



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Ramsay Family Papers

NMAH.AC.0088

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Ramsay Family Papers
Date:	1749-1924; 1957
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0088
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Domestic Life (Collector)
Creator:	Ramsay, William, 1716-1785 (minister) (Author)
Extent:	3.5 Cubic feet (9 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	An extensive range of papers relating to the Ramsay family of Alexandria, Virginia.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Ramsay Family Papers

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Heirs of William and Dennis Ramsay, 1962, April 30.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Domestic Life (now the Division of Home and Community Life) on February 3, 1984.

Alternate Form Available

Microfilm copy of the account book available on microfilm in National Museum of American History Library. See #935n (2 reels).

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated

Preferred Citation

Ramsay Family Papers, 1749-1924, 1957, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

William Ramsay (1716-1785), a Scottish Presbyterian minister, played a major role in the establishment of Alexandria, Virginia and later served as its mayor. His son, Dennis, also served as mayor and as a colonel in the Continental Army. Other descendants remained active in local affairs.

Scope and Contents

Original and photocopied correspondence, financial papers, newspaper clippings, legal documents, insurance policies, account book, genealogical notes, wills, lottery tickets, and currency, documenting the activities of the Ramsay family of Alexandria, Virginia and related families.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged topically.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- City and town life -- 18th century -- Virginia
- Clergy -- 18th century -- Virginia
- Community life -- 18th century -- Virginia
- Domestic relations -- 18th century -- Virginia

Types of Materials:

- Account books -- 18th century
- Clippings -- newspaper -- Virginia
- Correspondence -- 18th century
- Family papers -- 18th century
- Financial records -- 18th century
- Genealogical tables -- Virginia
- Insurance policies -- Virginia
- Legal documents -- Virginia
- Manuscripts -- 18th century
- Obituaries
- Tickets -- Lottery
- Wills -- Virginia

Names:

Alexandria Dyeing and Cloth Dressing Establishment
Alexandria Turnpike Co.
Bartleman, William
Carlyle, John
Dalton, John
Dinwiddie, Robert
Dixon, John
Fairfax, George William
Fauquier, F.
Frazier, Joseph
Gilpin, G.
Gilpin, Thomas
Gilpin, William
Henry, Patrick, Jr
Irving, Washington, 1783-1859
Johnston, George
Lee, Richard
Madison, James
McCarthy, Daniel
McCarty, Dennis
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Domestic Life
Ramsay family -- 18th century -- Virginia
Ramsay, Anthony
Ramsay, Betty ("Betsy")
Ramsay, Dennis
Ramsay, Edward
Roberts, M.
Rumsey, James
Sanford, Capt. Edward
Snicker's Gap Turnpike Co.
Stewart, James
Stoddert, Benjamin
Washington National Monument Society
Washington, George, 1732-1799
Wythe, George

Places:

Alexandria (Va.) -- 18th century
Virginia -- 18th century

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1749 - 1879

Subseries 1.1: Incoming to William Ramsay, 1749 - 1781

Box 3, Item 624.12	Merchant at Great (?), Virginia, from Wm & Thos Gilpin, concerning the shipping of goods, presumably from England., 1749-05-08 - 1749-05-08
Box 3, Item 425	Merchant in Belhaven, from Thomas & Thornton in Barbados stating that Mr. Stuart should have arranged passage of the slaves and sugar with the Captain, not Thomas & Thornton., 1753-07-06 - 1753-07-06
Box 1, Item 441	From G. Wythe concerning a libel case and hearing involving Mr. Hunter., 1769-04-01 - 1769-04-01
Box 3, Item 454	In Alexandria from George Washington at Cambridge regarding the revolution., 1775-11 - 1775-11
Box 3, Item 448	From Patrick Henry, Jr., in Hanover regarding the abolition of slavery., 1773-01-18 - 1773-01-18
Box 3, Item 455	In Alexandria from George Washington at Cambridge regarding navigation of the Potomac., 1775-12 - 1775-12
Box 3, Item 457	n Alexandria from James Hendricks in Williamsburg about the war and raising troops in Virginia., 1776-01-03 - 1776-01-03
Box 3, Item 456	(To a member of the Ramsay family) from James Hendricks at Hampton regarding the war and provisions., 1776-01-19 - 1776-01-19
Box 3, Item 460	In Alexandria from James Hendricks at Perth Amboy regarding the war in New Jersey and Canada., 1776-11-21 - 1776-11-21
Box 1, Item 461	From Benjamin Rush in Philadelphia concerning his son's education in medicine and comments about allies., 1777-03-31 - 1777-03-31
Box 1, Item 462	In Alexandria from G. Johnston at Morristown regarding news of the war., 1777-05-10 - 1777-05-10
Box 3, Item 470	And also William Rumney, John Fitzgerald, Robert Hov(?)e and others from George Washington thanking the citizens for their address of kindness and affection., 1781-11-19 - 1781-11-19

