

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



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81010223>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009099>

Prepared by Brian McGuire

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Adams Papers

Span Dates: 1635-1826

ID No.: MSS10223

Creator: Adams, Samuel, 1722-1803

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 19 containers

Extent: 3.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81010223>

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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

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.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Adams is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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 | Event |
|----------------|---|
| 1722, Sept. 27 | Born, Boston, Mass. |
| 1740 | Graduated, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass. |
| 1743 | M.A., Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass. |
| 1756-1764 | Brewer and tax collector, Boston, Mass. |
| 1765-1774 | Member, Massachusetts general court |
| 1774-1781 | Member, Continental Congress |
| 1776 | Signer of the Declaration of Independence |
| 1779 | Member, Massachusetts state constitutional convention |
| 1781 | President, Massachusetts state senate |
| 1788 | Member, Massachusetts state constitutional convention Unsuccessful candidate for election to the first U.S. Congress |
| 1789-1794 | Lieutenant governor of Massachusetts |
| 1794-1797 | Governor of Massachusetts |
| 1803, Oct. 2 | 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.

Notable correspondents or individuals represented in the collection include John Adams, John Burgoyne, Christopher Gadsden, Horatio Gates, Elbridge Gerry, Nathanael Greene, Thomas Jefferson, Arthur Lee, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Paine, and James Warren.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BOX 1 | 1635, Oct.-1769, Feb. 1 |
| BOX 2 | 1769, Feb. 13-1770, Dec. 31 |
| BOX 3 | 1771, Jan. 1-1773, Feb. 15 |
| BOX 4 | 1773, Jan. 6-1774, Jan. 8 |
| BOX 5 | 1774, Jan. 25-June 6 |
| BOX 6 | 1774, June 30-1775, Jan. 19 |
| BOX 7 | 1775, Jan. 29-Dec. 9 |
| BOX 8 | 1775, Dec. 19-1776, May 31 |
| BOX 9 | 1776, June 2-Dec. 31 |
| BOX 10 | 1777, Jan. 1-Dec. 22 |
| BOX 11 | 1778, Jan. 1-Aug. 25 |
| BOX 12 | 1778, Sept. 1-1779, Mar. 31 |
| BOX 13 | 1779, Apr. 1-Dec. 24 |
| BOX 14 | 1780, Jan. 4-Dec. 31 |
| BOX 15 | 1781, Jan. 8-1782, Nov. 21 |
| BOX 16 | 1783, Jan. 29-Dec. 22 |
| BOX 17 | 1784, Jan. 30-1787, Dec. 3 |
| BOX 18 | 1788, June 5-1793, Nov. 30 |
| BOX 19 | 1794, Jan. 17-1826, Jan. 9, undated |