

Washington, George, Papers

George Washington Papers [in part: photostats, printed copies, typescripts]
1755-1932

Title Statement

Washington, George, PapersGuide to the George Washington Papers Mss. 39.1 W25

Author: Special Collections Staff.

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2007-05-31

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-09-30 07:01:59 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Mss. 39.1 W25

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/926

Unit Date

1755-1932

Language

English

Creator

Washington, George, 1732-1799

Extent

3.00 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia, § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

Conditions Governing Use:

Before reproducing or quoting from any materials, in whole or in part, permission must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

For preservation reasons, researchers are asked to use a digital surrogate or published version of the original items, if available.

Acquisition Information:

The materials that comprise this collection were donated and purchased by W&M Special Collections from numerous individuals between 1928 and 1997.

Processing Information:

Box and folder list inventory completed by Zach Woodward, SCRC staff, in March 2011.

Preferred Citation:

George Washington Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

George Washington (February 22, 1732 - December 14, 1799) led America's Continental Army to victory over Britain in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), and in 1789 was elected the first President of the United States of America. He served two four-year terms from 1789 to 1797. Washington served as the first American Chancellor of the College of William and Mary from 1788 to 1799.

Scope and Contents

Photostats, typescripts, original and printed copies of letters and papers of and about George Washington, Martha Washington and Mary Ball Washington; manuscript of "The Washingtons of Sulgrave" by S. H. Lee Washington; portrait engravings and prints of George Washington and places and events associated with him, including an original pen and ink sketch [ca. 1790] by Benjamin H. Latrobe; a piece of sheet music written in honor of George Washington by George M. Cohan; and various maps.

Original Washington letters in the collection include: Letter, 1796 June 26, George Washington to his nephew Robert Lewis concerning his retirement from public life; and letter, Letter, 1799 March 18, of George Washington to James McAlpine concerning the making of a suit; Letter, 1783 November 15, George Washington to Governor George Clinton (Acc. 1997.073).

Please note that, whenever available, patrons are required to use a digital surrogate, facsimile, or printed version instead of the original document.

Separated Materials:

Artifacts transferred to the Manuscripts Artifact Collection (Mss. 1.03) include: Facsimile Dinner Plate (Mss 39.1W25.01)

Related Materials:

For other Washington material, see Dunmore Family Papers (I) (Mss. 65 D92), Dismal Swamp Collection (Mss. 39.2 D63), Powell Family Papers (Mss. 65 P875) and Leven Powell Papers (Mss. 65 P87).

Artifacts transferred to the Manuscripts Artifact Collection (Mss. 1.03) include: Facsimile Dinner Plate (Mss 39.1W25.01)

Keywords

Correspondence
Photocopies
Typescripts
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783
United States--Presidents
Washington, George, 1732-1799

Description of Subordinate Components

Box 1

Unit ID id86166

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94902

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Correspondence

Unit ID id86167

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94907

Unit Date 1775-1896, undated

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

18 July, 1755. G[eorge] Washington, Fort Cumberland, [Md.], to [Gov. Robert Dinwiddie]. Gives report of an unexpected attack by about 300 French and Indians during his troop's march to Fort Dequesne, in which heavy losses of American men were felt; includes a list of officers wounded or killed at Monogehela. [ca. 18 July, 1755]. R. Orme, [Fort Cumberland, Md.] to Gov. [Robert Dinwiddie], n.p. Detailed report of surprise attack on them by French and Indians; mentions the bravery of [George] Washington and his small band of men. 13 September, 1771. Survey map of Washington's boyhood home along the Rappahannock River, opposite Fredericksburg. Surveyed by George Washington. See oversized file. 19 June, 1775. Commission of George Washington as General and Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army. Signed by John Hancock, President of Congress. See oversized file. June 1775-June, 1783. George Washington's accounts with the United States. 17 August-21 October, 1775. Orderly book of the camp at Cambridge, [Mass.], General Washington's headquarters. 17 October, 1777. John Hancock, Presid[en]t [of Congress], York Town, Pennsylvania, to the Assembly of the State of Virginia, [Williamsburg, Va.]. Transmits a copy of the returns from General [George] Washington, indicating the continental Army's dire need for clothing. 22 Oct. 1780. G[e]o[rge] Washington, H[ea]d Q[uar]ters, Passaic Falls, [N.J.], to Geo[rge] Mason, Introduces Gen[era]l Gates Command, whose conduct is being investigated by Congress; tells of present problems, and relates feelings of despair that the struggle [American Revolution] has been based on false hopes; details changes which must take place in order to continue the war, including a permanent army, replenished funding, and a unified Congress. 22 May, [17]82. G[eorge] Washington, Newburgh, [N.Y.]. To Col. [Lewis] Nichola [sic] [Nicola]. Expresses wish to visit him [at Mount Vernon] soon; tells of news relating to the treaty [of Paris, 1783]; mention of the replacement of Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin; sentiments of affectionate friendship. See oversized file. 25 June, 1788. George Washington, Mt. Vernon, [Va.], to Sam[ue]l Powell, Thanks for the chair, which arrived "in good order," and is "handsome and neat"; agricultural discussion including the mention of Sainfoin[?] grass seed, and Winlaw's threshing machine; criticizes Congress for their indecision in setting a new meeting place. 17 Sept. 1790. Washington's farewell address. See oversized file. Including correspondence relating to the gift. [ca. 1790]. Pen and ink sketch of George Washington made by [Benjamin H. Latrobe]. Including relative explanation. 18 May, 1794. G[eorge] Washington, Philadelphia, [Pa.], to his nephew, Robert Lewis, real estate discussion about lands owned in Winchester, [Va.], in Bath, and Berkeley counties, and along the Potomac [River]. 26 June, 1796. G[e]o[rge] Washington, Mt. Vernon, [Va.] to his nephew, Rob[er]t Lewis, n.p. Tells of upcoming schedule, including his retiring from public life on March 4, at which time "no consideration under heaven that I can foresee shall again withdraw me from the walks of private life"; mentions his mother's will in relation to a dispute over some land on Accocoek Run; expresses sorrow at the death of Mrs. [Elizabeth Ball] Haynie, and readily agrees to care for her daughter in a monetary fashion; however, cannot have her stay at Mount Vernon because of his absence and later, much company, including the Ministers of France, Great Britain, and Portugal. Including items concerning the provenance and history of the letter 9 July, 1796. Document giving permission to Thomas Holder, captain of the ship Maria, to depart for Spain, carrying a cargo of lumber. Signed by G[eorge] Washington and Edm[und] Randolph. See oversized file. 18 Mar. 1799. G[e]o[rge] Washington, Mt. Vernon, [Va.], to James McAlpine [Glasgow, Scotland]. Discussion of a custom-made suit,

