

*The Library Company* OF PHILADELPHIA

## Dickinson, John (papers)

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard  
Library Company of Philadelphia

1314 Locust St.

Philadelphia, PA 19107

URL: <https://librarycompany.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Library Company of Philadelphia
<b>Creator:</b>	Dickinson, John, 1732-1808
<b>Title:</b>	John Dickinson papers
<b>ID:</b>	MSS00047
<b>ID [aspace_uri]:</b>	/repositories/3/resources/45
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	Bulk, 1753-1808
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1676-1885
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.2 Linear feet 13 containers, 5 volumes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	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 (MSS00047), 1676-1885, Library Company of Philadelphia.

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## 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 Griffiths, 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 Statement

Library Company of Philadelphia

1314 Locust St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

URL: <https://librarycompany.org>

## Revision Description

Finding aid prepared by Holly Mengel. Migrated to Archivists' Toolkit September 22, 2014.  
EAD updated by Dana Dorman, Library Company Archivist, 5/14/2026. 5/14/2026

## Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research use. Please contact Library Company of Philadelphia Reference staff for access to this collection.

## 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.

## Conditions Governing Use note

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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: <https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/D000321>.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Business records
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Delaware
- Delaware--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- Delaware--Politics and government--1775-1783
- Estate records
- Financial records
- Genealogical tables
- Legal documents
- Manuscripts
- Notes
- Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1775-1783
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Poems
- Property records
- Quaker women
- Real property
- Receipts (financial records)

- Speeches
- United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783
- United States--Politics and government
- Wills
- Wilmington (Del.)
- Chase, Samuel, 1741-1811
- Dickinson College.
- Dickinson, John, 1732-1808
- Dickinson, Mary Norris, 1740-1803
- Dickinson, Philemon, 1739-1809
- Fergusson, Elizabeth Graeme, 1737-1801
- Griffitts, 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
- Pennsylvania. Courts.
- Pennsylvania. High Court of Errors and Appeals.
- Pennsylvania. Militia.
- Pennsylvania. Provincial Assembly.
- Pennsylvania. Supreme Executive Council.
- Read, George, 1733-1798
- Rodney, Caesar, 1728-1784
- Stamp Act Congress (1765 : New York, N.Y.).
- Thomson, Charles, 1729-1824
- Thomson, Hannah
- Tilton, James, 1745-1822
- United States. Constitutional Convention (1787).
- United States. Continental Congress.

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I. John Dickinson

#### Subseries I. Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
<b>A. Incoming</b>	
Title/Description	Instances

## Dickinson, John (papers)

1759-1766	Box 1	Folder 1
1768-1769	Box 1	Folder 2
1770	Box 1	Folder 3
1771-1772	Box 1	Folder 4
1773 January-1774 April 2	Box 1	Folder 5
1774 July 25-December 14	Box 1	Folder 6
1775 January 7-February 6	Box 1	Folder 7
1775 February 13-March 28	Box 1	Folder 8
1775 April 4-May 9	Box 1	Folder 9
1775 May 22-July 6	Box 1	Folder 10
1775 July 12-September 10	Box 1	Folder 11
1776 January 3-July 3	Box 1	Folder 12
1776 July 4-July 29	Box 1	Folder 13
1776 July 30-August 1	Box 1	Folder 14
1776 August 3-August 11	Box 1	Folder 15
1776 August 14-1777 June 18	Box 1	Folder 16
1778 March 20-1779 April 29	Box 1	Folder 17
1779 May 10-October 17	Box 1	Folder 18
1780	Box 1	Folder 19
1781	Box 1	Folder 20
1782 January 4-March 6	Box 1	Folder 21
1782 March 24-June 23	Box 1	Folder 22
1782 August 24-October 8	Box 2	Folder 1
1782 November 5-27	Box 2	Folder 2
1782 December 2-31	Box 2	Folder 3
1783 January 4-April 29	Box 2	Folder 4
1783 May 16-December 29	Box 2	Folder 5
1784 February 2-May 8	Box 2	Folder 6
1784 May 24-August 16	Box 2	Folder 7
1784 September 24-December 24	Box 2	Folder 8
1785 January 15-February 15	Box 2	Folder 9
1785 March 2-April 16	Box 2	Folder 10

