These three letters of Jane Mecom to her brother, Benjamin Franklin, not previously published and known only to a few prospective buyers, are a part of the Franklin collection purchased by The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1946. Most of the Mecom correspondence is owned by the American Philosophical Society, which several years ago bought the bulk of Franklin’s letters to Jane Mecom; letters not found in these collections are now exceedingly scarce. The intrinsic worth of one letter from this sister of Franklin is difficult to determine, but the association alone would place it at a very high figure. What would Jane, who always needed money so badly, have thought if she had known that one of her poor letters would bring even ten dollars at auction! One is reminded by this situation of Oliver Goldsmith’s sale of *The Vicar of Wakefield* for £60.†

Jane Folger Mecom, born March 27, 1712, was the favorite sister of Benjamin Franklin. She was the youngest of a family of ten, and according to Bancroft, a beauty. John, the eldest child of Abiah Folger (Josiah Franklin’s second wife), was born in 1690, making a twenty-two years’ difference in age between the eldest son and Jane. She was married on July 27, 1727, when she was only fifteen, to Edward Mecom, with whom she was apparently very happy. Unfortunately, when Mecom died in 1765, he left her with numerous

*The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has four other Mecom letters. One, Jane Mecom to Benjamin Franklin, May 26, 1785, was published in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XXXVI (1912), 119-120. The Society’s collections also hold letters from Jane Mecom to Mrs. Bache, December 2, 1790; and to Henry Hill, Esq., August 6, 1791, and July 24, 1793.

†Temple Scott, *Oliver Goldsmith Bibliographically and Biographically Considered* (New York, 1928), 166-173, in the William L. Elkins Collection, The Free Library of Philadelphia. Mr. Edwin Wolf, an expert in the field of rare books, estimates that a fair copy of this work would today bring around $2,500.
children and grandchildren, and no money. In all, Jane Mecom had twelve children, of whom Benny was the third. Only eight reached maturity.

There seemed always to be an incessant train of difficulties in the family. Franklin tried to help with the sons, but with small success. He established Benny Mecom in business in Antigua, but this venture did not last long, and in a short time Benny was back again in Boston. Indeed, Jane seems to have had one trouble after another—one of her own children would die, then one of her grandchildren; her sons-in-law were out of work; she was always in need of money. On February 14, 1779, from Warwick, she wrote her brother in Passy: “Myself & children have always been a heavy tax upon you, but your great and uncommon goodness has carried you on under it, & we have all along enjoyed many of the comforts of life through your bounty. We must otherwise have done without.”† With this affectionate help of her brother, whom she idolized, Jane Mecom pulled through her difficulties; she outlived Franklin by four years, and was the last of her generation. Jared Sparks wrote of Jane Mecom: “She was remarkable for her strength of mind and character, her good sense and practical views of life, resembling in these respects, more than any other of the family, her brother Benjamin.”§ This is not much of a compliment to Jane, for aside from Benjamin, the other brothers and sisters achieved little success in life.

Philadelphia

FREDERIC R. KIRKLAND

Philadelphia 18th Aug 1777

My Dear Brother

I have Several times mentioned to you my Son in law being taken & in my last that there was a master of a vesel gone to Exchange for Him.¹ He is since got Home, & has ye Prospect of a nother vesel for

† William Duane, Letters to Benjamin Franklin from his Family and Friends (New York, 1859), 94. Those interested in learning more about Jane Mecom should read this volume by Duane.

§ Jared Sparks, The Works of Benjamin Franklin (Boston, 1838), VII, 515.

¹ Captain Peter Collas, who lived in Boston, married Jane Mecom’s daughter Jane. Collas appears to have been active in the merchant marine during the Revolution, in which service he was either inefficient or most unlucky, for he was continually being captured by the British. According to this letter, Franklin seems to have been instrumental in getting him exchanged. The three letters here published were written to Franklin while he was in Paris.
France, & desiers a Leter to you. I am willing to gratifie him tho I wrot but last week & have nothing more new to write which I was in hopes I Shuld [should] by this time, however we are all well & you will no doubt hear from us in a more Direct way when any change happens. when I wrot last I had not heard of Dear M'r Franklins Death but as M'r Bache had, I supose he Informed you of it, I have heard no particulers but sincerely Greve for her. She must have suffeered much in her mind how atentive so ever those about her might have been to do all that was nesesary for her, she has I think a very Just charcter given her in the Philadelphia Paper Said to be written by M'r Hopkinson, among my other concerns she is seldom out of my mind. I loved her gratly, Temple will mourn for her much, we have never had a scrape of a pen from Him, nor have I rec'd more than won letet from you which was from Nants. I do not supose M'r Collas will see you if he gits saif [safe] there but he thinks the mention of his wifes being a Relation of y'rs was the means of her giting her Petion [petition] assured in sending a person to Exchange for Him, & prehaps He thinks the Apearance of y'rs name may befriend him on some other ocation. I can hardly say I hope but I wish for his suckses, I think there was hardly Ever so unfourtunate a Famely I am not willing to think it is all oing [owing] to misconduct I have had some children that seemed to be doing well till they were taken off by Death.

