

Inventory of the William Selden Papers 1772-1799

William Selden Papers 1772-1799
1772-1799

A Collection in the Special Collections Research Center Mss. Acc. 2007.46
Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary
2012

History

Processed By Special Collections Staff.

Title Statement

Inventory of the William Selden Papers 1772-1799

Subtitle: Selden, William

Collection: Mss. Acc. 2007.46

Publication Statement

Date: © 2012 By the College of William and Mary. All rights reserved.

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Profile Description

Creation: Finding aid created by Zach Jones, 2007

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Overview of the Collection

Identification:

01/Mss. Acc. 2007.46

Language of Materials

The papers are in: English

Abstract:

Papers, 1772-1799, of Anglican minister William Selden (1741-1783) and his wife Mary Ann Hancock Selden (1745-1789) of Elizabeth City County, Virginia. These papers are primarily financial in nature and document the Selden family's management of the Elizabeth City Parish, the family estate, slave holdings, and the hire of estate slaves to local plantation owners. These papers consist of receipts, labor contracts, financial summaries, and a small leather financial ledger. The labor contracts in this collection consist of agreements which discuss the terms for hire of slaves. Also included are two leather gentleman's purses owned by the Selden family.

Creator:

Selden, William, 1741-1783 arrangement

Quantity:

0.20

Alternate Extent Statement:

53 items

Repository:

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to all researchers.

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.

Acquisition Information

The materials were acquired by Special Collections Research Center on 04/01/2007.

Processing Information

Processed in 2007 by Zachary R. Jones.

Preferred Citation

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

Additional Information

Biographical Note

William Selden was born in 1741 at Princess Ann County, Virginia, the son of John and Grace Boswell Selden. From 1752 to 1755 Selden studied at the College of William and Mary. He originally pursued a career in law, but after several years of practice he switched to work as an Anglican Minister. As early as 1765 Selden applied for the position of rector at the Elizabeth City Parish, VA but the position was given to Thomas Warrington. However, upon Warrington's death in late 1770 Selden was unanimously chosen as rector of the parish. In early 1771 he was ordained and by March 1771 Selden was officially licensed by the Virginia Colony to serve as a minister of the Elizabeth City Parish. Sources indicate that throughout Selden's tenure at the Elizabeth City Parish tithes increased, starting in 1770 with 1,179 and by 1776 reaching 1,246. While the disestablishment of the Church later forced a drop in tithes, numbers had sufficiently increased by 1784 to 1,051. In addition to these financial aspects, during his time Selden also owned a number of slaves which he used for various economic undertakings. Sources also show that during the American Revolution Selden placed his loyalties with the American cause. William Selden served at the Elizabeth City Parish until his death in 1783. In the midst of these events, on May 29, 1767 Selden married Mary Ann Hancock (1745-1789) of Princess Ann County. The couple later had eight children, two of whom are known to have lived to adulthood, Sarah H. Selden (1769-1810) and William Boswell Selden (1772-1849). Upon Selden's death in 1783, Mary Ann Hancock Selden oversaw her late husband's financial affairs, often renting their slaves to nearby estates, until her death in 1789. Sources: Patterson, Susan Louise. "Biographical Sketches of Anglican Clergyman Trained at the College of William and Mary, 1729-1776: A Study of James Blair's Plan and its Results." MA Thesis, College of William and Mary, 1973, 68-70. Goodwin, Edward Lewis. "The Colonial Church in Virginia, with Biographical Sketches of the First Six Bishops of the Diocese of Virginia, and Other Historical Papers." Milwaukee: Morehouse Publishing Co., 1927: 305-306. www.familysearch.org Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scrc.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/William Selden.

Scope and Contents

Papers, 1772-1799, of Anglican minister William Selden (1741-1783) and his wife Mary Ann Hancock Selden (1745-1789) of Elizabeth City County, Virginia. These papers are primarily financial in nature and document the Selden family's management of the Elizabeth City Parish, the family estate, slave holdings, and the hire of estate slaves to local plantation owners. These papers consist of receipts, labor contracts, financial summaries, and a small leather financial ledger. The labor contracts in this collection consist of agreements which discuss the terms for hire of slaves. Also included are two leather gentleman's purses owned by the

Selden family.

Index Terms

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:

Financial records
Receipts (financial records)

Topical Term:

Account books.
Agriculture--Virginia--History--18th century.
Elizabeth City County (Va.)--History.
Episcopal Church--Virginia--Clergy--18th century.
Slavery--Virginia--18th century.
Virginia--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
Virginia--Religious History.

Detailed Description of the Collection

ArchonID id2128

Container 1 (box)

Financial Records

ArchonID id1763

Unit Date 1772-1774

Container 1 (box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Financial Records

ArchonID id1889

Unit Date 1775-1777

Container 1 (box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Financial Records

ArchonID id1890

Unit Date 1778-1782

Container 1 (box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Financial contracts for rent of slaves

ArchonID id1891

Unit Date 1789-1790

Container 1 (box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Financial contracts for rent of slaves and financial records

ArchonID id1892

Unit Date 1790-1799

Container 1 (box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Financial Records

ArchonID id1893

Unit Date undated

Container 1 (box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Ledger

ArchonID id1894

Unit Date 1773-1796

Container 1 (box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Selden family genealogy

ArchonID id1895

Unit Date undated

Container 1 (box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Two gentleman's purses

ArchonID id1896

Unit Date 1793, undated

Container 1 (box)

Container 9 (Folder)