Collection Summary

**Title:** Shippen Family Papers  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1671-1936  
**ID No.:** MSS39859  
**Creator:** Shippen family  
**Extent:** 6,500 items  
**Extent:** 26 containers plus 2 oversize  
**Extent:** 11.5 linear feet  
**Extent:** 15 microfilm reels  
**Language:** Collection material in English  
**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
**LC Catalog record:** [https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80039859](https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80039859)  
**Summary:** Correspondence, diaries, account books, memorandum books, legal and business records, indentures, and miscellaneous papers of Thomas Lee Shippen, William Shippen Jr., Anne Home Shippen Livingston, Edward Shippen, and other family members. Also included are papers of the Nicholson family.  
**Online Content:** The Shippen family papers are available on the Library of Congress Web site at [https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000084](https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000084). To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.

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**  
Byrd family.  
Carter family.  
Izard family.  
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Correspondence.  
Key, Francis Scott, 1779-1843--Correspondence.  
Lee family.  
Lee, Arthur, 1740-1792--Correspondence.  
Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794--Correspondence.  
Livingston, Anne Home Shippen, 1763-1841--Marriage.  
Livingston, Anne Home Shippen, 1763-1841. Anne Home Shippen Livingston papers.  
Livingston, Henry Beekman, 1750-1831--Marriage.  
Livingston, Margaret, 1781-1864.  
Macon, Nathaniel, 1758-1837--Correspondence.  
Madison, James, 1749-1812--Correspondence.  
Nicholson family.  
Otto, Louis-Guillaume, comte de Mosloy, 1754-1817.  
Randolph, John, 1773-1833--Correspondence.  
Roberdeau family.  
Rodney, C. A. (Caesar Augustus), 1772-1824--Correspondence.  
Rush, Richard, 1780-1859--Correspondence.  
Shippen family.  
Shippen, Alice Lee, 1736-1817. Alice Lee Shippen papers.  
Shippen, Thomas Lee, 1765-1798. Thomas Lee Shippen papers.  
Shippen, William, Sr., 1712-1801. William Shippen Sr. papers.
Short, William, 1759-1849--Correspondence.
Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.
Washington, George, 1732-1799.

**Subjects**
Embroidery--Patterns.
Medicine--Practice--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.
Real estate investment--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.
Women--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

**Places**
Pennsylvania--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
Pennsylvania--History.
Pennsylvania--Social life and customs.
Philadelphia (Pa.)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
Philadelphia (Pa.)--History.
Philadelphia (Pa.)--Social life and customs.
United States--History--1783-1865.
United States--History--19th century.
United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
United States--Politics and government--1775-1783.
United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.
United States--Politics and government--To 1775.

**Occupations**
Colonial officials.
Judges
Landowners
Lawyers
Merchants
Physicians
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Maryland.

**Acquisition Information**
The papers of the Shippen family were deposited in the Library of Congress by Lloyd P. Shippen from 1930 to 1946 and converted to a gift in 1975.

**Processing History**
The papers of the Shippen family were processed and prepared for microfilming in 1971. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The scope and content note was expanded to include additional description from Julie Miller in 2021.

**Other Repositories**
Shippen family correspondence can be located at other libraries, including the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the American Philosophical Society, both in Philadelphia.
Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include those of Joseph Hopper Nicholson, and a number of Shippen family members. A fuller list of related collections is available under related resources at https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000084.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Shippen family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Shippen family 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.

Microfilm

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

Online Content

The Shippen family papers are available on the Library of Congress Web site at https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000084. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Notes

William Shippen Jr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>Entered the College of New Jersey, Princeton, N.J. (later reorganized as the Princeton University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1754</td>
<td>Graduated, College of New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1758</td>
<td>Traveled to Europe to study medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>Married Alice Lee (died 1801)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1761</td>
<td>M.D., University of Edinburgh, Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1762</td>
<td>Returned to Philadelphia, entered medical practice there with his father, and began teaching anatomy and midwifery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1765</td>
<td>Began teaching surgery and anatomy at the newly organized medical school of the College of Philadelphia (later reorganized as the University of Pennsylvania).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1777</td>
<td>Appointed director of Continental Army hospitals during the Revolutionary War</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1780 Court-martialed for speculating in hospital supplies, acquitted
1781 Resigned from his directorship of the Continental Army hospitals
1791 Joined the staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital; remained until 1802
1805 Became president, College of Physicians of Philadelphia

