

Lawrence Van Buren Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2023086620>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms023022>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2023

Collection Summary

Title: Lawrence Van Buren Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1721-1938

Bulk Dates: 1812-1908

ID No.: MSS86620

Creator: Van Buren, Lawrence, 1786-1868

Creator: Dodge family

Creator: Van Buren family

Creator: Woolfolk family

Extent: 600 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2023086620>

Summary: Family of Lawrence Van Buren, farmer and civic leader of Kinderhook, New York, and brother of Martin Van Buren, eighth president of the United States. Correspondence, deeds, indentures, photographs, newspapers, news clippings, notes, agreements, and genealogical material documenting the Van Buren, Dodge, and Woolfolk families from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. Of special interest are papers concerning land and financial transactions among the Van Buren family, and the 1817 last will and testament of Abraham Van Buren.

Acquisition Information

The papers of the Lawrence Van Buren family were given to the Library of Congress by Lindsay and Tyler Van Buren, and Robert and Sarah Schramm in 2019.

Custodial History

Mary Van Buren, aunt of Sarah Schramm, cared for the papers and stored them in her home in New York, New York, prior to gifting them to subsequent generations of her family. After receiving the papers from Mary Van Buren, the family deposited the papers at the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, New York, which is overseen by the National Park Service. The papers were stored at a National Park Service storage facility in Hyde Park, New York, prior to being donated to the Library of Congress.

Processing History

The papers of the Lawrence Van Buren family were arranged and described by Nate Scheible in 2023.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Martin Van Buren (see <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78043828>).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the papers of the Lawrence Van Buren family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Lawrence Van Buren family are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

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

Family History

Lawrence Van Buren, born 1786, was a farmer and civic leader in Kinderhook, New York. He served as an officer in the War of 1812 and was quartermaster of the Ninth Regiment Militia of New York. In 1852 he was a Democratic presidential elector, and at different periods occupied other civil offices including postmaster of Kinderhook and president of the board of supervisors of Columbia County, New York. He died in 1868.

Lawrence was the son of tavern owner Abraham Van Buren (1737-1817) and Maria (Hoes) Van Buren (1747-1818), and brother of Martin Van Buren (1782-1862). Around 1820, Lawrence Van Buren married Harriet Vosburgh (1791-1849). They had six children including Mary Ann, Lucretia, Jane, Martin, and Myndert Van Buren.

Myndert Van Buren (1830-1920) married Mary E. Dodge (1858-1944[?]), daughter of Benjamin Dodge (1784-1842) and Elizabeth (Woodward) Dodge (1790-1862), around 1874. They had a child, William Myndert Van Buren, born in 1879.

William Myndert Van Buren (1879-1976) married Helen Woolfolk (1890-1960), daughter of Edward G. and Frances E. Woolfolk, around 1920. They had children Martin E., born 1921, and Mary, born 1924.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Lawrence Van Buren family span the years 1721-1938, with the bulk of the material dating from 1812 to 1908. The collection documents the daily lives, business dealings, and legacies of Lawrence Van Buren, his immediate family members, and their extended families through correspondence, deeds, wills, and genealogical material. The papers are in English.

The files of Lawrence Van Buren focus mostly on property and financial transactions, both personal and professional, many of which involve Martin Van Buren. Noteworthy among the papers is the 1817 last will and testament of father Abraham Van Buren, which indicates to whom he bequeathed property, money, and enslaved individuals. Also included is a 1734 land grant belonging to Marten Van Beuren, grandfather of Lawrence and Martin Van Buren.

Some original files belonging to Martin Van Buren are present in the papers, including letters received from United States Senator John A. Dix in 1848 and outgoing letters to his sons John and Martin Jr. Most of the material, however, consists of files collected by extended family that include biographical information, genealogical research, and details about the Lindenwald property in New York.

Papers of the Dodge family document multiple generations of the family of Myndert Van Buren's wife Mary E. Dodge, including her grandparents, Benjamin and Elizabeth (Woodward) Dodge, her parents, Mary R. and William H. Dodge, her aunt, Clara Ann (Dodge) Thompson, and her brother, James H. Dodge, most of whom lived in Mount Hope, New York. The files date from 1732 to 1875 and include correspondence regarding family matters, deeds and indentures, mementos, and other family records.

Papers of the Woolfolk family concern the lives of William Van Buren's wife Helen Woolfolk and her parents Edward G. and Frances E. Woolfolk, and mostly contain correspondence regarding family matters in Rutherford, New Jersey, from 1889 to 1893.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject, name, or material type.

