

# **John Dickinson papers**

## **LCP.Dickinson**

**Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Holly Mengel.**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Library Company of Philadelphia  
2010.09.30

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## Summary Information

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**Repository** Library Company of Philadelphia

**Creator** Dickinson, John, 1732-1808

**Title** John Dickinson papers

**Date [bulk]** Bulk, 1753-1808

**Date [inclusive]** 1676-1885

**Extent** 5.2 Linear feet

**General Physical  
Description note** 13 containers, 5 volumes

**Language** English

**Abstract** John Dickinson (1732-1808), a Philadelphia lawyer and politician, was a major figure in colonial Delaware and Pennsylvania governments and during the early national period. He was an active presence and prolific writer during the American Revolution and early Republic from the passage of the Sugar Act (1764) until the Jefferson presidency (1801 to 1809). He also served in the military as colonel, private, and brigadier general. He married Mary Norris in 1770. John Dickinson died in Delaware in 1808. The John Dickinson papers contains incoming and outgoing correspondence; drafts and original manuscript documents from the revolutionary and early national government, Revolutionary War, Delaware and Pennsylvania government; land papers; legal papers; bills and receipts; collected essays, notes and commonplace books; and estate material. The papers provide a clear picture of the way in which colonists envisioned their new country and how these new Americans worked,

compromised and adapted in order to achieve their visions. Mary Norris Dickinson is documented in two volumes: one of letters and one of poems.

**Preferred Citation note**

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], John Dickinson papers, 1676-1885, Library Company of Philadelphia.

## Biographical/Historical note

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John Dickinson was born in Talbot County, Maryland on November 13, 1732 to Samuel Dickinson (1690-1760), whose father had emigrated from England in 1654, and his second wife, Mary Cadwalader Dickinson, who was the daughter of a Philadelphia Quaker merchant. John Dickinson had two brothers, Thomas, who died in infancy, and Philemon. The Dickinson family owned vast amounts of land throughout Maryland and Delaware, which is where the family relocated around 1740. John Dickinson was tutored at home in Kent County, Delaware by William Killen until the age of eighteen, at which time he moved to Philadelphia to read law for the former king's attorney, John Moland. From 1753 to 1756, Dickinson studied law at the Middle Temple in England, where he was admitted to the bar in 1757. Upon his return to the colonies that same year, he moved to Philadelphia to begin practicing law.

Dickinson was elected to the Delaware Assembly in 1759 and became speaker in 1760. In 1762, he was elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, where he served intermittently until 1776. As the relationship between the colonies and England became tense, the General Assembly chose Dickinson as their delegate at a meeting for the Stamp Act in New York in 1756. He joined John Morton and George Bryan in formulating a declaration of grievances. In 1767/1768, Dickinson published *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies*. These letters, which were printed in newspapers throughout the colonies, argued that the Townshend Acts were in direct conflict with the ideals of British liberties. When the letters were published in pamphlet form around the colonies, as well as England, France, Holland, and Ireland, Dickinson became the best known advocate of American rights. In 1786, he also wrote "The Liberty Song," America's first patriotic song.

In 1770, John Dickinson married Mary (Polly) Norris (1740-1803), who was the daughter of Isaac Norris II (1701-1766) and Sarah Logan Norris (1715-1744). Isaac Norris was a prominent Quaker and speaker of the General Assembly, and his wife Sarah was the eldest daughter of William Penn's secretary, James Logan (1674-1751). John and Mary Dickinson had two daughters who lived past infancy, Maria (1783-1860) and Sally (1771-1855). Maria Dickinson married Albanus Logan (1783-1854), the son of George Logan and Deborah Norris Logan.

John Dickinson was busy in the years leading up to the American Revolution. He was a member of the Stamp Act Congress in 1765 and the First and Second Continental Congresses from 1774 to 1776. He was occupied with publishing treatises on the American cause and penning resolutions and appeals to the King that he hoped would bring an end to the conflict. Because he believed that preparations for war must take place simultaneously with measures for peace, he raised the First Battalion of Associators in Philadelphia, of which he was colonel. Because separation from Britain appeared likely, he wrote the first draft of the Articles of Confederation. When independence was declared, he refused to vote on or sign the Declaration, because he still believed that reconciliation was possible. When the document received support from the majority of the delegates, Dickinson supported their decision by taking up arms and joining his battalion in New Jersey. Because of his dissent from the Declaration, he was not returned to the Pennsylvania Assembly. He resigned his commission in September and returned to the Assembly, where he led the resistance to the new Pennsylvania constitution. In November of 1776, he resigned his

seat in protest of it. His next public office was in 1779 as a delegate from Delaware to the Confederation Congress, where he worked on peace negotiations.

