of Martha Washington and the step-granddaughter of George Washington. After her father John Parke Custis' death in 1781 and her mother, Eleanor Calvert Custis' marriage to Dr. David Stuart, Eleanor and her brother George Washington Parke Custis began living with the Washingtons. In 1799, Eleanor married Washington's nephew, Lawrence Lewis. Of their eight children, only one son and three daughters lived to maturity. Eleanor and Lawrence remained at Mount Vernon until Martha Washington's death in 1802 and subsequently moved to Woodlawn Plantation upon its completion in 1805. Throughout her life, Nelly regarded herself as the preserver of George Washington's legacy. She died at Audley Plantation on July 15, 1852 and is buried at Mount Vernon in the family tomb.

Martha Washington (1731-1802): Martha Dandridge Custis Washington was born on June 2, 1731 to parents John and Frances Jones Dandridge. She married her first husband, Daniel Parke Custis, on May 15, 1750. Together they had four children, two of whom died in childhood. On July 8, 1757, her husband unexpectedly died, leaving her a widow with their two remaining children, John Parke Custis and Martha Parke Custis. On January 6, 1759, Martha Dandridge Custis married George Washington. Martha Parke Custis or Patsy, died at the age of 17. On February 3, 1774, John Parke Custis married Eleanor Calvert, and together they had four children who survived to adulthood. However, on November 5, 1781, John Parke Custis passed away, and the younger two of his children went to live at Mount Vernon with their grandmother. Martha Dandridge Custis Washington died on May 22, 1802.

George Washington (1732-1799): George Washington was born on February 22, 1732 at a modest farm in Westmoreland County, Virginia to parents Augustine and Mary Ball Washington. In 1749, George Washington was appointed surveyor for Culpepper County. In 1752, he started his military career in the Virginia militia. During the Revolutionary War he was the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and later was elected as the first President of the United States of America. He lived with his wife, Martha Washington, at Mount Vernon, where he passed away December 14, 1799.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of papers inherited and collected by Washington family descendants. Many were purchased in 1927 at auction to reunite Washington family correspondence. The collection includes correspondence, financial documents and legal documents that relate primarily to the Custis and Lewis families, but include other items related to Virginia history. Charles and Peter Chapin, the previous owners of this collection, descended from Eleanor Parke Custis and Lawrence Lewis through Esther Maria Lewis and Charles Chapin. This collection was originally assembled by Esther Maria Lewis Chapin who inherited some of the Washington/Custis papers, but was also an avid collector and brought back together family items that were being dispersed nationwide. This collection is an example of that effort; much of which was at auction in 1927 (Anderson Galleries, sale 2201, 28-29 November 1927).

Separated Materials

One title, The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 1634. Transferred to Rare Books Collection.

Related Materials

Esther Maria Lewis Chapin Collection of Washington Family Documents ; George Washington Collection ; Historic Manuscripts Collection ; Lawrence Lewis Papers ; Peter Family Papers

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series: Legal and Financial, and Correspondence. The folders are arranged in chronological order within each series. The undated material is listed at the end of the series, in alphabetical order by folder title.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Legal and Financial

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22703

Unit Date 1758-1796

Language English.

Bill of exchange from Robert Carey to Martha Custis

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22706

Unit Date 1758 May 18

Text 1 (box)

Links

Bill of exchange from Robert Carey to Martha Custis, 1758 May 18: 2015-07-31

<http://catalog.mountvernon.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16829coll34/id/6http://cdm16829.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/api/singleitem/collection//p16829coll34/id/6/th>

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Partially printed bill of exchange charged to the estate of Daniel Parke Custis and signed by Martha Custis.

Keywords

Financial records

Washington, Martha, 1731-1802

Receipt from George Washington to James Orom

Unit ID RM-1201

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22707

Unit Date 1768 June 6

Text 1 (box)

Links

Receipt from George Washington to James Orom, 1768 June 6: 2015-08-19

<http://catalog.mountvernon.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16829coll34/id/3http://cdm16829.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/api/singleitem/collection//p16829coll34/id/3/th>

Language English.

Creator Washington, George, 1732-1799

Scope and Contents

Autograph document in George Washington's hand. Receipt for the purchase of a horse. Signed and docketed on verso by George Washington Parke Custis. With facsimile of related receipt provenance notes from the Custis family.

Keywords

Financial records

Receipts (financial records)

Indenture between Stephen Forman and Lewis Pintard

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22705

Unit Date 1768 December 31

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Indenture for the sale of land in New Jersey.

Land patent awarded to George Washington from Lord Dunmore

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22709

Unit Date 1772 December 15

Text 2 (box)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Document signed by Lord Dunmore, 1 page, on vellum, 24 x 26 inches. Docketed on verso "George Washington Esq./ 10900 Acres/ Fincastle, Recorded and examined."

Keywords

Land grants

Washington, George, 1732-1799

Receipt from Doctor Stuart to George Washington

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22708

Unit Date 1796 October 24

Text 1 (box)

Digital Archival Object

Receipt from Doctor Stuart to George Washington, Mount Vernon, 1796 October 24: 2015-02-25

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Autograph document signed in the hand of George Washington, for money received from Doctor Stuart for annuity and a balance due from the estate of John Parke Custis.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Financial records

Custis, John Parke, 1754-1781 -- Estate

Washington, George, 1732-1799

Series 2. Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22704

Unit Date 1768-1829; undated

Language English.