## Dickinson, John (papers)

1785 May 3-July 19	Box 2	Folder 11
1785 August 1-October 25	Box 2	Folder 12
1786 March 10-July 8	Box 2	Folder 13
1786 August 1-October 3	Box 2	Folder 14
1786 October 6-November 29	Box 2	Folder 15
1787 January 10-December 20	Box 2	Folder 16
1788 January 20-April 7	Box 2	Folder 17
1788 April 9-June 30	Box 2	Folder 18
1788 July 2-October 15	Box 2	Folder 19
1788 November 3-1789 April 28	Box 2	Folder 20
1789 May 11-December 18	Box 2	Folder 21
1790	Box 3	Folder 1
1791	Box 3	Folder 2
1792	Box 3	Folder 3
1793 February 14-April 9	Box 3	Folder 4
1793 May 20-October 14	Box 3	Folder 5
1794 February 13-April 24	Box 3	Folder 6
1794 May 1-July 9	Box 3	Folder 7
1794 August 2-November 9	Box 3	Folder 8
1794 November 12-March 16	Box 3	Folder 9
1795 April 7-May 10	Box 3	Folder 10
1795 May 12-November 27	Box 3	Folder 11
1796 January 4-February 22	Box 3	Folder 12
1796 March 5-December 18	Box 3	Folder 13
1797 January 23-July 11	Box 3	Folder 14
1797 August 4-December 26	Box 3	Folder 15
1798 January 10-March 24	Box 3	Folder 16
1798 April 3-June 3	Box 3	Folder 17
1798 June 11-November 2	Box 3	Folder 18
1799 January 19-April 23	Box 3	Folder 19
1799 May 22-June 8	Box 4	Folder 1
1799 June 14-December 23	Box 4	Folder 2

Dickinson, John (papers)

1800 January 6-March 2	Box 4	Folder 3
1800 March 18-December 20	Box 4	Folder 4
1801 January 13-June 13	Box 4	Folder 5
1801 July 22-1802 February 4	Box 4	Folder 6
1802 February 15-April 13	Box 4	Folder 7
1802 May 17-December 14	Box 4	Folder 8
1803 January 13-March 1	Box 4	Folder 9
1803 April 6-August 15	Box 4	Folder 10
1803 September 2-1804 February 6	Box 4	Folder 11
1804 February 10-April 28	Box 4	Folder 12
1804 April 28-November 29	Box 4	Folder 13
1805 February 4-May 14	Box 4	Folder 14
1805 June 10-August 14	Box 4	Folder 15
1805 October 7-December 11	Box 4	Folder 16
1806 February 21-May 21	Box 4	Folder 17
1806 June 6-February 17	Box 4	Folder 18
1807 February 18-September 25	Box 4	Folder 19
1807 October-1809 December 18	Box 4	Folder 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	Box 4	Folder 21
A-F, undated	Box 5	Folder 1
Gundated	Box 5	Folder 2
Hundated	Box 5	Folder 3
I-K, undated	Box 5	Folder 4
Lundated	Box 5	Folder 5
M-N, undated	Box 5	Folder 6
Rundated	Box 5	Folder 7
S-Z and anonymous, undated	Box 5	Folder 8
Envelopes and calling cards, undated	Box 5	Folder 9
Notes made by Sally Norris Dickinson regarding John Dickinson's incoming correspondence, undated	Box 5	Folder 10

## B. Outgoing

Dickinson, John (papers)

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple, 1753 December 8-1754 March 8	Box 5	Folder 11
Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple, 1754 March 29-May 25	Box 5	Folder 12
Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple, 1754 August 1-October 29	Box 5	Folder 13
Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple, 1755 January 21-February 19	Box 5	Folder 14
Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple, 1755 April 8-September 30	Box 5	Folder 15
Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple, 1756 January 8-June 6	Box 5	Folder 16
Letters to his parents from London, the Middle Temple, 1756 June 6-August 7	Box 5	Folder 17
1758-1780	Box 5	Folder 18
1781	Box 5	Folder 19
1782	Box 5	Folder 20
1783-1784	Box 5	Folder 21
1785-1789	Box 5	Folder 22
1792-1798	Box 5	Folder 23
1800-1802	Box 5	Folder 24
1803-1804	Box 5	Folder 25
1805-1806	Box 5	Folder 26
1807	Box 5	Folder 27
A-Z, undated	Box 5	Folder 28

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

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
<b>A. Revolutionary period, 1765-1780</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Papers concerning the Stamp Act Congress, 1765	Box 6	Folder 1
Thomas Jenning's opinion on Maryland poll tax, extract from Virginia Committee of Correspondence proceedings, 1773	Box 6	Folder 2
Notes from first Continental Congress, Address of Congress to the Inhabitants of Quebec, 1774	Box 6	Folder 3

Dickinson, John (papers)

Address to John Dickinson from the Mechanics, 1774 June 27	Box 6	Folder 4
Draft of Patrick Henry's petition to the King, 1774	Box 6	Folder 5
Dickinson's draft of first petition to the King, 1774	Box 6	Folder 6
Jay's draft of the Olive Branch Petition; resolution on a motion by Lord North, 1775	Box 6	Folder 7
Dickinson's note on Constitutional revisions, 1776	Box 6	Folder 8
Burke's motions in the House of Commons, 1777	Box 6	Folder 9
State tax resolution, 1779 October 7	Box 6	Folder 10
New Jersey protest of Virginia land policies, 1780 December 29	Box 6	Folder 11
Counterfeit money and description of detection, undated	Box 6	Folder 12
East India Tea Company accounts, undated	Box 6	Folder 13

