The Making of Washington's World

Ledgers: (Groups 1)

MS 6: John Hobart Household Accounts for George II, 1727
MS 77: Catterick’s Journal and Ledger, 1770
MS 415: Blacksmith’s Ledger, 1774
MS 362-64: Slave Documents, 19th c., with printed primary sources

Indentures, lands and service: (Group 2)

Hayes MS 52 OS1: Indenture / service, Quebec / New York, 1788
Hayes MS 77: Indenture / land, New York, 1789
MS 349: Indenture, land, Yorkshire, 1489
MS 353: Sarah Smith Indenture / American, 1805
MS 386: Indenture, land / Cornwall & Middlesex, 1682
MS 400-402: Indentures / service / English, 1719, 1749, 1789

Almanacs and Philosophical Transactions (Group 3):

An Astronomical Diary, late 18th century. Almanac Collection, selections [Internet Archive].

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, selections [http://rstl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/by/year].

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, selections [Google; Internet Archive].

Representing Colonial America: (Group 4)


Eliot, John. Biographical Dictionary containing a brief account of the first settlers... Boston, 1809. F 3 E5 [Internet Archive].
Grant, Anne MacVicar. *Memoirs of an American Lady with sketches of manners and scenery of America as it existed before the Revolution.* London, 1808. WPRP 207, v. 1,2 [Internet Archive].


Mercator, Gerhard. *Gerardi Mercatoris atlas sive cosmographicae.* Amsterdam, 1630. PLUME OS G1007 A7 1630. [‘America sive India Nova, Yale University Library Digital Collections: http://digital.library.yale.edu/edm/compoundobject/collection/1026_1/id/2764/rec/27].

**Revolutionary Thought (Group 5)**


In Provincial Congress [Massachusetts], *Cambridge, December 5, 1774.* E211 M438 1774.


Tucker, Josiah. *An humble address and earnest appeal to those respectable personages in Great-Britain and Ireland.* Gloucester, 1775. E 211 T894 [Internet Archive].


**Witchcraft: (Group 6)**

Defoe, Daniel. *A System of Magick; or, a History of the Black Art.* London, 1728. BF 1601 D3 1728 [Internet Archive].

Glanvil, Joseph. *Saducismus Triumphatus: or, Full and Plain Evidence Concerning Witches and Apparitions.* London, 1681. BF 1565 G58 1681 [Internet Archive; Google Books].


**Religion: (Group 7)**

Bible. [German Sauer “Gunpowder Bible”], Germantown, 1776.


Hume, Sophia. *An Exhortation to the Inhabitants of South Carolina...* Philadelphia, 1747. BX 7730 H83 1747 [Internet Archive; Google Books, 1752].


Mather, Cotton. *A good old age; a brief essay on the glory of aged piety...* Boston, 1726. BJ 1691 M38.


**General Histories:**


Chauncey, Charles. *The earth delivered from the curse to which it is at present subjected.* Boston, 1756. BT 162 E2 C45.


*History of the War in America between Great Britain and Her Colonies.* Dublin, 1779. E208 I33 1779 v.1 [Google Books].

*An Impartial and Correct History of the War between the United States of America and Great Britain.* New York, 1816. E354 O18 [Internet Archive].

Hutchinson, Thomas. *The History of Massachusetts from the first settlement thereof in 1628 until the year 1750.* Boston, 1795. F 67 H98 1795 v.2 [Internet Archive].


Le Mercier, Andrew. *A treatise against detraction.* Boston, 1733. BV 4627 S6L4 [Internet Archive].

*The Mirror of Misery; or, Tyranny Exposed.* New York, 1811. E 446 M667 1811.


[N.S., i.e. Nathaniel Saltonstall]. *The present state of New-England with respect to the Indian War.* London, 1676. E 83.67 P93 [Internet Archive].


Tucker, Josiah. *The respective pleas and arguments of the mother country*. Gloucester, 1775. E211 T92 [Internet Archive].

Thacher, James. *A Military Journal During the American Revolutionary War from 1775 to 1783*. Boston, 1823. E275 T354. [Internet Archive].

