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- Why you’re here
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Kaleena Black (kblack@loc.gov)
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Alexander Hamilton Papers

Correspondence, speeches, writings, legal and financial records, printed matter; and other papers relating to Hamilton’s personal life and public career, especially his service as an aide to George Washington during the Revolutionary War; his participation in the U.S. Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention; his service as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, his New York law practice, and his service as Inspector General of...
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Collection: Albert Schatz Collection
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Collection: Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers at the Library of Congress
Correspondence, diaries, journals, laboratory notebooks, patent records, speeches, writings, subject files, genealogical records, printed material, and other papers pertaining primarily to Bell's invention of the telephone (1876). Also includes material documenting his...
Collection Items: View 4,715 Items

Collection: Alexander Hamilton Papers
Correspondence, speeches, writings, legal and financial records, printed matter, and other papers relating to Hamilton's personal life and public career, especially his service as an aide to George Washington during the Revolutionary...
Collection Items: View 878 Items

Collection: Alexander Hamilton Stephens Papers
Correspondence, speeches, telegrams, journal, autographed poetry, legal documents, speeches, writings, and other papers reflecting Stephens's career in government and politics. Chiefly correspondence concerning national and sectional questions as well as local affairs, philanthropy, and...
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About this Collection

The papers of Alexander Hamilton (ca. 1757-1804), first treasury secretary of the United States, consist of his personal and public correspondence, drafts of his writings (although not his Federalist essays), and correspondence among members of the Hamilton and Schuyler families. The collection, consisting of approximately 12,000 items dating from 1708 to 1917, documents Hamilton’s impoverished Caribbean boyhood (scantily); events in the lives of his family and that of his wife, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton; his experience as a Revolutionary War officer and aide-de-camp to General George Washington; his terms as a New York delegate to the Continental Congress (1782-1783) and the Constitutional Convention (1787); and his careers as a New York state legislator, United States treasury secretary (1789-1795), political writer, and lawyer in private practice. Most of the papers date from 1777 until Hamilton’s death in 1804. Additional details may be found in the collection’s finding aid (HTML and PDF versions).


The federal government bought the bulk of the Hamilton papers in 1848. They were transferred from the State Department to the Library of Congress in 1904. Additional papers came to the Library of Congress later through gifts and purchases from the Hamilton family and other sources. Papers accumulated through 1981 were scanned from the microfilm edition made that year, and items acquired since were digitized from the originals.


Although this collection is the largest gathering of Alexander Hamilton papers at the Library of Congress, there are significant additional groups of Hamilton letters and other papers in other Library of Congress collections, notably in the George Washington Papers. To identify these collections, consult the bibliography under Related Resources or conduct a search for “Hamilton, Alexander” in the Library of Congress online catalog.
Description of Series

The collection is arranged in eight series as follows.

General Correspondence, 1734-1804 (Reels 1-21)
Hamilton's correspondence begins with his boyhood employment with merchant Nicholas Cruger in St. Croix and continues through his service in the Revolutionary War, his participation as a New York delegate in the Constitutional Convention, and as treasury secretary. It ends with his last letters to his wife before his death in a duel with Aaron Burr in July 1804.

Speeches and Writings, 1778-1804 (Reels 21-23)
Drafts, copies, and notes of reports; political essays, speeches, New York legislative acts, and more composed by Hamilton from the American Revolution until his death. Of note is an outline of the speech he delivered at the Constitutional Convention on June 18, 1787; his notes on debates and speeches at New York's ratifying convention, June 1788; drafts of the four major economic reports he wrote as treasury secretary (on public credit, creation of a national bank, establishment of a mint, and development of manufacturing); drafts of the speeches he wrote for George Washington, including Washington's 1796 farewell address; notes he took at New York's constitutional convention of 1787; and drafts of some of his political essays. None of Hamilton's Federalist essays are included.

Legal File, 1708-1804 (Reels 23-29)
Papers documenting Hamilton's career as a lawyer, which began in 1782. Most of these are ordered alphabetically by case. Some of the landmark cases included in his papers are Rutgers v. Waddington, People v. Croswell, Hylton v. United States, and cases forming the LeGuen v. Gouverneur and Kemble litigation.

Financial Papers, 1782-1804 (Reel 29)
The financial papers, which form the smallest segment of the collection, consist of two volumes of accounts relating to Hamilton's law practice, and a folder of miscellaneous receipts. Some of the receipts are for money Hamilton paid engineer William Pearce on behalf of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures to provide machinery for manufacturing cotton, 1791-1792.