that the Blessing of God may atend you in Boath your Publick & private Affairs is the Prayer of y'rs Affectionat Sister

Jane Mecom

Jane did give Collas a letter to Franklin, but Collas was captured again on his way to France. See a letter of Jonathan Williams, Jr., to Franklin, April 8, 1778, American Philosophical Society, concerning Collas' unfortunate condition as a prisoner in England.

3 It seems strange that Jane should be writing Franklin about Deborah's death, since Jane had been with him in Philadelphia in September, 1776. Deborah had died on December 19, 1774, from a stroke, and was buried three days later in Christ Church Cemetery. Benjamin Franklin did not know of her death until he received a letter from Richard Bache six weeks after it had happened. It must be admitted that Franklin had outgrown Deborah, as early even as 1743, just after Sarah's birth. Carl Van Doren writes that "Philadelphia . . . never accepted his wife or included her in invitations to their houses." Carl Van Doren, Benjamin Franklin (New York, 1938), 125. Furthermore, she dreaded the ocean, and absolutely refused to consider joining Franklin in London, even though Strahan offered every imaginable inducement in the way of hospitality. Nevertheless, Franklin was undoubtedly devoted to her and grateful for her help in their early life together. His letters to her, which were quite frequent, were always most affectionate. He generally addressed her as "my dear child."
My Ever Dear Brother

I can not Expres to you the Joy your two Leters of Dc' 22 & feb' 28 which boath came to hand at won time has given me, & the News that Accompanied them to Every friend of America, a report of y' Death, & the seeming Delays of France had made many a Hart to tremble, but thank God I hope now we may be restored to Peace on our own Ecqutable terms of Established Independence, I rejoyce to hear Temple & Benny are well & give you so much pleasure Remember my love to them, I have been very unsoutrntunet in haveing my leters miscarry tho I am shure you did not suspect I had neglected to write yet as I from time to time gave you Information of Every thing I thought you would Expect from me & was desierous of Informing you, I am sorry they were lost & more so for the lose [loss] of those you wrote me, but if I could flatter my self I should Ever see you again all would be made up. y' poor Children have been drove about as well as my self the Last Leter I recved from them was Dated Jan'y 19 at Manheim where they had been about a four-nit all well & not out of hopes of Returning to Philadelphia again God send it soon but I can't help regreting the severe lose [loss] I fear you have mett with im [in] many of y' Instruments & valeuables which I supose they could not Remove as mr Bache tells me they

4 It is impossible to identify the two letters of December 22 and February 28, for they are not to be found in the collections of the American Philosophical Society, the Yale Library, or the Library of Congress, nor are they included in any of Franklin's works. Jane's remark that "I hope now we may be restored to Peace on our own Ecqutable terms of Established Independence," possibly indicates that Franklin in his February letter may have told her of the alliance with France.

5 Benny (Benjamin Franklin Bache), son of Franklin's daughter Sarah, was sent by his grandfather to school in Switzerland. Temple was William Franklin's illegitimate son; William was Franklin's son, born out of wedlock.

6 Jane here is referring to the Baches' moving to Goshen, where she had gone in 1776. I. Minis Hays, ed., Calendar of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin in the Library of the American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia, 1908), I, 191. In December, 1776, with the advance of the British through New Jersey, most of the patriots in Philadelphia had left town, but had returned after the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Goshen is in Chester County, about twenty-five miles from Philadelphia. See a letter from Sarah Bache to her father, in Elizabeth F. Ellet, Women of the Revolution (New York, 1848), I, 336.