Ann ("Nancy") Home Shippen Livingston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1781</td>
<td>Engaged to Louis-Guillaume Otto of the French delegation in Philadelphia. Married, and separated from, Henry Beekman Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth of daughter Margaret (&quot;Peggy&quot;) Beekman Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1783</td>
<td>Shared custody of Peggy Livingston with Livingston family after Peggy went to live with her Livingston grandmother in New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thomas Lee Shippen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Returned to Philadelphia after studying law in Williamsburg, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785-1789</td>
<td>Traveled in Europe; met Thomas Jefferson in Paris and received advice from him about travel; studied law at the Middle Temple, London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Returned to Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>Married Elizabeth Carter Farley Bannister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798, Feb. 4</td>
<td>Died, Charleston, S.C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Shippen family span the years 1671-1936. They consist of correspondence, diaries, account books, memorandum books, legal and business papers, indentures, and miscellaneous papers. Family members primarily represented include William Shippen Jr. (1736-1808); his wife Alice Lee Shippen (1736-1817); their children Anne ("Nancy") Home (or Hume) Shippen Livingston (1763-1841) and Thomas Lee Shippen (1765-1798); and William's father, William Shippen Sr. (1712-1801) Papers of the Nicholson family (1671-1860) are also included. The collection is organized in six series: Diaries and Journals, Correspondence, Family Papers, Miscellany, Nicholson Family Papers, and Oversize.

The papers chiefly document the family of William Shippen Jr. They reflect the family’s experiences during the Revolutionary War, their participation in the Philadelphia social circle that surrounded George Washington during his presidency, and the family’s engagement with national politics. They cover William Shippen Jr.’s medical practice, the family’s dealings in Philadelphia real estate, the administration of family estates, and the private lives of family members. The papers are notable for their documentation of the lives of the women of the family, in diaries, letters, and such ephemera as embroidery patterns. Correspondence with and material from members of the Carter, Lee, Nicholson, Roberdeau, other families, some of whom are related, is included.

Correspondents of note include Thomas Jefferson, Francis Scott Key (to Rebecca Nicholson), James Madison (1749-1812), Richard Rush (who appears to have administered the estates of William Shippen Jr. and his son, Thomas Lee Shippen), William Short, and George Washington (two letters to William Shippen Jr, May 3, 1777, and May 7, 1789).

Ann ("Nancy") Home Shippen Livingston’s life is documented by diaries, correspondence, and letterbooks. These document her romance with French diplomat Louis-Guillaume Otto, comte de Mosloy, her unhappy marriage to Henry Beekman Livingston, her separation from Livingston and loss of custody of her child, Margaret "Peggy" Beekman Livingston, her observations on women’s position in society, her life in and around Philadelphia, travels to New York to see her daughter, and more. Her correspondence is with her parents, husband, daughter, uncles Arthur Lee and Richard Henry Lee, and members of the Livingston family.
The diaries and correspondence of Thomas Lee Shippen document his travels in Europe during the 1780s, and subsequent family life until his death in 1798. Correspondence of his wife, Elizabeth Carter (Farley) Bannister Shippen, is also included. (A young widow at the time of their marriage, Elizabeth Shippen married George Izard after Thomas Lee Shippen's death.) Thomas Lee Shippen’s correspondence includes letters from Thomas Jefferson advising him on his European travels, including a detailed itinerary, dated June 19, 1788. There is substantial correspondence on political and family topics between members of the family and Alice Lee Shippen’s brothers, particularly diplomat Arthur Lee and Revolutionary War figure and United States Senator Richard Henry Lee. Alice Lee Shippen’s correspondence is largely to her children and to her niece, Lucy Carter.

Also included is a substantial group of papers of Joseph Hopper Nicholson (1770-1817), a Maryland congressman (1799-1806) and subsequently a judge; his wife, Rebecca Lloyd Nicholson; father, Joseph Nicholson Jr., and other members of their family. Joseph Hopper Nicholson’s correspondence includes letters from congressional colleagues, including Nathaniel Macon, John Randolph, and C. A. Rodney. There are also letters from Frances Few, niece of Hannah Nicholson Gallatin and Albert Gallatin.