Family Papers, 1737-1917 (Reels 29-31)
Letters and other documents of members of the Hamilton, Schuyler, and related families, but not including Alexander Hamilton himself. The series contains letters from Angelica Church (Hamilton's sister-in-law) and Philip Schuyler (Hamilton's father-in-law) to Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton; from Philip Schuyler to his grandson, Philip Hamilton; and from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton to her sister, Catherine Cochran, and to her son, Philip Hamilton. Through the marriage of Philip Hamilton to Rebecca McLane, several McLane family letters were incorporated into the papers. Most of the nonfamily correspondence of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton relates to the management of her properties and to arrangements for the publication of Hamilton's papers. Scattered letters addressed to Alexander Hamilton (Alexander and Elizabeth's grandson), James A. Hamilton, John Church Hamilton, and to
Collection Items

MANUSCRIPT/MIXED MATERIAL
Alexander Hamilton's notes for a speech proposing a plan of government at the Federal Convention, [18 June 1787].
Date: 1787-06-18
Resource:
View 2 Images

MANUSCRIPT/MIXED MATERIAL
Alexander Hamilton Papers: General Correspondence, 1734-1804; 1734-1772
Contributor: Hamilton, Alexander
Date: 1734
Resource:
View 60 Images

MANUSCRIPT/MIXED MATERIAL
Alexander Hamilton Papers: General Correspondence, 1734-1804; 1773-1777
Contributor: Hamilton, Alexander
Date: 1773
Resource:
View 92 Images

MANUSCRIPT/MIXED MATERIAL
Alexander Hamilton Papers: General Correspondence, 1734-1804; 1778
Contributor: Hamilton, Alexander
Date: 1778
Resource:
View Images
Articles and Essays

Timeline
A chronology of key events in the life of Alexander Hamilton, Revolutionary War officer, aide-de-camp to General George Washington, and the nation’s first treasury secretary.
(Have limited time? Start here!)
About this Collection

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Hamilton's correspondence begins with his boyhood employment with merchant Nicholas Cruger in St. Croix and continues through his service in the Revolutionary War, his participation as a New York delegate in the Constitutional Convention, and as treasury secretary. It ends with his last letters to his wife before his death in a duel with Aaron Burr in July 1804.

Summary Speeches and Writings, 1778-1804 (Reels 21-23)

Drafts, copies, and notes of reports; political essays, speeches, New York legislative acts, and more composed by Hamilton from the American Revolution until his death. Of note is an outline of the speech he delivered at the Constitutional Convention on June 18, 1787; his notes on debates and speeches at New York's ratifying convention, June 1788; drafts of the four major economic reports he wrote as treasury secretary (on public credit, creation of a national bank, establishment of a mint, and development of manufacturing); drafts of the speeches he wrote for George Washington, including Washington's 1796 farewell address; notes he took at New York's constitutional convention of 1787; and drafts of some of his political essays. None of Hamilton's Federalist essays are included.

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Financial Papers, 1782-1804 (Reel 29)

The financial papers, which form the smallest segment of the collection, consist of two volumes of accounts relating to Hamilton's law practice, and a folder of miscellaneous receipts. Some of the receipts are for money Hamilton paid engineer William Pearce on behalf of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures to provide machinery for manufacturing cotton, 1791-1792.

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Letters and other documents of members of the Hamilton, Schuyler, and related families, but not including Alexander Hamilton himself. The series contains letters from Angelica Church (Hamilton's sister-in-law) and Philip Schuyler (Hamilton's father-in-law) to Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton; from Philip Schuyler to his grandson, Philip Hamilton; and from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton to her sister, Catherine Cochran, and to her son, Philip Hamilton. Through the marriage of Philip Hamilton to Rebecca McLane, several McLane family letters were incorporated into the papers. Most of the nonfamily correspondence of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton relates to the management of her properties and to arrangements for the publication of Hamilton's papers. Scattered letters addressed to Alexander Hamilton (Alexander and Elizabeth's grandson), James A. Hamilton, John Church Hamilton, and to
Narrow search results by:
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Dear Sir,

I have your letter of the 1st instant. I am much concerned to hear of your illness and am sorry to hear of the bad state of the weather in which you are. I desire you would take care of yourself and that you would not be too much troubled by the noise of the town or by the heat of the sun. I am desirous of your health and have therefore written to you to inquire after it. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

[Signature]

P.S. I have enclosed a letter from Mr. Hamilton, who desires you to write to him as soon as possible. He wishes to know how you are and to hear from you. He is very much concerned about you and desires to hear from you as soon as possible.
Alexander Hamilton Papers: General Correspondence, 1734-1804; 1734-1772