Tucker, Josiah. *A Series of Answers... against separating from the Rebellious Colonies...* Gloucester, 1776. E211 T925. [Internet Archive].

*Ulster County Gazette*. Jan 4, 1800 UNCAT 95-6-34
Early American Colonialism: the Making of Washington’s World
The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, July 12, 2013

Colonial government Sources (Group 8)

Laws, records, charters

*State Papers Colonial, America and West Indies, 1574-1738, (Calendars).*
39 vols. Norlin GovPubs: 301-R24 17:vol. NORBASE British History Online

*Documents relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York.* GovPubs 30-Ed 8 9:D 65 Online: Internet Archive

*Federal and State constitutions, colonial charters and other organic laws* 7 v. Collections of materials from all the states. Published in the U.S. Serial Set volumes: 5190 5191 5192 5193 5194-1. 5194-2, 5194-3.
Online: Internet Archive


NOTE: Most of the council and assembly proceedings proclamations, orders, resolutions and other official records of the colonies can be found in the Colonial Office papers, Class 5. Copies, either printed or in manuscript, of the Acts and Proceedings of colonial councils and legislatures were sent to the Privy Council for approval or rejection. They were then forwarded to the Board of Trade. Other copies were retained in the colony itself where, as a rule, they are still to be found.

Plantations and Settlements


*Tracts and other papers relating principally to the origin, settlement, and progress of the colonies in North America : from the discovery of the country to the year 1776* Norlin E187 .F69
Online: American Memory - Capital and the Bay Collection

Native Americans

Early American Indian documents: treaties and laws, 1607-1789 20 vols. GovPubs Ref KF8202 1979 Online version not available. Check WorldCat to borrow volumes via Interlibrary Loan. See section on Native Americans below for online sources of early American Indian documents.

Other Sources for American Colonial Research (not included in Groups)

British:

*State Papers Domestic, 1760-1775, George III, Home Office Papers (Calendars).*
Calendars: Calendars are chronological lists of documents or manuscripts. They are sometimes annotated and may excerpt large sections of material, or even include entire texts of some items. They can be used as indexes to the collections of state papers. The transcribed text can assist in deciphering the handwritten papers in the film. Sometimes, the calendars are often full enough to serve as good substitutes for the complete text.

**British Parliamentary Debates:**

*History and proceedings of the House of Commons, 1660-1739*  
British History Online  Parliamentary sources  
*Google Books: Cobbett’s parliamentary history of England, from the Norman conquest in 1066 to the year 1803*  
(Search for title)

**Records of the British Colonial Office, class 5**  
microfilm  GovPubs 301-R24 49  53 microfilm reels  
National Archives: “This series comprises the original correspondence and entry books of the Board of Trade and the Secretaries of State, together with the acts, sessional papers and miscellaneous records relating to colonies in North America and the West Indies. Before 1696 matters concerning the colonies were dealt with primarily by the Privy Council and its committees. The first special body convened to advise on colonial (plantation) questions was the Commission of Trade set up in 1625. From 1696 to 1782 colonial affairs were the responsibility of the Board of Trade and the secretaries of state in partnership. Thereafter, the Home Office held responsibility until 1801 when the War and Colonial Department was established.”  
Fee

- **How to search the collection:** There is no subject index to this collection. There is a reel index for each part. Could request reels via Interlibrary Loan Service at your library.

  Part 1: *Westward Expansion, 1700-1783* (primarily consisting of correspondence with the Colonial Governors)  
  Part 2: *Board of Trade* (primarily consisting of correspondence with plantations and the Virginia Board of Trade)  
  Part 3: *French and Indian War* (primarily consisting of military correspondence)  
  Guide, parts 1-3:

  Part 4: *Royal Instructions and Commissions to Colonial Officials, 1702-1784* (primarily consisting of instructions for the Colonial Governors and letters to plantations)  
  Guide, Pt. 4  
  Part 5: *American Revolution, 1772-1784* (transcripts of military correspondence of British Generals, letters, legal materials, correspondence of Colonial officials, etc.)  
  Guide, Pt. 5

**Journals of the Board of Trade and Plantations.** The Board was charged with colonial administration. In particular, the Board was to ensure that the colonies were commercially profitable to the mother country.  
British History Online

