

**Robert Morris Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2011**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78033605>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011193>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011  
Revised 2021 March

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Robert Morris Papers

**Span Dates:** 1734-1839

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1775-1784)

**ID No.:** MSS33605

**Creator:** Morris, Robert, 1734-1806

**Extent:** 3,200 items

**Extent:** 18 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 4 linear feet

**Extent:** 12 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78033605>

**Summary:** Superintendent of finance for the Continental Congress during the Revolution, merchant, land speculator, and statesman. Correspondence, letterbooks, journals and proceedings of the Continental Congress, accounts, and other papers relating to the financing of the American government and its forces during the Revolution and to Morris's private business affairs.

## 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

Beaumarchais, Pierre Augustin Caron de, 1732-1799.

Morris, Robert, 1734-1806.

Willing, Thomas, 1731-1821.

### Organizations

United States. Continental Army.

United States. Continental Congress.

Willing, Morris & Company--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Finance, Public--United States--History--To 1789.

### Places

Pennsylvania--Commerce.

Philadelphia (Pa.)--Commerce.

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Finance.

### Occupations

Land speculators.

Merchants.

Public officials.

Statesmen.

## Provenance

The papers of Robert Morris, superintendent of finance for the Continental Congress during the Revolution, merchant, land speculator, and statesman. were acquired by purchase from 1901-1997. An addition was given by Lawrence M. C. Smith in 1976.

## Processing History

The papers of Robert Morris were processed in preparation for microfilming in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

## Additional Description

A partial index to correspondence in the Morris Papers is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult reference staff for information.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Robert Morris 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 part of these papers is available on twelve reels. Consult a reference librarian 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 number, Robert Morris Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1734, Jan. 31	Born, Liverpool, England
1769	Married Mary White
1747	Immigrated to Maryland
1754-1779	Partner in firm of Willing, Morris & Company
1765	Signed non-importation agreement
1775	Member, Pennsylvania Council of Safety
1775-1778	Member, Continental Congress
1776	Signer of the Declaration of Independence
1778-1781	Member, Pennsylvania state assembly
1781-1784	National superintendent of finance
1785-1787	Member, Pennsylvania state assembly
1787	Delegate to the Constitutional Convention
1789-1795	United States senator from Pennsylvania
1798-1801	Imprisoned for debt
1806, May 8	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Morris (1734-1806) span the years 1734-1839, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1775-1784. The collection consists of correspondence, letterbooks, journals and proceedings of the Continental Congress, business and financial accounts, and other papers. Most of the public papers relate to the financing of the American government and its forces during the Revolution. Included in the collection are the account rendered by Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais to Congress in 1782, copies of Morris's official letters, and his private business papers such as correspondence of Willing, Morris & Company, the Philadelphia shipping firm owned by Morris and Thomas Willing. The papers are organized into seven series: [Diary, Office of Finance](#) ; [Official Letterbooks](#) , [Private Letterbooks](#) ; [Congressional Proceedings](#) ; [Miscellaneous Unbound Papers](#) ; [Addition](#) ; and [Oversize](#) .

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Diary, Office of Finance, 1781-1784](#)
- [Official Letterbooks, 1781-1784](#)
- [Private Letterbooks, 1794-1798](#)
- [Congressional Proceedings, 1782-1784](#)
- [Miscellaneous Unbound Papers, 1776-1829](#)
- [Addition, 1734-1839](#)
- [Oversize, 1776-1782](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-3 REEL 1-2	<b><u>Diary, Office of Finance, 1781-1784</u></b> Bound diaries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4-10 REEL 3-8	<b><u>Official Letterbooks, 1781-1784</u></b> Copies of official letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 11-15 REEL 9-10	<b><u>Private Letterbooks, 1794-1798</u></b> Copies of private business letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 16 REEL 11	<b><u>Congressional Proceedings, 1782-1784</u></b> Bound volumes of the proceedings of the Continental Congress. Arranged chronologically
BOX 17 REEL 12	<b><u>Miscellaneous Unbound Papers, 1776-1829</u></b> Correspondence, reports, and miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 18 not filmed	<b><u>Addition, 1734-1839</u></b> Originals and reproductions of correspondence and miscellaneous material, wills, printed matter, and other items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX OV 1 not filmed	<b><u>Oversize, 1776-1782</u></b> Miscellaneous correspondence. Described according to the series from which its was removed and arranged chronologically.

