

**Key-Cutts-Turner Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2007**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm96061848>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007082>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007  
Revised 2023 January

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Key-Cutts-Turner Family Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1808-1975

**Bulk Dates:** 1808-1855

**ID No.:** MSS61848

**Creator:** Key family

**Creator:** Cutts family

**Creator:** Turner family

**Extent:** 135 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** .4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm96061848>

**Summary:** Correspondence, genealogical and biographical material, a commonplace book, poetry, writings, and printed matter relating to the Key-Cutts-Turner families of North Carolina and Washington, D.C. Chiefly family correspondence of Ann Arnold Key Turner with various relatives including her father, Francis Scott Key, written from Woodley plantation, Warrenton, North Carolina. Also includes letters of Richard Cutts written from Washington, D.C., relating to the commercial and maritime embargo of the Jefferson and Madison administrations.

## 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

Cutts family.

Cutts, Richard, 1771-1845. Richard Cutts papers.

Cutts, Thomas, 1736-1821--Correspondence.

Cutts, Thomas, Jr., 1769-1839--Correspondence.

Dessu, Ellen Key Turner, 1831- Ellen Key Turner Dessu commonplace book. 1847-1854.

Key family.

Key, Francis Scott, 1779-1843. Francis Scott Key correspondenc and poetry.

Madison, James, 1751-1836.

Turner family.

Turner, Ann Arnold Key, 1811-1884. Ann Arnold Key Turner correspondence.

Turner, Daniel, 1796-1860. Daniel Turner correspondence.

### Subjects

Embargo, 1807-1809.

Plantations--North Carolina--Warrenton.

### Places

United States--History--War of 1812.

United States--Politics and government--1801-1809.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs--19th century.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of the Key-Cutts-Turner families were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1985 by Dorothea Lane Cutts and converted by her to a gift in 1987.

## Processing History

The collection was processed in 1996 by Nan Thompson Ernst and the finding aid was revised in 2007.

## Additional Guides

The Key-Cutts-Turner Family Papers are described in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division*, 1985, pp. 8-11.

## Related Material

Most of these materials were microfilmed at the University of Virginia before being acquired by the Library of Congress. Some items that were microfilmed are not found in the Library's collection.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Key-Cutts-Turner families is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Key-Cutts-Turner 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, Key-Cutts-Turner Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Key-Cutts-Turner families span the years 1808-1975 with the bulk of the material dating from 1808 to 1855. The principals include Francis Scott Key (1799-1843), an attorney in Washington, D.C., best known as author of "The Star Spangled Banner" which became the national anthem. His daughter, Ann Arnold Key (1811-1884), married Daniel Turner (1796-1860) in 1829 at the Key home in Washington during Turner's single term as a United States representative from North Carolina. Much of the correspondence in the collection is addressed to or from Ann, also known as Anna, or Daniel Turner at "Woodley" plantation, near Warrenton, North Carolina. Most of these letters were written to Anna Turner, including eight from her father conveying family news and his religious views. The collection also includes examples of Key's poetry, a few in his hand. Ellen Key Turner, daughter of Anna and Daniel Turner, copied several of Key's poems into her commonplace book as an exercise for the Warrenton Female Seminary. Her Spanish exercises are written from Mare Island Naval Yard in California, where the family resided after 1854 when Turner was appointed superintending engineer for construction of public works.

The letters of Richard Cutts (1771-1845) to his father, Thomas Cutts, and brother Thomas, Jr., in Maine, were mostly written from Washington, D.C., while Richard served as a United States representative from Massachusetts and as comptroller of the treasury. His letters concern the commercial and maritime embargo of the Jefferson and Madison administrations, the eventual declaration of war against the British in 1812, and peace negotiations. The Cutts papers appear to have entered the collection as a result of the marriage of Ann Key Turner's daughter Emily to Richard M. Cutts, a grandson of Congressman Cutts. Notes on the Key and Turner genealogies and Cutts family records supplement the family history documented in this collection.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by family and thereunder by name of person or type of material.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Key family
BOX 1	Key, Francis Scott
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1829-1842
BOX 1	Poetry, 1832, undated
BOX 1	Key, Daniel Murray
BOX 1	"Life of Possum," 1825
BOX 1	Newspaper clippings, 1836
BOX 1	Cutts family
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Cutts, Dorothea Lane, 1964, undated
BOX 1	Cutts, J. Madison, 1885
BOX 1	Cutts, Richard (1771-1845), and Anna Payne Cutts, 1808-1813, 1821, 1832
BOX 1	Cutts, Richard M. (born 1903), 1934, 1961
BOX 1	Genealogical and biographical records
BOX 1	Cutts, Richard M. (1878-1934), 1934, undated
BOX 1	Miscellaneous notes and records concerning Key-Cutts-Turner families, and currency note, 1836, 1874, 1915, 1930, 1975, undated
BOX 1	Turner family
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Turner, Alice, undated
BOX 1	Turner, Ann (Anna) Key
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1831, 1855, undated
BOX 1	Turner, Daniel, 1830-1850, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Turner, Daniel, 1817, 1827, 1843-1846
BOX 1	Turner, Mary, 1809, 1824, undated
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	Turner, Ellen Key, commonplace book, 1847-1854
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1818, undated