In addition to being a colonel in the Pennsylvania militia, he also enlisted as a private in the Delaware militia, during which time he served at the Battle of Brandywine. He was given a commission as a brigadier general. Although he did not serve as an officer in the Continental Army, he nevertheless was made an honorary member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Dickinson suffered many hardships during the Revolution. In addition to being harassed by the Pennsylvania revolutionary government and others who questioned his patriotism for not signing the Declaration of Independence, because the British perceived him as the leader of the resistance, Tories attacked his property in Delaware in 1777 and the British destroyed much of his estate in Philadelphia. These setbacks did not affect his political involvement. He served as president of both Delaware (1781-1782) and Pennsylvania (1782-1785), he was unanimously elected president of the Annapolis Convention in 1786 to amend the Articles of Confederation, and he took part in the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

John Dickinson returned to Delaware after the federal convention and in 1792 served as president of the Delaware constitutional convention. Into his later years, he continued to write on causes of concern to him, such as American relations with France and education. He lived the remainder of his life in Wilmington, where he died on February 14, 1808.

Dickinson was not formally affiliated with any religious group, but he identified most closely with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). He is buried in the Wilmington Friends burial ground next to his wife.

**Biographical note written by Jane Calvert, author of *Quaker Constitutionalism and the Political Thought of John Dickinson*.**

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection documents John Dickinson's roles in politics, business, law, nation building, and the American Revolution. The collection is arranged in two series: "John Dickinson" and "Mary Norris Dickinson," with the bulk of the collection contained within the "John Dickinson" series. This collection was organized into its current arrangement, probably in 1978. Prior to that, the collection was described to an item level in a calendar created by John H. Powell. While the 1978 re-arrangement has resulted in the physical order of the calendar being unusable, the information contained therein is of the utmost value and a pdf version of the calendar is attached to this finding aid.

The "John Dickinson" series is divided into eight subseries: "Correspondence," "Revolutionary and Early National government papers," "Revolutionary War documents," "Delaware government documents," "Pennsylvania government documents," "Land and business records," "Collected essays, notes, and commonplace books," and "John Dickinson estate records."

The "Correspondence" is divided into incoming and outgoing correspondence, and is arranged chronologically within each type. Correspondents to John Dickinson include various statesmen and Revolutionary leaders, among whom are Matthew Carey, Philadelphia bookseller and publisher; Samuel Chase, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland; Benjamin Chew; George Churchman, Quaker minister; Francois de Marbois, French politician; Philemon Dickinson, John Dickinson's brother; Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson, litterateur; Benjamin Franklin; Hannah Griffitts, poet and political satirist; Thomas Hartley, officer and Pennsylvania congressman; John Jones, army surgeon; Arthur Lee, American diplomat; Charles Lee, Revolutionary War general; Richard Henry Lee, Virginia statesman; William Lee, American diplomat; George Logan, Philadelphia physician, farmer, legislator and politician; Nathaniel Luff, Delaware officer; Samuel Miller, Presbyterian minister; Alex Nisbet; Charles Nisbet, first president of Dickinson College; Samuel Patterson, Delaware officer; John Pemberton; George Read; Caesar Rodney, Delaware president; Charles Thomson, Philadelphia patriot leader and secretary of the Continental Congress; James Tilton, army surgeon; John Vaughan, John Vining, Delaware politician; Daniel Walker; and James Wilkinson, army officer. There are also one or two letters, each, from Samuel Adams, Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, and George Washington. These letters discuss issues such as abolition, the militia, the American Revolution, news from London, nation building, national finances, and state and national politics, to name only a few. There are also letters discussing business and land dealing, theology, plans for George Clymer's home, and family and personal matters, most of which date after 1790. Of interest may be Samuel Chase's letters to Dickinson; in particular, one from 1775 in which Chase writes of his reactions to the battles of Lexington and Concord. John Dickinson's letters were sent to Matthew Carey, the Delaware Assembly, Thomas Jenkins, George Logan, Thomas McKean, Samuel Miller, and Samuel Patterson, to name only a few. Of interest are seven folders of letters from John Dickinson to his parents, Samuel and Mary Dickinson, during his education in London at the Middle Temple, dating from 1753 to 1756.

Within "Revolutionary and Early National government papers" are materials on the Revolutionary period which address issues such as the Stamp Act Congress, the first Continental Congress, drafts of petitions to the King of England, the Address of Congress to the Inhabitants of Quebec, and Jay's Olive Branch Petition. Also included is the Address to John Dickinson from the Mechanics on June 27, 1774, in which Philadelphia mechanics exercised their political voice and rights within the system. These materials are arranged chronologically and show the efforts made to prevent war with Great Britain. The Early National period papers reveal Dickinson's and others' attempts to create a new nation: these papers address issues such as the National Bank, the Hartford Convention, foreign trade, regulations, the military, national finances, the Constitutional Convention, the Virginia and New Jersey Plans, the establishment of a national capital, and the mutiny in Philadelphia which occurred in 1783. Also included are copies of the Fabius letters which Dickinson wrote in support of the Constitution.

"Revolutionary War documents" provide a glimpse into Dickinson's responsibilities as a colonel in the Pennsylvania Militia. Included in this series are furlough recommendations, petitions for furloughs, hospital reports, militia returns and ammunition returns. Of interest in these records are Dickinson's notes on required provisions for soldiers, a reminder to researchers that this new country also had to create a new army. Also included in this series is a folder regarding the Articles of Peace including a letter from John Barclay making Dickinson aware of the proceedings.

The "Delaware government documents" document early Delaware politics from 1772 to 1789, including the period of time Dickinson served as President of Delaware. Issues addressed include papers on the

Delaware River dispute in 1772; suggestions for reform of the Delaware court system, submitted by Justice William Killen in 1781; militia returns; budget figures; and various bill drafts and notes.