7 In the following year, after Brandywine, Sarah again had to leave Philadelphia with her family, on September 17, just four days after the birth of her eldest daughter. She first visited her father's old friend, Mrs. Edward Duffield, in Bensalem Township, Bucks County, but shortly thereafter moved to Manheim in Lancaster County.
made much such a nother remove as we did to Goshon it may not be in your power to repare your lose which will be a grat draw back on your Amusements if you should be premited to take any repose as we boath wish.

you understood by mrs Greene I was with my Daugther [Jane] more Properly my Daughter with me at that time, on her Husbands [Collas] Arival in boston in 76 they went to house keeping & he was put in to a contenental ship to go to France but was taken in His pasage & carried in to New york & keep a prizer many months (the letter I wrot to go by him being two late went by some other hand) He was at last Exchanged Returned to Boston & went second on bord a privetere mett with hard storms in which if I remember right they were obliged to thro over some of there Guns & after meeting the Enemie of far grater force who Chas them till all on board it is said but Him self went below to shift there Cloaths Expecting to be taken He keep the Helm six hours & got clear of them but they were so weakned they were obliged to return in to port without taking any thing, He then had an offer of an other Contenental Ship for France which he accepted, & houskeeping being So Expensive in Boston they gave up there house & on his sailing she came hear to me staid with me about 3 weeks & Returned to board in the Country where her husband had made provision for her. I have hitherto been with my Gran-Son-in-Law (Exept a visit to our frind Greene) who sent a Pheaaton [sic] for me to Philadelphia

8 In his well-known letter of July 14, 1778, Richard Bache wrote Franklin: "The British stole and carried off with them some of your musical instruments, viz: a Welsh Harp, ball harp, the set of tuned bells which were in a box. Your armonica is safe."

9 "In America, the chief friends with whom he [Franklin] indulged in careless banter and frivolous correspondence were "Caty" Ray, afterwards wife of Governor William Greene, Governor of Rhode Island, and Elizabeth Partridge, née 'Betsey' Hubbard." Albert H. Smythe, The Writings of Benjamin Franklin (New York, 1907), X, 408. No one can truly appreciate Franklin who has not read his letters to his women friends. They are all enchanting, especially the ones to "Caty" Ray and Madame Brillon. It is my understanding that William Greene Roelker, who recently sold most of the "Caty" Green-Franklin letters extant to the American Philosophical Society, is about to edit them for that Society. Most of them have never before been printed, and they are certain to be fascinating. "Caty" must have been a lovely person, and, although she was twenty years younger, was always kind and considerate to Jane.

10 Jane's granddaughter, Jenny Flagg, married General Nathanael Greene's brother Elihu, "Caty's" nephew. The Greene-Ward genealogy is an involved one, for there is considerable intermarrying in the families.
by Mr. Ward but as he had married my Granddaughter very poor & you have Generously bestowed on me where withall to provide for my self I did not let Him beat any other Expence the Mr. went all the way from Peru to purpose a lone but took his servant as we came back home with us & I pay'd a third of the whole Expence which with a few trifles I brought to use on the Road cost me about seventy Dollars the rest of the money I had I have put to Intrest which is about four hundred Dollars & is what I have to depend on I am at no Expence at present Injoying Health peace & content in my Gransons Famely who is a very Good Sort of man of plain Sense & Sound Judgment whose conversation is a greable when he talks but that is but little my child makes Him a frugal Industrious & discreet wife & they are very happy She has had a fine child but has lost it I am determined to make what I have assure my Purpose by waring my old Cloaths over agane & purchasing nothing but what is absolutely necessary such as shoes which won can't do without but are now at such a Price in this Place that I have purchased seven Pare in Boston when I lived there for what won pare costs hear of the same sort.

these are my circumstances at present but if my Daughters husband shuld [should] still meet with bad success I beleve I must try to go in to some busines with her She is a very Inferm woman was sick all the first winter after you left us She is very desirous of having me with her. won of my former [sic] letters consisted chiefly in the Bequests of our good friend Mrs. Duffield concerning her Son I have never heard what became of him. in a nother I Informed you how very kind & obliging Mr. Ward was to me on my Jurny He is since married to our good friend Greene's Daughter Pheby, a good tempered sensible young Lady but there happiness is Inturupted by his being obliged to leve her and return to camp

11 Samuel Ward, Jr., was the son of "Caty" Greene's sister, Anna Littlefield, who had married Governor Samuel Ward of Rhode Island. Samuel Ward, Jr., married Phebe Greene, "Caty's" eldest daughter.


