

Princeton University Library

DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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Shippen Family Collection, 1750-1810 (bulk 1750-1783): Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number:	C1200
Location:	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Manuscripts Division. One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size:	0.40 linear feet (1 archival box)
Language(s) of material:	English, Latin, and French.
Abstract:	Consists of correspondence, manuscripts, and documents of several members of the prominent Shippen family of Philadelphia during the colonial, revolutionary, and early federal periods. Portions of the material are related to the College of New Jersey and its move from Newark, N.J. to Princeton, N.J.

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Biographies of Shippen Family Members

Edward Shippen, 1703-1785, was chief justice of Pennsylvania (1745-?), prothonotary (1752-1781) at Lancaster, Pa., paymaster of supplies in the Pennsylvania army, one of the founders of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and a trustee there from 1748 till his resignation in 1767.

Edward Shippen, 1729-1806, son of Edward Shippen, Sr., was chief justice of Pennsylvania, a prothonotary of the Supreme Court from about 1762 to 1776, and a member of the Provincial Council from 1770 to 1775. He provided the earliest published law reports of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Shippen, Jr., graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1753. He was a captain in Colonel Clapham's regiment in Pennsylvania, secretary (1762-1776) for the Province of Pennsylvania, and a judge (1789-1810) in the County Court of Lancaster, Pa.

Thomas Lee Shippen received an honorary degree from the College of New Jersey in 1788.

William Shippen, 1712-1801, was one of the prominent medical men of his day and a member of the Continental Congress. He was the father of William Shippen, 1736?-1808.

William Shippen, 1736?-1808, son of William Shippen, was a physician and pioneer teacher of anatomy and midwifery. He received his A.B. from the College of New Jersey in 1754 and served as a trustee there in 1797. He was appointed chief physician and director-general of the Continental Army Hospital in 1777.

Description

The collection consists of selected correspondence, manuscripts, and documents of members of the Shippen family of Philadelphia, some of which relates to the history of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and its move from Newark to Princeton, N.J. Members of the Shippen family represented are Edward Shippen; his sons, Edward and Joseph Shippen; his father, William Shippen; his brother, William Shippen, Jr.; and Thomas Lee Shippen. Correspondents include Aaron Burr, John Lawrence, Gov. John Penn, and Jonathan Sergeant. Included are copies ("Coll[ege] of New Jersey, Edward Shippen letters, extracts: 1750-1761, furnished by Edward Armstrong, Esq., Ap[ril] 27, 1850") of correspondence between Edward Shippen, Sr., his sons, and others regarding the move of the College. Additional Princeton-related letters include a letter from William Shippen to Jonathan Sergeant, dated 2 April 1759, about the purchase of "leather buckets" for the College; a letter from Joseph Shippen to his father, dated 20 April 1751, about the meeting of the Trustees of the College to decide on a new location; a letter from Joseph Shippen to his father regarding the "College Lottery" account, dated Newark, 20 May 1751; and a letter from Edward Shippen, Sr., to the Rev. Aaron Burr, dated 26 February 1757, about the evils of smoking and alcohol on the education of young people.

Additional material includes a letterbook, titled "Compendium Romana Historia" ((1749-1751, 44 leaves), that contains copies of letters of Joseph Shippen to his father, brother, and others, and a manuscript of an oration, titled "Oratio salutatoria habita in comitis Academicis novarcae in Nova-Caesaria, sexto calendas octobris, 1753" (24 pp., bound in floral wallpaper-covered wrappers), which was delivered by Joseph Shippen to the governing body of the College of New Jersey and its president, the Rev. Aaron Burr.

Also included are the Last Will and Testament of William Shippen, dated 1 September 1783; a biographical sketch of William Shippen written by his daughter; a deed for land in Western New Jersey owned by William Shippen, signed by Samuel Shoemaker and dated 20 May 1767; and a portrait of William Shippen, Jr., drawn by a daughter of Samuel Blair.

Arrangement

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Custodial History

The collection was formed as a result of a Departmental practice of combining into one collection material of various accessions relating to a particular person, family, or subject.

Provenance and Acquisition

Letters of Edward Shippen to Jonathan Sergeant were a gift, as part of the Pyne Henry Collection.

Letter of Edward Shippen to Aaron Burr was a gift of Edward Shippen Morris on November 3, 1950.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Shippen Family Collection, Box and Folder Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Dina Britain on August 17, 2007. Finding aid written by Traci Ballou-Broadnax on August 20, 2007.

Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Traci Ballou-Broadnax on August 20, 2007.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Burr, Aaron, 1716-1757 -- Correspondence.
- Shippen family.
- College of New Jersey (Princeton, N.J.) -- History -- 18th century -- Sources.
- College of New Jersey (Princeton, N.J.) -- Students -- 18th century -- Manuscripts.
- Correspondence -- 18th century.
- Deeds -- New Jersey -- 18th century.
- Documents -- 18th century.
- Family papers -- 18th century.
- Manuscripts -- 18th century.
- Orations -- 18th century.
- Wills -- 18th century.
- Princeton University
- American history/Colonial
- American history/Early national
- American history/Revolution
- Shippen, Edward, ca. 1703-1781.
- Shippen, Edward, 1729-1806.
- Shippen, Joseph, 1732-1810.
- Shippen, Thomas Lee, 1765-1798.
- Shippen, William, 1712-1801.
- Shippen, William, 1736?-1808.