Intermittently, from 1764 to 1769, Dickinson served the Pennsylvania government, and papers from this time frame are found within "Pennsylvania government documents." Included are speeches by Dickinson while he served as president of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania; bills; materials on the Aaron Doane case, a significant case on the legality of the death penalty for outlawry; court martial records; materials on the Wyoming controversy, a long lasting land dispute between Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers; and miscellaneous Dickinson notes on government affairs. Of particular interest in this series is the information regarding the national debt, taxing, payments to soldiers and information regarding soldiers' land claims. Information comparing exports of Pennsylvania products across several years may be valuable to researchers.

"Land and business records" include miscellaneous land and financial papers, legal papers, and bills and receipts. The miscellaneous land and financial papers, arranged chronologically, largely deal with Dickinson's management of his real estate holdings, primarily in Delaware, and include leases, agreements and memoranda regarding house construction, relations with tenants, property sales, farming techniques and production figures. These materials date from 1733 to 1807. The legal papers, also arranged chronologically, date from 1722 to 1785 and include wills of several Dickinson family members and information on Dickinson's law practice. Law practice materials include several cases argued before the High Court of Errors in Pennsylvania. The bills and receipts date from 1755 to 1807 and are arranged chronologically. Bills and receipts are for wine, vinegar and household materials, to name only a few.

The "Collected essays, notes and commonplace book" includes materials that may have been created by Dickinson as well as materials that were clearly collected by him. Included are writings in the hand of Isaac Norris; notes on genealogy of the Dickinson, Lloyd and Logan families; a copy of Conrad Weiser's journal; clippings; essays; and a speech on the founding of Dickinson College in 1783. These materials are arranged in chronological order.

The "John Dickinson estate records" include a journal and a ledger, both dating from 1808 to 1814, which note the settling of bills and other expenses in regard to the estate of John Dickinson. The final four pages of the ledger are entitled, "Sally Norris Dickinson in account with the estate," and give a chronological summary of the various account entries.

The "Mary Norris Dickinson" series contains two volumes, both of which were written before her marriage to John Dickinson, and are indicative of her intellect and creativity. The first volume consists of copies of letters between Hannah Griffitts (1727-1817), Hannah Harrison (1729-1807), and Mary Norris. These three young women were friends as well as relations and were well educated daughters or granddaughters of prominent judges and/or politicians, and involved in the society and pulse of colonial America. Hannah Griffitts was a poet and wrote under the name "Fidelia," Hannah Harrison was a wealthy socialite who married Charles Thomson in 1774 and wrote under the name "Sophronia." Mary Norris Dickinson wrote under the name of "Sophia." Griffitts, Harrison and Norris gave the people and places in their lives code names and used them to describe some seemingly ordinary events in fairy-tale fashion. Other names mentioned in the volume, such as Theophilus and Fellicia, refer to other members of the Norris and Logan families. This volume appears to be a copy of the original, probably made by Sally Norris Dickinson (daughter of Mary Norris Dickinson), and contains a brief introduction about "The Rural Circle or Band of Friendship, in familiar letters between several young ladies, Interspers'd



with a variety of valuable characters," which may be the title of the volume. The volume also contains annotations by Sally Norris Dickinson and an endnote by Dickinson which explains the characters and the volume, which was meant as a testament to the girls' friendship. The second volume consists of poems, reflections, vignettes and other prose writings, written and copied by Mary Norris and her sister Sarah. This volume also contains annotations by Sally Norris Dickinson. The two volumes together provide an unusually rich documentation of friendship and literary imagination among a circle of teenage Quakers girls in the mid-eighteenth century.

This collection of John and Mary Dickinson materials will prove valuable to any researchers interested in John Dickinson, Mary Norris Dickinson, colonial Delaware and Pennsylvania governments, the American Revolution, nation building, the early national period, military history, land management, legal cases, and political theory and policy. Dickinson's correspondence with many of the most prominent figures in Revolutionary and the early national period provide diverse insights into the creation and development of the United States of America.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Library Company of Philadelphia 2010.09.30

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open for research use, on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. For access, please contact the Historical Society at 215-732-6200 or visit <http://www.hsp.org>.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Library Company of Philadelphia with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Gift of Mr. Robert R. Logan, February 1943.

### **Processing Information note**

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project.

This collection was *minimally processed* in 2009-2011, as part of an experimental project conducted under the auspices of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries to help eliminate processing backlog in Philadelphia repositories. A minimally processed collection is one processed at a less intensive rate than traditionally thought necessary to make a collection ready for use by researchers. When citing sources from this collection, researchers are advised to defer to folder titles provided in the finding aid rather than those provided on the physical folder.

Employing processing strategies outlined in Mark Greene's and Dennis Meissner's 2005 article, *More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal With Late 20th-Century Collections*, the project team tested the limits of minimal processing on collections of all types and ages, in 23 Philadelphia area repositories. A primary goal of the project, the team processed at an average rate of 2-3 hours per linear foot of records, a fraction of the time ordinarily reserved for the arrangement and description of collections. Among other time saving strategies, the project team did not extensively review the content of the collections, replace acidic folders or complete any preservation work.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

Dickinson College: John Dickinson papers, MC 2001.13.