13 Mrs. Edward Duffield was the wife of one of Franklin's oldest friends. Duffield, who became one of Franklin's executors, lived at "Benfield" near Manheim. Manheim, founded in 1762, is best known as the home of William Stiegel, the famous glassmaker.
Mrs. Greene remembers her love to you thanks you for your letter designs to write but as I have an opportunity to send this to Boston now I do not wait for hers the Judg is gone to Providence to Election I am in Expectation he will come back Governor but she charges me not to tell you so as it is very disagreeable to her. I am as Ever Dear Brother

your affectionat Sister
Jane Mecom

Cambridge Dec' 26—1782

Dear Brother

I wrot to you two months ago From Warwick, which cousen Williams has yet to carry. Afterwards I concluded to come Hither & spend the Winter as most agreeable by being more Retiered [retired], & Less Exposed to Doers opening on me which in cold weather Increase my cough & is very Tedious to me, but on my Arrival at Boston I had the maloncholy account of a Distressing fitt of Illness you have had tho something better when the messenger came Away, I am Freequently Reflecting on the Paine you Endued & the Danger of the Freequent Returns of the disorder you are Liable to; & fearing they may be too hard for you, may God who has hitherto given you so much Health Prevent it, & Restore you to Perfect Health again, if that may not be I hope you will be Endowed with all the submition nesesary on so Trying an ocation.—

It was Mrs. Writes son who told me of your sickness & of what mortified me very much besides the condition & behaviour of that,

14 Judge William Greene did come back as Governor, an office to which he was elected eight times.
15 Josiah Williams had married a daughter of Grace Harris, Jane's elder sister, and lived in Boston. Actually, he was Jane's nephew, but "cousin" was used in the eighteenth century much more loosely than it is today. Josiah's son, Jonathan, was agent at Nantes during the Revolution, and was closely associated with Franklin.
16 Franklin suffered terribly from the gout, but he had an acute attack of the stone in 1782, which kept him from attending some of the Peace Conferences. Jane is apparently alluding to this attack.
17 Patience Lovell Wright was the mother of Joseph Wright, the artist who painted Washington's portrait at Rocky Hill in 1783. Mrs. Wright achieved some fame herself for her modelling in wax. Franklin knew her in London, and apparently sent a message by her to Jane, when Mrs. Wright returned to America.
I had almost Sade [said] worthless Little Anemil Thare, I sinserly ask your Pardon for Introduscing him to you, & have no other Excuse to make but to Tell you He took me In by being the first that Informed me of a Book that contain all your Philosophical & Political Papers, & Runing on so Pritily on won thing & another contained in them that I thought he must be Cleaver, Tell me you forgive me this & I will take more care for the future by the way I have never been able to come at a sight of the Book yet, tho I am Tould D'r Cooper has it, & have sent times without Number after it & have been Put off with some Frivolus Excuse; I would gladly bye won if it were to be Purchased but can't find that it is, I wish my Brother would do me the favour to send me won & I may be so Lucky as to Recive it, I [It] would be a grate Amusement to me & that is the most I have to seek after at Present. My Son Collas & Daughter who is all the Child I have Left & Jenny mecom (won of my son Benjamins Children) do all in there Power to make me comfortable & I go some times to Boston wh[e]re I am kindly Enter-tained by Cousen Williams & famely and see a few other Friends.

Jane was referring here to John Thayer. In a letter to her brother from Cambridge, dated October 23, 1781, she writes: "Mr. John Thayer, by whom this goes, has had a liberal education. . . . I take the liberty to introduce him to my brother." Duane, 115. Rev. John Thayer was a contentious person, and tried to have himself appointed chaplain to Franklin. Imagine Benjamin Franklin with a chaplain watching over him! This action, of course, annoyed Franklin, and he sent Thayer about his business. (I have Carl Van Doren, the "ever helpful," to thank for this information.)

The book referred to by Jane is the *Political, Miscellaneous and Philosophical Pieces. . . .* (London, Printed for J. Johnson, 72 St. Paul's Churchyard, 1779). See Paul L. Ford, *Franklin Bibliography. A List of Books written by, or relating to Benjamin Franklin* (Brooklyn, 1889), 161. This volume of Franklin's was edited by his friend, Benjamin Vaughan, an Englishman. It is the only edition of his miscellaneous works published during his lifetime, consequently the only one of which he read personally.

Dr. Cooper was probably Dr. Samuel Cooper, the famous clergyman and patriot, who was a great admirer of Franklin.