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

Dodge family--Correspondence.
Dodge family.
Van Beuren, Marten, 1701-1747.
Van Buren family--Correspondence.
Van Buren family--Genealogy.
Van Buren family.
Van Buren, Abraham, 1737-1817--Will.
Van Buren, Helen, 1890-1960--Correspondence.
Van Buren, John, 1810-1866--Correspondence.
Van Buren, Lawrence, 1786-1868.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862--Correspondence.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862--Homes and haunts.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862.
Van Buren, Martin, Jr., 1812-1855--Correspondence.
Van Buren, Mary E., 1858-1914.
Van Buren, Myndert, 1830-1920.
Van Buren, William M. (William Myndert), 1897-1976--Correspondence.
Woolfolk family--Correspondence.
Woolfolk family.
Woolfolk, Edward G., 1847-
Woolfolk, Frances, 1854-

Subjects

Commerce--New York (State)
Deeds--New York (State)
Dwellings--New York (State)--Kinderhook.
Land grants--New York (State)

Places

Kinderhook (N.Y.)--History.
Kinderhook (N.Y.)--Social life and customs.
Mount Hope (N.Y.)--Social life and customs.
New Jersey--Social life and customs.
New York (State)--History--1775-1865.
New York (State)--History--1865-
New York (State)--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.
New York (State)--Social life and customs.
Rutherford (N.J.)--Social life and customs.

Titles

Van Buren family papers

Occupations

Civic leaders.
Farmers.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Brush, Mary Hall, last will and testament, 1902
BOX 1	Dodge family
BOX OV 1	<i>Christian Messenger</i> , 1846, July 1
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Dodge, Elizabeth, 1836-1851, 1857
BOX 1	Dodge, Mary R., and William H. Dodge, 1838-1843, 1851-1864, undated
BOX 1	Thompson, Clara Ann (Dodge), 1834-1837, 1860
BOX OV 1	Deeds and indentures, 1721, 1790-1791, 1838-1841, 1868
BOX 1	Deeds and indentures, 1850, 1863-1869, 1875
BOX 1	Miscellaneous documents and correspondence, 1732, 1739, 1750-1752, 1853-1854, 1871-1872
BOX OV 1	<i>National Advocate</i> , 1819-1820
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1880, undated
BOX 1	Photographs, 1896, undated
BOX 1	Skinkle family, 1899-1902, 1938, undated
BOX OV 1	Skinkle family, 1902
BOX 1	Stock certificates, 1839-1841, 1853-1858
BOX OV 1	Van Beuren, Marten, land grant, 1734
BOX OV 1	Van Buren, Abraham, last will and testament, 1817
BOX OV 1	Van Buren, Ephraim, and Margaret Van Buren, indentures, 1790-1795
BOX 1	Van Buren, Helen (Woolfolk), and William M. Van Buren
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1883, undated
BOX 1	Genealogy, Van Buren family, 1925
BOX 1	High school graduation and class work, Helen (Woolfolk) Van Buren, 1904-1908
BOX OV 1	High school graduation and class work, Helen (Woolfolk) Van Buren, 1904, 1908
BOX 1	Marriage, circa 1920
BOX 1	Sons of the Revolution, 1925
BOX 1	Van Buren, Lawrence
BOX 1	Agreement with Martin Van Buren, draft, 1826
BOX 2	Bible, undated
BOX 2	Bill of sale, 1867
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX OV 1	Miscellaneous individuals, 1812-1813
BOX 2	Miscellaneous individuals, 1812-1814, 1837, 1847
BOX 2	Van Buren, Martin, 1814, 1825-1830, 1836-1844, undated (3 folders)
BOX OV 1	Van Buren, Martin, 1825, 1828
BOX OV 1	Deeds and indentures, 1804, 1811, 1821, 1837, 1844
BOX 2	Deeds and indentures, 1857
BOX 2	Financial documents, miscellaneous, 1812-1814, 1833-1836
BOX 2	Obituary, 1868
BOX 2	Will of Lucretia Vosburgh and Myndert Vosburgh, 1829

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	Van Buren, Lucretia, 1880
BOX 2	Van Buren, Martin
BOX 2	Biographical notes, 1836, undated
BOX 2	Calling card, envoy extraordinaire and minister plenipotentiary, circa 1831
BOX 2	Clippings, 1898, 1932, 1938, undated
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX 2	Dix, John A., 1848
BOX 2	Van Buren, John (son), undated
BOX 2	Van Buren, Martin, Jr. (son), 1835
BOX 2	Lindenwald and related properties, New York, 1936-1937, undated
BOX 2	"Martin Van Buren, with a Sketch of the Van Buren Family in America" by Frank J. Conkling, 1897
BOX 2	Van Buren, Mary E. (Dodge), and Myndert Van Buren, 1871, 1914, undated
BOX 2	Van Buren family genealogy notes, 1897-1900, undated
BOX 2	Woolfolk family
BOX 2	Relationship to Washington family, 1920
BOX 2	Woolfolk, Edward G., and Frances E. ("Fannie") Woolfolk, correspondence, 1889-1893, undated (2 folders)