Contributor Names
Hamilton, Alexander, 1767-1804

Created / Published
1734 - 1772

Subject Headings
Finance, Public—United States
New York (State)—Politics and government—1775-1865
Church, Angelica Schuyler, 1756-1815—Correspondence
Hamilton, Elizabeth Schuyler, 1757-1854—Correspondence
Schuyler, Philip John, 1723-1804—Correspondence
Washington, George, 1732-1799
Church family
Hamilton family
Schuyler family
McLane family
Mint of the United States
United States: Constitutional Convention (1787)
United States: Continental Army
United States: Continental Congress
United States: Department of the Treasury
Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures
Manufacturing industries—United States
National banks (United States)
United States: History—Revolution, 1775-1783
Manuscripts
United States:

Genre
Manuscripts

Call Number/Physical Location
Hist24612, box 1, reel 1
Series: General Correspondence, 1734-1804

Source Collection
Alexander Hamilton Papers

Finding Aid
View Alexander Hamilton Papers Finding Aid

Part of
Alexander Hamilton Papers: General Correspondence, 1734 to 1804 (147)
Alexander Hamilton Papers (878)
Manuscript Division (161,756)

Format
Manuscript/Mixed Material

Contributors
Hamilton, Alexander

Dates
1734 to 1772

Location
United States

Language
English

Subjects
Church family
Church, Angelica Schuyler
Correspondence
Finance, Public
Hamilton family
Hamilton, Elizabeth Schuyler
History
Manufacturing Industries
Manuscripts
McLane Family
Mint of the United States
National Banks (United States)
New York (State)
Politics and Government
Revolution
Schuyler family
Schuyler, Philip John

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Hamilton's correspondence begins with his boyhood employment with merchant Nicholas Cruger in St. Croix and continues through his service in the Revolutionary War, his participation as a New York delegate in the Constitutional Convention, and as treasury secretary. It ends with his last letters to his wife before his death in a duel with Aaron Burr in July 1804.

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Drafts, copies, and notes of reports; political essays, speeches, New York legislative acts, and more composed by Hamilton from the American Revolution until his death. Of note is an outline of the speech he delivered at the Constitutional Convention on June 18, 1787; his notes on debates and speeches at New York's ratifying convention, June 1788; drafts of the four major economic reports he wrote as treasury secretary (on public credit, creation of a national bank, establishment of a mint, and development of manufacturing); drafts of the speeches he wrote for George Washington, including Washington's 1796 farewell address; notes he took at New York's constitutional convention of 1787; and drafts of some of his political essays. None of Hamilton's *Federalist* essays are included.

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Alexander Hamilton

Teacher's Guide

Start here for historical context, teaching suggestions, links to online resources, and more:

Alexander Hamilton Teacher's Guide (PDF, 1.3 MB)

To help your students analyze these primary sources, get a graphic organizer and guides:

Analysis Tool and Guides

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Primary Sources

Click the thumbnail for the original item, the caption for information on the item, or download a PDF:

- Alexander Hamilton to Edward Stevens, November 11, 1769 (View PDF, 1.21 MB)
- Alexander Hamilton to Marquis de Lafayette, October 15, 1781 (View PDF, 798 KB)
- View PDF (1.01 MB)
- View PDF (761 KB)
- Washington before Yorktown (View PDF, 799 KB)
- Yorktown coast to Boston - Army March Route (View PDF, 589 KB)
Have you ever used a $10 bill, visited an American bank, or studied the United States Constitution? Then, you have encountered, to some extent, the influence of Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804).

"A Hamilton from the original painting by Chappel, in the possession of the publishers."
https://www.loc.gov/item/2008676510/

Indeed, this important figure in the nation's foundational years assumed numerous integral roles, many of which have had an impact on U.S. history, government, and culture. These roles include: writer, lawyer, father, husband, statesman, aide-de-camp, Treasury secretary, and in many ways, an individual present-day U.S. Virgin Islands. Hamilton came of age in impoverished circumstances and his mother died when he was young.

From a young age, Hamilton demonstrated a passion for the written word, as his early writings...
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Alexander Hamilton papers, 1708-1917

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Collection Summary

Title
Alexander Hamilton papers, 1708-1917

Span Dates
1708-1917

Bulk Dates
(bulk 1777-1804)

ID No.
MSS24612

Creator
Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804

Extent
12,000 items; 44 containers plus oversize; 22.4 linear feet; 34 microfilm reels

Language
Collection material in English

Location
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary
Delegate from New York to the United States Continental Congress, United States secretary of the treasury, United States army officer, statesman, and lawyer. Correspondence, speeches and writings, legal and financial papers, printed matter, and other papers relating to Hamilton's personal life and public career, especially his service as an aide to George Washington during the Revolutionary War, his participation in the United States Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention, his service as United States secretary of the treasury, his New York law practice, and his service as inspector general of the army.