On September 14, 1752, Benjamin Mecom sailed for Antigua to run a printing office for his uncle, and to publish the *Antigua Gazette.* He was the third of twelve children born to Edward and Jane Mecom. Ben remained there about four years, when he returned to America bringing Franklin's printing press with him. He started in business in Boston, but failed after many vicissitudes, none of which were much to his credit. "The last we hear of him is in a letter to Franklin, from J. M. Lawrence and William Smith, Burlington, July 19, 1776, informing him that Mrs. [Benjamin] Mecom's husband is at times very dangerous, being often deprived of his reason, and asking Franklin's help in placing him in the hospital at Philadelphia, or in confining him in some other way." Wilberforce Eames, *The Antigua Press and Benjamin Mecom, 1748–1765* (Worcester, Mass., 1929), 20.
I have won of my Deceased Grand Daughters\textsuperscript{22} children with me & Expect to Return with it in the spring as there I Live very Pleasantly all the warm weather & can do a number of things necessary for Him & the Children Except He should get Him another wife which I believe there is no great likelihood of. He is so sensible it is impossible to make up his loss. He was indeed an extraordinary wife. Mr. Williams will be able to assure you any questions you shall think fit to ask concerning me which might have been tedious for you to have read had I thought of anything more to write, my children Joyn in Love and duty with your Affectionate Sister

Jane Mecom

\textsuperscript{22} Jenny Flagg Greene died on April 6, 1782, leaving three little children, one of whom took care of Jane all her latter days. Jenny's death was a great shock to her grandmother, and for several weeks, "Caty" Greene despaired for her life.
II

*Three Unpublished Letters from Benjamin Rush*

In the manuscript division of the Boston Public Library there are three hitherto unpublished personal letters written by Dr. Benjamin Rush.

The earliest is addressed to “The Right Honble The Earl of Buchan Dryburgh Palace Scotland,” and reads as follows:

The name of Buchan is dear to every friend of Science & humanity in the United States.—

Mr. Sommerville’s recommendation by your Lordship was considered by me as a demand of the payment of a debt in civilities which is due to you from Strangers in every part of the world.—He is pleased with our Country, and cannot fail of being happy in a Settlement among us.

The United States continue to demonstrate by their internal order, and external prosperity, the practicability, safety, & happiness of republican forms of government; and among a people too educated in monarchical principles & habits.

With great respect for your Lordship’s talents & virtues, I am my Lord, your Lordship’s most

Obedient

Servant

Benj’a Rush

Philadelphia

25th June 1795

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1 The addressee was David Steuart Erskine, 11th Earl of Buchan (1742-1829), founder of the Scottish Society of Antiquaries. The Mr. Sommerville mentioned in this letter has not been further identified.
The second letter, addressed "to Rev. Dr. [Ashbel] Green," states:

Dear Sir—

Mrs [Sarah] Coxe a daughter of our mutual friend Dr [John] Redman sailed with her family for England a few days ago. She requested me to solicit the prayers of your Church tomorrow for their safe arrival. The last place in which she worshipped before she sailed, was in the church of her father.

Yrs
Sincerely
June 2nd 1810
Benj\(^a\) Rush

The last letter is also addressed to the Rev. Dr. Green and is as follows:

Dear Sir

I enclose you a letter which I received last evening from Mr. [George ?] Cathcart.

I have not been able to lay my eye upon the Charter of Franklin College, but I am almost confident there is no provision for a German being at the head of it. It requires (I believe) only that he should be

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2 Ashbel Green (1762–1848) at the time of the receipt of this letter was the senior pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia and a national leader of that denomination. He was a founder of the Princeton Theological Seminary, President of the College of New Jersey, 1812–1822, and editor of The Christian Advocate, 1823–1834. See the sketch of Green by Robert H. Nichols in the Dictionary of American Biography, VII, 536–537; and J. O. Oliphant, "A Philadelphia Editor Looks at Latin America, 1823–1834" in Pennsylvania History, XII (1945), 115–146. Dr. John Redman (1722–1808) was the first president of the College of Physicians at Philadelphia (1786–1804), and was a teacher of Rush. The lady mentioned by Rush was the wife of Daniel Coxe and the mother of John Redman Coxe (1773–1864), one of Rush's most famous students. See the sketches of Redman by H. R. Viets in DAB, XV, 443, and of Coxe by F. R. Packard, in Ibid., IV, 486–487.

3 The enclosure was not found. The Mr. Cathcart mentioned was probably the Rev. George Cathcart, a Presbyterian minister of York, Pa., referred to in Ashbel Green's edited autobiography, The Life of Ashbel Green, V.D.M. begun in his eighty-second year and continued to his eighty-fourth prepared for the press at the author's request by Joseph H. Jones (New York, 1849), 440. Rush was correct as to the charter of Franklin College. This institution, founded to serve in particular the numerous German population of Pennsylvania, was to have among its Trustees fifteen members from each of the Lutheran and Reformed (or Calvinist, as it was then frequently called) Churches, while its head was to be chosen alternatively from these two
a Calvanist [sic], or a Lutheran. The contents of Mr. Cathcart's letter [one word is here illegible] your proposal of yesterday, more & more a proper Subject of consideration.

