

Carroll 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>

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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2024

Collection Summary

Title: Carroll Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1686-1897

Bulk Dates: 1772-1838

ID No.: MSS86613

Creator: Carroll family

Extent: 1,600 items

Extent: 5 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2.1 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with French

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2023086613>

Summary: Maryland family of landowners, planters, and politicians. Correspondence, financial records, indentures, land documents, and other papers concerning the personal and business activities of the Carroll family. Primarily letters received by Charles Carroll (1801-1862) with some correspondence of his grandfather, Charles Carroll (1737-1832), his father, Charles Carroll (1775-1825), his wife, Mary Digges Lee Carroll (circa 1799-1859), and other family members.

Acquisition Information

The papers of the Carroll family were given to the Library of Congress by Genevieve A. Carroll and Christopher C. Gerard on behalf of the Cornelia T. Carroll estate in 2023.

Processing History

The papers of the Carroll family were arranged and described by Emily Flint in 2024.

Related Material

Related material in the Manuscript Division includes an additional collection of the papers of the Carroll family (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010002>) and the papers of Daniel Carroll (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008075>).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Carroll family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Carroll 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, Carroll Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Charles Carroll (1737-1832)

Date	Event
1737, Sept. 19	Born, Annapolis, Md.
1748-1759	Studied philosophy and law at several different Jesuit institutions in France
1759-1764	Studied law, London, England
1766	Began living at Doughoregan Manor, Ellicott City, Md.
1768	Married Mary Darnall (died 1782)
1773	Debated Daniel Dulany in the <i>Maryland Gazette</i> under the pseudonym "First Citizen"
1774-1776	Delegate, Annapolis Convention
1776	Sent by Continental Congress on diplomatic mission to Canada Signed Declaration of Independence
1776-1778	Delegate from Maryland, Continental Congress
1777-1800	Maryland state senator
1789-1792	United States senator from Maryland
1828	Founding member, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company
1832, Nov. 14	Died, Baltimore, Md.

Charles Carroll (1775-1825)

Date	Event
1775, Mar. 2	Born, Annapolis, Md.
1785-1794	Student, Academy of English Jesuits, Liège, Belgium
1800	Married Harriet Chew (separated 1814)
1801-circa 1806	Designed and constructed Homewood in Baltimore, Maryland, using money received from his father, Charles Carroll (1737-1832)
1825, Apr. 3	Died, Baltimore, Md.

Charles Carroll (1801-1862)

Date	Event
1801, July 25	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1815-1817	Student, Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmittsburg, Md.
1817-1820	Student, Maison d'éducation de la rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs, Paris, France
1821-1823	Student, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. (expelled 1823)
circa 1823-1825	Served in Morgan Volunteers militia regiment, Baltimore, Md.
1825	Married Mary Digges Lee (died 1859) Inherited Homewood following the death of his father, Charles Carroll (1775-1825)
1832	Inherited Doughoregan Manor following the death of his grandfather, Charles Carroll (1737-1832)
circa 1838	Sold Homewood to Baltimore merchant Samuel Wyman
1862, Dec. 2	Died, Ellicott City, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Carroll family span the years 1686-1897, with the bulk of the material dating from 1772 to 1838. The collection explores the personal relationships between members of the Carroll family, the management of family estates, such as Doughoregan Manor and Homewood, and other business concerns. The papers are primarily in English, with some French.

The bulk of the collection consists of letters received by Charles Carroll (1801-1862), also known as Charles Carroll of Doughoregan. Letters from various relatives provide updates on family news, especially while Carroll studied in

Paris, France, and at Harvard University between 1817 and 1823. Letters from Carroll's mother, Harriet Chew Carroll (1775-1860), his four sisters, and his wife, Mary Digges Lee Carroll (circa 1799-1859), provide insight into the lives of women during the 1810s to 1830s. Some letters from Harriet Chew Carroll include messages from her daughters and vice versa. In these cases, the correspondence is filed under the name of the person who wrote the first part of the letter. Letters between Charles Carroll (1801-1862) and his four brothers-in-law, including United States senator Richard H. Bayard (1796-1868), document the Carroll family's legal disputes regarding the settlement of the estate of Charles Carroll (1737-1832). Many letters from 1832 onward discuss the crops, livestock, equipment, and general operations of the Doughoregan Manor plantation after Charles Carroll (1801-1862) inherited the property from his grandfather. Other Carroll family properties, such as Homewood and Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay, are also mentioned. The correspondence refers to the enslaved people who worked on Carroll family estates, including unidentified individuals sold to other plantations in New Orleans and Tallahassee during the 1830s. Other business matters, such as sales of lots in Georgetown, Washington, D.C., and various financial transactions between Carroll family members are also described in this correspondence.

The collection additionally contains correspondence of Charles Carroll (1737-1832), known as Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Charles Carroll (1775-1825), referred to as Charles Carroll of Homewood. These letters document the Carroll family's business affairs, including the management of Doughoregan Manor and Homewood, as well as personal matters. Correspondence between Charles Carroll (1775-1825) and his wife, Harriet Chew Carroll, refer to their separation, beginning in 1814, due to his alcoholism. Throughout the collection, letters between individuals both named Charles Carroll are filed under the recipient. The collection additionally includes a small amount of correspondence received by Mary Digges Lee Carroll and other family members. Also of note are various indentures and other land documents related to property held by the Carroll family. Other than a petition submitted by Charles Carroll (1702-1782) to the Maryland House of Delegates regarding a legal tender law and a protest by Charles Carroll (1737-1832) against a Maryland Senate bill about qualifications for state attorneys, there is little material concerning the Carroll family's political activities.