## B. Early National period, 1781-1800

Title/Description	Instances	
Charter for the National Bank, 1781	Box 6	Folder 14
Papers relating to the Hartford Convention; early land policies, 1781	Box 6	Folder 15
Regulations on private armed vessels, 1782	Box 6	Folder 16
Act of Assembly on General Steuben; proposed amendments on bills of credit and tax payments, 1782	Box 6	Folder 17
Letter concerning relations with Great Britain, 1783 June 24	Box 6	Folder 18
On moving Congress from Philadelphia to Annapolis, Maryland (because of the Mutiny of 1783), 1783 August 13	Box 6	Folder 19
Extract of a letter from the Count de Vergennes to Chevalier de la Luzerne, 1783 February 27	Box 6	Folder 20
Dickinson's note on the mutiny in Philadelphia; Indian treaty; and extract of letter with Franklin's advice on foreign relations, 1783	Box 6	Folder 21
Newspaper clippings on the National Bank and overseas trade, 1784	Box 6	Folder 22
Hartley's recommendations on commercial treaty, 1784	Box 6	Folder 23
Copies of acts on foreign trade, Western lands, and import duties, 1784	Box 6	Folder 24
Ordinance on the Department of Finance, 1784	Box 6	Folder 25

Dickinson, John (papers)

Report on Western lands, [1784]	Box 6	Folder 26
Dickinson's notes for speeches at the Constitutional Convention, 1787	Box 6	Folder 27
Dickinson's notes for speeches at the Constitutional Convention, 1787	Box 6	Folder 28
Dickinson's notes on modification of the Randolph Plan, 1787	Box 6	Folder 29
Virginia Plan papers, 1787	Box 6	Folder 30
Notes on the New Jersey Plan, Constitutional Convention, 1787	Box 6	Folder 31
New Jersey Plan papers, 1787	Box 6	Folder 32
Barclay's recommendations, 1787	Box 6	Folder 33
Dickinson opinion on states' rights to dissent, undated	Box 6	Folder 34
On the establishment of the capital at Washington, real estate and stamp taxes, 1798-1800	Box 6	Folder 35
Copies of Fabius letters supporting the Constitution, 1788	Box 6	Folder 36
Dickinson draft of a speech on the Jay Treaty, undated	Box 6	Folder 37
Statement on the encouragement of American manufactures [by J.M.], undated	Box 6	Folder 38
Financial notes, undated	Box 6	Folder 39
Draft on an act on supply commissions, undated	Box 6	Folder 40
Dickinson's notes on the establishment of the national capital, undated	Box 6	Folder 41
Dickinson's manuscript on a plan of government to replace the Articles of Confederation, undated	Box 6	Folder 42
Dickinson's notes on government affairs, undated	Box 6	Folder 43
Blank letters of marque, undated	Box 6	Folder 44

### Subseries III. Revolutionary War documents

Title/Description	Instances	
Furlough recommendations, 1776 Summer	Box 7	Folder 1-3
Petition for furlough, 1776 Summer	Box 7	Folder 4
Hospital reports, 1776 Summer	Box 7	Folder 5
Soldiers' provisions, ammunition account, 1776 July, August	Box 7	Folder 6

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Letters of congratulation regarding [presidency] and Dickinson's response to the Assembly, 1781-1782	Box 7	Folder 18
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Pennsylvania State Convention resolutions, military, 1776 August 10	Box 8	Folder 3
Petition to the King regarding tea duty, and John Morris's appointment, 1771 February 12, 1771 March 22	Box 8	Folder 4
Materials regarding the Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson case, 1778-1779	Box 8	Folder 5
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Letters regarding the financing of the Pennsylvania regiments, 1783 January 4, 8	Box 8	Folder 7
Court fines, 1783 January 4, 8	Box 8	Folder 8
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Expenses of Robert Ralston and debtors' petition, 1783 April 1, 1783 August 21	Box 8	Folder 10
Indian Treaty, 1783 October 4	Box 8	Folder 11
A list of debts due by the State of Pennsylvania and an estimate of the expenses for the year 1783, 1782 December 2	Box 8	Folder 12
Letters of congratulation regarding Dickinson's election to the Presidency of Pennsylvania, including responses, 1783	Box 8	Folder 13
Celebration of the peace, 1784 January 20	Box 8	Folder 14
Proposal for and correspondence regarding a Bank of Pennsylvania, 1784 January-February	Box 8	Folder 15
Council notes, 1784 March 22	Box 8	Folder 16
Dickinson's draft of "Answer to the Council of Censors", circa 1784 [July]	Box 8	Folder 17
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Pennsylvania state financial statement and Indian Treaty, 1784, 1784 October 22	Box 8	Folder 20
Memo regarding Captain Stokely and Pennsylvania debt and revenue statements, 1784	Box 8	Folder 21
Dickinson's message to the General Assembly regarding public lands, 1784 December 4	Box 8	Folder 22
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Dickinson, John (papers)

