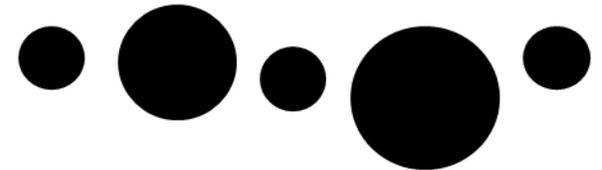
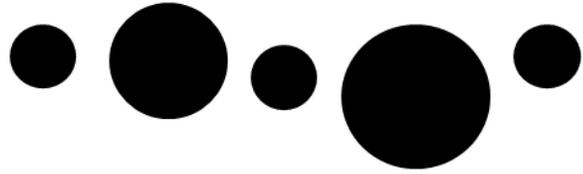


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Having met Mrs. CHRISTIANIAH Elizabeth CROCK, Grandmother of Burr, at New Brunswick, N.J.

Dear Edward  
  
 Society, Novemb. 4th 1769

SUNDAY MAGAZINE for JULY 3, 1904 7

# HAMILTON-BURR DUEL

## A Tragedy of a Century Ago

By WARWICK JAMES PRICE

A CENTURY ago, on a grassy ledge under the heights of Washington, New Jersey, a Vice-President of the United States and a former Secretary of her Treasury faced each other in mortal combat. Soldiers of long and honorable service, scholars and men of marked ability, they were men who had already held many of the highest offices in their country. Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr played out in the peaceful luxury of the Hudson the tragedy which was to end on the morning of July 11, 1804, forever for all time.

There are few more picturesque or romantic spots in the vicinity of New-York than is that of Kings Bridge, where these two men met. Art has not improved the woodland. Only a little clearing in the forest, a network of underbrush, surrounded by the tall trees through which the dashing parties passed, remains the scene of the encounter. The spot is which Hamilton is said to have pointed out to Burr after meeting at the first time, and which was to prove mortal to both men from its setting of earth and sky. The man's career and fate, but all the same, but as it was on that fatal morning that the mortal struggle began.

The little party of five—the president, the two secretaries, and the surgeon—was all that remained not long after sunrise. The two men were seen standing. In Burr's hand, Hamilton's sword, gave him his first reply. "Will you have the honor to fight?"

"At this time" was the significant reply, and when the men faced each other, according to the best authorities upon a disputed subject, Burr stood at the word. At the word, Hamilton started forward with a lightning movement, struck, immediately withdrawing his pistol into the foliage above, and fell headlong. Burr, with an expression of pain upon his face, sprang toward him. Van Ness, his second, seized him and hurled him down the bank and into their boat.

Hamilton, being lifted up, received for a moment, and gasped. "This is a mortal wound, doctor." Relapsing again into unconsciousness, he was again revived by the touch of the river. "Fountain knows," he said, trying to turn toward his friend, "that I did not intend to fire at him."

At two the afternoon following he had reached his boat.

If "the Duke" is to be directly blamed for the duel, yet it is to the political situation of the day that one must look for its explanation. In the closing years of the eighteenth century and the opening ones of the nineteenth the foremost and ablest men in the United States were not only in politics, but they were "in" wholeheartedly that words were so well chosen and his sentences so finely formed into a swelling current that the listener would be captivated, even were he not convinced. Burr's arguments were methodical and compact; he was terse and convincing. I need not say of those when they were made at the bar, that Burr would say as much in half an hour as Hamilton would in two.

Opposed one to the other in their professional practice as well as in their political views.

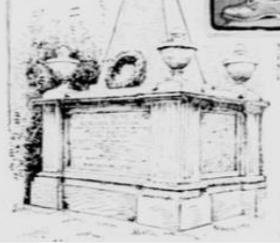
So, for nearly twenty years, first and last, Burr and Hamilton had been engaged in a political duel, and the latter though a large part of that period had been comparing in his condemnation of his opponent's character and actions, in at least five instances provoking his advancement. True and again Burr had been taunted with "some submission" under

Remains of the Thirteen Trees that Hamilton Flouted at His Home



The Old Hamilton Home, Washington Heights, N.Y.

