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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Morris is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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

Robert Morris Papers
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

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

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

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

**BOX 18 not filmed**

**Addition, 1734-1839**

- 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
- Reproductions of correspondence and miscellaneous material, 1734-1801, undated
- Wills, notebook
- Morris, Robert
- Morris, Mary
- Nixon, Maria
- Nixon, Hetty
- Printed material
- Deed Account of Morris’s property
- Land title
- Lists and indexes of Morris’s papers while owned by General Meredith Read

**BOX OV 1 not filmed**

**Oversize, 1776-1782**

- Miscellaneous correspondence.
- Described according to the series from which it was removed and arranged chronologically.

**BOX OV 1**

- Miscellaneous Unbound Papers (Container 17)
- 1776-1782, Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais to Morris, and statements of accounts (letter dated 1782, June 3)
- 1776, Mar. 6, miscellaneous letters sent from Philadelphia, Pa.
- 1777, Jan. 23, Livingston, Abram, to Morris
- 1780, Sept. 2, Elbridge Gerry to Morris
- 1780 1781, June 15, draft of letter intended for Morris but not sent
- 1782, Aug 2, William Durer to Morris, 1782, Aug. 2