

Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.) Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80016436>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014085>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014

Collection Summary

Title: Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.) Records

Span Dates: 1749-1857

ID No.: MSS16436

Creator: Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Extent: 30,000 items

Extent: 163 containers

Extent: 29.2 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80016436>

Summary: Account books, business correspondence, ledgers, journals, daybooks, waste books, and other records of the mercantile firm of Stephen Collins and Son, Philadelphia, Pa. Includes business records of William Barrell, merchant of Portsmouth, N.H., and Philadelphia, and of Solomon Fussell, also merchant of Philadelphia.

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

Barrell, William, -1776.

Collins, Stephen, 1733-1794.

Collins, Zaccheus, 1764-1831.

Eliason, William Alexander, -1839.

Fussell, Solomon, 1704-1762.

Neate, William.

Organizations

Elam and Glover (Leeds, England)

Harrison, Ansley, and Co. (London, England)

Hyde & Hamilton (Manchester, England)

Jukes Coulson & Company (London, England)

Smithson & Greaves (Leeds, England)

Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Subjects

Business records--New Hampshire--Portsmouth.

Business records--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Merchants--New Hampshire--Portsmouth.

Merchants--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Places

New Hampshire--Commerce.

New York (State)--Economic conditions.

Pennsylvania--Commerce.

Pennsylvania--Commerce.

Philadelphia (Pa.)--Commerce.

Portsmouth (N.H.)--Commerce.

Provenance

The records of Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.) were transferred from the U.S. War Department, 1913-1935. A gift of a few items was received from Mrs. J. Donald Jordan in 1978.

Processing History

The records of Stephen Collins and Son were processed before 1940 and expanded with an addition in 1984. Revisions were made to the find aid in 1989, 1998, and 2014.

Additional Guides

Notes on the collection are available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult reference staff for information.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include microfilm of a letterbook, 1773-1783, of Stephen Collins held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston Mass., and microfilm of another letterbook, 1782-1793, in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in unpublished writings in the records of Stephen Collections and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.) is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.) 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 or reel number, Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.) Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of Stephen Collins and Son (Philadelphia, Pa.) span the years 1749-1857. The collection consists of account books, business correspondence, ledgers, journals, daybooks, waste books, and other records of the Pennsylvania mercantile firm headed by Stephen Collins (1733-1794) and his son and partner, Zaccheus Collins (1764-1831). Included are business records of William Barrell, merchant of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Philadelphia, and of Solomon Fussell, also of Philadelphia, received by Collins as executor of their estates. Collins was born in a Quaker family of Lynn, Massachusetts, and engaged in business in Marblehead before coming to Philadelphia. The collection is organized into two series: [Correspondence](#) and [Financial Files](#).

Chief British correspondents in the collection are the Quaker merchants of William Neate and Daniel Mildred of London and the merchant firm Elam and Glover of Leeds. Other clients and correspondents include ironmongers Jukes, Coulson & Company; the textile firms Smithson & Greaves of Leeds and Harrison, Ansley & Company of London; and the hardware

firm Hyde & Hamilton of Manchester. Henry Chapman, a son-in-law of William Neate, provides numerous accounts of New York economic conditions and troubles with debtors.

Throughout the collection are letters from Collins family members from Lynn, notably a brother who was a master shoemaker buying supplies from Philadelphia and returning barrels of the finished product for sale. Many letters are from the small storekeepers to whom Collins sold British goods. Others are from the English merchants who provided them.

In 1794, Stephen Collins's daughter Elizabeth married Richard Bland Lee of Virginia, who had been a member of Congress. Thereafter, Zaccheus Collins collected bank dividends for Richard Bland Lee's brother, Charles Lee, and became involved with the debts of another brother, Light Horse Harry Lee, as well as with management of land holdings in Pennsylvania inherited by Richard's wife from her father.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Correspondence, 1758-1838](#)
- [Financial File, 1749-1857](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-69

Series

Correspondence, 1758-1838

Business correspondence, memoranda, letterbooks, and related matter.
Arranged chronologically with letterbooks filed at the end of the series.