and gold thread needed. Including XCy. 1 p. 9 July, 1799. Will of George Washington. 11 May, 1896. Lawrence Washington, Alex[andria], Va., to Beverly Chew [?], n.p. Asks if he would be interested to buy, and at what price, an original bookplate of Gen[era]l [George] Washington. Fragment of letter signed by George Washington.

Item 1: George Washington, Fort Cumberland [Maryland, to Gov. Robert, Dinwiddie County], 1755 July 18

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/558787

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 1 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Gives report of an unexpected attack by about 300 French and Indians during his troop's march to Fort Duquesne, in which heavy losses of American men were felt; includes a list of officers wounded or killed at Monongahela.

Printed material relating to George Washington

Unit ID id86176

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94908

Unit Date 1754-1930

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

1754. Title page of a book, The Journal of Major George Washington, printed in Williamsburg, Va. 1800. Funeral oration delivered by Henry Lee, on the death of George Washington, printed in The Western Spy, and Hamilton Gazette, Cincinnati, [Ohio]. See oversize file. 1839. Monuments of Washington's Patriotism: An Appeal to the public b P.W. Gallaudet. 1841. monuments of Washington's patriotism: an appeal to the public by P.W. Gallaudet. 1859. James Ross Snowdon, Director of the Mint of the United States, requesting, through a circular, anyone owning medals, coins, or tokens bearing Washington's name or head to turn them into him to supply the cabinet with a "full set of these interesting materials." 1877. Daily Richmond Dispatch article entitled "Washington--Pater Patriae." 1883. Invitation from the chamber of commerce of the state of New York to Benjamin S. Ewell for the unveiling of the statue of George Washington in Wall Street. PM. Framed. Missing 10-25-82 1895. The Spirit of '76, a monthly publication showing on its front cover a photograph of Washington's marriage to Martha Custis in 1759. 1897. Article from The Spirit of '76 about the relationship between George Washington and Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth. 1917. Booklet advertising the plight of French children after World War I, and asking for assistance, relating the French's help to America (and George Washington) during the Revolution. 1920. Selections and annotations about a notebook written by Washington while in Va. in 1757. Edited by Victor Hugo Paltsits. 1925. Program of official ceremony celebrating the 193rd birthday of George Washington. 1925. Anniversary of the Birth of Washington: Address of Rep. R. Walton Moore of Virginia at the Annual Washington Banquet of the Sons of the American Revolution, Pittsburgh, Pa. 1929. The George Washington Scandals, by John C. Fitzpatrick. Bulletin No. 1 of the Washington Society of Alexandria, [Va.]. PM. 1930. "When Washington's Sweetheart Fainted," a pamphlet advertising restored Colonial Williamsburg.

Letter, George Washington to Governor George Clinton (Acc. 1997.073)

Unit ID id86376

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94905

Unit Date 1783 November 15

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Conditions Governing Use

Patrons are required to use the facsimile copy instead of the original.

Scope and Contents

Patrons are required to use the facsimile copy instead of the original.

Print of George Washington, based on the painting by Gilbert Stuart (Acc. 1997.073)

Unit ID id86377

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94906

Unit Date undated

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Engraved by H.H. Hall's Sons, New York

Box 2

Unit ID id86182

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94903

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

Map, "The Travels of George Washington"

Unit ID id86183

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94909

Unit Date 1931

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Map drawn by National Geographic. See oversize file.