Delaware Public Archives: John Dickinson Letters.

John Dickinson Plantation, Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs: Dickinson Research Files.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania: R.R. Logan collection of John Dickinson papers, 1671-1882 (bulk 1670-1800), Collection 383.

See also: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/guidedisplay.pl?index=D000321>.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Dickinson College.
- Pennsylvania. Courts.
- Pennsylvania. High Court of Errors and Appeals.

- Pennsylvania. Militia.
- Pennsylvania. Provincial Assembly.
- Pennsylvania. Supreme Executive Council.
- Stamp Act Congress (1765 : New York, N.Y.).
- United States. Constitutional Convention (1787).
- United States. Continental Congress.

### **Genre(s)**

- Business records
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Estate records
- Financial records
- Genealogical tables
- Legal documents
- Manuscripts
- Notes
- Poems
- Property records
- Receipts (financial records)
- Speeches
- Wills

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Delaware
- Pennsylvania
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Wilmington (Del.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Chase, Samuel, 1741-1811
- Dickinson, John, 1732-1808
- Dickinson, Mary Norris, 1740-1803
- Dickinson, Philemon, 1739-1809
- Fergusson, Elizabeth Graeme, 1737-1801
- Griffiths, Hannah, 1727-1817
- Jones, John, 1729-1791

- Killen, William, 1722-1805
- Lee, Arthur, 1740-1792
- Lee, Charles, 1731-1782
- Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794
- Lee, William, 1739-1795
- Nisbet, Charles, 1736-1804
- Read, George, 1733-1798
- Rodney, Caesar, 1728-1784
- Thomson, Charles, 1729-1824
- Thomson, Hannah
- Tilton, James, 1745-1822

### **Subject(s)**

- Delaware--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- Delaware--Politics and government--1775-1783
- Pennsylvania--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1775-1783
- Quaker women
- Real property
- United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783
- United States--Politics and government

## Series I. John Dickinson

## Collection Inventory

| Series I. John Dickinson    |     |        |
|-----------------------------|-----|--------|
| Subseries I. Correspondence |     |        |
| A. Incoming                 |     |        |
|                             | Box | Folder |
| 1759-1766                   | 1   | 1      |
| 1768-1769                   | 1   | 2      |
| 1770                        | 1   | 3      |
| 1771-1772                   | 1   | 4      |
| 1773 January-1774 April 2   | 1   | 5      |
| 1774 July 25-December 14    | 1   | 6      |
| 1775 January 7-February 6   | 1   | 7      |
| 1775 February 13-March 28   | 1   | 8      |

Subseries I. Correspondence

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|                             |   |    |
|-----------------------------|---|----|
| 1775 April 4-May 9          | 1 | 9  |
| 1775 May 22-July 6          | 1 | 10 |
| 1775 July 12-September 10   | 1 | 11 |
| 1776 January 3-July 3       | 1 | 12 |
| 1776 July 4-July 29         | 1 | 13 |
| 1776 July 30-August 1       | 1 | 14 |
| 1776 August 3-August 11     | 1 | 15 |
| 1776 August 14-1777 June 18 | 1 | 16 |
| 1778 March 20-1779 April 29 | 1 | 17 |
| 1779 May 10-October 17      | 1 | 18 |
| 1780                        | 1 | 19 |
| 1781                        | 1 | 20 |
| 1782 January 4-March 6      | 1 | 21 |
| 1782 March 24-June 23       | 1 | 22 |

Subseries I. Correspondence

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|                               |   |    |
|-------------------------------|---|----|
| 1782 August 24-October 8      | 2 | 1  |
| 1782 November 5-27            | 2 | 2  |
| 1782 December 2-31            | 2 | 3  |
| 1783 January 4-April 29       | 2 | 4  |
| 1783 May 16-December 29       | 2 | 5  |
| 1784 February 2-May 8         | 2 | 6  |
| 1784 May 24-August 16         | 2 | 7  |
| 1784 September 24-December 24 | 2 | 8  |
| 1785 January 15-February 15   | 2 | 9  |
| 1785 March 2-April 16         | 2 | 10 |
| 1785 May 3-July 19            | 2 | 11 |
| 1785 August 1-October 25      | 2 | 12 |
| 1786 March 10-July 8          | 2 | 13 |
| 1786 August 1-October 3       | 2 | 14 |

## Subseries I. Correspondence

|                               |   |    |
|-------------------------------|---|----|
| 1786 October 6-November 29    | 2 | 15 |
| 1787 January 10-December 20   | 2 | 16 |
| 1788 January 20-April 7       | 2 | 17 |
| 1788 April 9-June 30          | 2 | 18 |
| 1788 July 2-October 15        | 2 | 19 |
| 1788 November 3-1789 April 28 | 2 | 20 |
| 1789 May 11-December 18       | 2 | 21 |
| 1790                          | 3 | 1  |
| 1791                          | 3 | 2  |
| 1792                          | 3 | 3  |
| 1793 February 14-April 9      | 3 | 4  |
| 1793 May 20-October 14        | 3 | 5  |
| 1794 February 13-April 24     | 3 | 6  |
| 1794 May 1-July 9             | 3 | 7  |



