

A Guide to the Letters to William Mewburn 1799

Letters to William Mewburn 1799

1799

A Collection in The Special Collections Department 4761
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
2002

History

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Title Statement

A Guide to the Letters to William Mewburn 1799

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

Feb 20, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::viu03356::A Guide to the Letters to William Mewburn)//EN" "viu03356.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

4761

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

This collection consists of 40 items.

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

The collection was placed on loan in the library by Mrs. Dwight Ashton File of "Bolling Hall," Irwin, Virginia, on May 10, 1954, and bears no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

Letters to William Mewburn, Accession #4761, Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Scope and Content Information

This collection consists chiefly of letters to William Mewburn, a Richmond, Virginia merchant, from customers in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. Identified places include Norfolk, City Point, Bowling Green, Petersburg, and Buckingham; Philadelphia and Columbia County (?); Charleston, South Carolina and Liverpool, England. The letters are badly damaged and most have sizeable portions missing.

Topics discussed pertain primarily to business matters: shipping and receiving of goods, complaints, orders, and miscellaneous legal matters. Types of goods ordered include: calico, shoes, nails, cotton, playing cards, corn, looking glasses, thread, gloves, gunpowder, flints, and castor oil.

Prominent correspondents in the collection include John Parker, a Continental Congressman from Maryland. There is a brief letter from Benjamin H. Latrobe, a noted engineer and architect, discussing his account with Mewburn. Other identified correspondents are John Duffield, E.H. Dunbar, James Kenon, Richard Maupin, Bernard Moore, Sarah Randolph, W.J. Stone, Betty Tayloe, William Vaughan, and R. Watkins. Of special interest are two June letters, one of which was apparently hand delivered by a slave named Ralph; the other places an order for shoes with the size required drawn on the letter itself.