

Library Company of Philadelphia

**McA MSS 027**

**GREENWAY FAMILY PAPERS**

1772-1802

.21 linear feet, 1 box

Series I. Correspondence (1786-1802)  
Series II. Documents (1772-1799)

August 2006

**Descriptive Summary****Repository**

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

**Call Number**

McA MSS 027

**Title**

Greenway Family Papers

**Inclusive Dates**

1772-1802

**Quantity**

.21 linear feet (1 box)

**Language of Materials**

Materials are in English.

**Abstract**

The Greenway Family Papers hold letters and documents relating to the personal and business life of Joseph and Hannah Greenway of Philadelphia. The family had ties to Cape May, New Jersey. Most of the letters concern personal and family matters. Letters discussing the yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia are included.

**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 Greenway Family 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 2006, 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

Greenway, Joseph

Greenway, Hannah, d. 1810

#### Subject Topics

Yellow fever--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia--History18th century--Sources

#### Document Types

Letters

Account books

### Biographical/Historical Notes

Joseph and Hannah Greenway (also spelled Greenaway) were Philadelphia residents with close ties to coastal southern New Jersey, at least through Hannah who was the daughter of Samuel Eldredge (ca. 1730-1796) of Cape May. Joseph Greenway (died 1803) was listed in the 1785 Philadelphia city directory as a cooper on Water Street between South and Lombard, and as a shopkeeper on Water Street between Arch and Market. He moved in later years to 15 Norris's Alley and 89 Arch Street, with his final listing in 1803 on North Second St. In the summer of 1789, Greenway advertised the sale of lands in Cape Island (Cape May; see Evans 21865). Further family information can be gleaned from Joseph Greenway's will, which was written in 1796 and proved in 1803: he left his entire estate to his wife with the exception of the properties on Front and Water streets left to him by his father John Greenway; those properties (including all rental income) were held in reserve for his mother Abigail to use during her natural lifetime. The will was witnessed by two people whose letters are present in the collection, Matthew Nabon and Joseph Watson. Abigail Greenway, a widow, was as living on North Front Street from 1785 through 1801 according to the Philadelphia city directories. Hannah Greenway, relict of Joseph, died on August 30, 1810 at age 52; her death was announced in *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*.

### Collection Overview

The Greenway Family Papers are arranged in two series: Correspondence, and Documents.

Series I, Correspondence (1786-1802) has letters that were written to Joseph or Hannah Greenway, and contain mostly personal content. Topics include Joseph Watson's report of a mad dog and Moses Levy's request for accommodations on his next visit to Philadelphia; Levy's wife appears to be a niece of the Greenways. The letters were sent to the Greenways in various places including Cape May and Woodbury in New Jersey, Tinicum in Pennsylvania, and Georgetown in Delaware, addition to Philadelphia. Many of the writers appear to be

related to the couple. Letters written by the Hopes and Nabon make references to the yellow fever epidemics gripping the city of Philadelphia. One letter from John Mussentine, written from southern New Jersey, was directed to his daughter via Joseph Greenway; his file also holds a letter addressed to him from Sarah, who was apparently staying in Philadelphia with the Greenways at the time she wrote.

Series II, Documents (1772-1799) holds financial and legal papers. The former consists of two receipts and Greenway's shop account book, which spans 1772 through 1796 and is bound in contemporary paste paper. Greenway recorded in the volume the work he performed for clients as well as personal expenses such as money paid for boarding his daughter Rachel.

The legal documents show that Greenway was involved in at least three lawsuits during his lifetime. One set of documents of particular interest is Greenway versus the City of Philadelphia's Guardian of the Poor: a court summons for Joseph Greenway, a letter announcing his court hearing, and a synopsis of the case written up by Greenway. It tells of a free black woman from Cape May named Squash who was taken in by Hannah Greenway in 1794. Due to her careless and erratic behavior, Joseph Greenway turned Squash out of the house. When she found refuge in the city's Bettering House, the Guardian of the Poor commanded that Greenway pay her expenses. In another case, Greenway was involved with Job Butcher over a shipment of salt coming from Cape May to Philadelphia. A third group of documents surrounds Greenway's suit against the estate of Curtis Grubb.

Box    Folder

## SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE

1786-1802

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

1	1	Hope, P., Philadelphia	1797, 1798
	2	Hope, Thomas, Philadelphia and Cape May	1797, 1798
	3	Kindell, Park, New York	1802 Mar 18
	4	Lake, Samuel, Trenton	1796 May 18
	5	Leaming, Hannah, Cape May	1797 May 25
	6	Lee, Richard H.	1786 Oct 2
		Lehman, Jonathan See: Series II. Greenway v. Grubb estate	
	7	Levy, Moses, New York & London	1797, undated
		Levy, Samson Montgomery, W. See: Series II. Greenway v. Grubb estate	
	8	Morin	1798 Jan 18
	9	Mussentine, John, Cumberland Co., NJ Mussentine, Sarah, Philadelphia, PA	1796 Nov 19 1796 Dec 5
	10	Nabon, Mathew J., Philadelphia	1797
	11	Peoples, David, Lisbon	1788 Jul 16
		Philadelphia, Guardian of the Poor See: Box 1, folder 19	
	12	Pringle, John	1792
		Shaw, Richard See: Box 1, folder 18	
	13	Shaw, William, North Carolina	1792-1794
	14	Watson, Joseph, Prospect Hill and Philadelphia	1795

Box    Folder

SERIES II. DOCUMENTS 1772-1799

Arranged in two subseries: Financial and Legal documents.

## Financial documents

[1]	15	Account book	1772-1796
	16	Receipt for goods bought from Samuel Wetherill	1786 Sep 18
	17	Receipt for taxes	1795

## Legal documents

	18	Greenway v. Butcher	1786 Nov 13
	19	Greenway v. Guardian of the Poor	1795
	20	Greenway v. Grubb estate	1787-1799