

Library Company of Philadelphia

**McA MSS 016**

**WILLIAM TRENT PAPERS**

1763-1789

.21 linear feet, 1 box

March 2006

**Descriptive Summary****Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia  
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

**Call Number**

McA MSS 016

**Creator**

Trent, William, 1715-1787?

**Title**

William Trent Papers

**Inclusive Dates**

1763-1789

**Quantity**

.21 linear feet (1 box)

**Language of Materials**

Materials are in English.

**Abstract**

The William Trent Papers describe some of Trent's land holdings and business dealings in Pennsylvania, upstate New York, Maryland, and the Ohio Valley, with several investors including John Swift, Joseph Morris, George Campbell, George Croghan, Joseph Simon, David Franks, and Thomas Smallman, among others.

**Administrative Information****Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society's reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, <http://www.hsp.org/>, for reading room hours.

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

**Processing Information**

The William Trent Papers were formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The papers were reunited, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2005, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Preferred Citation**

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## Online Catalog Headings

### Subject Names

Croghan, George, d. 1782

### Subject Topics

Land settlement--Pennsylvania

Land settlement--New Jersey

Land settlement--New York

Real estate investment--Middle Atlantic States

Land speculation--Middle Atlantic States

Ohio River Valley--History

Pennsylvania--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Sources

### Document Types

Bonds (legal records)

Deeds

Indentures

Inventories

Powers of attorney

Legal documents

## Related Collections

Many other William Trent letters and documents are held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (in Collections 310, 669, 840, and 1454), including his important Fort Pitt journal from 1763 (in Collection 1107).

## Biographical/Historical Notes

William Trent (1715-1787), soldier, Indian trader, and land speculator, was a prominent figure in the development of Western Pennsylvania during the second half of the eighteenth century.

## Collection Overview

The Trent Papers in the McAllister Collection describe some of William Trent's land holdings and business dealings with several investors including John Swift, Joseph Morris, George Campbell, George Croghan, Joseph Simon, David Franks, and Thomas Smallman, among others. The papers are arranged in chronological order.

Among the documents is an undated "List of Books, Papers, &c being the contents of a Black Trunk, belonging to the estate of William Trent deceased" describing fifteen

items and bundles of papers (none of which are contained in the McAllister Collection). Another undated document is Trent's copy of a list of twenty-eight parcels sold to Campbell, Mitchell, and Davis, which includes six tracts along Jennings Run in Maryland.

Box    Folder

## CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

1763-1789

Arranged in chronological order.

1	1	Agreement with John Baynton and Samuel Wharton for land	1763 Dec 22
	2	Agreement with William George and Thomas Ferguson for land	1765 Mar 6
	3	Letter from John Fraser, Bedford, re: skins	1765 Jul 1
	4	Agreement with Henry Cunningham and receipt	1765 Oct 16
	5	Deed with William Sells for land	1766 Sep 4
	6	Receipt from Jeremiah Warder for Reuben Haines's note	1766 Sep 9
	7	Deed with William George for land	1766 Oct 29
	8	Accounts with Richard Tea	1767 Aug 7
	9	Surveys of lands belonging to Trent and John Swift	1767 Aug 17
	10	George Croghan request for payment	1768 Jan 1
	11	Deed with John Fraser for land	1768 Apr 16
	12	Mortgage with Joseph Morris for land	1769 Mar 22
	13	Invoice from Joseph Morris for bond and interest	1769 Mar 22
	14	Indenture with Joseph Morris for land in Albany Co., NY	1769 Apr 3
	15	Letter to Burlington investors, with Joseph Morris receipt	1769 Apr 7
	16	Accounts with George Croghan	1772 Dec 26
	17	Agreement with Thomas Smallman for lands on the Ohio	1775 Nov 30
	18	Agreement with Thomas Smallman for lands on the Ohio	1776 Jul 20
	19	Agreement with George Campbell for land in Cumberland Co.	1777 Jun 4
	20	Deeds from William Coxe for lands in Northumberland Co.	1779 Jan 1
	21	Receipt from William Coxe for lands	1779 Feb 15

Box    Folder

## CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS, cont.

[1]	22	Indenture with John Davis, John Mitchell, and George Campbell	1779 Mar 1
	23	Letter to Richard Tea, re: surveys	1779 Mar 6
	24	Bond with John Davis, John Mitchell, and George Campbell	1779 Mar 17
	25	Petition to New Jersey state assembly, for law re: low lands	1780 Jun 8
	26	Accounts with Mitchell, Campbell & Davis	1781
	27	Agreement with James Hayes for land in Delaware Water Gap	1781 Aug 23
	28	Letters from George Campbell and Hillegas	1781, 1784
	29	Power of attorney, to Samuel Wharton	1784 Jan 29
	30	Trent estate accounts with John Glen	1789 Mar 10
	31	Inventory of books, papers, etc. in the Trent estate	undated
	32	List of lands sold to Mitchell, Campbell & Davis	undated
	33	Situation of lands owned with John Swift	undated
	34	Notes of lands surveyed	undated
	35	Notes on land agreement with David Franks and Joseph Simon	undated