



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Collection 405

Thomas McKean papers

Creator: McKean, Thomas, 1734-1817

1757-1892 (bulk 1757-1815)

13 boxes, 2.6 lin. feet

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Inventoried by: Alice George
Inventory Completed: September 2009
Restrictions: None

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Abstract

Thomas McKean (1734-1817), an early advocate of revolution, was a delegate to the Stamp Act Congress and the Continental Congress. He also was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, chief justice of Pennsylvania, president of Congress, president of Delaware, chairman of the board of trustees of the University of the State of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pennsylvania), and governor of Pennsylvania. He remained a significant figure in Pennsylvania and Delaware politics from the late 1750s until he left the Pennsylvania governorship in 1808. This collection consists primarily of correspondence and includes many exchanges between McKean and well-known leaders of the period, including George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Also included is McKean's correspondence with his family, particularly his second wife, Sarah McKean, and one of his sons, Thomas McKean Jr. In addition, the collection holds some of the correspondence of Thomas McKean Jr. and other family members in the decades after Thomas McKean's death. Beyond correspondence, the collection holds official documents such as military and civilian commissions, books, pamphlets, and receipts.

Background note

Born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, Thomas McKean found early success as a lawyer in the colony of Delaware, and his legal record brought him enough prominence to attain public office at the age of twenty-eight, joining the Delaware Assembly in 1762. Soon afterward, McKean became an outspoken opponent of British policies in colonial America. Consequently, he was chosen to represent three Delaware counties at the Stamp Act Congress held in New York in 1765. His service there solidified his public image as an advocate of change. In 1774, he participated in the first Continental Congress, which convened in Philadelphia and approved a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation policy in response to harsh British taxes. As the colonies moved closer to revolution, McKean joined a Philadelphia militia unit, and on July 4, 1776, he signed the Declaration of Independence as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. Shortly after taking office as chief justice of Pennsylvania's Supreme Court in August 1777, McKean served as president of Delaware for several

weeks in the autumn of that year following the British capture of John McKinly, the previous president. He served in the Continental Congress throughout most of the American Revolution, and he was president of that body—the nation's highest elected official—during the critical final months leading up to Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown. He resigned from the job four days after the British collapse so that he could devote more attention to his responsibilities as chief justice, a post that he held for twenty years. One of the recurring themes he addressed both during and after the revolution was the identification of Tories within Pennsylvania and determination of their punishment. McKean was a strong supporter of Thomas Jefferson's Republican Party, and he was elected Pennsylvania's governor in 1799. Based on allegations that he abused his power, McKean faced a drive for his impeachment in 1808; however, his opponents lacked the necessary support to oust him. He left the governorship at the end of that year and retired from public life.

THOMAS McKEAN TIMELINE

March 19, 1734 – Birth.

1756 – Becomes deputy attorney general of Sussex County.

1757 – Serves as clerk of the Assembly of Delaware.

1762-79 – With the exception of a one-year gap, works continuously as lawmaker in Delaware Assembly, serving as speaker in 1772-73.

1765 – Represents Delaware counties in Stamp Act Congress.

1771 – Takes office as collector of customs and commissioner of revenue at New Castle.

1774 – Works as delegate to first Continental Congress.

1775-76 – Participates in the second Continental Congress.

1776 – Votes for and signs Declaration of Independence; as militia colonel, narrowly escapes capture in New Jersey; writes Delaware constitution.

1777 – Steps in as president of Delaware after predecessor's capture.

1777-1797 – Becomes chief justice of Pennsylvania.

1778-1783 – Serves in new nation's Congress.

1781 – Assumes presidency of Congress for four months.

1789 – Represents Philadelphia at Pennsylvania constitutional convention.

1799-1808 – Leads Pennsylvania as governor.

1808 – Faces impeachment charges as governor; legislature postpones action indefinitely.

June 24, 1817 – Death.

Scope & content

This collection of Thomas McKean's papers primarily consists of correspondence to McKean and drafts or copies of McKean's letters. Because McKean played a significant role in the American Revolution, much of the correspondence focuses on that conflict and on the early struggles of the new republic. Scattered throughout the papers are items that are not correspondence, including government documents, family wills, and receipts. A genealogical report on McKean's descendants is available in the appendix starting on page 34 of this guide.