Subseries I. Correspondence

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|                            |   |    |
|----------------------------|---|----|
| 1794 August 2-November 9   | 3 | 8  |
| 1794 November 12-March 16  | 3 | 9  |
| 1795 April 7-May 10        | 3 | 10 |
| 1795 May 12-November 27    | 3 | 11 |
| 1796 January 4-February 22 | 3 | 12 |
| 1796 March 5-December 18   | 3 | 13 |
| 1797 January 23-July 11    | 3 | 14 |
| 1797 August 4-December 26  | 3 | 15 |
| 1798 January 10-March 24   | 3 | 16 |
| 1798 April 3-June 3        | 3 | 17 |
| 1798 June 11-November 2    | 3 | 18 |
| 1799 January 19-April 23   | 3 | 19 |
| 1799 May 22-June 8         | 4 | 1  |
| 1799 June 14-December 23   | 4 | 2  |

Subseries I. Correspondence

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|                                  |   |    |
|----------------------------------|---|----|
| 1800 January 6-March 2           | 4 | 3  |
| 1800 March 18-December 20        | 4 | 4  |
| 1801 January 13-June 13          | 4 | 5  |
| 1801 July 22-1802 February 4     | 4 | 6  |
| 1802 February 15-April 13        | 4 | 7  |
| 1802 May 17-December 14          | 4 | 8  |
| 1803 January 13-March 1          | 4 | 9  |
| 1803 April 6-August 15           | 4 | 10 |
| 1803 September 2-1804 February 6 | 4 | 11 |
| 1804 February 10-April 28        | 4 | 12 |
| 1804 April 28-November 29        | 4 | 13 |
| 1805 February 4-May 14           | 4 | 14 |
| 1805 June 10-August 14           | 4 | 15 |
| 1805 October 7-December 11       | 4 | 16 |

## Subseries I. Correspondence

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| 1806 February 21-May 21  | 4 | 17 |
| 1806 June 6-February 17  | 4 | 18 |
| 1807 February 18-September 25  | 4 | 19 |
| 1807 October-1809 December 18  | 4 | 20 |
| Letters to William Livingston from [Joshua] and Isaac Vanderbuck; to Thomas Mifflin from George Ross; and to Caesar Rodney from Nathaniel Greene 1782, undated | 4 | 21 |
| A-F undated  | 5 | 1  |
| G undated  | 5 | 2  |
| H undated  | 5 | 3  |
| I-K undated  | 5 | 4  |
| L undated  | 5 | 5  |
| M-N undated  | 5 | 6  |
| R undated  | 5 | 7  |
| S-Z and anonymous undated  | 5 | 8  |

## Subseries I. Correspondence

|   |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Envelopes and calling cards undated   | 5          | 9             |
| Notes made by Sally Norris Dickinson regarding John Dickinson's incoming correspondence undated | 5          | 10            |
| <b>B. Outgoing</b>  |            |               |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple 1753 December 8-1754 March 8              | 5          | 11            |
| Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple 1754 March 29-May 25                      | 5          | 12            |
| Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple 1754 August 1-October 29                  | 5          | 13            |
| Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple 1755 January 21-February 19               | 5          | 14            |
| Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple 1755 April 8-September 30                 | 5          | 15            |
| Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple 1756 January 8-June 6                     | 5          | 16            |
| Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple 1756 June 6-August 7                      | 5          | 17            |

## Subseries II. Revolutionary and Early National Government papers

|             |   |    |
|-------------|---|----|
| 1758-1780   | 5 | 18 |
| 1781        | 5 | 19 |
| 1782        | 5 | 20 |
| 1783-1784   | 5 | 21 |
| 1785-1789   | 5 | 22 |
| 1792-1798   | 5 | 23 |
| 1800-1802   | 5 | 24 |
| 1803-1804   | 5 | 25 |
| 1805-1806   | 5 | 26 |
| 1807        | 5 | 27 |
| A-Z undated | 5 | 28 |

**Subseries II. Revolutionary and Early National Government papers**

**A. Revolutionary period 1765-1780**

**Box**

**Folder**

## Subseries II. Revolutionary and Early National Government papers

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Papers concerning the Stamp Act Congress 1765   | 6 | 1  |
| Thomas Jenning's opinion on Maryland poll tax, extract from Virginia Committee of Correspondence proceedings 1773 | 6 | 2  |
| Notes from first Continental Congress, Address of Congress to the Inhabitants of Quebec 1774                      | 6 | 3  |
| Address to John Dickinson from the Mechanics 1774 June 27   | 6 | 4  |
| Draft of Patrick Henry's petition to the King 1774  | 6 | 5  |
| Dickinson's draft of first petition to the King 1774  | 6 | 6  |
| Jay's draft of the Olive Branch Petition; resolution on a motion by Lord North 1775                               | 6 | 7  |
| Dickinson's note on Constitutional revisions 1776   | 6 | 8  |
| Burke's motions in the House of Commons 1777  | 6 | 9  |
| State tax resolution 1779 October 7   | 6 | 10 |
| New Jersey protest of Virginia land policies 1780 December 29   | 6 | 11 |
| Counterfeit money and description of detection undated  | 6 | 12 |
| East India Tea Company accounts undated   | 6 | 13 |