Yrs truly
Benj'a Rush

Septem' 7th: 1811
PS I shall excuse your non attendance at the next meeting of the trustees at Carlisle in my answer to Mr. Cathcart[']s letter.

New York

HERBERT APTHEKER

Churches (unless the Trustees unanimously decided otherwise), but it was not required that he be of German descent. Rush helped found the college and was a member of the original Board of Trustees. Joseph H. Dubbs, History of Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, Pa., 1903), 13-27. The postscript reference is, of course, to Dickinson College at Carlisle, chartered in 1783 largely through the efforts of Rush. On this, see Nathan G. Goodman, Benjamin Rush: Physician and Citizen, 1746-1813 (Philadelphia, 1934), 321-341; James H. Morgan, Dickinson College, (Carlisle, Pa., 1933), 7-10; and Harry G. Good, Benjamin Rush and His Services to American Education (Berne, Ind., 1918), passim.
Supplement to the Guide to the Manuscript Collections in
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania


Miscellaneous papers containing four letters, 1797–1800, from Rufus King to Major Lennox on assistance to American sailors stranded in England; a list of articles required to be sent to Algiers as tribute, 1799; journal of Benjamin Eakin, 1883–1884; short letters by Gen. W. H. Taylor, C. S. A., 1836; Robert E. Lee, 1864; Millard Fillmore, 1836; and James Anderson, 1849. The collection also contains prints by Felix O. C. Darley.


The business papers of the first free circulating library in America, founded in 1820. The collection includes minute books of the Board of Managers, 1834–1937, 7 vols.; minutes of the Committee on Attendance, 1830; minutes of the Committee for a Girls Library, 1842–1847; minutes of the Library Committee, 1858–1945; record book, 1820–1831; cash ledgers, 1925–1935; correspondence relating to the Library, bookplates, and miscellaneous papers pertaining to the Library.


Correspondence centering mainly about Mrs. John Craig, mother of Mrs. Nicholas Biddle, containing material relative to the Biddle and Craig families.
Register of allotments aboard the U. S. S. Massachusetts, 1903.
Also included are a few invitations, clippings, and souvenirs of E. W. Bonnaffon, as well as two letters to Capt. Sylvester Bonnaffon, 3d, Paymaster, U. S. Army, 1912.

Papers relating to the Four Minute Men of the World War, 1917–1918, an organization which provided men for theaters and other rallies to make short speeches on various designated topics concerning the war. They also participated in the Liberty Loan campaigns. The collection comprises correspondence, 1918–1919, schedules, 1918–1919, notes on speeches and many printed releases dealing with local war activities.

1454. CADWALADER COLLECTION, 1630–1900. Approx. 100,000 items. Presented by the Cadwalader family at various times, the bulk of them in 1947.
This collection, one of the Society's largest, is comprised mainly of the papers of various generations of the Cadwalader family and reflect their legal and military careers. The principal divisions are the papers of Gen. John Cadwalader (1742–1786), Phineas Bond (1749–1815), Gen. Thomas Cadwalader (1779–1841), Judge John Cadwalader (1805–1879), Gen. George Cadwalader (1806–1879), Dr. Charles E. Cadwalader (1837–1907) and the Hon. John Cadwalader, Jr. (1843–1925).
Among certain miscellaneous items not included in the above items are account books of John Moore, 1710–1717; John Kearsley, 1711–1720; John Cadwalader, 1711–1724; Patient Usher, 1737–1741; Dr. Phineas Bond, 1758–1759, 1762–1769; and Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, 1767–1768.
The papers of Gen. John Cadwalader include material on the Trenton-Princeton campaign; 9 letters of George Washington, 1776–1778; Cadwalader's memorandum book, 1776–1777; letters of Thomas Wharton; documents relating to the Cadwalader-Reed controversy; James McHenry letters, 1781; an Alexander Hamilton letter, 1783; revolutionary matters; family papers; papers of Cadwalader Evans, 1735, and Joseph Rose, 1737; and an account book, 1773.
The correspondence of Gen. Thomas Cadwalader is broad in scope and embraces letters of many prominent persons. It is rich in family letters and contains material on the Port Folio, the Assembly, clubs, etc. Included are
6 large letter books, 1812-1840. His military papers relate mainly to the War of 1812, covering the services of Philadelphia troops, August to December, 1814. In 1817 he took over the management of the Penn family affairs in America. Material collected by earlier agents was placed in his hands. This included many of William Penn's own files on the lower counties, as well as manuscripts collected later to substantiate Penn's claims. Many of the Penn family's original deeds relating to their interests in Pennsylvania are included here, as well as agreements for the Mason-Dixon surveys. The coverage of the Penn agency is very broad and fills 48 boxes. Included in it is voluminous correspondence of the Penns starting with Thomas Penn. Many drafts, surveys, and maps are in the collection.