McKean's papers were originally housed in six volumes. At some point in the past, the volumes were disbound and the papers were individually foldered and re-housed into thirteen boxes. While the collection retains the old volumes and page numbers, the boxes have been consecutively numbered. For the most part, the collection is arranged chronologically; however, McKean's letters to his second wife Sally have been separated from the chronological flow established in the first ten boxes. Box 11 and the early folders of Box 12 hold these personal letters, which are arranged chronologically. Although these letters often deal with mundane affairs, they also provide information on McKean's governmental duties. Items following these letters in Box 12 represent a hodgepodge of correspondence and other materials dating from 1752 to 1892. Oversized items have been removed from Boxes 1 through 12 and placed in Box 13. Within this box are commissions, diplomas, passports, and a land deed.

Documents covering McKean's short service as president of the U.S. Congress are of special interest. These records can be found, beginning with Box 1, Volume 1, Page 54 and continuing through Box 3, Volumes 2, Page 54. Included in these boxes are several letters to and from General George Washington about the course of the war, captured and decrypted British military communiqués, and correspondence with French leaders about their role in the war.

Another source of great insight in the collection is the running correspondence between John Dickinson and McKean about political affairs, beginning in 1757 and continuing through 1805. These letters reveal their concerns about the growing calls for revolution, the uphill battle for independence, the trial of the new nation's early years under the Articles of Confederation, and the possibility that the Federalist Party might betray those who fought so hard for freedom.

One exception to the collection's generally chronological arrangement can be found in Box 10, Folder 5, where two undated eighteenth century documents, one of which is signed by George Washington, are located.

Related materials

At the Historical Society of Delaware:
Thomas McKean papers, 1758-1810

Bibliography

Buchanan, Roberdeau, and Thomas F. Bayard. *Life of the Hon. Thomas McKean*. Lancaster: Inquirer Printing Company, 1890.

Coleman, John M. *Thomas McKean: Forgotten Leader of the Revolution*. Rockaway, NJ: American Faculty Press, 1975.

“Descendants of William and Susanna McKean.” <http://www.gunboatempires.com/genealogy/McKean00.htm>.

Rowe, G.S. *Thomas McKean: The Shaping of American Republicanism*. Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1978.

Subjects

Delaware—History—Colonial Period—1757-1775
Delaware—History—Revolutionary Period—1775-1783
Delaware—History—Constitutional Period—1789-1809
Pennsylvania—History—Colonial Period —1757-1775
Pennsylvania—History—Revolutionary Period—1775-1783
Pennsylvania—History—Constitutional Period—1789-1809
United States—History—Colonial Period —1757-1775
United States—History—Revolutionary Period—1775-1783
United States—History—Constitutional Period—1789-1809
United States—Politics and government—To 1775
United States—Politics and government—Revolutionary Period—1775-1783
United States—Politics and government—Constitutional Period—1789-1809

Adams, John, 1735-1826
Adams, Samuel, 1722-1803
Dickinson, John, 1732-1808
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826
Laurens, John, 1754-1782
McKean, Thomas, 1734-1817
Reed, George, 1733-1798
Rodney, Caesar, 1728-1784
Washington, George, 1732-1799

Administrative Information

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Provenance unknown, although it seems likely that the papers were collected by Thomas McKean Jr., and passed on to his son, Thomas McKean III.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Thomas McKean papers (Collection 405),
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

Two specific documents are missing as of 2 September 2009: correspondence from Sam Huntington from Box 1, Volume 1, Page 30, and McKean's commission as chief justice dated 12 December 1792, from Box 13, Volume 6, Page 63.