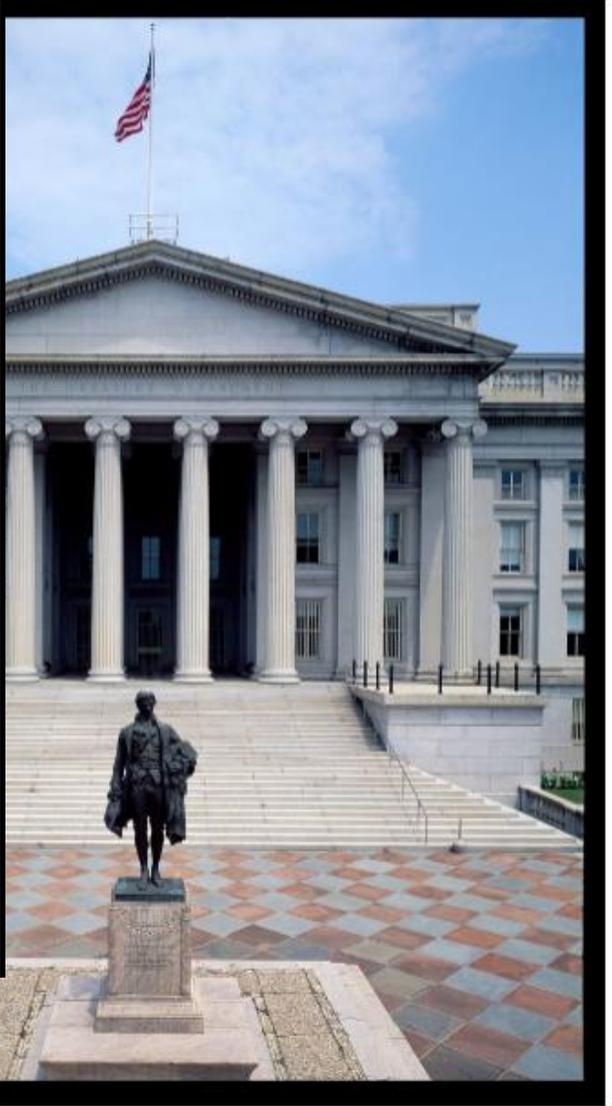
Monument Over Hamilton's Grave, Trinity Churchyard, New-York



Statue of Hamilton, by William Ordway Partridge, Standing in Front of Hamilton Club, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hamilton has expressed of Mr. Burr.

A copy of the letter Burr sent to Hamilton by Van Ness, asking for a "prompt and unqualified acknowledgment or denial of the use of any expression which would warrant the assertion of Mr. Coe." This Hamilton declined to grant in a reply which was dignified, though rather long and argumentative under the circumstances. Burr took it to be an attempt at evasion, and in a second note made a more peremptory demand that "Mr. Hamilton confine his attention to the remark under dispute." To this Hamilton, only reply was that the second note



pg 44. *Insolada* 1789

- I *Confutans of the occaſion*
- II - *void plan without regard to temporary effects*
- III - *If an ineffectual plan be again preferred it will be kept deſpised & no government will*
- IV *They ſeem to be but three lines of conduct*
- I *A league of peace and defence, treaty of apperthment of the public debt.*
- II *An adu amendment of the preſent conſtitution adding juſt powers as the public mind being matured to grant.*
- III - *The forming a new government to preſent with deſpised powers in ſhort with a*

