

James Dudley Morgan
Collection of Digges-L'Enfant-
Morgan Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Revised and expanded by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

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

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Collection Summary

Title: James Dudley Morgan Collection of Digges-L'Enfant-Morgan Papers

Span Dates: 1674-1923

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1778-1828)

ID No.: MSS18481

Creator: Morgan, James Dudley, 1862-1919

Extent: 400 items; 2 containers plus 1 oversize; 0.8 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Chiefly correspondence, accounts, commissions, notes, and other papers (1778-1828) relating to soldier and engineer Pierre C. L'Enfant, including material concerning the Society of the Cincinnati, the design of the city of Washington, D.C., Robert Morris's home in Philadelphia, and Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania, and Fort Washington, Maryland. Also includes papers relating to the Digges family of Prince Georges County, Maryland, especially Thomas Atwood Digges and William Dudley Digges, and to James Dudley Morgan's research interest in L'Enfant and the Digges family.

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

Carroll, Daniel, 1764-1849--Correspondence.

Carroll, Daniel, 1764-1849.

Digges family.

Digges, Thomas Attwood, 1742-1821. Thomas Attwood Digges papers.

Digges, William Dudley, 1790-1830. William Dudley Digges papers.

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804--Correspondence.

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Correspondence.

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826.

Johnson, Thomas, 1732-1819--Correspondence.

Johnson, Thomas, 1732-1819.

L'Enfant family.

L'Enfant, Pierre Charles, 1754-1825. Pierre Charles L'Enfant papers. 1778-1864.

Lafayette, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier, marquis de, 1757-1834--Correspondence.

Lear, Tobias, 1762-1816--Correspondence.

Monroe, James, 1758-1831--Correspondence.

Morgan, James Dudley, 1862-1919.

Morris, Robert, 1734-1806--Correspondence.

Roberdeau, Isaac, 1763-1829--Correspondence.

Steuben, Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin, Baron von, 1730-1794--Correspondence.

Stuart, David--Correspondence.

Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.

Organizations

Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures.

Society of the Cincinnati.

Subjects

Architecture, Domestic--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

City planning--Washington (D.C.)

Fortification--Maryland.
Fortification--Pennsylvania.
Manufacturing industries--United States.
Military bases--Maryland.
Military bases--Pennsylvania.

Places

Fort Mifflin (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Fort Washington (Md. : Fort)
Prince Georges County (Md.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Physicians

Administrative Information

Provenance

The James Dudley Morgan Collection of Digges-L'Enfant-Morgan Papers, which relate mainly to the life of Pierre C. L'Enfant, architect and engineer, were bequeathed to the Library of Congress by James Dudley Morgan in 1920.

Processing History

The James Dudley Morgan Collection of Digges-L'Enfant-Morgan Papers were arranged and described in 1983. The finding aid was revised and expanded in 2005.

Additional Guides

An index to the collection is available in the Manuscript Reading Room.

Transfers

A watercolor drawing by Pierre Charles L'Enfant entitled "A View of West Point on the Hudson River" was transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of these papers. A lithograph copy of the drawing has been included in the microfilm edition of the papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Pierre Charles L'Enfant and others in this collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The James Dudley Morgan Collection of Digges-L'Enfant-Morgan Papers 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on two reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, James Dudley Morgan Collection of Digges-L'Enfant-Morgan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The James Dudley Morgan Collection of Digges-L'Enfant-Morgan Papers consist primarily of the correspondence, accounts, commissions, maps, and estate papers of architect-engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant (1754-1825). The title of the collection was stipulated in James Dudley Morgan's bequest of the papers to the Library of Congress in 1920. Morgan (1862-1919) inherited the majority of the L'Enfant papers represented in this collection through his grandfather, William Dudley Digges (1790-1830), with whom L'Enfant was residing until his death in 1825 and added other documents pertaining to L'Enfant's life. The collection is divided into three sections; the [Pierre Charles L'Enfant Papers](#), 1778-1864, the [Digges Family Papers](#), 1674-1852, and the [James Dudley Morgan Papers](#), 1859-1923.

The papers of Pierre Charles L'Enfant are concentrated in the period 1778-1828 and consist primarily of correspondence, with a small number of accounts, commissions, notes, certificates, petitions, and printed matter. The papers reflect the professional activities of L'Enfant and shed light on his personal and family life. L'Enfant's papers document the artistic and political forces at work in the establishment of the nation's capital. The correspondence reveals the conflict between L'Enfant and the three commissioners, Thomas Johnson, Daniel Carroll, and David Stuart, appointed by President George Washington to oversee the planning of the city. L'Enfant lamented what he saw as the commissioners' greed for profit thwarting his own goals of establishing a capital city worthy of the new nation. Difficulties arose when L'Enfant failed to produce a map as quickly as the commissioners desired, with the result that the commissioners published a map drawn by Andrew Ellicott based on altered L'Enfant plans. At one point, L'Enfant halted construction and ultimately demolish a house owned by Daniel Carroll of Duddington, which L'Enfant found to lie in a proposed street. Washington and Jefferson were required to intervene in this and other matters on which L'Enfant and the Commissioners disagreed. Eventually L'Enfant was dismissed by Washington in February 1792 for failure to submit to the authority of the commissioners. Many of the letters and petitions dating from 1792 to 1825 reflect L'Enfant's attempts to secure what he considered a just compensation for his services.

