



Guide to the Benjamin Rush Letter, 1784, June 25, to John Bayard

This collection guide was produced in .

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

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

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

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
General Note	6

Summary

Collection Title:

Benjamin Rush letter, to John Bayard, 1784, June 25

Creator:

Rush, Benjamin, 1745-1813

Abstract:

A copy, in an unknown hand, of a letter from Rush to Bayard regarding sentiments expressed in an earlier letter to General John Armstrong. The letter reflects post-revolutionary state politics in Pennsylvania. In the letter, Rush censures his fellow Presbyterians, who refuse to revoke the test laws and to admit amendments to the state constitution. He also condemns the taking over by the Presbyterian dominated state government of the charter of the College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania, and refers to the College of Carlisle, or Dickinson College, established in protest to the first action. He regrets the inflammatory remarks and publications made by members of the state's single legislative body, the Council of Censors, and by Joseph Reed and Mr. Smiley, and deplors the character of Henry Osborn and Owen Faris.

Extent:

1 items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.10837

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/trent-rushbenjamin/>

Preferred Citation

Benjamin Rush Letter, 1784, June 25, to John Bayard, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

A copy, in an unknown hand, of a letter from Rush to Bayard regarding sentiments expressed in an earlier letter to General John Armstrong. The letter reflects post-revolutionary state politics in Pennsylvania. In the letter, Rush censures his fellow Presbyterians, who refuse to revoke the test laws and to admit amendments to the state constitution. He also condemns the taking over by the Presbyterian dominated state government of the charter of the College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania, and refers to the College of Carlisle, or Dickinson College, established in protest to the first action. He regrets the inflammatory remarks and publications made by members of the state's single legislative body, the Council of Censors, and by Joseph Reed and Mr. Smiley, and deplors the character of Henry Osborn and Owen Faris.

Biographical/Historical

Physician of Philadelphia and American Revolutionary patriot.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

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

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the Rubenstein to use this collection.

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

Hildegard Ryals, purchase, 1988

Processing Information

Processed by: Rubenstein Staff

Finding aid derived from MARC record using DukeMARC2EAD-HOMproject.xsl, December 2014

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Pennsylvania
- Dickinson College
- Bayard, John Bubenheim, 1738-1807
- Rush, Benjamin, 1745-1813
- History of Medicine Collections (Duke University)
- Armstrong, John, 1758-1843
- University of Pennsylvania

General Note

Forms part of the Trent Manuscripts Collection.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)