BOX 70-163

Financial File, 1749-1857

Account books, ledgers, journals, daybooks, waste books, sales books, invoices, biographical material, lists, correspondence, and other financial records.

Arranged by type of material.

An 1817 memorandum book of William A. Eliason in Container 155 is on negative microfilm, shelf no. 16,792.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-69	Correspondence, 1758-1838 Business correspondence, memoranda, letterbooks, and related matter. Arranged chronologically with letterbooks filed at the end of the series.
BOX 1	16 Jan. 1758-18 Mar. 1762
BOX 2	22 Mar. 1762-31 Mar. 1763
BOX 3	2 Apr. 1763-17 July 1764
BOX 4	19 July 1764-12 June 1765
BOX 5	15 June 1765-23 June 1766
BOX 6	25 June 1766-15 Apr. 1767
BOX 7	18 Apr. 1767-26 Feb. 1768
BOX 8	27 Feb. 1768-4 Feb. 1769
BOX 9	6 Feb.-30 Oct. 1769
BOX 10	1 Nov. 1769-23 Aug. 1770
BOX 11	24 Aug. 1770-14 Feb. 1771
BOX 12	18 Feb.-1 Oct. 1771
BOX 13	4 Oct. 1771-17 Apr. 1772
BOX 14	19 Apr.-13 Nov. 1772
BOX 15	14 Nov. 1772-25 June 1773
BOX 16	26 June-16 Nov. 1773
BOX 17	19 Nov. 1773-1 June 1774
BOX 18	2 June 1774-20 Apr. 1775
BOX 19	21 Apr. 1775-26 Jan. 1776
BOX 20	29 Jan. 1776-6 Jan. 1777
BOX 21	8 Jan. 1777-20 June 1778
BOX 22	20 June 1778-6 Dec. 1781
BOX 23	7 Dec. 1781-5 May 1783
BOX 24	7 May-16 Aug. 1783
BOX 25	20 Aug.-18 Dec. 1783
BOX 26	21 Dec. 1783-10 May 1784
BOX 27	12 May-29 Oct. 1784
BOX 28	1 Nov. 1784-29 Mar. 1785
BOX 29	30 Mar.-30 Aug. 1785
BOX 30	31 Aug. 1785-3 Jan. 1786
BOX 31	4 Jan.-6 Apr. 1786
BOX 32	7 Apr.-25 July 1786
BOX 33	26 July-16 Dec. 1786
BOX 34	17 Dec. 1786-9 May 1787
BOX 35	10 May-29 Sept. 1787
BOX 36	30 Sept. 1787-5 Mar. 1788
BOX 37	8 Mar.-13 July 1788
BOX 38	14 July 1788-18 Feb. 1789

Correspondence, 1758-1838

Container

Contents

BOX 39	22 Feb.-30 July 1789
BOX 40	1 Aug. 1789-23 Jan. 1790
BOX 41	24 Jan.-18 June 1790
BOX 42	20 June 1790-13 Mar. 1791
BOX 43	14 Mar.-26 Sept. 1791
BOX 44	27 Sept. 1791-6 Apr. 1792
BOX 45	7 Apr.-21 Nov. 1792
BOX 46	22 Nov. 1792-16 May 1793
BOX 47	19 May 1793-2 Jan. 1794
BOX 48	3 Jan.-3 June 1794
BOX 49	4 June-29 Nov. 1794
BOX 50	1 Dec. 1794-15 June 1795
BOX 51	16 June 1795-15 Feb. 1796
BOX 52	17 Feb.-10 Nov. 1796
BOX 53	11 Nov. 1796-29 May 1798
BOX 54	30 May 1798-13 Mar. 1800
BOX 55	14 Mar. 1800-5 Oct. 1801
BOX 56	9 Oct. 1801-19 Sept. 1838
BOX 57	Letter, 1760-1773
BOX 58	Memorandum, accounts, 1770-1772
BOX 58	Letterbook, 1771-1778
BOX 58	Loose papers, 1766-1777
BOX 59	Letterbooks
BOX 59	1776-1777
BOX 60	1782-1783
BOX 60	1783-1784
BOX 61	1784-1785
BOX 62	1785-1786
BOX 62	1786-1787
BOX 63	1786-1787
BOX 63	1786-1789
BOX 64	1786-1794
BOX 64	1786-1794
BOX 65	1788-1792
BOX 66	1789-1791
BOX 66	1791-1795
BOX 67	1792-1794
BOX 68	1794-1801
BOX 69	1792-1801
BOX 70-163	Financial File, 1749-1857 Account books, ledgers, journals, daybooks, waste books, sales books, invoices, biographical material, lists, correspondence, and other financial records. Arranged by type of material. <i>An 1817 memorandum book of William A. Eliason in Container 155 is on negative microfilm, shelf no. 16,792.</i>