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Dickinson's message on Pennsylvania's fiscal plan, 1784	Box 8	Folder 25
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Dickinson's messages and notes regarding Indian affairs, prison conditions, loan repayment, etc., undated	Box 8	Folder 31
Essay on continental and state securities, a debtors' petition, and a motion on committee of safety, undated	Box 8	Folder 32
Papers regarding the military, undated	Box 8	Folder 33
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## Subseries VI. Land and business records

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Title/Description	Instances	
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Indenture, John and Mary Dickinson one party, and Philemon Dickinson, the other, 1774	Volume 1	

Dickinson, John (papers)

General Physical Description note: [oversized]

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Notebooks on land business and rentals, 1779-1795	Box 9	Folder 5
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1799 January-May	Box 9	Folder 16
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undated	Box 10	Folder 5
Memoranda on construction work, undated	Box 10	Folder 6
Newcastle County, Delaware, deed, undated	Box 10	Folder 7
A Draught of a Parcel of Land (Jones Neck), purchased by Joshua Gordon by Philemon Dickinson, undated <u>General Physical Description note:</u> [oversized]	Box 13	Folder 1
An Old Draught of Land in Kent, undated <u>General Physical Description note:</u> [oversized]	Box 13	Folder 2

## B. Legal papers

Title/Description	Instances	
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Dickinson, John (papers)

Will of John Dickinson's (notes and drafts), with codicils, 1780-1803	Box 10	Folder 9
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Certificate of admission to the Middle Temple, 1757	Box 10	Folder 11
Dickinson's opinions on the state of the laws in America, [1773]	Box 10	Folder 12
Dickinson's management of the Thomas Wilson estate, 1774-1776	Box 10	Folder 13
Case of the armed sloop <i>Argo</i> , before the High Court of Errors, Pennsylvania, 1783	Box 10	Folder 14
Case of Matteo Bratelli, before the High Court of Errors, Pennsylvania, 1784	Box 10	Folder 15
Case of Purviance et al v. Angus, High Court of Errors, Pennsylvania, 1785	Box 10	Folder 16
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1797	Box 11	Folder 10
1798	Box 11	Folder 11
1799 January-July	Box 11	Folder 12
1799 July-December	Box 11	Folder 13
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1803	Box 11	Folder 17

Dickinson, John (papers)

1804	Box 11	Folder 18
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undated	Box 11	Folder 22

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

Title/Description	Instances	
The Concessions of West Jersey, 1676	Box 12	Folder 1
Manuscript list of lots in the original draft of Philadelphia, in the hand of Isaac Norris, 1683	Box 12	Folder 2
Notebook, in the hand of Isaac Norris, on the Penn-Baltimore land dispute, 1600s	Box 12	Folder 3
Account of land partitioning in Germantown, 1715 May 26	Box 12	Folder 4
Notes on Dickinson family genealogy, circa 1740, undated	Box 12	Folder 5
Copy of Conrad Weiser's journal on Indian Treaty, 1754	Box 12	Folder 6
Clippings from the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> , largely regarding the preservation of fruits and grains, 1753, 1764, 1769	Box 12	Folder 7
"Opinion on the 40 Poll Act in Maryland," essay probably by Dickinson, 1773 October 1	Box 12	Folder 8
Robert G. Hooper essay on Liberality of Sentiment, including cover letters, 1785	Box 12	Folder 9
Newspaper clippings of advertisements for Dickinson's political writing and [Dickinson's] comment on Pennsylvania land laws, 1799, undated	Box 12	Folder 10
Notes on Dickinson's books and papers, 1802, 1885, undated	Box 12	Folder 11
19th century notes on <i>Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania</i> , circa 1800s	Box 12	Folder 12
Anonymous essay on the Nottingham School, undated	Box 12	Folder 13
Commonplace book [probably belonging to Dickinson], undated	Box 12	Folder 14
Lloyd and Logan genealogies, undated	Box 12	Folder 15
Miscellaneous notes, undated	Box 12	Folder 16
"Reflections on the Flag of Truce Trade in America," by an English Merchant [Dickinson manuscript?], undated	Box 12	Folder 17

Society of Cincinnati regulations, undated	Box 12	Folder 18
Speech on the founding of Dickinson College, [circa 1783]	Box 12	Folder 19

### Subseries VIII. John Dickinson estate records

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Estate ledger, 1808-1814	Volume 3

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### Series II. Mary Norris Dickinson

Title/Description	Instances
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