[L'Enfant's papers](#) also indicate his activities after his dismissal. In 1792, he accepted Alexander Hamilton's offer to assist the Society of Useful Manufactures in their efforts at Paterson, New Jersey. From 1793 to 1797, L'Enfant designed a house for Robert Morris in Philadelphia, the construction of which was hampered by Morris's unstable financial position. The papers reflect L'Enfant's work on Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania, and Fort Washington, Maryland.

L'Enfant's correspondents include Daniel Carroll; Alexander Hamilton; Thomas Jefferson; Thomas Johnson; Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier, marquis de Lafayette; Tobias Lear; James Monroe; Robert Morris; Isaac Roberdeau; the Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben; David Stuart; and George Washington.

The papers of the [Digges Family](#) consist primarily of land patents, newspapers, and genealogical notes of the Maryland family who befriended L'Enfant in his later years. While working on the reinforcement of Fort Washington, L'Enfant resided in the home of Thomas Attwood Digges. Upon the latter's death in 1821, L'Enfant moved to the home of Thomas's nephew, William Dudley Digges (1790-1830) of Green Hill in Prince Georges County, Maryland. When L'Enfant died in 1825, he was buried on the Digges estate at Green Hill. The patents and newspapers belonging to the Digges family, together with the L'Enfant documents that had come into the Digges' possession, were given to James Dudley Morgan.

The third group of material represents Morgan's interest in L'Enfant, as well as in his own ancestors, Thomas and William Dudley. Correspondence, newsclippings, and printed matter note Morgan's efforts to have L'Enfant body moved from Green Hill to Arlington National Cemetery.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Pierre Charles L'Enfant Papers, 1778-1864.](#)
- [Digges Family Papers, 1674-1857](#)
- [James Dudley Morgan Papers, 1859-1923](#)
- [Oversize, 1783-1857](#)

Description of Series

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Series</i> |
|---------------------|--|
| BOX 1-2 REEL 1-2 | <u>Pierre Charles L'Enfant Papers, 1778-1864</u> Correspondence, with a small number of accounts, commissions, notes, certificates, petitions, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | <u>Digges Family Papers, 1674-1857</u> Land patents, newspapers, and genealogical notes of the Maryland family who befriended L'Enfant. Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | <u>James Dudley Morgan Papers, 1859-1923</u> Correspondence, accounts, commissions, maps, printed matter and estate papers of architect-engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant (1754-1825). Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX OV 1 REEL 2 | <u>Oversize, 1783-1857</u> Maps and newsclippings. Described according to the series, folder, and container from which the item was removed. |

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,780

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|---------------------|--|
| BOX 1-2 REEL 1-2 | Pierre Charles L'Enfant Papers, 1778-1864 Correspondence, with a small number of accounts, commissions, notes, certificates, petitions, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Accounts, 1804, 1815 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Appointments, 1779-1812 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Certificates and testimonials, 1780-1795 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Congressional petitions, memorials, and reports, 1800-1810 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Correspondence |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | 1778-1814 (27 folders) |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | 1815-1825, undated (8 folders) |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Estate papers, 825-1828 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Maps, 1783-1809, undated <i>See Oversize</i> |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Notes, undated |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Printed matter, 1798, 1816 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Receipts, 1791, 1802, 1808 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Sketch, lithograph copy, [circa 1864] |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Society of the Cincinnati, records, 1783-1788 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Miscellany, 1791, 1814, undated |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Digges Family Papers, 1674-1857 Land patents, newspapers, and genealogical notes of the Maryland family who befriended L'Enfant. Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |

Digges Family Papers, 1674-1857

Container

Contents

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Index, Pierre C. L'Enfant papers, 1849-1852, undated |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Land patents, 1674-1786 (5 folders) |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Newsclippings, 1829-1857 <u><i>See Oversize</i></u> |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Receipt, 1816 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | James Dudley Morgan Papers, 1859-1923 Correspondence, accounts, commissions, maps, printed matter and estate papers of architect-engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant (1754-1825). Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Correspondence, 1897, 1911 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Index, Pierre C. L'Enfant papers, 1911 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | L'Enfant memorial monument unveiling ceremonies, Arlington National Cemetery, 1911 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Map, "Potomac River from Washington to Chesapeake Bay," 1887 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Newsclippings, 1895-1918 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Printed matter Articles, 1859-1923, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | Congressional action, 1897-1908 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | General, 1908-1918, undated |
| BOX OV 1 REEL 2 | Oversize, 1783-1857 Maps and newsclippings. Described according to the series, folder, and container from which the item was removed. |
| BOX OV 1 REEL 2 | Pierre C. L'Enfant Papers Maps, 1783-1809, undated (Container 2) |
| BOX OV 1 REEL 2 | Digges Family Papers |

Oversize, 1783-1857

Container

Contents

BOX OV 1
REEL 2

Newsclippings, 1829-1857 (Container 2)