## Subseries II. Revolutionary and Early National Government papers

| B. Early National period 1781-1800  |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Charter for the National Bank 1781  | 6          | 14            |
| Papers relating to the Hartford Convention; early land policies 1781  | 6          | 15            |
| Regulations on private armed vessels 1782   | 6          | 16            |
| Act of Assembly on General Steuben; proposed amendments on bills of credit and tax payments 1782                                      | 6          | 17            |
| Letter concerning relations with Great Britain 1783 June 24   | 6          | 18            |
| On moving Congress from Philadelphia to Annapolis, Maryland (because of the Mutiny of 1783) 1783 August 13                            | 6          | 19            |
| Extract of a letter from the Count de Vergennes to Chevalier de la Luzerne 1783 February 27   | 6          | 20            |
| Dickinson's note on the mutiny in Philadelphia; Indian treaty; and extract of letter with Franklin's advice on foreign relations 1783 | 6          | 21            |
| Newspaper clippings on the National Bank and overseas trade 1784  | 6          | 22            |
| Hartley's recommendations on commercial treaty 1784   | 6          | 23            |
| Copies of acts on foreign trade, Western lands, and import duties 1784  | 6          | 24            |

## Subseries II. Revolutionary and Early National Government papers

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Ordinance on the Department of Finance 1784  | 6 | 25 |
| Report on Western lands [1784]   | 6 | 26 |
| Dickinson's notes for speeches at the Constitutional Convention 1787                     | 6 | 27 |
| Dickinson's notes for speeches at the Constitutional Convention 1787                     | 6 | 28 |
| Dickinson's notes on modification of the Randolph Plan 1787                              | 6 | 29 |
| Virginia Plan papers 1787  | 6 | 30 |
| Notes on the New Jersey Plan, Constitutional Convention 1787                             | 6 | 31 |
| New Jersey Plan papers 1787  | 6 | 32 |
| Barclay's recommendations 1787   | 6 | 33 |
| Dickinson opinion on states' rights to dissent undated                                   | 6 | 34 |
| On the establishment of the capital at Washington, real estate and stamp taxes 1798-1800 | 6 | 35 |
| Copies of Fabius letters supporting the Constitution 1788                                | 6 | 36 |
| Dickinson draft of a speech on the Jay Treaty undated                                    | 6 | 37 |



## Subseries III. Revolutionary War documents

|   |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Statement on the encouragement of American manufactures [by J.M.] undated                       | 6          | 38            |
| Financial notes undated   | 6          | 39            |
| Draft on an act on supply commissions undated   | 6          | 40            |
| Dickinson's notes on the establishment of the national capital undated                          | 6          | 41            |
| Dickinson's manuscript on a plan of government to replace the Articles of Confederation undated | 6          | 42            |
| Dickinson's notes on government affairs undated   | 6          | 43            |
| Blank letters of marque undated   | 6          | 44            |
| <b>Subseries III. Revolutionary War documents</b>   |            |               |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Furlough recommendations 1776 Summer  | 7          | 1-3           |
| Petition for furlough 1776 Summer   | 7          | 4             |
| Hospital reports 1776 Summer  | 7          | 5             |
| Soldiers' provisions, ammunition account 1776 July, August                                      | 7          | 6             |

## Subseries IV. Delaware government documents

|  |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Dickinson's notes on military movements; general orders, and memorandum on Longchamps case 1776 July-August, undated | 7          | 7             |
| Militia returns and Lancaster militia ammunition returns 1776 August 9-10  | 7          | 8             |
| Order for supplies and certificate of loyalty for Samuel Wharton, signed by Benjamin Franklin 1779, 1780             | 7          | 9             |
| Report on galley construction 1782   | 7          | 10            |
| Articles of Peace 1783   | 7          | 11            |
| Instructions on battle tactics undated   | 7          | 12            |
| <b>Subseries IV. Delaware government documents</b>   |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Delaware River land dispute 1772   | 7          | 13            |
| William Killen resignation from the Supreme Court 1781   | 7          | 14            |
| Bill on a state tax and bills of credit 1781   | 7          | 15            |
| Suggestions for reform of the Delaware court system, submitted by William Killen 1781                                | 7          | 16            |
| Bill to recruit a regiment in Delaware 1781  | 7          | 17            |

**Subseries V. Pennsylvania government documents**

|  |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Letters of congratulation regarding [presidency] and Dickinson's response to the Assembly 1781-1782  | 7          | 18            |
| "An Account of the Rejoicings on the Birth of the Dauphin at Dover, June 22, 1782," describing the procession and triumphal arch 1782 June 19-22 | 7          | 19            |
| Militia returns 1782   | 7          | 20            |
| John Lyle case 1782  | 7          | 21            |
| Memo regarding Navy finances and Congé for M. Hamilton 1782 August, October  | 7          | 22            |
| Paymaster and recruiting accounts 1782   | 7          | 23            |
| Dickinson's appointment to the Court of Appeals 1788 September 18  | 7          | 24            |
| Statement on William Killen, Supreme Court Justice 1789  | 7          | 25            |
| Budget figures undated   | 7          | 26            |
| <b>Subseries V. Pennsylvania government documents</b>  |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Dickinson's speeches [1760s]   | 8          | 1             |