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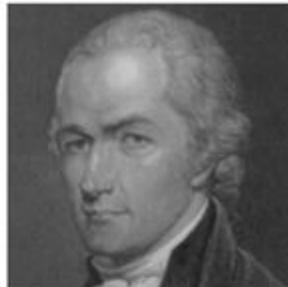
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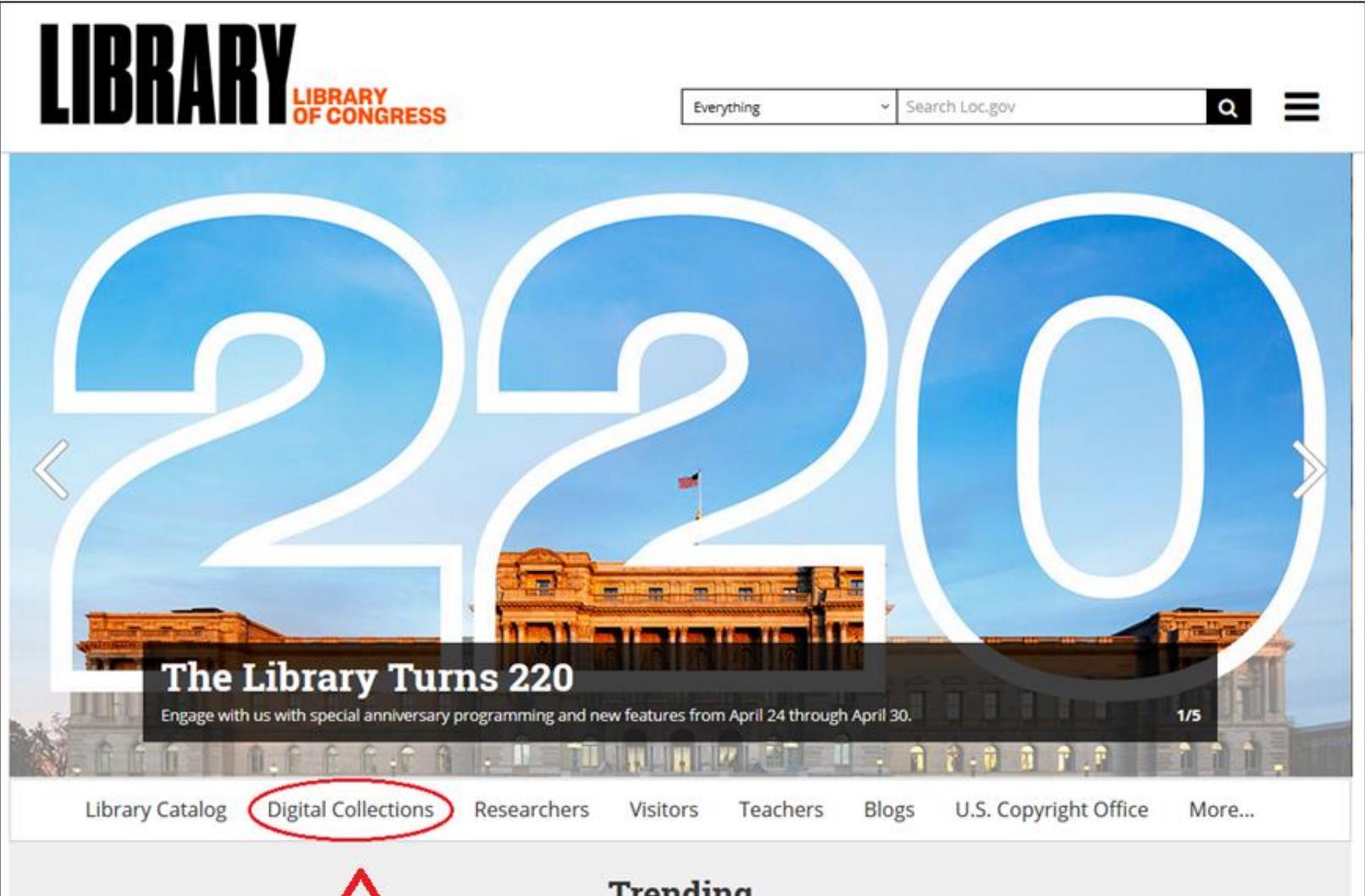


