



Guide to the William Henry Hall papers, 1736-1862

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Summary

Collection Title:

William Henry Hall papers, 1736-1862

Creator:

Hall, William Henry, 1795-1878

Abstract:

The Hall family of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, were enslavers and owners of tobacco plantations. Collection includes three generations of the Hall family and documents their involvement with tobacco and other plantation operations in Maryland during the 18th and 19th centuries, including the shift to lumber and wheat after 1800. Also includes information on cotton plantations in South Carolina and the sale of cotton to England, Maryland politics and government in the 1780s, insurrections by enslaved people, and naval impressment at the time of the War of 1812.

Extent:

1020 items

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.11835

Permalink:

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/hallwilliamhenry/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], William Henry Hall Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection includes three generations of the Hall family and documents their involvement with tobacco and other plantation operations in Maryland during the 18th and 19th centuries, including the shift to lumber and wheat after

1800. Also includes information on cotton plantations in South Carolina and the sale of cotton to England, Maryland politics and government in the 1780s, insurrections by enslaved people, and naval impressment at the time of the War of 1812.

Biographical/Historical

The Hall family of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, were enslavers and owners of tobacco plantations.

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Arrangement

Organized into two series: Correspondence; Financial Papers and Volumes.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The William Henry Hall papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library in the 1940s and in 1957.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Staff

Accessions described in this collection guide are likely from the 1940s and 1950s.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Microfilm of this collection and other collections related to slavery and plantations are available in Duke Libraries. Search the catalog for: "Records of ante-bellum southern plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War : Series F, selections from the Manuscript Department, Duke University Library"

<https://find.library.duke.edu/catalog/DUKE000701619>

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Names and Subjects

- Slavery -- Maryland
- Impressment
- Maryland -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865
- Plantations -- Maryland
- Slave insurrections -- South Carolina
- Agriculture -- Maryland
- Cotton -- South Carolina
- Tobacco industry -- Maryland
- United States -- Commerce -- England
- Wheat -- Maryland
- Hall, William Henry, 1795-1878

- Hall family
- Great Britain. Royal Navy -- Recruiting, enlisting, etc.

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1745-1862 and undated

Scope and Contents

The papers begin in 1736, when John Hall (ca. 1717-1790) and his brothers Henry and William become actively engaged in tobacco planting. The letters open with a land indenture of 1745 and continue as business correspondence with London, Annapolis, Baltimore, and local merchants and factories. Comment is made on salt as a necessity for plantation life in 1778 and 1782. An overseer's contract in 1764 gives details of plantation management and enslavement.

A letter is signed by John Hall of "Vineyard" on June 11, 1778. As a member of the Maryland Assembly, he discusses the check and balance theory as it was working out in the "young government" of Maryland, he mentions violent contests, the quit rents and state revenue, militia service, and the role of the governor. In 1787 "Publicanus" addresses the people of Anne Arundel Co. on the topic of paper money.

The will of John Hall (made in 1787) gives his estate as "Bachelor's Choice," on West River, and names his children and their families. Enslaved people are listed as part of the estate. Many of the later letters are from the families of Hall sibilings to William Henry Hall, son of John Hall. A series of law suits occurs in the 1790s as William Henry Hall settles his father's estate.

A letter dated Oct. 3, 1796, to William Henry Hall describes the life of an American seaman impressed into the British navy. Samuel Hopkins, a young Maryland plantation overseer, and John Wilson of Cheraw, S. C., comment in letters to Hall from 1810-1813 on cotton planting in S. C. Hopkins describes on July 1, 1810, a plot by enslaved people to rise against enslavers in the Marlboro District of S. C. In 1813 he writes of hiring a substitute for himself if drafted in the War of 1812. Among W. H. Hall's correspondents were William, John, David, and John G. Weems of Anne Arundel Co., relatives of Mason Locke ("Parson") Weems.

Letters , 1745-1862, undated

Box 1

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Financial Papers and Volumes, 1765-1902

Scope and Contents

The bills and receipts contain many an "acct. sale" of tobacco, listing custom duties, charges, etc., in tobacco shipping. Estate inventories for Major Henry Hall, 1758, Thos. Lane, 1790-98, John Hall, 1795, and Mrs. Ruth Hall, 1803, include enslaved people and list possessions. Many mercantile and household accounts are included.

There are 7 volumes dated 1765-1902. Six are account books, two that belonged to John Hall and 4 to William Henry Hall. There is one volume that belonged to Harriet Hall.

Bills and receipts , 1744-1799	Box 2
Bills and receipts , 1800-1818, undated	Box 3
Account books	Box 4
Account books	Box 5
Exercises (Harriet Hall), 1850-1853	Box 5

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