

Samuel Smith Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1998

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82040469>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007058>

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Revised by T. Michael Womack

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Smith family papers

Span Dates: 1772-1911

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1777-1865)

ID No.: MSS40469

Creator: Smith, Samuel, 1752-1839

Extent: 3,100 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 3.6 linear feet

Extent: 6 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82040469>

Summary: Army officer and statesman. Correspondence, letterbooks, military and political papers, and miscellaneous material relating to Samuel Smith's forty years in Congress, his military career, and the history and politics of Maryland. Includes papers relating to John Spear Smith, Robert Smith, and other Smith family members.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Correspondence.
Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844--Correspondence.
Brown, James, 1766-1835--Correspondence.
Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850--Correspondence.
Cambreleng, Churchill Caldom, 1786-1862--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.
Crawford, William Harris, 1772-1834--Correspondence.
Gallatin, Albert, 1761-1849--Correspondence.
Hughes, Christopher, 1786-1849--Correspondence.
Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845--Correspondence.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Correspondence.
Kent, Joseph, 1779-1837--Correspondence.
Livingston, Edward, 1764-1836--Correspondence.
Madison, James, 1751-1836--Correspondence.
McLane, Louis, 1786-1857--Correspondence.
Monroe, James, 1758-1831--Correspondence.
Montgomery, John, 1764-1828--Correspondence.
Morris, Robert, 1734-1806--Correspondence.
Nelson, John, 1791-1860--Correspondence.
Nicholas, Robert Carter, 1728-1780--Correspondence.
Nicholas, Wilson Cary, 1757-1820--Correspondence.
Pinkney, William, 1764-1822--Correspondence.
Randolph, Thomas Jefferson, 1792-1875--Correspondence.
Rush, Richard, 1780-1859--Correspondence.
Russell, Jonathan, 1771-1832--Correspondence.
Smith family.
Smith, John Spear, -1866. John Spear Smith papers. 1804-1867.
Smith, Robert Carter--Correspondence.
Smith, Robert, 1757-1842. Robert Smith papers. 1796-1830.
Smith, Samuel, 1752-1839.

Vail, Aaron, 1796-1878--Correspondence.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862--Correspondence.
Wilkinson, James, 1757-1825--Correspondence.
Winder, Levin, 1757-1819--Correspondence.

Organizations

Bank of the United States (1816-1836)
Confederate States of America. Army.
United States. Congress. Senate.

Subjects

Bull Run, 1st Battle of, Va., 1861.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Great Britain.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Russia.
Finance, Public--United States.
Real estate investment--Maryland--Baltimore.
Tariff--United States.

Places

Baltimore (Md.)--History--War of 1812.
Fort McHenry (Baltimore, Md.)
France--Foreign relations--United States.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
Manassas (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Maryland--History--War of 1812.
Maryland--History.
Maryland--Politics and government.
United States--Commerce.
United States--Foreign relations--France.
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Army officers.
Mayors--Maryland--Baltimore.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Maryland.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Maryland.

Provenance

The family papers of Samuel Smith, army officer and statesman, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1914 by Cary Nicholas Fink and were deeded in 1952 to the Library by her heirs, Robert Hill Carter and B. Noland Carter. Other items were acquired through purchase and transfer, 1904-1989.

Processing History

The family papers of Samuel Smith were arranged and described in 1982. The collection was expanded and revised in 1998.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Smith in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on six reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Samuel Smith

Date	Event
1752, July 27	Born, Carlisle, Pa.
ca. 1759	Moved to Baltimore, Md.
1771-1774	Visited Europe and conducted business there
1775	Enlisted in the Continental Army
1776	Secured captaincy in William Smallwood's regiment Participated in the Battle of Long Island
1777	Commanded Fort Mifflin
1778	Participated in the Battle of Monmouth Married Margaret Spear
1791	Commanded Maryland troops sent to suppress the Whiskey Insurrection
1793-1803	Member, U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland
1803-1815	Member, U.S. Senate from Maryland
1805-1808	President pro tempore, U.S. Senate
1812-1814	Major general commanding the defense of Baltimore, Md.
1816-1822	Member, U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland
1822-1833	Member, U.S. Senate from Maryland
1835-1838	Mayor, Baltimore, Md.
1839, Apr. 22	Died, Baltimore, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The Samuel Smith Family Papers consist primarily of correspondence, letterbooks, and political and military papers of Samuel Smith (1752-1839) and his son, John Spear Smith (ca. 1790-1866), and to a lesser extent papers of Robert Smith (1757-1842) and other family members. The major part of the collection documents the life of Samuel Smith, who through more than six decades of public service as a soldier and statesman contributed to the shaping of the new republic. The collection covers the period 1772-1911 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1777-1865. An addition of one item consists of a letter written by Samuel Smith in 1794.