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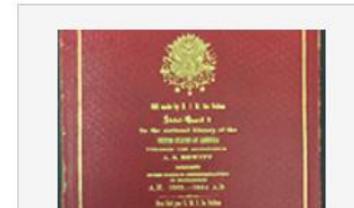
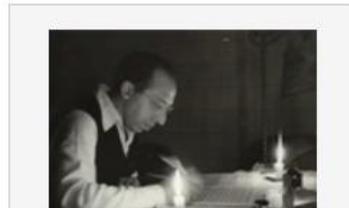
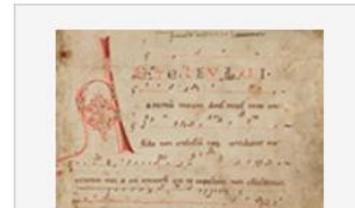
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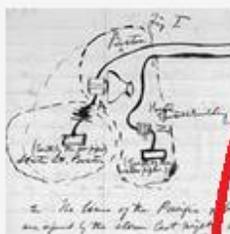
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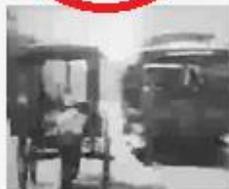
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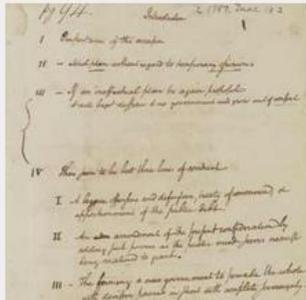
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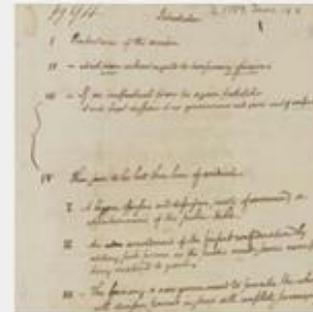
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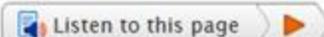


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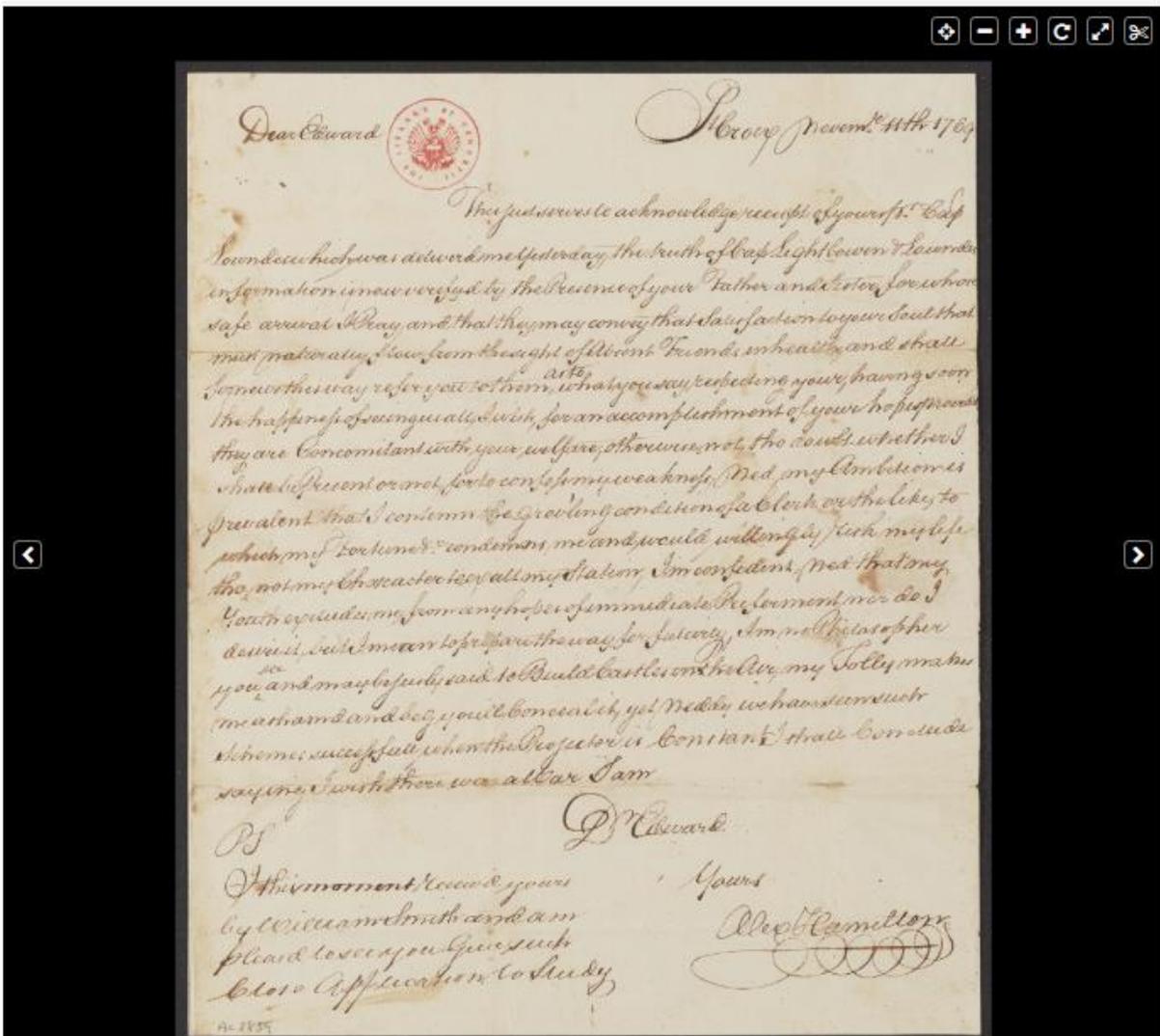
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Alexander Hamilton Papers: General Correspondence, 1734-1804; 1734-1772

