Read Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2002

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82037374

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009240

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009

Collection Summary

Title: Read Family Papers
Span Dates: 1568-1906
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1775-1906)
ID No.: MSS37374
Creator: Read Family
Extent: 35 items
Extent: 8 containers
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/mm82037374
Summary: Read (Reed) family of New Castle, Delaware, later of Pennsylvania. Correspondence, deeds and indentures, genealogical records, commissions, printed matter, and other material. Papers of George Read relate chiefly to his activities during the American Revolution and his law practice in New Castle. Papers of John Read include a notebook of correspondence and memoranda which he kept as secretary of the Asylum Company, a land company of Philadelphia. Those of John Meredith Read pertain primarily to his involvement in Pennsylvania state politics, and papers of John Meredith Read, Jr., include correspondence and genealogical material pertaining to his book about Henry Hudson, correspondence regarding the sale of Read's collection of Robert Morris papers, and English legal documents.

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, John Bubenheim, 1738-1807--Correspondence.
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.
Cadwalader, Thomas, 1707 or 1708-1779--Correspondence.
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.
Clymer, George, 1739-1813--Correspondence.
Dickinson, John, 1732-1808--Correspondence.
Dickinson, Philemon, 1739-1809--Correspondence.
Galloway, Joseph, 1731-1803--Correspondence.
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.
Hudson family.
Hudson, Henry, -1611--Correspondence.
Hudson, Henry, -1611.
Kemble, Gouverneur, 1786-1875--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Mary Todd, 1818-1882--Correspondence.
Meredith, Samuel, 1741-1817--Correspondence.
Morris, Robert, 1734-1806--Correspondence.
Morris, Robert, 1734-1806.
Nicolay, John G. (John George), 1832-1901--Correspondence.
Read, George, 1733-1798. George Read papers.
Read, George, 1765-1836. George Read papers.
Read, James, 1743-1822. James Read papers.
Read, John M. (John Meredith), 1797-1874. John M. Read papers.
Read, John Meredith, 1837-1896. John Meredith Read papers.
Read, John, 1769-1854. John Read papers.
Reed family.
Rodney, Caesar, 1728-1784--Correspondence.

Tilghman, Tench, 1744-1786--Correspondence.
Wharton, Samuel, 1732-1800--Correspondence.
Wilson, James, 1742-1798--Correspondence.
Witherspoon, John, 1723-1794--Correspondence.

Organizations
Asylum Company.
United States. Continental Congress.
United States. Continental Congress. Marine Committee.

Subjects
Land companies--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.
Legal instruments--England.
Practice of law--Delaware.

Places
Delaware--Social life and customs.
New Castle (Del.)--Social life and customs.
Pennsylvania--Politics and government.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

Occupations
Army officers.
Bankers.
Delegates, U.S. Continental Congress--Delaware.
Diplomats.
Judges.
Justices, State--Pennsylvania.
Lawyers.
Public officials.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Delaware.

Provenance

The papers of the Read Family of New Castle, Delaware, later of Pennsylvania, were given to the Library of Congress by the estate of Mrs. Harmon Pumpelly Read via Charles Motisher, 1940. Additional material was acquired through gift and purchase, 1904-1990.

Transfers

Broadsides have been transferred to the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Read Family Papers 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, Read Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Read family span the years 1568-1906, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1775-1906. The papers consist of correspondence, deeds and indentures, a journal, notebooks, legal documents, genealogical records, commissions, printed matter, and other papers. Family members represented include George Read (1733-1798), lawyer, delegate to the United States Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and United States senator from Delaware; his brother, James Read (1743-1822), army officer, banker, and merchant of Philadelphia; George Read's sons, John Read (1769-1854), banker, lawyer, and Pennsylvania public official, and George Read (1765-1836), lawyer and Delaware public official; John Read's son, John Meredith Read (1797-1874), jurist and Pennsylvania public official; and John Meredith Read, Jr. (1837-1896), army officer, diplomat, and lawyer.

Papers of George Read relate primarily to his activities during the American Revolution and his law practice in New Castle, Delaware. James Read's papers include a journal of memoranda, 1782-1784, kept by James Read as secretary of the Continental Congress Marine Committee and a record of his personal accounts, 1794-1812. Papers of John Read include a notebook, 1809-1818, of correspondence and memoranda which he kept while secretary of the Asylum Company, a land company in Philadelphia. Those of John Meredith Read pertain primarily to his involvement in Pennsylvania state politics. Papers of John Meredith Read, Jr., include correspondence and genealogical material pertaining to his book about Henry Hudson, correspondence regarding the sale of Read's collection of Robert Morris papers, and English legal documents, 1568-1696, from his own manuscript collection.

Correspondents include John Bubenheim Bayard, James Buchanan, Thomas Cadwalader, Simon Cameron, George Clymer, John Dickinson, Philemon Dickinson, Joseph Galloway, Ulysses S. Grant, Henry Hudson, Gouverneur Kemble, Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, Samuel Meredith, Robert Morris, John G. Nicolay, Caesar Rodney, Tench Tilghman, Samuel Wharton, James Wilson, and John Witherspoon.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Bound vols.
BOX 1	1735, Sept. 18-1804, Mar. 20
BOX 2	1804, Mar. 28-1828, June 13
BOX 3	1828, June 14-1846, June 30
BOX 4	1846, July 1-22
BOX 5	1846, July 23-1867, Nov. 16
BOX 6	1867, Nov. 25-1904, Nov. 14
BOX 7	Correspondence, 1789, 1875-1879, 1886, 1897-1901, undated
BOX 7	Hudson, Henry, undated
BOX 7	Legal documents, 1568-1696, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Memoranda and account book, 1782-1786, 1794-1812
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 8	Notebook, Asylum Co., Philadelphia, Pa., 1809-1818
BOX 8	Notes on the collection, undated
BOX 8	"Report on the Read Family Papers in the Library Company of Philadelphia," by J. H. Powell, undated