## Subseries V. Pennsylvania government documents

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Dickinson's manuscript for "Protest in the Assembly against the clause for making paper bills of credit a legal tender in payment of all contracts" 1764 March | 8 | 2  |
| Pennsylvania State Convention resolutions, military 1776 August 10   | 8 | 3  |
| Petition to the King regarding tea duty, and John Morris's appointment 1771 February 12, 1771 March 22   | 8 | 4  |
| Materials regarding the Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson case 1778-1779  | 8 | 5  |
| Accounts of the class tax, land office and militia fines and opinion on enforcement of prisoners of war act 1782   | 8 | 6  |
| Letters regarding the financing of the Pennsylvania regiments 1783 January 4, 8  | 8 | 7  |
| Court fines 1783 January 4, 8  | 8 | 8  |
| Soldiers' land claims 1783 February 16   | 8 | 9  |
| Expenses of Robert Ralston and debtors' petition 1783 April 1, 1783 August 21  | 8 | 10 |
| Indian Treaty 1783 October 4   | 8 | 11 |
| A list of debts due by the State of Pennsylvania and an estimate of the expenses for the year 1783 1782 December 2   | 8 | 12 |

## Subseries V. Pennsylvania government documents

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Letters of congratulation regarding Dickinson's election to the Presidency of Pennsylvania, including responses 1783 | 8 | 13 |
| Celebration of the peace 1784 January 20   | 8 | 14 |
| Proposal for and correspondence regarding a Bank of Pennsylvania 1784 January-February                               | 8 | 15 |
| Council notes 1784 March 22  | 8 | 16 |
| Dickinson's draft of "Answer to the Council of Censors" circa 1784 [July]  | 8 | 17 |
| Dickinson's speeches 1784 July 21, 1784 August 5   | 8 | 18 |
| Assembly bill on damaged goods and admiralty jurisdiction 1784 August  | 8 | 19 |
| Pennsylvania state financial statement and Indian Treaty 1784, 1784 October 22                                       | 8 | 20 |
| Memo regarding Captain Stokely and Pennsylvania debt and revenue statements 1784                                     | 8 | 21 |
| Dickinson's message to the General Assembly regarding public lands 1784 December 4                                   | 8 | 22 |
| Dickinson's speech to the General Assembly 1784 December 15  | 8 | 23 |
| Tax accounts and salaries of Supreme Court justices 1784 December  | 8 | 24 |

## Subseries V. Pennsylvania government documents

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Dickinson's message on Pennsylvania's fiscal plan 1784  | 8 | 25 |
| Materials regarding the Aaron Doane case 1784 November-1785 January   | 8 | 26 |
| Dickinson's message to the General Assembly 1785 February 1   | 8 | 27 |
| Payment of soldiers 1785 February 22  | 8 | 28 |
| Materials regarding Major James Evans' court martial 1875 March 24  | 8 | 29 |
| Materials regarding Captain Joseph Hoover's court martial 1785 April 6                                      | 8 | 30 |
| Dickinson's messages and notes regarding Indian affairs, prison conditions, loan repayment, etc. undated    | 8 | 31 |
| Essay on continental and state securities, a debtors' petition, and a motion on committee of safety undated | 8 | 32 |
| Papers regarding the military undated   | 8 | 33 |
| Indian treaty, land office records, and proposal for education of poor children undated                     | 8 | 34 |
| Tax and population accounts undated   | 8 | 35 |
| Exports values compared undated   | 8 | 36 |
| Production figures undated  | 8 | 37 |

## Subseries VI. Land and business records

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Correspondence regarding the Wyoming controversy 1782-1783     | 8 | 38 |
| Correspondence regarding the Wyoming controversy 1784, undated | 8 | 39 |
| Papers regarding the Wyoming controversy 1782-1784             | 8 | 40 |

## Subseries VI. Land and business records

## A. Miscellaneous land and financial papers

|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Papers concerning the Dickinson property at Poplar Ridge 1733-1801                                  | 9          | 1             |
| 1763-1774   | 9          | 2             |
|   |            | <b>Volume</b> |
| Indenture, John and Mary Dickinson one party, and Philemon Dickinson, the other 1774<br>[oversized] |            | 1             |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| 1777-1778   | 9          | 3             |
| Receipt and account book 1777-1807  | 9          | 4             |
| Notebooks on land business and rentals 1779-1795  | 9          | 5             |
| Articles of agreement 1780-1785   | 9          | 6             |

## Subseries VI. Land and business records

|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| 1786-1792   | 9  | 7  |
| Newspaper clippings on agricultural and building topics 1787-1804 | 9  | 8  |
| Construction agreements and estimates 1793                        | 9  | 9  |
| 1794  | 9  | 10 |
| 1795  | 9  | 11 |
| Delaware rent roll 1796   | 9  | 12 |
| "Exemplification patent" 1796                                     | 9  | 13 |
| 1797  | 9  | 14 |
| 1798  | 9  | 15 |
| 1799 January-May  | 9  | 16 |
| 1799 June-December  | 9  | 17 |
| 1800  | 9  | 18 |
| 1801  | 10 | 1  |
| 1802-1803   | 10 | 2  |