### Contributor Names

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804

### 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, 1733-1804--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

mss24612, box 1; reel 1

series: General Correspondence, 1734-1804

### Source Collection

Alexander Hamilton Papers

### Finding Aid

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### 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](#)  
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[Schuyler, Philip John](#)

## 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. Crosswell, 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



# Image 2 of Alexander Hamilton Papers: Speeches and Writings File, 1778-1804; 1787; Constitutional Convention; [June 18], "Notes for Speech in the Convention proposing a Plan of Government"

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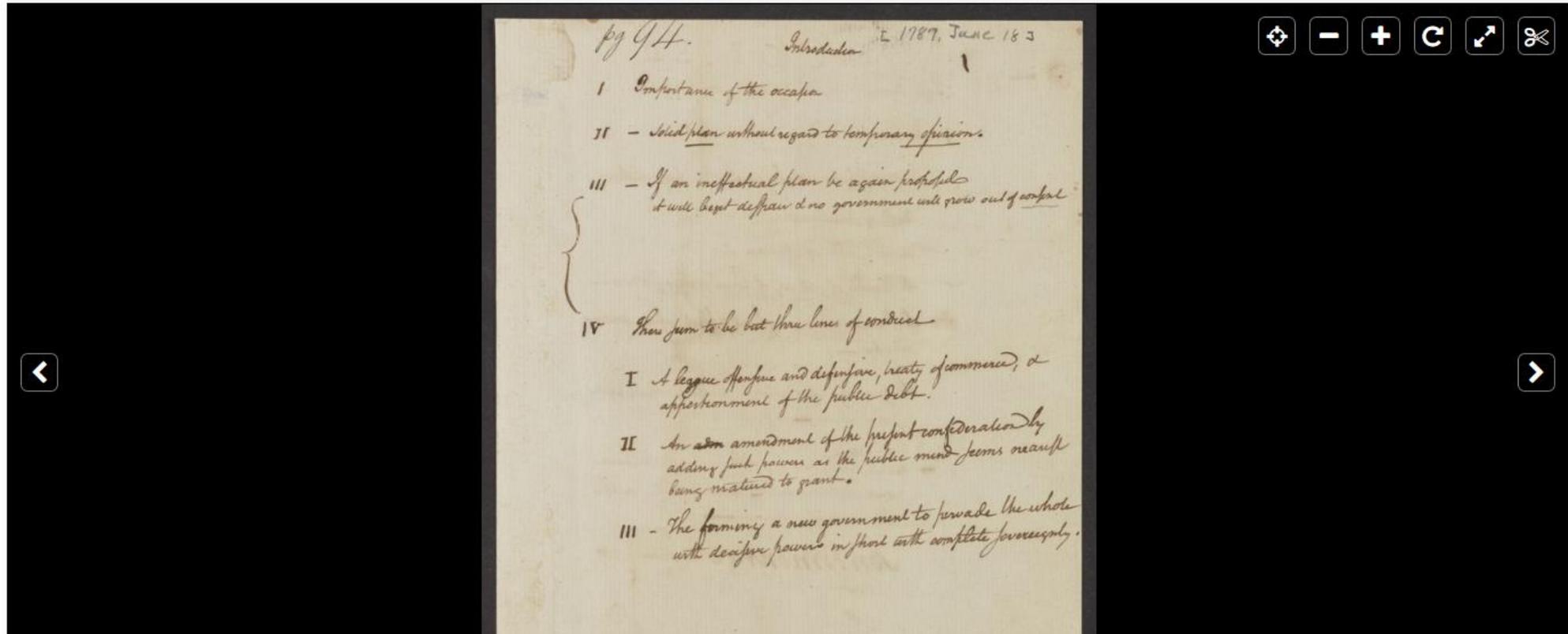
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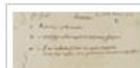
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TEACHER'S GUIDE  
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# ALEXANDER HAMILTON

