



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the James Rumsey Promissory Note

NMAH.AC.0216

David A. Stevens

1986

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	James Rumsey Promissory Note
<b>Date:</b>	1788 January 28
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0216
<b>Source:</b>	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation (Collector)
<b>Creator:</b>	Rumsey, James, 1743-1792 (machinist, inventor) (Author)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.15 Cubic feet (1 item)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

### Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Transportation (now Division of Work and Industry), 7/17/86.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by David Stevens, 1986.

### Preferred Citation

James Rumsey Promissory Note, 1788, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Object is fragile and cannot be removed from its preservation mat.

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## Biographical / Historical

American machinist and inventor who developed an early steamboat which he successfully demonstrated on the Potomac (1788) and on the Thames (1792) before his death in England on December 23, 1792.

## Scope and Contents

A promissory note of January 28, 1788 to Robert Stubbe for the sum of eighteen shillings and six pence, Pennsylvania currency.

See Rumsey's article, "A Short Treatise on the Application of Steam, whereby is clearly shewn, from actual experiments, that steam may be applied to propel boats or vessels of any burthen against rapid currents with great velocity. The same Principles are also introduced with Effect, by a Machine of a simple and cheap Construction, for the Purpose of rasing Water sufficient for the working of Grist-mills, Saw-mills, &c. and for watering meadows and other purposes of agriculture" (Philadelphia, 1888), 26 pp., in Dibner Library, NMAH (copies in Archives Center collection control file).

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Inventors -- 18th century
- Loans, Personal -- 18th century
- Machinists
- Steamboats
- Transportation
- Water transport -- 18th century

### Types of Materials:

- Promissory notes

### Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation
- Rumseyan Society
- Stubbe, Robert

### Places:

- Pennsylvania -- 18th century

## Container Listing

Box 1 (Shared box)	James Rumsey Promissory Note, 1788-01-28 - 1788-01-28
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