Finding Aid Permalink
Cite or bookmark this finding aid as: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003014

LCCN Permalink
LC Online Catalog record for this collection: https://lcsc.loc.gov/mms81024612

Online Content
Biographical Note

Date | Event
--- | ---
circa 1757, Jan. 11 | Born, Charleston, South Carolina, British West Indies
1766-1768 | Clerk, trading firm of Bekkman and Cruikshank, St. Croix
1769 | Clerk, business of Nicholas Cruickshank, St. Croix
1772 | Immigrated to Boston, Mass.
1772-1773 | Attended Princeton Theological Seminary, Elizabeth, N.J.
1773 | Entered King's College (later Columbia University), New York, N.Y.
1774 | Published A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress from the Calumnies of Their Enemies (New York: James Rivington. 35 pp.)
1775 | Published The Farmer Refuted, or A More Complete and Comprehensive View of the Dispute between Great Britain and the Colonies (New York: James Rivington. 78 pp.)
1776 | Appointed captain in command of a provincial company of artillery
1777 | Appointed aide-de-camp to George Washington with rank of lieutenant colonel
1780 | Married Elizabeth Schuyler
1781 | Resigned as aide-de-camp to George Washington (April 30)
1782 | Appointed receiver of continental taxes for New York
1783 | Resigned from Continental Congress in July
1784 | Organized Bank of New York
1786 | Chosen delegate to Annapolis, Md., Convention
1787 | Elected, New York state assembly
1787 | Named delegate to the Constitutional Convention, Philadelphia, Pa.
1788 | Begun series of Federalist essays
1789 | Elected to the New York ratifying convention
1790-1791 | Appointed secretary of the treasury
1791 | Elected member, American Philosophical Society
1795 | Resigned from office of secretary of the treasury (January 31)
1796 | Defended carriage tax case before United States Supreme Court
1799 | Appointed inspector general of the army with rank of major general
1800 | Resigned as inspector general

Some or all content stored offsite.
Alexander Hamilton papers, 1708-1717

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804) cover the years 1708 to 1717, with the bulk of material dating from 1777 to 1804. The collection is arranged in nine series: General Correspondence, Speeches and Writings, Legal Papers, Financial Papers, Family Papers, Manuscripts, 1756-1804, Additions 1717-1804, and Exercises.

The General Correspondence and Speeches and Writings series encompasses all phases of Hamilton's public career and includes several letterbook copies of letters either composed by Hamilton or in his handwriting from the time of his boyhood employment with Nicholas Cruger in St. Croix. Hamilton's public service began with his appointment as aide-de-camp to George Washington during the Revolutionary War, and numerous letters representative of the scope of his military responsibilities are found in the papers. In the period following Hamilton's resignation from active military duty, the correspondence and writings express his ideas concerning the French and American overtures in the Constitutional Convention and his efforts to assure the acceptance of the new Constitution by New York's ratifying convention. However, only a fragment of one of the "Continentalist" articles and none of his Federalist essays are included in the papers.

As secretary of the treasury, Hamilton's immediate task was to establish a sound financial structure for the new government and to devise a plan for the payment of foreign, domestic, and state debts. The Speeches and Writings series contains drafts of four major economic reports submitted by Hamilton to Congress on public credit, the creation of a national bank, the establishment of a mint, and the development of a manufacturing industry. Several documents assembled in the preparation of these reports and papers relating to the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures are located in the General Correspondence and Manuscripts series. Samples of these were created by women in the Massachusetts town of Ipswich from 1769-1770 are included in the General Correspondence series. Hamilton's financial activities, both as a trader and as the principal author of the Monies Act of 1790, are documented in the Correspondence and manuscripts between 1767 and 1800. These corporate records of Hamilton's involvement in the routine operations of the army, his correspondence, much of it with James McHenry, detail the problems inherent in recruiting and organizing regiments, supply logistics, and conditions at the fort, particularly in the western regions of the country. The collection includes copies of financial statements prepared for the Armies in the Monies Act series, and those drafted by him are in the Speeches and Writings series.