Letter, George Washington to Reverend Jonathan Boucher

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22710

Unit Date 1768 October 20

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Washington, George, 1732-1799

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed with integral address panel. Washington writes that Jacky Custis is returning to school after being delayed by illness. Washington writes that Jacky "promises to stick close to his Book, and endeavour by diligent study to recover his lost time."

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, Charles Carroll to Robert Carter

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22711

Unit Date 1772 May 12

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, about financial matters. With an engraving of Charles Carroll of Carrollton by A. P. Durand.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, George Washington to General John Scott

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22712

Unit Date 1776 August 3

Text 1 (box)

Digital Archival Object

Letter: George Washington to General John Scott, 1776 August 3: 2015-02-25

Language English.

Creator Washington, George, 1732-1799

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 1 page. Mounted on cardstock. Washington gives orders for the removal of suspected loyalists to New Rochelle. He warns against any injury to persons or property but insists they be kept "at a distance from the Enemy of whom it is suspected they are favours and are carrying on correspondances dangerous to the United States of America.

Keywords

Correspondence

United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783

Scott, John Morin, 1730-1784

Letter, George Washington to Governor William Livingston

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22713

Unit Date 1777 April 16

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Washington, George, 1732-1799

Scope and Contents

Letter signed, about the case of Colonel John Duyckinck, who surrendered from the British army and was being held in Philadelphia.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, John Parke Custis to Colonel John Fitzgerald

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22714

Unit Date 1780 March 24

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Custis, John Parke, 1754-1781

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed with integral address panel. Custis writes about financial matters and Sunday dinner plans.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, George Washington to James Duane

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22715

Unit Date 1780 October 4

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Washington, George, 1732-1799

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages. Washington writes criticizing Congress's plan to raise a standing army for only one year, lamenting "the pernicious State-system is still adhered to." Washington worries each victory will "lull us into security." He writes, "The history of the war is a history of false hopes and temporary expedient." With an engraving by W. Humphreys and photogravure of Washington.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, Charles Stewart to Thomas Jones

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22716

Unit Date 1781 July 11

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages, with integral address panel. Mounted in folder with an engraving of Charles Stewart.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, David Rittenhouse to James Jacks

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22717

Unit Date 1781 November 26

Text 1 (box)

Links

Letter: David Rittenhouse, Philadelphia, to James Jacks, 1781 November 26: 2015-02-25

<http://catalog.mountvernon.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16829coll34/id/10/rec/2http://cdm16829.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/api/singleitem/collection/p16829coll34/i>

Language English.

Creator Rittenhouse, David, 1732-1796

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 1 page, with integral address panel. Letter written in Philadelphia by David Rittenhouse while he is serving as Treasurer for the State of Pennsylvania.

Keywords

Correspondence

Jacks, James, active 1781-

Letter, Jonathan Sturges to Ephraim Root

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22718

Unit Date 1792 November 20

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, Bartholomew Dandridge to Messrs. Childs & Swaine

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22719

Unit Date 793 December 6

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Dandridge, Bartholomew, approximately 1774-1802

Scope and Contents

Dandridge writes on behalf of President George Washington to the printers Childs and Swaine that Washington no longer wishes to subscribe to the supplement to their Daily Advertiser because he longer has time to read "the published prints that are brought to him."

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, Jonathan Trumbull to Collector Stevens

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22720

Unit Date 1798 August 5

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Trumbull, Jonathan, 1740-1809

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 1 page. Trumbull writes of business matters. He also writes of the French, "from such friends, God Deliver us."

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis to Mary Stead Pinckney

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22721

Unit Date 1800 November 9

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Lewis, Eleanor Parke Custis, 1779-1852

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 4 pages. Nelly thanks Mrs. Pinckney for the shawl she sent and hopes she can visit Mount Vernon next summer, when Nelly and husband hope to be settled in their own house. She writes about the health of herself, her daughter Frances, and Martha Washington, who had a "bilious fever." She writes of the death of her sister Martha Peter's daughter Eleanor, who was buried in the family vault at Mount Vernon. With an envelope purported to contain Washington's hair.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter, Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis to Cornelia Van Ness

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22722

Unit Date 1829 February 15

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Lewis, Eleanor Parke Custis, 1779-1852

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages.

Keywords

Correspondence

Correspondence

Letter, Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis to William Costin

Unit ID RM-1202

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/22723

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Links

Letter, Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis to William Costin, undated: 2024-02-28

<http://catalog.mountvernon.org/digital/collection/p16829coll34/id/15/rec/1><http://cdm16829.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/api/singleitem/collection/p16829coll34/id/15/thumbnail>

Language English.

Creator Lewis, Eleanor Parke Custis, 1779-1852

Scope and Contents

Autograph letter signed, 1 page. Nelly writes about visiting Philadelphia, sending bacon, and wishing well to Costin's mother.

Keywords

Correspondence

Costin, William, 1780?-1842