



Guide to the Battaile Muse Papers, 1726-1891, bulk 1777-1800

This collection guide was produced in **April 2012**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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Summary

Collection Title:

Battaile Muse papers, 1726-1891, 1777-1800

Creator:

Muse, Battaile

Abstract:

Battaile Muse (1750-1803) was a planters' agent, of Berkeley Co., Va. (now Jefferson Co., W. Va.). Collection includes correspondence, account books, memoranda, and other papers. The collection concerns the movement from Tidewater farms to western Virginia, the progress of the Revolutionary War, sale of farm produce, the treatment of slaves, business operations, the Mercer (1776-1783) plantations and Fairfax estates, and Muse's career as a rental agent for George Washington in Frederick and Fauquier counties, Va. (1784-1792). Correspondents include W. M. Cary, Bryan Fairfax, Ferdinando Fairfax, G. W. Fairfax, Thomas Fairfax, J. L. Gervais, Tobias Lear, Richard Bland Lee, Warner Lewis, Stevens T. Mason, James Mercer, John Francis Mercer, Hugh Nelson, George Nicholas, John Hatley Norton, Thomas Rutherford, Magnus Tate, Hannah Fairfax Washington, George Washington, and Warner Washington.

Extent:

7.2 Linear Feet (18 boxes)

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.10131

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1h367>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Battaile Muse Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection includes correspondence and papers of Battaile Muse (1750-1803), agent for large Virginia planters and plantation owners, relating to the desertion of Tidewater farms by Virginia planters for the more fertile areas in Loudoun, Fauquier, Frederick, and Berkeley counties; the progress of the Revolutionary War; planting and the sale of indigo and other farm products; the treatment of slaves, the estate of James and John Francis Mercer, 1776-1783; the Fairfax estate; and Muse's career as rental agent for George Washington in Frederick and Fauquier counties; 1784-1792. Included also are account books and memoranda listing rent collections and other business operations. Four letters, 1847-1848, relate to a dispute in the faculty of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Biographical/Historical

Battaile Muse (1750-1803) was a planters' agent, of Berkeley Co., Va. (now Jefferson Co., W. Va.).

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Arrangement

Collection is organized into the following series: Correspondence, Addresses and Writings, Legal Papers, Financial Papers, Plantation and Land Records, Genealogy, Miscellaneous Materials, and Bound Manuscript Volumes.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition Information

The Battaile Muse Papers were acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library in 1944.

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.

Processing Information

Processed by: Rubenstein Library Staff, date unknown

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Names and Subjects

- Migration, Internal -- United States
- Administration of estates -- Virginia.
- Real estate management -- Virginia
- Plantations -- Virginia
- Produce trade -- West Virginia -- Berkeley County
- Virginia -- Economic conditions
- Virginia -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
- Slavery -- Virginia
- Land settlement -- Virginia
- Fauquier County (Va.) -- History
- Slavery -- Virginia -- History -- 18th century
- Washington, George, 1732-1799
- Mercer, James, 1736-1793
- Mercer, John Francis, 1759-1821

- Fairfax family

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series, 1773-1891 and undated

Correspondence, 1773-1784	Box 1
Correspondence, 1785-1790	Box 2
Incoming correspondence from George Washington, 1787-1791	Folder 1
Washington, George, to Battaile Muse, 1787 Jan. 3	Folder 1
Scope and Contents Alexandria, Virginia	
Washington, George, to Battaile Muse, 1788 Aug. 9	Folder 1
Scope and Contents Mount Vernon, Virginia. Receipt for fifty pounds three shillings of rent.	
Washington, George, to Battaile Muse, 1788 Nov. 7	Folder 1
Scope and Contents Mount Vernon, Virginia	
Washington, George, to Battaile Muse, 1789 Jan. 18	Folder 1
Scope and Contents Mount Vernon, Virginia	
Washington, George, to Battaile Muse, 1789 Mar. 31	Folder 1
Scope and Contents Mount Vernon, Virginia	

Washington, George, to Battaile Muse, 1791
Feb. 6 Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Philadelphia

Correspondence, 1791-1800 Box 3

Correspondence, 1801-1891, undated Box 4

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Addresses and Writings Series, circa 1840s

Addresses and writings, 1840s Box 4

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Legal Papers Series, 1731-1806 and undated

Legal papers, 1731-1788 Box 4

Legal papers, 1789-1806, undated Box 5

Oversize contracts and indentures, 1700s Oversize-folder 1

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Financial Papers Series, 1753-1807 and undated

Financial papers, 1753-1788 Box 5

Financial papers, 1789-1803, undated Box 6

Financial papers and accounts, 1766-1786 Box 7

Financial papers and accounts, 1786-1790 Box 8

Financial papers and accounts, 1791-1797 Box 9

Financial papers and accounts, 1798-1803 Box 10

Financial papers: receipts, 1771-1786 Box 11

Financial papers: receipts, 1787-1792 Box 12

Financial papers: receipts, 1793-1802	Box 13
Financial papers: receipts, 1803-1807, undated	Box 14
Oversize loose ledger pages and accounts, 1700s	Oversize-folder 1

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Plantation and Land Records Series, 1784-1803 and undated

Plantation and land records, 1784-1803, undated	Box 14
Plantation and land records, advertisements, 1777-1803	Box 15

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Genealogical Materials Series

Genealogical materials	Box 15
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Miscellaneous Materials Series, 1801-1865

Envelopes, wrappers, and fragments, 1861-1865	Box 15
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Bound Manuscript Volumes Series, 1768-1849

Volumes, 1768-1782	Box 16
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Scope and Contents note

Includes day books, account books, memo books, and rental books.

Volumes, 1782-1833	Box 17
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Scope and Contents note

Includes day books, account books, memo books, and rental books.

Volumes, 1834-1849

Box 18

Scope and Contents note

Includes day books, account books, memo books, and rental books.

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