Another large category of Gen. Thomas Cadwalader's papers reflects his career as a lawyer. Richest of all the material preserved here are the George Croghan papers, 1744-1782, in 9 boxes. These papers deal with Croghan's life as Indian trader, Indian agent, and land speculator. They include a number of his journals and letters from Sir William Johnson, the Franklins, Gates, Gage, Monckton, Trent, the Whartons, Lord Dunmore and many soldiers and traders of the frontier. Many other cases dealing with the affairs of prominent persons and concerns of Gen. Cadwalader's times are included, notably those concerning the American Iron Company and the West Jersey Society.

The 128 boxes of Judge John Cadwalader's papers relate principally to the law cases he handled prior to his elevation to the Bench. In addition, there is material of interest relating to President Buchanan. Present also are 23 of Judge Cadwalader's letter books, 1830-1859.

Phineas Bond, the British Consul, is represented by 40 boxes containing much of biographical interest, revolutionary material primarily relating to the affairs of Judge William Moore of Moore Hall, as well as many law cases. Bond represented English concerns having interests in this country. Many of these cases he passed on to his nephew, Gen. Thomas Cadwalader. Gen. George Cadwalader's papers furnish information on military subjects, 1834-1865, are rich in militia affairs, include an entire box on the "Awful Riots of 1844," a day-by-day coverage of the Mexican War and much excellent Civil War material. His interests as a sportsman in yachting and duck shooting are well represented, as are his extensive farming and cattle-raising activities in Maryland. Business interests include papers relating to the Baltimore and Philadelphia Steamboat Company, 1840-1878; estate papers, many inherited from his father, Gen. Thomas Cadwalader; and railroad and mining interests.

Dr. Charles E. Cadwalader's papers consist principally of extensive historical and genealogical notes on the Cadwalader and allied families, as well as photographs of family portraits, relatives, and family houses.

This entry cancels number 111 in The Guide to The Manuscript Collections in The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
1455. **Chew Papers.** Approx. 250 items. Deposited by the Chew family, 1947.

Papers relating to the boundary disputes between Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. Included are grants by both Penn and Baltimore; instructions to their agents; minute books of the Commissioners for establishing the boundaries, 1739, 1750-1751, 1760-1766, 1767-1768; weekly account of the hands employed in running the Mason-Dixon line, 1767; and account book of the Commissioners, 1764-1765.

1456. **Civil War Papers.** Approx. 500 items. Presented.

A miscellaneous collection containing letters of Confederate soldiers, 1 box; U. S. Army papers, 2 boxes; papers of the 88th Pennsylvania Veterans Volunteer Association, 1 box; papers of the Commission for the Relief of Philadelphia Volunteers, 1 box.

1457. **Ephraim Clark Collection, 1779-1886.** 100 items and 17 vols. Presented by Miss Bertha Clark, 1948.

Correspondence, legal papers, and account books of a Philadelphia real estate agent. A few early items relate to Bedford County.

1458. **Coles Collection, 1762-1887.** Approx. 600 items. Presented by Oliver W. Robbins, 1948.

Letters, documents, and business papers of Edward Coles (1786-1868), abolitionist, and second governor of Illinois. Included are letters to and from Coles, 1810-1868, containing information on the War of 1812, on Washington during Madison's administration (Coles was secretary to Madison), on Coles' business activities, 1833-1868; an autobiographical sketch; and account books, 1818-1869. Most of the letters are from members of Coles' family. There is little material on Coles' life in Illinois.


Photostats and typescripts of letters and documents relating to Croghan's work with the Indians.


Correspondence of Alexander James Dallas, 180 items; and of his son, George Mifflin Dallas. Included among the latter's papers are 250 letters to his wife, 1831-1857; some 200 letters from his wife and their children; the manuscript of the life he wrote of his father; and over 750 letters received by him between 1813 and 1864.
1461. **Franklin Spencer Edmonds Collection.** Approx. 60 items. Presented by Mrs. Franklin Spencer Edmonds, 1947.