Samuel Smith Papers

After entering his father's mercantile business as a young man, Smith went to Europe as the company's agent in 1772. A letterbook from this period records Smith's observations and highlights the company's commercial transactions overseas. Further documentation can be found in general correspondence, such as letters from Robert Morris concerning commercial dealings in 1786 and 1787.

First elected to Congress in 1793, Smith served continuously as a United States representative and senator for the next forty years and served as chairman of the finance committees of both houses. Letters between Smith and other important political figures, particularly William Harris Crawford, treasury secretary under James Madison and James Monroe, involve such issues as the national debt and rechartering the Bank of the United States. Other material pertaining to public finance is located in the political papers. The letterbooks and general correspondence also provide information on affairs of state and partisan political activities. Smith's letterbook during his first two years as president pro tempore of the Senate, 1805-1807, details the legislative agenda process.

Although Smith held several posts during his long military career, the collection most fully documents his defense of Baltimore as major general of the Third Division of the Maryland Militia during the War of 1812. Several of his letterbooks contain copies of letters and reports detailing plans for the preparation and fortification of Fort McHenry, accounts of British troop and ship movements, and reports on the bombardment of the fort, 13-14 September 1814. Smith's involvement in the Battle of Baltimore is documented in the military papers, letterbooks, and general correspondence. The military papers also include retrospective accounts of Revolutionary War battles.

Correspondence with secretaries of state Henry Clay, James Monroe, and Martin Van Buren, as well as James Brown, minister to France, Christopher Hughes, charge d'affaires in the Netherlands and Sweden, and Louis McLane, treasury secretary and minister to Great Britain, reveals the government's desire after the War of 1812 to implement tariffs and trade agreements which would protect and strengthen the nation's emerging industries. This developing American foreign policy, particularly with Great Britain and France, is reflected in general correspondence and the political papers. The general and special correspondence files also include observations by Smith and his son on contemporary European affairs.

Although the collection contains little material from Smith's years as mayor of Baltimore, 1835-1838, there are nevertheless items of historical interest for the city as well as the state of Maryland. Such topics as the defense of Fort McHenry, the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and the establishment of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis are discussed in Smith's correspondence with prominent political figures from Maryland, including Joseph Kent, John Montgomery, and John Nelson. The collection also contains several letters exchanged by Smith with presidents John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. Other correspondents include Nicholas Biddle, John Caldwell Calhoun, Churchill Caldom Cambreleng, Albert Gallatin, Edward Livingston, Robert Carter Nicholas, Wilson Cary Nicholas, William Pinkney, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, Richard Rush, Jonathan Russell, Robert Carter Smith, Aaron Vail, James Wilkinson, and Levin Winder.

John Spear Smith Papers

The [John Spear Smith Papers](#) contain diaries chronicling Smith's service in John Quincy Adams's diplomatic mission to Russia in 1809 as well as Smith's duties as charge d'affaires in Great Britain in 1811. Later entries recount events during the Civil War, particularly Confederate military activities in Virginia. Smith's letters to his father, included in the special correspondence in the Samuel Smith papers, provide detailed observations on political, social, and cultural events noted by Smith while in Europe. Two letterbooks contain copies of letters and dispatches by Smith while charge d'affaires in London. In them he comments upon political and military crises on the Continent and their effect upon American foreign policy, trade, and tariff legislation. Additional topics include war preparations in Britain, detainment and confiscation of American ships, and political intrigue surrounding France's revocation of the Berlin and Milan decrees.

Robert Smith Papers, Other Family Papers, and Addition

Samuel Smith's brother, Robert, served as secretary of the navy under Thomas Jefferson and secretary of state under James Madison. The [Robert Smith Papers](#) contain a small amount of correspondence documenting his resignation as secretary of state, return to private life in Baltimore, and participation in family real estate activities. A series titled [Other Family Papers](#) reflects the personal affairs and business concerns of various Smith family members and also contains descriptive accounts of the Battle of Bull Run, July 1861. The [Addition](#) consists of a letter written by Samuel Smith in 1794 while serving in Congress.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Samuel Smith Papers, 1772-1850](#)

- John Spear Smith Papers, 1804-1867
- Robert Smith Papers, 1796-1830
- Other Family Papers, 1798-1911
- Addition, 1794

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-7 REEL 1-5	<p><u>Samuel Smith Papers, 1772-1850</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, letterbooks, correspondents other than Samuel Smith, military orders and reports, accounts, financial and legal papers, and printed matter. The series also includes letters exchanged between Smith and his son, John Spear Smith, speeches and writings, and a copy of a logbook taken from the captured British ship <i>High Flyer</i>. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 8-9 REEL 5-6	<p><u>John Spear Smith Papers, 1804-1867</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, letterbooks, diaries and notebooks, financial papers, printed matter, and miscellaneous notes and writings. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 9 REEL 6	<p><u>Robert Smith Papers, 1796-1830</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received and miscellaneous papers. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 9 REEL 6	<p><u>Other Family Papers, 1798-1911</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, correspondents other than Smith family members, printed matter, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 9 not filmed	<p><u>Addition, 1794</u></p> <p>Letter sent by Samuel Smith.</p>