Arrangement of the Collection

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

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

Bayard, Richard H. (Richard Henry), 1796-1868--Correspondence.
Carroll family--Correspondence.
Carroll family.
Carroll, Charles, 1737-1832--Correspondence.
Carroll, Charles, 1737-1832--Estate.
Carroll, Charles, 1737-1832.
Carroll, Charles, 1775-1825--Correspondence.
Carroll, Charles, 1775-1825.
Carroll, Charles, 1801-1862--Correspondence.
Carroll, Charles, 1801-1862.
Carroll, Harriet Chew, 1775-1861--Correspondence.
Carroll, Mary Digges Lee, 1799-1859--Correspondence.

Subjects

African Americans--Maryland.
Agriculture--Maryland.
Deeds--Maryland.
Enslaved persons--Maryland.
Land tenure--Maryland.

Land tenure--Washington (D.C.)
Plantations--Maryland.
Slavery--Maryland.
Women--Maryland--History--19th century.

Places

Baltimore (Md.)--History.
Chesapeake Bay (Md. and Va.)--History.
Doughoregan Manor (Md.)
Ellicott City (Md.)--History.
Georgetown (Washington, D.C.)--History.
Homewood (Md. : Estate)
Maryland--Commerce.
Maryland--History--1775-1865.
Maryland--History--19th century.
Maryland--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.
Maryland--Social life and customs--18th century.
Maryland--Social life and customs--19th century.
Maryland--Social life and customs--To 1775.
Poplar Island (Talbot County, Md.)--History.

Occupations

Landowners.
Plantation owners.
Politicians.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1702-1782), petition to Maryland House of Delegates, 1779
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1737-1832), protest against Maryland Senate bill, 1783
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1775-1825), will draft, 1804
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1737-1832)
BOX 1	Incoming letters, 1782, 1813-1818, 1825
BOX 1	Outgoing letters, 1773, 1784-1801, 1814-1833
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1775-1825)
BOX 1	Incoming letters, 1798-1800, 1807-1823, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Outgoing letters, 1800-1816
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1801-1862)
BOX 1	Incoming letters
BOX 1	"A-B" miscellaneous, 1825-1838
BOX 1	Bayard, Mary Sophia Carroll (sister), 1817-1828, 1837, undated
BOX 1	Bayard, Richard H. (brother-in-law), 1821-1838 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Brice, James F., 1833-1834
BOX 1	Campbell, Bernard U., 1835-1838
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1737-1832) (grandfather), 1829-1830
BOX 1	Carroll, Charles (1775-1825) (father), 1817-1824
BOX 2	Carroll, Harriet Chew (mother), 1815-1837, undated (7 folders)
BOX 2	Carroll, Mary Digges Lee (wife), 1832-1837, undated
BOX 2	Chew, William White (cousin), 1823-1825, 1835
BOX 2	Childe, E. V., 1831-1834, undated
BOX 2	"C" miscellaneous, 1817, 1825, 1831-1838, 1870
BOX 3	Dorsey, Andrew, 1831-1837
BOX 3	"D-F" miscellaneous, 1823-1837
BOX 3	Ellicott, Nathaniel Harvey, 1834-1837
BOX 3	Gibbons, William, 1824-1825, 1831-1837
BOX 3	Gobrecht, Christian F., 1828-1830
BOX 3	"G" miscellaneous, 1823-1837
BOX 3	Harper, Charles C. (cousin), 1823-1836, undated
BOX 3	Hollingsworth, Jacob, 1833-1838
BOX 3	Horse, Outerbridge, 1830-1836
BOX 3	Howard, Charles (cousin), 1822-1825, undated
BOX 3	Howard, George (cousin), 1834-1838
BOX 3	"H-I" miscellaneous, 1824-1838
BOX 3	Jackson, Isaac R. (brother-in-law), 1832-1838, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Jackson, Louisa Carroll (sister), 1817-1819, 1838

Container List

Container	Contents
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BOX 4	Latrobe, John H. B., 1835-1837
BOX 4	Lee, Harriet Carroll (sister), 1818-1838
BOX 4	Lee, John (brother-in-law), 1828-1838, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	MacTavish, John, 1831-1836
BOX 4	"M-N" miscellaneous, 1824-1837
BOX 4	O'Maley, Michael, 1820-1835
BOX 4	Orndorff, John, 1835-1836
BOX 4	"O-R" miscellaneous, 1828-1837
BOX 4	Ridgaway, William P., 1832-1837
BOX 4	Speed, Joseph J., 1832-1838
BOX 4	"S" miscellaneous, 1823-1838
BOX 4	Tiffany, William, 1835-1838
BOX 4	Tucker, Aaron Buck (brother-in-law), 1824-1833
BOX 4	Tucker, Elizabeth Carroll (sister), 1817-1824
BOX 5	Tucker, Elizabeth Carroll (sister), 1825-1831
BOX 5	"T-V" miscellaneous, 1823, 1833-1838
BOX 5	Welch, Robert, 1834-1836
BOX 5	Williams, Robert, 1835
BOX 5	"W-Y" miscellaneous, 1824-1837
BOX 5	Unidentified, 1822, 1829-1833, undated
BOX 5	Outgoing letters, 1825, 1831-1837
BOX 5	Carroll, Mary Digges Lee, 1825-1837
BOX 5	Other family members, 1825-1838, 1870, 1897
BOX 5	Financial records, 1794-1797, 1804-1805, 1826-1838
BOX 5	Harvard University, list of students, circa 1823
BOX 5	Indentures, 1700, 1797, 1809-1829
BOX OV 1	Land documents and appointments, 1686, 1707, 1743, 1755, 1786, 1822-1825
BOX 5	Morgan Volunteers muster return, 1824
BOX 5	Tenant lists, 1816
BOX 5	Testimonials for winemakers Jacques George and Jean George, 1772-1773