

**Rumsey Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2013**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82038513>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013071>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Rumsey Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1661-1907

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1700-1799)

**ID No.:** MSS38513

**Creator:** Rumsey family

**Extent:** 1,000 items

**Extent:** 5 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82038513>

**Summary:** Family of Bohemia Manor, Cecil County, Md. Correspondence among family members; wills; surveys, deeds, plats, and other documents relating to land ownership; personal and business financial accounts; contracts and other legal documents; sermons; and notes on family history.

## 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

Baird family.

Bayard family.

Bordley family.

Boyer family.

Brinkle family.

Everett family.

Everitt family.

Key, Francis Scott, 1779-1843.

Pearce family.

Rigbie family.

Rigby family.

Rumsey family.

Wright family.

### Organizations

Hodges, Bayard and Company.

United States. Continental Army--Equipment and supplies.

### Subjects

Licenses--Québec (Province)

### Places

Bohemia Manor (Cecil County, Md.)

Cecil County (Md.)--Description and travel.

Cecil County (Md.)--History.

Cecil County (Md.)--Social life and customs.

Delaware--Description and travel.

Europe--Commerce--Philadelphia (Pa.)

Kent County (Md.)--Description and travel.

Maryland--Description and travel.

Maryland--History--1775-1865.

Maryland--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.

Maryland--Politics and government--1775-1865.  
Maryland--Politics and government--To 1775.  
Maryland--Social life and customs.  
Pennsylvania--Description and travel.  
Philadelphia (Pa.)--Commerce--Europe.  
Philadelphia (Pa.)--Commerce.  
Philadelphia (Pa.)--Description and travel.  
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Equipment and supplies.  
United States--Politics and government--18th century.  
Wilmington (Del.)--Description and travel.

## Provenance

The papers of the Rumsey family of Bohemia, Cecil County, Maryland, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Julia Brinkle Rodney in 1929 and converted to a gift in 1938. Additional material held by Rodney was reproduced with her permission to addition to the collection in 1939.

## Processing History

The Rumsey Family Papers were housed and described circa 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

## Related Material

James Rumsey (1743-1792), an inventor of the steamboat, was related to this family. His papers are not included here, but his correspondence with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson about the steamboat and other matters is in the [George Washington](#) and [Thomas Jefferson](#) papers in the Manuscript Division. It (and his correspondence with others) is published in James A. Padgett, ed., "Letters of James Rumsey," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 32 (1937): 10-28, 136-55, and 271-85. It is also in the published papers of Washington and Jefferson: *The Papers of George Washington*. ed. W. W. Abbot, et al. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1987 - ) and *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. Eds., Julian P. Boyd, et al. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950- ).

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Rumsey 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.

## Preferred Citation

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

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Rumsey family of Cecil County, Maryland, span the years 1661-1907, with the bulk of the material from 1700 to 1799. The collection consists of correspondence among family members; wills; surveys, deeds, plats, and other documents relating to land ownership (including a “manufacturing hall” for “Rumsey's mills,” 1742); personal and business financial accounts; contracts and other legal documents (one of these includes a signature of Francis Scott Key, probably in his capacity as attorney); sermons; and notes on family history. Family members represented include Anna, Benjamin, Charles, John, John Jr., Julia, Margaret, Nathan, Nathaniel, Sabina, Susan, Thomas, and William. Birth and death dates are unknown, and names are repeated across the generations. Also included as correspondents or subjects of correspondence are members of the Bayard, Bordley, Boyer, Brinkle, Everitt, Pearce, Rigbie, and Wright families. Correspondence among family members concerns health and sickness, travel, weather, family news, business, and politics. Places mentioned include Bohemia Manor, Cecil County, Maryland; Georgetown, Maryland; Wilmington, Delaware; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Of note are correspondence and accounts, 1775-1777, of a Philadelphia merchant shipping company, Hodges, Bayard and Company, that worked with Nathaniel Rumsey, and Benjamin Rumsey. A letter, July 27, 1775, from Hodges, Bayard instructs the captain of the *Concord* traveling to Dunkirk, France, to search out markets for the cargo it carried and purchase goods, including gunpowder, saltpeter, arms, and textiles. Another, February 3, 1776, from Colonel Bayard to Nathaniel Rumsey, describes a contract between Congress and the company for arms. (For this contract see Secret Committee Minutes of Proceedings, February 13, 1776, *Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774-1789*, 3:251-252. See also Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, February 6, 1776, for its use of Hodges, Bayard for arms purchases, in Peter Force, *American Archives*, 4:1566.)