Subseries 1.2: From William Ramsay, 1751 - 1784

Box 1, Item 62.417	Photostat letter from Belhaven, Virginia to Lyonel Lyde concerning two hogsheads of tobacco and Striped Duffell, "often called Indian Blanketing". [Missing], 1751-10-19 - 1751-10-19
Box 1, Item 420	To Mr. Saml. Touchet, Mercht., in London. Subject: Tobacco., 1752-09-26 - 1752-09-26
Box 1, Item 421	Letter to Messrs. Yale & Bell, Merchants in London, concerning 20 hogsheads tobacco., 1762-09-26 - 1762-09-26
Box 3, Item 437	Letter at Whitehaven to Mr. Harry Piper, Merchant, Alexandria discussing the repeal of the Stamp Act and its effect on the colonies., 1766-04-22 - 1766-04-22
Box 3, Item 446	To sister Betty Ramsay at Nassau Hall giving his opinion of the ladies in Philadelphia., 1722-07-08 - 1722-07-08
Box 3, Item 450	Letter has no salutation and no signature. Probably from William Ramsay in Alexandria to someone in England., 1774-08-23 - 1774-08-23
Box 3, Item 451	To Dennis Ramsay in Dumfries from his father in Alexandria. Subject: parental advice., 1774-12-05 - 1774-12-05
Box 3, Item 469	To J. Dixon from William Ramsay in Alexandria. Subject: Money regarding debt., 1781-07-16 - 1781-07-16
Box 3, Item 479	To Michael Madden, Merchant, Alexandria, from William Ramsay in Winchester. Subject: Marriage of Michael Madden to Ramsay's sister and recovery from an illness., 1784-09-12 - 1784-09-12

Subseries 1.3: Letters to and from Dennis Ramsey, 1773 - 1810

Box 1, Item 449	To "Betsy" (Betsy Ramsay) in Alexandria from George Johnston at "Leesburgh" concerning a love in his life., 1773-12-24 - 1773-12-24
Box 1, Item 453	To "Betsy" (Betty Ramsay) in Alexandria from George Johnston at Williamsburg in a Virginia Regiment describing his activities., 1775-10-25 - 1775-10-25
Box 1, Item 458	Part of letter to "Bess" (Betty Ramsay) from Kempe's landing. Subject: Love letter; news of war and social activities of the author with the ladies., 1776-05-09 - 1776-05-09
Box 1, Item 474	To "Colonel Ramsay" from Mr. Barrell. Subject: Request for duplicate of the inventory of his property., 1782-07-06 - 1782-07-06

Box 1, Item 62.475 Note to "Colonel Ramsay" from Mr. Barrell. Subject: Libel against the sloop Good Intent and against the property found in owner's and passengers private luggage. Mr. Barrell needs the information for his defense., 1782-07-08 - 1782-07-08

Box 1, Item 485 To sister Betty Ramsay from Dennis Ramsay. Subject: family health.