Hamilton began his career as an attorney in 1782, and the legal papers reflect the varied range of his practice. His cases can be generally grouped into several broad categories those growing out of the Revolutionary War involving trespass, confiscation, and violation acts, commercial transactions, maritime insurance claims, admiralty jurisdiction, disputes pertaining to colonial land patents and western lands, questions of public law and procedure, some constitutional issues, and conflicts of laws. Some of the landmark cases included in his papers are Rutger vs. Waddell, People v. Crissel, Nyilton v. United States, and cases forming the Lea v. Guernier and Kembre litigation.

The Financial Papers consist of two volumes of accounts relating to his law practice and a folder of miscellaneous receipts. Some of the receipts are for money given to printer William Pearce between September 1791 and July 1792 on behalf of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures to provide machinery for manufacturing cotton.

The Family Papers series includes letters and other correspondence and documents involving members of the family other than Hamilton. The series contains letters from Angelica Church and Philip John Schuyler to Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton; from Philip John Schuyler to his grandchildren, Philip Hamilton, and from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton to her father, Catherine Church, and to her son, Philip Schuyler. Through the marriage of Philip Hamilton to Rebecca Halsey, several Halsey family letters were incorporated into the papers. Most of the nonfamily correspondence of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton relates to the management of her properties and to arrangements for the publication of Hamilton's papers. Scattered letters addressed to Alexander Hamilton (the grandson), James A. Hamilton, John Church Hamilton, and to members of the Ainslee family are also included in the family papers.

The 1756 Additions includes a letter from Nicholas French to Hamilton concerning legal matters and a column regarding the lawyers' dinner issued. It also contains the original manuscript of letters by Hamilton, miscellaneous images, and a page from a church register recording his marriage.

The 1757 Additions includes family correspondence and a fragment of a will written by Hamilton. Many of the letters are from Philip Schuyler to his daughter, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, and her husband Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton's career and his close relations with the Schuyler family are documented by these letters. Schuyler's letters concern the health and activities of his wife, his children, and their families, including his son-in-law Stephen Van Rensselaer and Alexander Hamilton. Schuyler's own health is a frequent topic as well as the recurring yellow fever epidemic to which the Hamiltons were exposed in Philadelphia and New York. Other topics include Schuyler's role as a major New York landlord, politics, elections, and the Federalist party in New York and...
Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in nine series:

- General Correspondence, 1774-1804
- Speeches and Writings File, 1776-1804
- Legal File, 1780-1804
- Financial Papers, 1782-1804
- Family Papers, 1777-1817
- Miscellany, 1771-1820
- 1998 Addition, 1790-1829
- 2017 Addition, 1790-1804
- Oversize, 1775-1805
Alexander Hamilton papers, 1708-1917

Search this Finding Aid

Overview | Content List | Index Terms | Using this Collection | Search Results | Print/Download

BOX 24 REEL 21

Dec. 13, "First Report on the Further Provision Necessary for Establishing Public Credit"
First draft
Digital content available
Second draft
Digital content available

Digital content available

Dec., An Act to Incorporate the Bank of the United States
Digital content available

1791

Jan. 28, "Report on the Establishment of a Mint"
First draft
Digital content available
Second draft
Digital content available

Notes
Digital content available

Feb. 10, "Report on the Constitutionality of a National Bank," draft and two copies
Digital content available

Aug., Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures prospectus
Digital content available

Dec. 3, "Report on the Subject of Manufactures"
First draft
Digital content available
Second draft
Digital content available
Third draft
Digital content available
Fourth draft and outline
Digital content available

Contents List

General Correspondence,
1771-1804

Speeches and Writings File,
1778-1804

Letter File, 1779-1804

Financial Papers, 1782-1804

Family Papers, 1797-1917

Magazines, 1781-1850

1936 Addition, 1780-1853

1972 Addition, 1790-1854

Overruns, 1775-1803
### Alexander Hamilton papers, 1708-1917

To determine whether people associated with this collection are also represented in other Library finding aids, select **All Finding Aids**. To browse those names in the Library's catalog, select **LC Online Catalog**. To locate names of people inside this finding aid, search first names by keyword in the **Search this Finding Aid** box above (names in the text of finding aids may appear first name-last name, with initials, or with intervening words between first and last names).

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Findings</th>
<th>Catalog</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adams, John, 1735-1826</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>All Finding Aids</td>
<td>LC Online Catalog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church family</td>
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<td>All Finding Aids</td>
<td>LC Online Catalog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church, Angelica Schuyler, 1756-1815</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>All Finding Aids</td>
<td>LC Online Catalog</td>
</tr>
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<td>Clay, Henry, 1777-1852</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>All Finding Aids</td>
<td>LC Online Catalog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton family</td>
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<td>All Finding Aids</td>
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<td>All Finding Aids</td>
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