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,974

Container	Contents
BOX 1-7 REEL 1-5	Samuel Smith Papers, 1772-1850 Letters sent and received, letterbooks, correspondents other than Samuel Smith, military orders and reports, accounts, financial and legal papers, and printed matter. The series also includes letters exchanged between Smith and his son, John Spear Smith, speeches and writings, and a copy of a logbook taken from the captured British ship <i>High Flyer</i> . Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Letterbooks
BOX 1 REEL 1	7 June 1772-2 July 1774
BOX 1 REEL 1	2 Dec. 1805-18 Apr. 1807
BOX 1 REEL 1	8 May 1812-30 Sept. 1814 (6 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	General correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	Sept. 1777-Nov. 1800 (2 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Jan. 1801-Aug. 1814 (8 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	Sept. 1814-Nov. 1825 (8 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	Jan. 1826-Dec. 1833 (8 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Jan. 1834-Feb. 1838, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Special correspondence, John Spear Smith, 1804-1832, n.d. (5 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Military papers
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Accounts, invoices, and supplies, 1777-1778, 1813-1814 (2 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Correspondents other than Samuel Smith, 1792-1814, n.d.
BOX 6 REEL 4	Courts-martial, 1781, 1814
BOX 6 REEL 4	Miscellany, 1813-1850, n.d.
BOX 6 REEL 4	Orders, 1813-1814, n.d.
BOX 6 REEL 4	Reports
BOX 6 REEL 4	General reports, 1813-1814
BOX 6 REEL 4	Morning reports, 1813
BOX 6 REEL 4	Political papers
BOX 6 REEL 4	Correspondents other than Samuel Smith, 1798-1836, n.d.
BOX 6 REEL 4	Documents, 1812-1831, n.d.
BOX 6 REEL 4	Financial papers, 1802-1831, n.d.
BOX 7 REEL 5	Miscellany, 1794-1836, n.d.
BOX 7 REEL 5	Printed matter, 1808-1832
BOX 7 REEL 5	Miscellany

Samuel Smith Papers, 1772-1850

Container	Contents
BOX 7 REEL 5	Account book, 1790-1816
BOX 7 REEL 5	Biographical sketches, 1834, n.d.
BOX 7 REEL 5	Financial papers, 1778-1832, n.d.
BOX 7 REEL 5	Inventory booklet of property, furniture, and library, 1800, n.d.
BOX 7 REEL 5	Legal papers, 1778-1813, n.d.
BOX 7 REEL 5	Ship's log for the <i>High Flyer</i> , 22 Mar.-23 Sept. 1813
BOX 7 REEL 5	Speeches and writings, 1807-1839
BOX 8-9 REEL 5-6	John Spear Smith Papers, 1804-1867 Letters sent and received, letterbooks, diaries and notebooks, financial papers, printed matter, and miscellaneous notes and writings. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 8 REEL 5	Diaries and notebooks
BOX 8 REEL 5	Commonplace book, 1842-1862, n.d. (2 vols.)
BOX 8 REEL 5	Diaries
BOX 8 REEL 5	Aug. 1809-Mar. 1862 (4 vols.)
BOX 8 REEL 5	Dec. 1862-June 1867
BOX 8 REEL 5	Namebook (Confederate soldiers), 1862-1865
BOX 8 REEL 5	Letterbooks, 13 May-26 Oct. 1811 (2 vols.)
BOX 8 REEL 5	Correspondence
BOX 8 REEL 5	July 1809-Oct. 1825 (2 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 6	Nov. 1825-Apr. 1860, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 6	Miscellany
BOX 9 REEL 6	Documents, 1809-1855
BOX 9 REEL 6	Financial papers, 1811-1863
BOX 9 REEL 6	Notes, 1857-1866, n.d.
BOX 9 REEL 6	Printed matter, 1840-1864
BOX 9 REEL 6	Scrapbook, 1860-1862
BOX 9 REEL 6	Writings, 1848-1860s
BOX 9 REEL 6	Robert Smith Papers, 1796-1830 Letters sent and received and miscellaneous papers. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 9 REEL 6	Correspondence and miscellany, 1796-1830, n.d.
BOX 9 REEL 6	Other Family Papers, 1798-1911 Letters sent and received, correspondents other than Smith family members, printed matter, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 9 REEL 6	Correspondence, 1799-1869

Other Family Papers, 1798-1911

Container	Contents
BOX 9 REEL 6	Miscellany
BOX 9 REEL 6	Correspondents other than family members, 1811-1863
BOX 9 REEL 6	Notes and fragments, n.d.
BOX 9 REEL 6	Printed matter, 1798-1864, 1911, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 9 not filmed	Addition, 1794 Letter sent by Samuel Smith.
BOX 9	Letter, Samuel Smith to unidentified, 1794