**Colonial government – Laws and constitutions**

- **Colonial Charters.** Online: Avalon Project

Colonial and state laws online collections:

- **Connecticut**  
- **Delaware**  
- **Georgia 1755-1770**  
- **Maryland**  
- **Massachusetts**  
- **New Hampshire**  
- **New Jersey**  
- **New York**  
- **North Carolina**
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
SC (to 1790) Some volumes of the Statutes are available at Internet Archive and Google Books
Virginia and also here

NOTE: The HathiTrust Digital Library has digitized versions of collections of colonial laws for every colony. Remember that you can view the books online in HT but you cannot download an entire book unless your library is a member.

Research guide for U.S. colonial laws

Colonial Records

Connecticut
Massachusetts
New York
North Carolina
Pennsylvania
Virginia and Virginia Colonial Records Project

Settlements

Early American digital archive: collection of electronic texts and links to texts originally written in or about the Americas from 1492 to approximately 1820
Jamestown records of the VA company Online: American Memory – Jefferson Papers
Colonial Williamsburg digital library
Religious Petitions (Virginia): Online: American Memory

Native Americans

Yale Indian Papers Project New England Indian papers Online: Yale University

Laws of the Colonial and State Governments, Relating to Indians and Indian Affairs, from 1633 to 1831, Inclusive
Online: Google Books

Virginia's early relations with Native Americans Online: Library of Congress
Treaty collections Online: Avalon Project
Early Recognized Treaties with Indian Nations Online: University of Nebraska at Lincoln
Early Indian students documents collection
Online: Dartmouth College
Jesuit missionaries 1610-1791 Online: Creighton University

TIPS: Consult collections of laws for each colony as well. Colonial laws concerning American Indians are usually included in the colonies' collections of acts and laws. In addition, descriptions of American Indians and discussions of Indian affairs can be found in colonial records and correspondence to and from the colonies.

Captivity Narratives:

Cabeza de Vaca, La Relacion Online: Southwestern Writers Collection, Alkek Library, Texas State University-San Marcos
John Smith, A General History of Virginia … (1624) Online: Documenting the American South
Mary Rowlandson, Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson (1682) Online: Project Gutenberg

Slave trade

Slave trade visual collection Online: University of Virginia
Transatlantic Slave Trade database: Online: Emory University
Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy 1719-1820 Online: University of North Carolina
Peter Force, printer and document collector, intended to publish rare pamphlets, correspondence, and proceedings relating to the "Origin, Settlement, and Progress of the Colonies in North America" that covered the time period 1763-1789. After years of work, the final (but unfinished) result was 9 volumes of material covering the years 1774-1776. Since this material is of extreme importance to scholars of the Revolutionary War period, and is collected in this one source. Online: Northern Illinois University

Diplomatic correspondence of the American Revolution

Century of American Lawmaking

1. Continental Congress
2. Journals of the Continental Congress
3. Letters of Delegates to Congress
4. Elliot’s Debates

Personal Papers:

Benjamin Franklin: Online: Packard Humanities Institute
Thomas Jefferson: Online: American Memory
James Madison: Online: American Memory
George Washington: Online: American Memory

Statistics


Trials

Famous Trials: Online: University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Guides to Colonial Research

Guide to Colonial Office Records
Colonial American History
American and West Indian colonies before 1782
Web sources for Colonial History

Lists of Colonial Documents:


The Plantation Councils, Lords of Trade and the Board of Trade were charged with colonial administration and played an enormous part in shaping colonial institutions. The Board was given control of the governors' instructions (see reference below) and carried on correspondence with them, reporting to the king any important information. The Board nominated governors and other colonial officers for appointment by the King. All colonial legislation was entrusted to the Board, who oversaw the work of colonial assemblies. The Board was also responsible for hearing complaints and grievances.


Commissions and instructions documents were the foundation of the colonial government and the instruments through which England expressed its policies to the colonies. In the 18th century they were more significant than the charters. The commissions to Royal Governors were entered upon the patent rolls.


Document Collections Online

- American Memory Browse by date
- Chronology of American Historical Papers
- Major document collections in the Avalon Project collection: