

Henry Woodhouse Collection Relating to George Washington

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Prepared by Wilhelmena B. Curry

Collection Summary

Title: Henry Woodhouse Collection Relating to George Washington

Span Dates: 1656-1930

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1825-1887)

ID No.: MSS57133

Collector: Woodhouse, Henry, 1884-

Extent: 4,500 items ; 7 containers plus 1 oversize ; 2.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Editor and author. Correspondence, deeds, wills, testaments, indentures, bonds, surveys, maps, plats, financial and legal records, clippings, and other papers relating principally to George Washington, the Washington family, and its descendants.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Lee, Francis Lightfoot, 1734-1797.

Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794.

Washington family.

Washington, Augustine, approximately 1694-1743.

Washington, George Corbin, 1789-1854.

Washington, George, 1732-1799--Family.

Washington, George, 1732-1799.

Washington, H. A. (Henry Augustine), 1820-1858.

Washington, Lawrence, 1718-1752.

Washington, Robert James, 1841-

Washington, William Augustine, 1757-1810.

Woodhouse, Henry, 1884-

Subjects

Land grants--Virginia--Westmoreland County.

Places

Wakefield (Westmoreland County, Va.)

Occupations

Authors.

Editors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection of Henry Woodhouse, editor and author, was deposited in the Library of Congress in 1932. Additional material was purchased in 1944.

Processing History

The Woodhouse Collection was arranged and described in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the Henry Woodhouse Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Henry Woodhouse Collection Relating to George Washington is 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, Henry Woodhouse Collection Relating to George Washington, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Henry Woodhouse (1884-), born in Turin, Italy, came to America in 1904. Woodhouse later became an author, a surveyor, a noted collector, and owner of a large collection of Washingtoniana. He also became president of the Aerial League of America, the Historic Celebrations Association, the International Science Forum, and a member of the New York Commission for the Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington.

For over a century, George Washington's birthplace has been ascribed to eight different locations. In an effort to clarify the matter, Charles Moore, the chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, in 1928 recommended that the George Washington Bicentennial Commission undertake "a preliminary investigation to determine the exact location of the two houses built by the Washingtons at Wakefield." While this investigation was being considered, Woodhouse made available several thousand Washington records, among them, the Wakefield papers, which helped throw light on the location of Washington's birthplace. Some of the records were examined by members of the U.S. Bicentennial Commission by scholars and by members of the Washington and related families, and the records indicate that Washington's birthplace was located elsewhere than the place where the government had built a monument.

Scope and Content Note

The Woodhouse Collection Relating to George Washington, including the Wakefield papers and papers relating to other Washington family members, spans the years 1656-1930, with the bulk from 1825 to 1887. Compiled by Henry Woodhouse, the collection consists of originals as well as typewritten transcripts and photocopies of deeds, wills, testaments, indentures, bonds, surveys, maps, plats, inventories, account statements, receipts, vouchers, bills of sale, descriptive statements, certificates, land grants, memoranda, clippings, legal papers, and some correspondence, primarily among family members. In addition to the matter of Washington's birthplace, the papers shed light on the acquisition, the partitioning, and the management of various lands by members of the Washington and related families. The papers also help clarify the genealogical relationship between the Washingtons and related families.

Included in the collection are two published works: *Wills of the American Ancestors of General George Washington* (Boston, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1891, 19 pp.), edited by Joseph M. Toner, and *Wills of Westmoreland Co., Va., 1654-1800* (Appeals Press, 1925, 229 pp.), by Augusta B. Fothergill. Also in the collection are manuscript notes by Henry Woodhouse entitled "Where Was George Washington Born?"

Prominent family members mentioned in the collection are Francis Lightfoot Lee, Richard Henry Lee, Augustine Washington, father of George Washington (1732-1799), George Washington (son of Lawrence Washington), George Corbin Washington, Henry Washington (of Alexandria, Virginia), Henry Augustine Washington, Lawrence Washington (1791-1785), Richard Washington, Robert James Washington, and William Augustine Washington.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized chronologically and described according to name of person, family, locality, topic, or type of material, with oversize items at the end.

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BOX 1	Charles II of England, William Berkeley, land grant, 1662 <i>See Oversize</i>
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BOX 1	Lisson tract papers, Lawrence Washington, 1679-1695
BOX 1	Foxhall Estate and the barren land, 1697-1907, undated
BOX 1	Pope's Creek Estate papers, 1700-1931, undated
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Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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