# Container List

Microfilm shelf no. 13,219 (negative shelf no. 8,765)

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-3 REEL 1-2</b>	<b>Diary, Office of Finance, 1781-1784</b> Bound diaries. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Vol. 1, 1781, Feb. 7-1782, Mar. 5
<b>BOX 2 REEL 1</b>	Vol. 2, 1782, Mar. 8-1782, May 21
<b>BOX 3 REEL 2</b>	Vol. 3, 1783, May 22-1784, Sept. 20
<b>BOX 4-10 REEL 3-8</b>	<b>Official Letterbooks, 1781-1784</b> Copies of official letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 4 REEL 3</b>	Vol. A, 1781, Mar. 13-1781, Sept. 29
<b>BOX 5 REEL 4</b>	Vol. B, 1781, Sept. 28-1782, Feb. 12
<b>BOX 6 REEL 5</b>	Vol. C, 1782, Jan. 2-1782, July 2
<b>BOX 7 REEL 6</b>	Vol. D, 1782, July 2-1782, Dec. 12
<b>BOX 8 REEL 7</b>	Vol. E, 1782, Dec. 12-1783, July 28
<b>BOX 9 REEL 8</b>	Vol. F, 1783, July 28-1784, Feb. 17
<b>BOX 10 REEL 8</b>	Vol. G, 1784, Feb. 17-1784, Nov. 1
<b>BOX 11-15 REEL 9-10</b>	<b>Private Letterbooks, 1794-1798</b> Copies of private business letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 11 REEL 9</b>	Vol. 1, part 1, 1794, Dec. 22-1795, July 24
<b>BOX 12 REEL 9</b>	Vol. 1, part 2, 1795, July 25-1796, May 20
<b>BOX 13 REEL 10</b>	Vol. 2, part 1, 1796, May 21-1797, Mar. 30
<b>BOX 14 REEL 10</b>	Vol. 2, part 2, 1797, April 1-1797, Oct. 24
<b>BOX 15 REEL 10</b>	Vol. 3, 1797, Oct. 16-1798, Mar. 25
<b>BOX 16 REEL 11</b>	<b>Congressional Proceedings, 1782-1784</b> Bound volumes of the proceedings of the Continental Congress. Arranged chronologically
<b>BOX 16 REEL 11</b>	Vol. 14, 1782, Jan. 25-1783, Feb. 10
<b>BOX 16 REEL 11</b>	Vol. 15, 1783, Feb. 18-1784, May 11
<b>BOX 17 REEL 12</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Unbound Papers, 1776-1829</b> Correspondence, reports, and miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically.

## Miscellaneous Unbound Papers, 1776-1829

Container	Contents
BOX 17 REEL 12	1776-1829, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 18 not filmed	<b>Addition, 1734-1839</b> Originals and reproductions of correspondence and miscellaneous material, wills, printed matter, and other items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 18	Original correspondence and miscellaneous material, 1777-1839
BOX 18	Reproductions of correspondence and miscellaneous material, 1734-1801, undated
BOX 18	Wills, notebook
BOX 18	Morris, Robert
BOX 18	Morris, Mary
BOX 18	Nixon, Maria
BOX 18	Nixon, Hetty
BOX 18	Printed material
BOX 18	Deed Account of Morris's property
BOX 18	Land title
BOX 18	Lists and indexes of Morris's papers while owned by General Meredith Read
BOX OV 1 not filmed	<b>Oversize, 1776-1782</b> Miscellaneous correspondence. Described according to the series from which its was removed and arranged chronologically.
BOX OV 1	Miscellaneous Unbound Papers (Container 17)
BOX OV 1	1776-1782, Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais to Morris, and statements of accounts (letter dated 1782, June 3)
BOX OV 1	1776, Mar. 6, miscellaneous letters sent from Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX OV 1	1777, Jan. 23, Livingston, Abram, to Morris
BOX OV 1	1780, Sept. 2, Elbridge Gerry to Morris
BOX OV 1	1780 1781, June 15, draft of letter intended for Morris but not sent
BOX OV 1	1782, Aug 2, William Durer to Morris, 1782, Aug. 2