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/2008676310/>

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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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## 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).

Among the many correspondents in the papers are John Adams, Angelica Schuyler Church, Henry Clay, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, Rufus King, the Marquis de Lafayette, Pierre Charles L'Enfant, James McHenry, James Monroe, Robert Morris, Timothy Pickering, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Philip Schuyler, Baron von Steuben, Robert Troup, George Washington, James Wilkinson, and Oliver Wolcott, Jr.

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.

Between 1961 and 1987, Columbia University Press published a twenty-seven-volume edition of the *Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, edited by Harold C. Syrett. Between 1964 and 1981, Columbia University Law School published a five-volume-edition of Hamilton's legal papers, with Julius Goebel as editor. These two editions have been used as definitive sources in the verification of names and in the dating and identification of manuscripts in the Hamilton Papers at the Library of Congress.

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](#).



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### Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Alexander Hamilton papers, 1708-1917
<b>Span Dates</b>	1708-1917
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	(bulk 1777-1804)
<b>ID No.</b>	MSS24612
<b>Creator</b>	Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804
<b>Extent</b>	12,000 items ; 44 containers plus 3 oversize ; 22.4 linear feet ; 34 microfilm reels
<b>Language</b>	Collection material in English
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.</a>
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>Finding Aid Permalink</b>	Cite or bookmark this finding aid as: <a href="https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003014">https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003014</a>
<b>LCCN Permalink</b>	LC Online Catalog record for this collection: <a href="https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81024612">https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81024612</a>
<b>Online Content</b>	The papers of Alexander Hamilton are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <a href="https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000059">https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000059</a> .

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## Biographical Note

## Date

circa 1757, Jan. 11  
 1766-1768  
 1769  
 1772  
 1772-1773  
 1773  
 1774  
 1775  
 1776  
 1777  
 1780  
 1781  
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 1784  
 1786  
 1787  
 1788  
 1789  
 1790-1791  
 1791  
 1795  
 1795-1796  
 1798  
 1800

## Event

Born, Charlestown, Nevis, Leeward Islands, British West Indies  
 Clerk, trading firm of Beekman and Cruger, St. Croix  
 Clerk, business of Nicholas Cruger, St. Croix  
 Immigrated to Boston, Mass.  
 Attended Francis Barber's academy, Elizabethtown, N.J.  
 Entered King's College (later Columbia University), New York, N.Y.  
 Published *A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress from the Calumnies of Their Enemies* (New York: James Rivington. 35 pp.)  
 Published *The Farmer Refuted: or A more impartial and comprehensive View of the Dispute between Great-Britain and the Colonies* (New York: James Rivington. 78 pp.)  
 Appointed captain in command of a provincial company of artillery  
 Appointed aide-de-camp to George Washington with rank of lieutenant colonel  
 Married Elizabeth Schuyler  
 Resigned as aide-de-camp to George Washington (April 30)  
 Given command of New York and Connecticut light infantry battalion and ordered to Virginia (July)  
 Retired from active military duty (November)  
 Appointed receiver of continental taxes for New York  
 Chosen delegate from New York to the Continental Congress  
 Admitted to practice of law as attorney and counselor before the New York Supreme Court of Judicature  
 Resigned from Continental Congress in July  
 Opened law office, New York, N.Y.  
 Organizer, Bank of New York  
 Chosen delegate to Annapolis, Md., Convention  
 Elected, New York state assembly  
 Named delegate to the Constitutional Convention, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Began series of *Federalist* essays  
 Elected delegate to the New York ratifying convention  
 Appointed secretary of the treasury  
 Prepared four major economic reports for Congress  
 Elected member, American Philosophical Society  
 Resigned from office of secretary of the treasury (January 31)  
 Defended carriage tax case before United States Supreme Court  
 Wrote series of articles under the pseudonyms Philo Camillus and Camillus  
 Appointed inspector general of the army with rank of major general  
 Resigned as inspector general