Two oversized account books, 1763-1776 and 1776-1793, maintained by William Shippen Jr., contain, among his routine household accounts, records of his medical practice, including purchases of drugs and payments from patients with brief notes on their conditions. Shippen’s correspondence includes letters concerning his hospital post during the Revolutionary War, and exchanges with his children, Edward Shippen, and others.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in six series:

- **Diaries and Journals, 1783-1890**
- **Correspondence, 1776-1817**
- **Family Papers, 1754-1936**
- **Miscellany, 1693-1875**
- **Nicholson Family Papers, 1671-1860**
- **Oversize, 1759-1793**
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-2 REEL 1-2</td>
<td><strong>Diaries and Journals, 1783-1890</strong> Diaries, journals, memorandum books, and account books of family members Ann (&quot;Nancy&quot;) Shippen Livingston, Howard Post, Mary Elizabeth Roberdeau, Edward Shippen, and Thomas Lee Shippen. Arranged by name of family member and therein by type of material and chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 2-3</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1776-1817</strong> Letters received by members of the Cutting, Farley, Lee, and Shippen families. Includes letters from Francis Scott Key, Lord Lansdowne, Arthur Lee, Richard Henry Lee, James Madison (1749-1812), and George Washington. Arranged by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3-15 REEL 3-10</td>
<td><strong>Family Papers, 1754-1936</strong> Correspondence, memorandum books, financial and legal documents, and miscellaneous material chiefly of members of the family of William Shippen Jr, including Alice Lee Shippen, Ann Home Shippen Livingston, Thomas Lee Shippen, and others. Arranged by name of family member and therein by type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 15-21 REEL 10-12</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1693-1875</strong> Financial and legal records, miscellaneous correspondence, genealogical material, memorabilia, poetry, printed matter, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 21-26 REEL 12-15</td>
<td><strong>Nicholson Family Papers, 1671-1860</strong> Chiefly correspondence with some legal material and miscellany. Arranged by name of family member and therein by type of material and chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 27-28 REEL 15</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1759-1793</strong> Three volumes containing financial records and patient records, kept by William Shippen Sr. and his son, William Shippen Jr. Arranged by size.</td>
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## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,051

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 1-2 REEL 1-2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Diaries and Journals, 1783-1890</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diaries, journals, memorandum books, and account books of family members Ann (&quot;Nancy&quot;) Shippen Livingston, Howard Post, Mary Elizabeth Roberdeau, Edward Shippen, and Thomas Lee Shippen. Arranged by name of family member and therein by type of material and chronologically.</td>
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<td><strong>BOX 1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shippen, Thomas Lee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>Diaries kept during stay in Europe, 1786-1789 (7 vols.) <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>Journals of travels in Europe, 1788 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>Journal of travels to Ireland and Italy, 1788-1789 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>Diaries, 1795-1797 (7 vols.) <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>Account books, 1786, 1791-1797 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 1 REEL 1</strong></td>
<td>Memorandum book, 1791 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Livingston, Anne Home Shippen, diaries, 1783-1812 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Shippen, Edward, diaries, 1888-1890 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Post, Howard, songbooks, memorandum books, 1880, 1885 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Roberdeau, Mary Elizabeth, legal notebook, undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Miscellaneous memorandum books, 1811-1824 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2-3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1776-1817</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Carter, M. C., 1814 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 2 REEL 2</strong></td>
<td>Cutting, John B., Arthur Lee, and William Short, 1787-1788 <a href="#">Digital content available</a></td>
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### Correspondence, 1776-1817

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| BOX 2 REEL 2 | Jefferson, Thomas, letters and travel notes, 1785-1789  
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| BOX 2 REEL 2 | Key, Francis Scott, 1815-1817  
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| BOX 2 REEL 2 | Lansdowne, Lord, 1786-1788  
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| BOX 2 REEL 2 | Lee, Arthur, 1779-1992  
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| BOX 2 REEL 3 | Lee, Richard Henry, 1776-1794  
  (7 folders)  
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  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 2 REEL 3 | Madison, James (1749-1812), C. Lee, 1791  
  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 2 REEL 3 | Washington, B., 1784  
  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 2 REEL 3 | Washington, George, 1777, 1789  
  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 2 REEL 3 | Unidentified, undated  
  [Digital content available](#) |

#### BOX 3-15 REEL 3-10  
**Family Papers, 1754-1936**  
Correspondence, memorandum books, financial and legal documents, and miscellaneous material chiefly of members of the family of William Shippen Jr, including Alice Lee Shippen, Ann Home Shippen Livingston, Thomas Lee Shippen, and others.

Arranged by name of family member and therein by type of material.