Also of note is a license to keep a billiard table, in French and English, issued to Théophile Askin by the Province of Quebec, May 23, 1872. Its connection to the Rumsey family is unknown.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The papers are organized by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Family papers
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Genealogical
BOX 1	Rumsey family
BOX 1	Wright family
BOX 1	Photostatic copies
BOX 1	Rumsey, Andrew, 1803-1823 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Rumsey, Anna, 1770, 1804-1825
BOX 1	Rumsey, Benjamin, 1760-1825 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Rumsey, John
BOX 1	Letters, 1803-1825
BOX 1	Account book, 1799-1866
BOX 1	Rumsey, John, Jr., 1817-1822, 1832
BOX 2	Rumsey, Julia (married name, Julia Rumsey Brinkle), 1813-1826
BOX 2	Rumsey, Margaret, 1812-1830
BOX 2	Rumsey, Nathan, 1721, 1725, 1727, 1776-1777, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Rumsey, Sabina, 1739-1775
BOX 2	Rumsey, Susan, 1810-1834
BOX 2	Rumsey, Thomas and Charles, wills and testaments, 1684, 1706, 1717
BOX 2	Rumsey, William (son of John), 1807-1823, 1834 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Rumsey, William (brother of John), 1737-1834
BOX 3	Correspondence (3 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellaneous
BOX 3	Survey field book
BOX 3	Will
BOX 3	Rumsey family nieces and cousins, 1809-1820
BOX 3	Bordley, Juliana C. (sister-in-law of John), 1804-1824 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Everitt, Mary W. (sister-in-law of John), 1807-1819
BOX 3	Pearce, Benjamin (grandfather of John), will and testament, 1734, Apr. 22
BOX 3	Pearce, William
BOX 3	Account book, 1739-1747
BOX 3	Sermons, texts, etc.
BOX 3	Will and testament, 1720, Feb. 9
BOX 4	Rigbie family
BOX 4	Rigbie, James
BOX 4	Rigbie, Sabina Rumsey
BOX 4	Family history miscellany

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Bonds, indenture, and etc.
BOX 4	Bill of sale
BOX 4	Power of attorney and will
BOX 4	Wright, William (brother-in-law of John), 1800
BOX 4	General
BOX 4	Autograph of Francis Scott Key, legal document
BOX 4	Bayard, James A., 1663-1768
BOX 4	Rumsey, Hodges, & Bayard, contract with Congress for arms from France
BOX 4	Rumsey v. Carnan, 1661-1735
BOX 4	Bonds, indentures, certificates and etc., pertaining to various Rumseys and their possessions, 1713-1793
BOX 4	Bonds, indentures, and receipts, 1665-1764
BOX 4	Deeds, 1683, 1734, and 1736
BOX 4	Deeds for adjudication and power of attorney, 1691-1714
BOX 5	Indentures and agreement <i>See also Oversize</i> (4 folders)
BOX 5	Land purchased at Albany, N.Y., with letter from Francis Halsey, 1754, 1907
BOX 5	License for a billiard table, 1872
BOX 5	Deposition, indentures, plat, and receipts (2 folders)
BOX 5	Platt of Clifton, Md., 1721-1725
BOX 5	Survey by William Rumsey, including a plat of Cecil Town and Fredericktown, Md.
BOX 5	Wills of various persons
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Family papers
BOX OV 1	Correspondence
BOX OV 1	Rumsey, Nathan, 1721, 1725, 1727, 1776-1777, undated (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	General
BOX OV 1	Indentures and agreements (Container 5)