## Subseries VI. Land and business records

|  |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 1804-1805  | 10         | 3             |
| 1806-1807  | 10         | 4             |
| undated  | 10         | 5             |
| Memoranda on construction work undated   | 10         | 6             |
| Newcastle County, Delaware, deed undated   | 10         | 7             |
| A Draught of a Parcel of Land (Jones Neck), purchased by Joshua Gordon by Philemon Dickinson undated [oversized] | 13         | 1             |
| An Old Draught of Land in Kent undated [oversized]   | 13         | 2             |
| <b>B. Legal papers</b>   |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Wills of Dickinson family members 1722, 1730   | 10         | 8             |
| Will of John Dickinson's (notes and drafts), with codicils 1780-1803   | 10         | 9             |
| Will of Albanus Logan 1854   | 10         | 10            |
| Certificate of admission to the Middle Temple 1757   | 10         | 11            |
| Dickinson's opinions on the state of the laws in America [1773]  | 10         | 12            |

## Subseries VI. Land and business records

|  |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Dickinson's management of the Thomas Wilson estate 1774-1776                             | 10         | 13            |
| Case of the armed sloop <i>Argo</i> , before the High Court of Errors, Pennsylvania 1783 | 10         | 14            |
| Case of Matteo Bratelli, before the High Court of Errors, Pennsylvania 1784              | 10         | 15            |
| Case of Purviance et al v. Angus, High Court of Errors, Pennsylvania 1785                | 10         | 16            |
| Miscellaneous papers concerning Dickinson's legal practice 1782-1804, undated            | 10         | 17            |
| <b>C. Bills and receipts</b>   |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| 1755-1776  | 11         | 1             |
| 1777-1779  | 11         | 2             |
| 1780-1783  | 11         | 3             |
| 1784-1789  | 11         | 4             |
| 1790-1792  | 11         | 5             |
| 1793   | 11         | 6             |

Subseries VI. Land and business records

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|                    |    |    |
|--------------------|----|----|
| 1794               | 11 | 7  |
| 1795               | 11 | 8  |
| 1796               | 11 | 9  |
| 1797               | 11 | 10 |
| 1798               | 11 | 11 |
| 1799 January-July  | 11 | 12 |
| 1799 July-December | 11 | 13 |
| 1800               | 11 | 14 |
| 1801               | 11 | 15 |
| 1802               | 11 | 16 |
| 1803               | 11 | 17 |
| 1804               | 11 | 18 |
| 1805               | 11 | 19 |
| 1806               | 11 | 20 |

## Subseries VII. Collected essays, notes and commonplace books

|      |    |    |
|------|----|----|
| 1807 | 11 | 21 |
|------|----|----|

|         |    |    |
|---------|----|----|
| undated | 11 | 22 |
|---------|----|----|

## Subseries VII. Collected essays, notes and commonplace books

|   | Box | Folder |
|---|-----|--------|
| The Concessions of West Jersey 1676   | 12  | 1      |
| Manuscript list of lots in the original draft of Philadelphia, in the hand of Isaac Norris 1683                           | 12  | 2      |
| Notebook, in the hand of Isaac Norris, on the Penn-Baltimore land dispute 1600s   | 12  | 3      |
| Account of land partitioning in Germantown 1715 May 26  | 12  | 4      |
| Notes on Dickinson family genealogy circa 1740, undated   | 12  | 5      |
| Copy of Conrad Weiser's journal on Indian Treaty 1754   | 12  | 6      |
| Clippings from the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> , largely regarding the preservation of fruits and grains 1753, 1764, 1769 | 12  | 7      |
| "Opinion on the 40 Poll Act in Maryland," essay probably by Dickinson 1773 October 1                                      | 12  | 8      |

## Subseries VIII. John Dickinson estate records

|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| Robert G. Hooper essay on Liberality of Sentiment, including cover letters 1785   | 12 | 9  |
| Newspaper clippings of advertisements for Dickinson's political writing and [Dickinson's] comment on Pennsylvania land laws 1799, undated | 12 | 10 |
| Notes on Dickinson's books and papers 1802, 1885, undated   | 12 | 11 |
| 19th century notes on <i>Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania</i> circa 1800s  | 12 | 12 |
| Anonymous essay on the Nottingham School undated  | 12 | 13 |
| Commonplace book [probably belonging to Dickinson] undated  | 12 | 14 |
| Lloyd and Logan genealogies undated   | 12 | 15 |
| Miscellaneous notes undated   | 12 | 16 |
| "Reflections on the Flag of Truce Trade in America," by an English Merchant [Dickinson manuscript?] undated                               | 12 | 17 |
| Society of Cincinnati regulations undated   | 12 | 18 |
| Speech on the founding of Dickinson College [circa 1783]  | 12 | 19 |
| <b>Subseries VIII. John Dickinson estate records</b>  |    |    |

Volume

**Series II. Mary Norris Dickinson**

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Estate journal 1808-1814

2

Estate ledger 1808-1814

3

**Series II. Mary Norris Dickinson****Volume**Copies of letters between Hannah Griffitts, Hannah Harrison, and Mary Norris circa  
1760s

4

Poems 1764-1768

5