Box 3, Item 477 Letter to Col. Dennis Ramsay from John Washington. Subject: Items Washington wished to purchase, including silk, nails, Liverpool salt, and writing paper. Also ordered silk for his daughter., 1783-09-14 - 1783-09-14

Box 3, Item 482 Copy of letter from Dennis Ramsay to Dr. William Ramsay (brother). Subject: death of their mother., 1785-04-07 - 1785-04-07

Box 3, Item 489 Copy of letter to Messrs. Dixon & Littledale, Whitehouses, from Dennis Ramsay. Subject: sale of land belonging to Dixon & Littledale., 1786-02-13 - 1786-02-13

Box 1, Item 493 Bottom part of letter signed by William Johnston and witnessed by Jesse Taylor, Dennis Ramsay and William Wilson. Subject: grog., 1792-04-16 - 1792-04-16

Box 1, Item 505 To Messrs. Robert Young and William Yeaton from Dennis Ramsay. Subject: request settlement of accounts., 1810-08-28 - 1810-08-28

Subseries 1.4: Letters to and from Bartleman, 1809 - 1843

Box 1 To Wm. Bartleman, merchant in Alexandria, Virginia from William King in Petersburg, Virginia requesting merchandise., 1809-05-06 - 1809-05-06
Notes: Accession 500

Box 1 To Miss Rebecca Bartleman from cousin J. S. Douglas at Rosebrook, Dungiven concerning a financial matter., October 28
Notes: Accession 501

Box 1 Note concerning damage to clover seed on the schooner Tom from a leak on passage from Baltimore to Alexandria., 1815-03-16 - 1815-03-16
Notes: Accession 509

Box 1 Note to William Bartleman from William P. Philips concerning a debt of \$35.59 owed and paid by George Sullivan to Bartleman., 1843-05-25 - 1843-05-25
Notes: Accession 522

Subseries 1.5: Letters to and from George Washington Dennis Ramsay, 1844 - 1879

Box 1 Note to Messrs. Ramsay from W.N. Pendleton at Harvard., 1844-04-24 - 1844-04-24
Notes: Accession #: 62.523
Subject: vinegar, sugar, bacon and ham.

Box 1 To G.W.D. Ramsay from James Buchanan (then Secretary of State) appointing him as one of 5 Commissioners under an act of Congress of 07/09/1846 ceding the county of Alexandria in D.C. to the State of Virginia., 1846-08-18 - 1846-08-18
Notes: Accession #: 524

Box 1 Letters, 1853-08 - 1860
Notes: Accession #: 531

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Box 2 Documents and copies, undated

Box 4 William Ramsay Account Ledger, 1753-1755
1 Volume

Box 5 [Ramsay Family Ledger, Part III](#)

[The Association of the Army of Northern Virginia \[certificate\], January 5, 1894](#)

1 Item (Ink on paper.; 19.0" x 14.5".)

Collector: Ramsay, G. William

Language: English.

Notes: AC0088-0000001m (AC Scan)

In Box 4.

Framed certificate giving the details of William Ramsay's service in the Army of Northern Virginia, Confederate States of America from July 1863 to 1865.

Topic: Civil War, 1861-1865

Genre/Form: Certificates

Place: United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Confederate States of America

Box 6 Framed document and copies of documents

Box 7 Card file index to Ramsay account ledger book

Box 8 Copies of documents

Box 9 Account ledger book (binding only)
1 Volume

Map-folder 1 [Deed, Margaret Bartleman and Robert Jamison, 1851-12-01](#)

[The Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette \[newspaper\], March 6, 1793](#)

1 Item (17.0" x 11.0".)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Collector: Ramsay, Dennis

Language: English.

Notes: AC0088-0000002-1 (AC Scan)

AC0088-0000002-2 (AC Scan)

AC0088-0000002-3 (AC Scan)

AC0088-0000002-4 (AC Scan)

Ink on paper.

In Series 9, Box ?, Folder ?

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Very fragile, handle with care.

Four page newspaper from Alexandria, Virginia.

Topic: Journalism

Place: Alexandria (Va.)

Genre/Form: Newspapers