Financial File, 1749-1857

Container	Contents
BOX 70	Accounts
BOX 70	11 Feb. 1749-31 Dec. 1762 (4 folders)
BOX 71	21 May 1763-1 Dec. 1766 (4 folders)
BOX 72	1 Jan. 1767-31 Dec. 1769 (4 folders)
BOX 73	1 Jan. 1770-30 Sept. 1771 (4 folders)
BOX 74	1 Jan. 1772-10 Dec. 1773 (4 folders)
BOX 75	29 June 1774-19 July 1775 (3 folders)
BOX 76	1 Aug. 1775-15 July 1779 (4 folders)
BOX 77	4 Apr. 1781-31 May 1783 (4 folders)
BOX 78	25 June 1783-8 Apr. 1784 (4 folders)
BOX 79	10 Apr.-31 Dec. 1784 (3 folders)
BOX 80	1 Jan.-31 Dec. 1785 (3 folders)
BOX 81	1 Jan.-29 Sept. 1786 (3 folders)
BOX 82	16 Oct. 1786-1 May 1787 (3 folders)
BOX 83	18 June 1787-30 May 1789 (4 folders)
BOX 84	2 June 1789-31 Dec. 1790 (3 folders)
BOX 85	5 Jan. 1791-31 Dec. 1792 (4 folders)
BOX 86	2 Jan. 1793-31 Dec. 1794 (4 folders)
BOX 87	7 Jan. 1795-3 Dec. 1799 (6 folders)
BOX 88	30 July 1801-14 Aug. 1857
BOX 88	Undated (3 folders)
BOX 88	Prices current
BOX 88	1 Mar. 1762-1 May 1813
BOX 88	10 May 1801
BOX 88	Broadside, 1764
BOX 89	Receipt books
BOX 89	1757-1761
BOX 89	1761-1773
BOX 89	Bills Receivable, 7 Dec. 1785-3 Nov. 1794

Financial File, 1749-1857

Container	Contents
BOX 90	Receipt books
BOX 90	1783-1794
BOX 90	1786-1795
BOX 91	Sales books
BOX 91	1781-1784
BOX 92	1783-1784
BOX 93	Memorandum books
BOX 93	8-30 Aug. 1776
BOX 93	1778-1783
BOX 94	1783-1794
BOX 95	Bank book, 1782-1794
BOX 96	Ledgers
BOX 96	1758-1763
BOX 97	1761-1764
BOX 98	Waste book (day book), 1761-1764
BOX 99	Journal "A", 1761-1764
BOX 100	Waste book, 1772-1786
BOX 101	Day book, 1772-1774
BOX 102	Journal, 1772-1786
BOX 103	Memorandum book, 1761-1763
BOX 103	Day book
BOX 103	1773-1774
BOX 103	1774-1783
BOX 103	Index book, undated
BOX 104	Account book, 1 Apr.-16 Nov. 1779
BOX 105	Day book, 1784-1794
BOX 106	Waste books
BOX 106	1786-1794
BOX 107	1773-1784
BOX 107	Blotter, 1773-1784
BOX 108	Waste book, 1764-1773
BOX 109	Journals
BOX 109	1764-1769
BOX 110	1773-1794
BOX 111	1786-1794
BOX 112	Ledgers
BOX 112	1764-1794
BOX 113	1794-1807
BOX 114	1786-1794
BOX 115	Bills receivable, 1794-1828
BOX 116	Cash book, 1794-1796
BOX 117	Invoice book, 1786-1795
BOX 118	Ledger, 1795-1800, Zaccheus Collins
BOX 119	Memorandum book, 1800-1815, Zaccheus Collins
BOX 120	Sales book, 1777-1778, Colburn Barrell
BOX 121	Invoice books, Colburn Barrell (with Tench Coxe) 1777-1778

