

Historic Hudson Valley Library Manuscript Finding Aid

Beekman Family Collection, 1721-1903

The Beekman family was part of the landed aristocracy of Colonial New York. Through inter-marriage, the Beekmans acquired alliances with the powerful Livingston and Van Cortlandt families. After the American Revolution, Gerard G. Beekman, Jr. was able to purchase a large part of the Philipse estate, which has been preserved by Historic Hudson Valley as Philipsburg Manor.

The manuscript collection consists mainly of indentures, deeds and other legal documents pertaining mostly to the immediate family of Gerard G. Beekman, Jr. and his son Stephen D. Beekman. 68 items.

Conklin and Chadeayne Family Collection, 1721-1903

The Conklins and Chadeaynes are two related families who resided on the Philipse and Van Cortlandt estates. The Conklins settled in New York about the year 1638, and a house built by Nathaniel Conklin (c.1740-1817) was still standing as of 1979 in Tarrytown. The Chadeayne family, who came to America from France as religious refugees, purchased land from William Skinner, a son-in-law and heir to Stephanus Van Cortlandt, in 1755 and built a homestead which remained in the Chadeayne family for over two centuries.

This collection consists of legal papers, deeds, and wills connected with the estates of Nathaniel Conklin and Jacob Chadeayne. 29 items

Hamilton Collection, 1786-1843, focus 1843

Alexander Hamilton (1816-1889) was the son of James A. Hamilton (1788-1879) and Mary Morris; grandson of Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804, Secretary of Treasury) and Elizabeth Schuyler (1757-1854, second daughter of Catherine and General John Philip Schuyler). Alexander Hamilton (1816-1889) served as Secretary of the United States Mission at Madrid at the same time that Washington Irving was the United States Minister to Spain.

This collection consists of correspondence from Alexander Hamilton (1816-1889) to the members of his immediate family as well as two legal documents when he served as an attorney. 88 items

Hoffman Family Papers, 1791-1912, focus 1810-1860

The Hoffmans were prominent landowners, merchants, and lawyers in Colonial New York. Nicholas Hoffman (1736-1800) was a noted jurist in Revolutionary War times and married the daughter of David Ogden, a justice of the Colonial New Jersey Supreme Court. Josiah Ogden Hoffman (1766-1837), Nicholas' second son, served as Federalist representative in the New York Legislature, Attorney General of New York, and as an

Associate Justice of the New York Supreme Court. Washington Irving (1789-1859) served as his clerk and became engaged to his daughter, Matilda.

This collection consists of lecture notebooks, scrapbooks, family correspondence, photographs, clippings, illustrations, and miscellaneous items. The correspondence gives insight into the education and social status of women in the United States between 1800-1840. Irving and Hoffman 540 items.

Philipse Family Collection, 1685-1822, focus 1761-1810

The Philipse family was one of the great landed families of colonial New York. At the peak of its prosperity, the family holdings consisted of over 90,000 acres in Westchester County, Ulster County, Bergen County, Putnam County, and the Bronx, which were developed with efficient commercial acumen. These lands were forfeited as a result of the Philipses' loyalty to the Crown during the American Revolution.

The collection consists of real estate documents, legal briefs relating to the effects of the Revolutionary War, correspondence and rent materials. 54 items.

Schuyler Family Collection, 1729-1850, focus 1790-1835

The Schuyler family was an influential landed family in Colonial and post-revolutionary New York. The children married into the Van Cortlandt, Van Rensselaer and Livingston families. John Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) served in the New York General Assembly and was one of the four Major Generals under George Washington. He served in the Continental Congress and the New York Senate and became a major political force in New York State lending support to his son-in-law, Alexander Hamilton. He served twice as a U.S. Representative and his son, George, married Alexander Hamilton's granddaughter. George's social work who founded the first professional nurses' training school in this country at Bellevue Hospital (1873).

This collection consists mainly of the family correspondence of Philip John Schulyer, his sons, John Bradstreet and Philip Jeremiah Schuyler, and Mary Ann Schuyler (Mrs. Philip Jeremiah Schuyler). There are also a few miscellaneous items referring to other family members. 123 items

Van Cortlandt Family Collection, 1661-1938, focus 1750-1840

Pierre Van Cortlandt (1712-1814), a landed aristocrat, was elected to the New York Provincial Legislature and served as New York's first Lieutenant Governor for 19 years throughout the American Revolution and the Articles of Confederation. Pierre's son Philip (1749-1831) served as a regimental commander in the Continental Army. His military correspondence includes such major campaigns as Saratoga, Valley Forge and Yorktown. These and other members of the Van Cortlandt family corresponded with such notables as George Washington, John Jay, John Hancock, George Clinton, and Alexander Hamilton. Their correspondence provides valuable insight into the nation's military, administrative and political history from 1748 to 1848.

This collection is particularly rich in legal documents and contains over 200 letters of Pierre Van Cortlandt, his sons, and their immediate families as well as recipes and account books. 1300 items

Washington Irving Collection, 1585-1938, focus 1810-1860

Washington Irving (1783-1859) was America's first internationally successful man of letters and the creator of such memorable fictional characters as Rip Van Winkle, Ichabod Crane, and Diedrich Knickerbocker. His correspondence covers his literary endeavors and his diplomatic career as the United State Minister to Spain.

Washington Irving Corresponded with and wrote about numerous famous people of the times; Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Henry W. Longfellow, Edgar Allan Poe, and presidents, kings, and queens.

This collection is perhaps the second-largest collection of Irvingiana in the United States, and is particularly rich in correspondence, literary manuscripts, legal documents, certificates, genealogical material, and miscellaneous matter relating to Irving and members of his family.

Miscellaneous Collection, 1651-1888

This collection consists of business material, letters, receipts, journals, judicial material, leases, as well as many items pertinent to the American Revolution, e.g. receipt and passes signed by Benedict Arnold, petitions and correspondence key figures. A section of letters, journals, account books, and receipts from such literary and artistic notable and historical figures as William Duer, General Philip H. Sheridan, John Singer Sargent, actor Joseph Jefferson, singer Jenny Lind, Presidents George Washington and Millard Fillmore, Samuel F.B. Morse, Stephen A. Douglas, Louis Napoleon, William Cullen Bryant, Samuel L. Clemens, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Horace Greeley, Henry W. Longfellow, and Daniel Webster. Also numerous deeds from 1800-1843 concerning property in New York and Connecticut. 265 items