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### Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804) cover the years 1708 to 1917, 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](#), [Miscellany](#), [1998 Addition](#), [2017 Addition](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) and [Speeches and Writings](#) series encompass all phases of Hamilton's public career and include 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 form and functions of government, culminating in his participation in the Constitutional Convention and in his efforts to secure 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 [Miscellany](#) series. Samples of lace created by women in the Massachusetts town of Ipswich from 1789-1790 are included in the [General Correspondence](#) series. They serve as one of the examples of American manufacturing that Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton gathered as he prepared his 1791 "Report on Manufactures." In the area of foreign affairs, the relationship of the United States with France and commercial ties with Great Britain were matters of vital concern to the country. Hamilton's view of these issues is related in his correspondence, especially with George Washington, and in the series of newspaper articles published under such pseudonyms as Pacificus, No Jacobin, Philo Camillus, and Camillus.

Hamilton pursued his interest in public affairs after he resigned from the Treasury Department. He continued to advise the president and cabinet members on policy matters and drafted several of Washington's addresses to Congress, including the Farewell Address. The growing threat of war with France prompted Hamilton to write a series of articles in 1797 and 1798 presenting his analysis of the political situation which led the government to consider the status of its army. By a statute passed on 16 July 1798, Congress authorized the raising of twelve additional regiments. John Adams named Washington as commander-in-chief, and Hamilton was appointed inspector general. In this office, Hamilton had most of the responsibility for recruiting and organizing the army. Correspondence and papers between July 1798 and July 1800 constitute approximately half of the documents in the collection. Although many of the papers show 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 forts, particularly in the western regions of the country. Copies of training manuals prepared under Hamilton's direction are in the military papers in the [Miscellany](#) series, and those drafted by him are in the [Speeches and Writings](#) series.

Hamilton began his career as an attorney in 1782, and his [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 citation 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 conflict of laws. Some of the landmark cases included in his papers are *Rutgers v. Waddington*, *People v. Crosswell*, *Hylton v. United States*, and cases forming the *LeGuen v. Gouverneur and Kemble* 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 engineer 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 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 (the grandson), James A. Hamilton, John Church Hamilton, and to members of the McLane family are also included in the family papers.

The [1998 Addition](#) includes a letter from Nicholas Everton to Hamilton concerning legal matters and a circular regarding the Revenue Cutter Service. It also contains photocopied material including letters by Hamilton, miscellaneous images, and a page from a church register recording his marriage.

The [2017 Addition](#) includes family correspondence and a fragment of a will written by Hamilton in 1795. 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 sons-in-law Stephen Van Rensselaer III and Alexander Hamilton. Schuyler's own health is a frequent topic as well as the recurring yellow fever epidemics to which the Hamiltons were exposed in Philadelphia and New York. Other topics include Schuyler's role as a major New York landholder, politics, elections, and the Federalist party in New York and

## Alexander Hamilton papers, 1708-1917

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    - [Digital content available](#)
  - Second draft
    - [Digital content available](#)
- [Dec. 13] , "Second Report on the Further Provision Necessary for Establishing Public Credit (Report on a National Bank)"
  - [Digital content available](#)
- [Dec.] , An Act to Incorporate the Bank of the United States
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      - [Digital content available](#)
  - [Feb. 23] , "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. 5] , "Report on the Subject of Manufactures"
    - First draft
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    - Fourth draft and outline
      - [Digital content available](#)

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Adams, John, 1735-1826--Correspondence.

