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://lccn.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://lccn.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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Adams is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1722, Sept. 27</td>
<td>Born, Boston, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1756-1764</td>
<td>Brewer and tax collector, Boston, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1765-1774</td>
<td>Member, Massachusetts general court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1774-1781</td>
<td>Member, Continental Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776</td>
<td>Signer of the Declaration of Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1779</td>
<td>Member, Massachusetts state constitutional convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1781</td>
<td>President, Massachusetts state senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Member, Massachusetts state constitutional convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unsuccessful candidate for election to the first U.S. Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789-1794</td>
<td>Lieutenant governor of Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794-1797</td>
<td>Governor of Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803, Oct. 2</td>
<td>Died, Boston, Mass.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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