Samuel Adams Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009
Revised 2010 April

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009099

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm81010223

Prepared by Brian McGuire
Collection Summary
Title: Samuel Adams Papers
Span Dates: 1635-1826
ID No.: MSS10223
Creator: Adams, Samuel, 1722-1803
Extent: 2,500 items; 19 containers; 3.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Continental congressman and governor of Massachusetts. Reproductions of correspondence, speeches, petitions, committee records, and other material relating primarily to Adams’s political life in Massachusetts.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Adams, John, 1735-1826--Correspondence.
Adams, Samuel, 1722-1803.
Burgoyne, John, 1722-1792--Correspondence.
Gadsden, Christopher, 1724-1805--Correspondence.
Gates, Horatio, 1728-1806--Correspondence.
Gerry, Elbridge, 1744-1814--Correspondence.
Greene, Nathanael, 1742-1786--Correspondence.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Correspondence.
Lee, Arthur, 1740-1792--Correspondence.
Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794--Correspondence.
Paine, Thomas, 1737-1809--Correspondence.
Warren, James, 1726-1808--Correspondence.

Places
Massachusetts--Politics and government--18th century.

Occupations
Delegates, U.S. Continental Congress--Massachusetts.
Governors--Massachusetts.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Samuel Adams, continental congressman and governor of Massachusetts, were given to the Library of Congress by James B. Wilbur in 1926.

Processing History
The collection was housed and described prior to 1950. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Other Repositories
The originals of this collection are held by the New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Adams is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions

The papers of Samuel Adams are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site, and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Samuel Adams Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date  
1722, Sept. 27  
1740  
1743  
1756-1764  
1765-1774  
1774-1781  
1776  
1779  
1781  
1788  
1789-1794  
1794-1797  
1803, Oct. 2  

Event
Born, Boston, Mass.
Brewer and tax collector, Boston, Mass.
Member, Massachusetts general court
Member, Continental Congress
Signer of the Declaration of Independence
Member, Massachusetts state constitutional convention
President, Massachusetts state senate
Member, Massachusetts state constitutional convention
Unsuccessful candidate for election to the first U.S. Congress
Lieutenant governor of Massachusetts
Governor of Massachusetts
Died, Boston, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Samuel Adams (1722-1803) span the years 1635-1826 and consist of reproductions of originals in the New York Public Library documenting Adams’s political career in Massachusetts and some family matters. Included is correspondence, speeches, petitions, committee records, public documents relating to Massachusetts, and pseudonymous articles submitted to Boston newspapers and attributed to Samuel Adams. A considerable amount of material does not pertain directly to Adams, either as writer or recipient.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.
## Container List

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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>1769, Feb. 13-1770, Dec. 31</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>1771, Jan. 1-1773, Feb. 15</td>
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<td>1773, Jan. 6-1774, Jan. 8</td>
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<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>1774, Jan. 25-June 6</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>1774, June 30-1775, Jan. 19</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>1775, Jan. 29-Dec. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>1775, Dec. 19-1776, May 31</td>
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<td>1776, June 2-Dec. 31</td>
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<td>1777, Jan. 1-Dec. 22</td>
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<td>BOX 11</td>
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<td>1781, Jan. 8-1782, Nov. 21</td>
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<td>1783, Jan. 29-Dec. 22</td>
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<td>BOX 18</td>
<td>1788, June 5-1793, Nov. 30</td>
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<td>BOX 19</td>
<td>1794, Jan. 17-1826, Jan. 9, undated</td>
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