Financial File, 1749-1857

Container	Contents
BOX 122	Invoice books
BOX 122	1764-1765, Nathaniel Barrell
BOX 123	1776-1770, William Barrell
BOX 124	1776, William Barrell
BOX 125	1771-1775, William Barrell
BOX 126	Inventory book, 1773-1776, William Barrell
BOX 127	Account book, William Barrell
BOX 127	1762
BOX 127	1766
BOX 127	1768-1769
BOX 128	Waste book, 1766-1767, William Barrell
BOX 129	Blotter, 1767-1774, William Barrell
BOX 130	Day book, 1772, William Barrell
BOX 131	Blotter, 1772-1776, William Barrell
BOX 132	Ledger, 1763-1765, William Barrell
BOX 133	Journals, William Barrell
BOX 133	1766-1774
BOX 133	1767-1775
BOX 134	Ledger, 1766-1773, William Barrell
BOX 135	Day book, 1771-1776, William Barrell
BOX 136	Memorandum and accounts, 1772-1776, William Barrell
BOX 137	Ledger, 1771-1775, William Barrell
BOX 138	Journal, 1771-1776, William Barrell
BOX 139	Ledger, 1774-1776, William Barrell
BOX 140	Receipt books, William Barrell
BOX 140	1771-1776
BOX 140	1776-1791, estate
BOX 141	Inventory book, 1776-1778, William Barrell
BOX 141	Sales book, 1776-1780, William Barrell
BOX 142	Account book, 1738-1749, Solomon Fussell
BOX 143	Day book, 1753-1758, Solomon Fussell
BOX 144	Journals, Solomon Fussell
BOX 144	1758-1761
BOX 145	1757-1762
BOX 146	Ledgers, Solomon Fussell
BOX 146	1757-1761
BOX 147	1751-1756
BOX 148	1758-1762
BOX 149	1774-1777, John Glover
BOX 150	1773-1783, John Glover
BOX 151	Invoice book, 1776-1777, John Montgomery
BOX 152	Account books, James Mullan
BOX 152	1768-1771
BOX 152	1772-1773
BOX 152	1774-1780
BOX 153	Day books, John Pemberton

Financial File, 1749-1857

Container	Contents
BOX 153	Jan.-Aug. 1785
BOX 153	Feb.-Aug. 1785
BOX 154	Invoice book, 1759-1760, Collins & Emlin
BOX 155	Memorandum book, 1817, William A. Eliason <i>Also on negative microfilm, shelf no. 16,792</i>
BOX 156	Bank checks, 1791-1802, (S. Collins & Son)
BOX 157	Naval journal, 1794-1800, Office of the Lieutenant of Military Stores
BOX 158	Ledger, 1701-1702, William Trent
BOX 159	Invoice books
BOX 159	1761-1783
BOX 160	1783-1784
BOX 161	Ledger, 1772-1786
BOX 161	Index books
BOX 161	1786-1787
BOX 161	1788
BOX 161	Undated
BOX 162	Correspondence, 1762-1814
BOX 162	Biographical file of others, undated
BOX 162	Bill of loading, 1787
BOX 162	Price current, 1762
BOX 162	Printed matter, 1824
BOX 162	List of mercantile papers, undated
BOX 162	Cancelled checks, 1784-1819
	(2 folders)
BOX 163	(4 folders)