Program for 135th anniversary of placing of the Houdin statue of Washington in the Capitol rotunda in Richmond

Unit ID id86184

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94910

Unit Date 1931

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

The Life of George Washington, Series I, Series II

Unit ID id86185

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94911

Unit Date 1931

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

The Life of George Washington, Series III

Unit ID id86186

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94912

Unit Date 1932

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

Item 5

Unit ID id86187

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94913

Unit Date 1932

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

Some Outstanding Characters of the American Revolution, Series II

Unit ID id86188

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94914

Unit Date 1932

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

Box 3

Unit ID id86369

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94904

Mixed materials 3 (Box)

Printed material relating to George Washington

Unit ID id86370

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94915

Unit Date 1932-1948

Mixed materials 3 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

1932. Circular printed by the George Washington Bicentennial Committee of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Indiana. Signed by Ja[me]s M. Clift, Grand Secretary. 1932. Pamphlet printed in conjunction with the Exhibition of Portraits of George Washington and his Associates at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. 1932. Invitation from the Governor of Virginia to be present at a celebration honoring the religious character of George Washington and the drafting of the statues of Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State. 1932. "George Washington the Churchman," a sermon by Rev[eren]d Frank Landon, Humphreys, delivered at Bethesda-by-the-sea, Palm Beach, Florida. 1932. Pamphlet printed in conjunction with the American Tree Association entitled "George Washington Bi-Centennial Tree Planting." 1932. Principal Events in the Life of George Washington. A map by the General Drafting Co., Inc. for Standard oil Company of New Jersey, giving no scale. 1933. "Harvard's First L. L. D." An article from the Boston Daily Globe. 1934. Advance release of address delivered by Hon. R. Walton moore entitled, "Washington the Statesman in his Home Country." Including two items of correspondence regarding the aforementioned item. 1937. Program of the Unveiling Exercises of a Portrait of George Washington in the Court House at New Kent Co., Va. 1938. "Washington's Burgess Route," by the Rev. Arthur P. Gray. 1938. "George Washington's Godfather of Child Baptized at Cologne in 1795" including one item of correspondence relating to the article. 1938. George Washington Biography Calendar. 1939, April. Inauguration of Gen. George Washington [showing his and John Adams' routes to New York City, N.Y. and a plan of the city of New York]. A map by the United States Constitution Sequicentennial Commission, with scales of 5:20 and 4:4000. 1948. Washington, D.C. Paper, The Evening Star, article on a recent discovery of a George Washington letter to Samuel Galloway.

Printed material relating to George Washington

Unit ID id86371

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94916

Unit Date undated

Mixed materials 3 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

"General Washington's Order Book in the American Revolution." "Subscribers to the Life of Washington." Advertisement entitled "Washington and His Generals." "Washington's Farewell Address, September 19, 1796," issued by the National Association of Democratic Clubs. Pamphlet, Known Journeys of Washington to Williamsburg between May 28, 1748 and August, 1775, by Sir Arthur Gray. "Places in Fredericksburg Associated with George Washington." Guide to the Washington Memorial at Valley Forge. Pamphlet, Music written by George M. Cohan entitled "Father of the Land We Love." "History of the Great Republic," p.20, referring to George Washington. Advertisement of Forbes Lithograph Mfg. Co., using Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington. "George Washington, the Engineer," by Charles Colfax Long, President, sons of the Revolution in the District of Colombia. A Brief History of Alexandria: Washington Lodge No. 22 and of its First Worshipful Master General George Washington. Newspaper articles relating to George Washington. Various prints relating to George Washington, including one rendition of the Washington Monument, and Washington's various headquarters during the American Revolution.

Imagery related to George Washington and his memory

Unit ID id86372

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94917

Mixed materials 3 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Prints, engravings, pictures, and photographs of portraits of George Washington. Lithograph design of George Washington Monument by Charles Parsons (1821-1910), a certificate of subscription signed by James K. Polk, G[eorge] M. Dallas, John Quincy Adams, H[enry] Clay, Albert Gallatin, and Dan[ie]l Webster. See oversized file.

Material relating to Martha Washington

Unit ID id86373

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94918

Mixed materials 3 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

1925 article from Collier's magazine entitled, "She Knew Martha Washington," prints and engravings of Martha Washington, and a facsimile of her china [Transferred to Manuscripts Artifact Collection].

Material relating to George Washington's homes

Unit ID id86374

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94919

Mixed materials 3 (Box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Materials related to Mount Vernon, "Wakefield," and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

Genealogical material related to the Washington family

Unit ID id86375

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/94920

Mixed materials 3 (Box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes: coat-of-arms of the Washington family; genealogical charts of the Washington family; material relating to the English branch of the Washington family, and their home, Sulgrave Manor, including a variation of a watercolor painting of the home, by Waller Scott; "The Will of Mary Washington, Mother of George Washington, First President of the U.S."; extracts from the will of Col. John Washington. Also see oversized file.