Papers of Franklin Spencer Edmonds (1874-1945), lawyer, educator, author, containing an essay on "Progressive Education in the Nineteenth Century," and correspondence and notes relative to his papers on Albert H. Smythe, George Davidson (1825-1911), and John G. Johnson, and material gathered for a life of Gen. U. S. Grant (published in Philadelphia, 1915).


This voluminous record presents a valuable picture of Philadelphia social life and of the political problems of the times. Many unusually intimate side lights are given of the lives of Philadelphia's prominent citizens. Also included are diaries kept by Fisher while at his Maryland farm.

1463. **Fort Necessity Papers, 1932-1943.** Approx. 200 items. Gift of Mrs. Evelyn Benson and Miss Perie Abraham, 1946.

Notes, pamphlets, letters and plans relating to efforts to make Fort Necessity a national monument.


This collection consists of four volumes entitled " Memories of Sixty Years," written by George L. Harrison (1874- ), civic leader and sportsman, and three volumes of "Extracts from the Journal of Edward Wain." The first-mentioned work is autobiographical in nature and deals mainly with hunting and shooting in western America, Canada, Mexico, Africa and Scotland. The journal of Edward Wain presents a lively picture of the life of a well-to-do man who was interested in politics and country life, 1861-1887.


Pamphlets, letters, notes, etc., showing the activities of a civilian in England during World War II and the years immediately before and after.


Manuscripts of articles and books, published and unpublished, by Joseph F. A. Jackson (1868-1946), prominent Philadelphia historian. Also included are family letters and papers.
1467. **Martha Morris Laurence Collection, 1684-1759.** 100 items. Deposited.
Correspondence and business papers mainly of Thomas Laurence, (1689-1754), a prominent merchant, Mayor of Philadelphia.

Papers of a local business association containing a scrapbook of social events, 1886-1905, minute books, 1887-1891, 1893-1894, as well as the minute book, 1893-1894, of the Retail Lumber Merchants' Protective Association, an organization formed to combat price cutting in the lumber trade.


Correspondence relating to John Hill Martin’s history of Chester and to his historical sketches of Bethlehem, Pa. See also item 1308 in the Supplement to the Guide to the Manuscript Collection in The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1944.

Letter press books, 1880-1939; geological reports, 1880-1895; and stock ledger and day book, 1892-1931, of a coal mining company located in Clinton and Centre Counties.

Letters, orders, maps, photographs and instruction books showing the life of an aviator in the World War, 1917-1918. Capt. Noyes (1881-1932) was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Service Cross.

Orders, letters, and muster rolls of the 20th Regiment, P. N. G., Col. S. Bonnaffon, Jr., commanding, on strike duty at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., July 29-September 19, 1877.
1474. **Philadelphia Board of Port Wardens, 1881-1908.** Approx. 400 items. Presented, 1947.

Letters, reports, etc., of the administrative body responsible for the Port of Philadelphia. Includes anchorage regulations and anchorages, harbor lines, harbor defense, depth of water in harbor, docks and wharves, obstructions in the river, etc.


List of the records in the various offices of the City and County of Philadelphia prepared by the Works Progress Administration, 1938.

1476. **Philadelphia Garden Club Papers, 1904-1910.** 5 vols. Deposited by the Club, April 6, 1925.

Charter, reports of meetings, correspondence of and papers read before a Philadelphia women's club, chartered in 1907, for the purpose of promoting an interest in gardens.

1477. **Ringgold Brass Band Papers.** Approx. 150 items. Purchased by the Dreer Fund, 1941.

Musical scores used by a local band about 1870-1880.

1478. **St. David's Church Records, 1705-1921.** Deposited by the Vestry of the Church, 1947.

Parish records, 1705-1805; record book, 1820-1894; Rector's record, 1833-1900; minute book, 1894-1921; and correspondence, 1734-1905, of the historic Episcopal church at Radnor.


Correspondence, work sheets, canteen operation, guest books, business books, etc., of the Philadelphia branch of the American Theater Wing of the United Service Organizations.

1480. **Swift Family Papers, 1716-1857.** Approx. 400 items. Presented.

Family and business papers of a Philadelphia and Bucks County family. Most of the letters are personal, but some show business conditions in the West Indies, 1820-1850. See also item 286 in *The Guide to the Manuscript Collections in The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*

Papers relating to the efforts to have Philadelphia made the capital of the United Nations.


Letters of the Executive Commission; copies of letters written by W. P. Blake dealing mainly with the proposed sale of stock in the Exhibition of 1876.


Programs, clippings, etc., of a Philadelphia amateur theater group, organized in 1860, and disbanded in 1880. Some subsequent material shows the continuing interest of E. S. Hulfish in the theater.