Elizabeth Drinker diaries, 1758-1800
MC.975.01.018
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
April 20, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
Table of Contents

Summary Information ........................................................................................................................................... 3

Biographical note ............................................................................................................................................. 4

Scope and Content note ................................................................................................................................. 4

Administrative Information ............................................................................................................................ 4

Related Materials ........................................................................................................................................ 5

Controlled Access Headings .......................................................................................................................... 5

Collection Inventory ..................................................................................................................................... 7
## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Drinker, Elizabeth Sandwith, 1734-1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Elizabeth Drinker diaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1758-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.34 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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</table>

### Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Drinker diaries (MC.975.01.018) Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker (1735-1807) was born circa 1735 in Philadelphia, where she married Henry Drinker, and together they had nine children. Elizabeth was a prolific journal writer throughout her life, and kept journals from the colonial period, during the Revolutionary war, and in the early years of American independence. Elizabeth died in Philadelphia in 1807.

Scope and Content note

The collection includes unbound typed transcripts of Drinker’s original diaries, from 1758-1800, though the diaries from 1787-1788 are missing. The diaries are composed of Elizabeth’s personal reflections of the day-to-day life of a wealthy Quaker woman in colonial Philadelphia. The majority of Elizabeth’s entries detail her daily life, including social calls with other Quaker families and individuals, the births, deaths, and marriages within her community, and attendance at, and descriptions of weekly and monthly Quaker meetings. While Elizabeth is generally not concerned with larger economic or political events, her entries during the Revolutionary War discuss military movements by both the British and the Americans, specifically General Washington’s military movements. Elizabeth’s description of events during this period include general military events, as well as personal experiences during the war. In addition to the Revolutionary War, Elizabeth’s entries are often concerned with medical and health matters, both within her own family, and as concerned the city of Philadelphia more generally. Specifically, her entries provide a record of small pox and yellow fever outbreaks during her lifetime, and her personal entries detail the illnesses of herself and her family, as well as treatments administered to herself and her children.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections June 2015

Use Restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).
Acquisition
Unknown.

Processing Information
Processed by Kara Flynn; completed June 2015.

Related Materials

Related Materials
- MC 854 Elizabeth and Henry Drinker letters
- MC 950.061 Henry Drinker papers
- MC 950.149 Pike family papers
- MC 1121 Henry Joel Cadbury papers

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)
- Diaries.

Personal Name(s)
- Drinker, Henry, 1734-1809
- Emlen, Samuel, ca. 1765-1837

Subject(s)
- Medicine -- United States -- History -- 18th century
- Quaker women -- United States
• Quakers -- Pennsylvania -- Social life and customs
• Revolutions--America--History--18th century
• United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Women -- Sources
• Women--United States--Social life and customs
• Yellow fever
## Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vol.</th>
<th>Year Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1758-1760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1760-1761</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1762-1764</td>
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<td>1766-1768</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1768-1771</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>1771-1773</td>
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</table>

**Scope and Contents note**

- **Vol. 1 1758-1760**
  - Record of knitting and needlework projects.

- **Vol. 2 1760-1761**
- **Vol. 3 1762-1764**
  - Yellow fever and smallpox outbreaks, illnesses of children.

- **Vol. 4 1764-1766**
- **Vol. 5 1766-1768**
- **Vol. 6 1768-1771**
  - Family’s struggles with illness, death of son Henry.

- **Vol. 7 1771-1773**
Vol. 8 1773-1777

Scope and Contents note

Descriptions of General Washington’s military movements.

Vol. 9 1777-1778

Scope and Contents note

Family’s experience during the Revolutionary War, including Drinker's husband’s exile to Virginia, illnesses of children, and arrival of British troops.

Vol. 10 1778-1780

Vol. 11 1780-1781

Vol. 12 1782-1784

Vol. 13 1784-1786

Vol. 14 July 1789

Vol. 15 1790

Vol. 16 1791

Vol. 17 1792
Vol. 18 1793

**Scope and Contents note**

Outbreak of yellow fever.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vol.  19</th>
<th>1794</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vol.  20</td>
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<td>1800</td>
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