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Church family.

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Church, Angelica Schuyler, 1756-1815--Correspondence.

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Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.

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Hamilton family.

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Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804.

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Hamilton, Elizabeth Schuyler, 1757-1854--Correspondence.

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Hamtramck, John Francis, 1756-1803--Correspondence.

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Jay, John, 1745-1829--Correspondence.

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### Access and Use

#### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Alexander Hamilton is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

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4 section(s) in this finding aid contain the word(s) **mint**

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1. [Speeches and Writings File, 1778-1804](#) (1)  
...28], "Report on the Establishment of a **Mint** " ...
2. [Miscellany, 1711-1820](#) (1)  
...used in preparation of a report on the establishment of the **mint**
3. [Index Terms> Organizations](#) (1)  
**Mint** of the United States.
4. [Overview> Scope and Content Note](#) (1)  
...the creation of a national bank, the establishment of a **mint**, and the development of a manufacturing industry....

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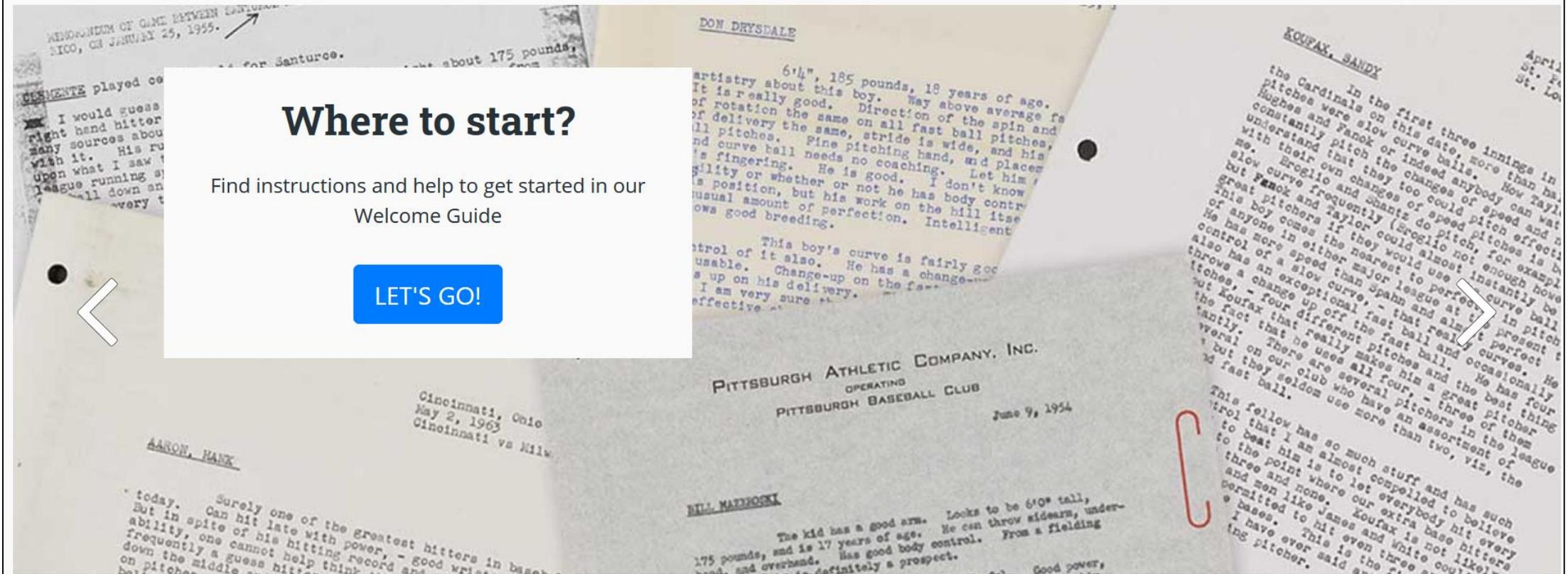
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