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| BOX 3 REEL 3 | Shippen, William, Jr., correspondence, 1754-1808  
  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 3 REEL 3 | Shippen, William, Jr., estate of, 1808-1811  
  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 3 REEL 3 | Shippen, William, Jr., miscellaneous papers, 1754-1809, undated  
  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 3 REEL 3 | Shippen, Alice Lee (wife of William Jr.), correspondence, 1811-1816, undated  
  [Digital content available](#) |
| BOX 4 REEL 3 | Livingston, Anne Home Shippen  
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| BOX 4 REEL 3 | Correspondence  
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| BOX 4 REEL 3 | 1783-1820, undated  
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| BOX 4 REEL 3 | Letterbooks  
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| BOX 5 REEL 3 | 1790-1794  
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| BOX 5 REEL 3 | Miscellany, 1816, 1832, undated  
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| BOX 5 REEL 4 | Livingston, Margaret B., miscellany  
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| BOX 5 REEL 4 | Shippen, Thomas Lee  
Correspondence with father (William Jr.)  
1779-1788, undated  
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| BOX 6 REEL 4 | 1786-1797, undated  
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| BOX 6 REEL 4 | Letters to wife, father, and sister, 1790-1793  
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| BOX 6 REEL 4 | Letters to sister, 1779-1794  
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| BOX 7 REEL 5 | Correspondence, 1781-1798  
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| BOX 7 REEL 5 | Letterbook, 1786-1789  
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| BOX 7 REEL 5 | Memoranda books, 1779-1796  
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| BOX 8 REEL 5 | Shippen, Elizabeth Carter Farley Bannister (wife of Thomas Lee Shippen), correspondence, 1791-1802, undated  
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| BOX 8 REEL 5 | Izard, Elizabeth Carter Farley Shippen (wife of George Izard), letters to son William, 1806-1826  
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| BOX 8 REEL 5 | Shippen, Ann, letters to Elizabeth Carter Farley Bannister (wife of Thomas Lee Shippen), 1798-1801  
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| BOX 9 REEL 6 | Shippen, Thomas Lee, Jr., letters from Princeton, N.J., 1808-1809  
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| BOX 9 REEL 6 | Shippen, William, III  
Correspondence  
1806-1817  
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| BOX 9 REEL 6 | 1818-1825  
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| BOX 12 REEL 7 | 1843-1850, undated  
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| BOX 12 REEL 7 | Letters and papers, 1810-1857, undated  
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| BOX 12 REEL 7 | Legal papers  
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| BOX 13 REEL 8 | 1849-1856, undated  
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| BOX 13 REEL 8 | Memorandum books, 1832-1834  
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| BOX 13 REEL 8 | Miscellaneous receipts, 1850s  
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| BOX 13 REEL 8 | Shippen, Mary Louisa Shore (wife of William III), correspondence, 1799-1832, undated  
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| BOX 13 REEL 8 | Shippen, Thomas Lee, III, correspondence, 1843-1849  
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| BOX 13 REEL 8 | Shippen, Edward  
Correspondence, 1851-1895, undated  
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| BOX 13 REEL 8 | Miscellaneous papers  
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| BOX 14 REEL 9 | Letters to Miss McElroy, 1866-1867  
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| BOX 14 REEL 9 | Shippen, Mrs. Edward, correspondence, 1882-1916  
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| BOX 15 REEL 10 | Shippen, Lloyd P., letters from Ethel Armes, 1934-1936  
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| BOX 15 REEL 10 | Shippen, Joseph, to Elizabeth Harmer, 1776  
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| BOX 15-21 REEL 10-12 | Miscellany, 1693-1875  
Financial and legal records, miscellaneous correspondence, genealogical material, memorabilia, poetry, printed matter, and other miscellaneous items.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 15 REEL 10 | Accounts, 1734-1804  
Digital content available |
| BOX 15 REEL 10 | Miscellaneous and Thomas Lee Shippen correspondence, 1763-1825  
Digital content available |
| BOX 15 REEL 10 | Deeds, indentures, and related matter  
1693-1748  
Digital content available |
| BOX 16 REEL 10 | 1693-1748  
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| BOX 17 REEL 11 | 1750-1787  
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| BOX 18 REEL 11 | 1788-1854, undated  
Digital content available |
| BOX 19 REEL 11 | Deeds and wills  
Digital content available |
| BOX 19 REEL 11 | Estate of Edward Wharton  
Digital content available |
Miscellany, 1693-1875

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<tr>
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<td>Embroidery patterns [Digital content available]</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 19 REEL 11</td>
<td>Financial papers, 1790-1839 [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Memorabilia [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Poems [Digital content available]</td>
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<td>Printed matter and miscellaneous correspondence [Digital content available]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 21 REEL 12</td>
<td>“The Star Spangled Banner” and memorabilia [Digital content available]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOX 21-26 REEL 12-15 Nicholson Family Papers, 1671-1860**

Chiefly correspondence with some legal material and miscellany.
Arranged by name of family member and therein by type of material and chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 21 REEL 12</td>
<td>Lloyd, Rebecca, correspondence, 1788-1792, undated [Digital content available]</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 21 REEL 12</td>
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