Box and folder listing

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Dickinson, John	20 Oct. 1757	Box 1	1
Dickinson, John	8 June 1762	Box 1	2
Dickinson, John	14 June 1762	Box 1	3
Washington, George	6 Aug. 1776	Box 1	4
Washington, George	13 Aug. 1776	Box 1	5
Franklin, B.	24 Aug. 1776	Box 1	6
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to John Dickinson	15 Aug. 1777	Box 1	7
McKean, Thomas, Habeas Corpus for Samuel Pleasant	12 Sept. 1777?	Box 1	8
McKean, Thomas Letter, Addressee Unknown	19 Sept. 1777	Box 1	9
Patterson, Sam'l	8 Jan. 1778	Box 1	10
Bayard, John	28 Feb. 1778	Box 1	11
Rodney, Caesar	9 Mar. 1778	Box 1	12
Washington, George	1 Apr. 1778	Box 1	12A
Greene, Nathanael	3 June 1778	Box 1	13
Rodney, Caesar	9 June 1778	Box 1	14
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Nathanael Greene	9 June 1778	Box 1	15
Sterrett, James	28 Aug. 1778	Box 1	16
[Marttery, Thomas]	1 Sept. 1778	Box 1	17
Hartley, Thomas	2 Sept. 1778	Box 1	18
Hagen, Moses	29 Sept. 1778	Box 1	19
Rodney, Thomas	4 Oct. 1778	Box 1	20
Van Dyke, Nicholas	24 Jan. 1779	Box 1	21
Request to be pall bearer at funeral of Mrs. Shippen	29 May 1779?	Box 1	22
Read, George	11 July 1779	Box 1	23
Invitation to funeral	6 Sept. 1779	Box 1	24
Adams, John	20 Sept. 1779	Box 1	25
McKean, Thomas, Letter to John Adams	8 Nov. 1779	Box 1	26
McKean, Thomas, An Account of Money Lost by the Depreciation of the Currency	1 Jan. 1780	Box 1	27
Dickinson, John, An Estimate of the Delaware State in 1769	1780	Box 1	28
Wentworth, J.	7 June 1780	Box 1	29
Dickinson, John	16 June 1780	Box 1	30
Huntington, Samuel	27 Aug. 1780	Box 1	30A
Benezet, John, Copy of letter to John Adams	18 Dec. 1780	Box 1	31

[Dickinson]	25 Dec. 1780	Box 1	32
Clarkson, M.C.	26 Jan. 1781	Box 1	33
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Thomas Collins	3 Feb. 1781	Box 1	34
Barbé-Marbois Marquis Francois de	10 Feb. 1781	Box 1	35
Van Dyke, Nicholas	14 Feb. 1781	Box 1	36
Reid, Joseph	29 Mar. 1781	Box 1	37
Houston, A.	31 Mar. 1781	Box 1	38
Wilkinson, Gen. James	8 Apr. 1781	Box 1	39
M Clean, Arch de	10 Apr. 1781	Box 1	40
Reed, Joseph, To the Judges of the Supreme Court	23 Apr. 1781	Box 1	41
Rankin, John	24 Apr. 1781	Box 1	42
Garos	1 May 1781	Box 1	43
York, Thomas	24 May 1781	Box 1	44
Moor, Ralph	31 May 1781	Box 1	45
McKean, Thomas, Rough draft to Samuel Adams	8 July 1781	Box 1	46
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Samuel Huntington	10 July 1781	Box 1	47
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to John Hancock	11 July 1781	Box 1	48
McKean, Thomas, Copies of letters to the Marquis Francois de Barbé-Marbois, Gen. Washington, Gen. Moses Hagen	14 July 1781	Box 2	1
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Gen. Nathanael Greene	13 July 1781	Box 2	2
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Samuel Hodgson	14 July 1781	Box 2	3
Atlee, William	18 July 1781	Box 2	4
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to the Marquis de la Fayette	19 July 1781	Box 2	5
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Dr. Franklin	21 July 1781	Box 2	6
Washington, George	21 July 1781	Box 2	7
Evans, John	23 July 1781	Box 2	8
McKean, Thomas, Copies of circular letter to Bingham, Bayard, George Meade, Barge, Hutchinson, and letter to John Hancock	25 July 1781	Box 2	9
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Nathanael Greene	26 July 1781	Box 2	10
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Washington	26 July 1781	Box 2	11

McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Washington	28 July 1781	Box 2	12
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Marquis de la Fayette	3 Aug. 1781	Box 2	13
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Washington	3 Aug. 1781	Box 2	14
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Tenax?	6 Aug. 1781	Box 2	15
McKean, Thomas Copy of letter to General Washington	7 Aug. 1781	Box 2	16
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Skinner	7 Aug. 1781	Box 2	17
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to the Navy Board for the Eastern Department	7 Aug. 1781	Box 2	18
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Joseph Reed	7 Aug. 1781	Box 2	19
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to the people residing on the New Hampshire Grants . . . or their representative body	8 Aug. 1781	Box 2	20
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letters to Gov. George Clinton; Copy of letter to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut	8, 9 Aug. 1781	Box 2	21
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Washington	9 Aug. 1781	Box 2	22
Rodney, Thomas	10 Aug. 1781	Box 2	23
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Robert A. Livingston	11 Aug. 1781	Box 2	24
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Washington	12 Aug. 1781	Box 2	25
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Richard H. Lee	13 Aug. 1781	Box 2	26
Peters, Richard	13 Aug. 1781	Box 2	27
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to the minister of France	14 Aug. 1781	Box 2	28
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Gov. Thomas Sims Lee, General Washington	15 Aug. 1781	Box 2	29
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Gov. Neilson	15 Aug. 1781	Box 2	30
Washington, George	17 Aug. 1781	Box 2	31
Cornell, Ezekiel	20 Aug. 1781	Box 2	32
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to the minister of France	20 Aug. 1781	Box 2	33
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Thomas Jefferson	20 Aug. 1781	Box 2	34
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Washington	23 Aug. 1781	Box 2	35

McKean, Thomas, Draft of circular to the representatives of five states; draft of letter to Joseph Reed	25 Aug. 1781	Box 2	36
Lee, Richard H.	25 Aug. 1781	Box 2	37
Lee, Arthur	26 Aug. 1781	Box 2	38
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Nathanael Greene	28 Aug. 1781	Box 2	39
Adams, Samuel	29 Aug. 1781	Box 2	40
Burke, Thomas	29 Aug. 1782?	Box 2	41
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Joseph Reed	30 Aug. 1781	Box 2	42
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Rochambeau	4 Sept. 1781	Box 2	43
McKean, Thomas, Drafts of letters to General Washington and Minister of France	4 Sept. 1781	Box 2	44
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to John Laurens	6 Sept. 1781	Box 2	45
Laurens, John	6 Sept. 1781	Box 2	46
McKean, Thomas, Drafts of letters to Robert R. Livingston and General Schuyler	6-7 Sept. 1781	Box 2	47
McKean, Thomas, Drafts to John Hancock and Joseph Reed	10 Sept. 1781	Box 2	48
Boudinott, Elias	11 Sept. 1781	Box 2	49
Intelligence from New York	11 Sept. 1781	Box 2	50
McKean, Thomas, Drafts of letter to Robert R. Livingston, Joseph Reed	11 Sept. 1781	Box 2	51
McKean, Thomas, Draft letters to Col. William Grayson and Major General Heath	11-12 Sept. 1781	Box 2	52
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Gov. George Clinton	12 Sept. 1781	Box 2	53
St. Clair, Arthur	12 Sept. 1781	Box 2	54
Robinson, Thomas, Letter To Leatherberg? Barker	12 Sept. 1781	Box 2	55
De Grass, Count, Letter to Minister de la Luzerne	13 Sept. 1781	Box 2	56
Adams, John, photocopy of letter; Franklin, Benjamin, photocopy of letter	20 Sept. 1779; 24 Aug. 1776	Box 2	57
Wayne, Anthony	13 Sept. 1781	Box 3	1
Barnet, J.B. and Col. Ogden	15 Sept. 1781	Box 3	2
McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to General Washington	13 Sept. 1781	Box 3	3
Adams, John	19 Sept. 1781	Box 3	4

McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to Caesar Rodney	19 Sept. 1781	Box 3	5
Forman, David	20 Sept. 1781	Box 3	6
McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to General Washington	21 Sept. 1781	Box 3	7
McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to General Nathanael Greene	21 Sept. 1781	Box 3	8
McKean, Thomas, Drafts of circular letter and letters to Michael Hilligas and Mr. Nourse	21 Sept. 1781	Box 3	9
McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to the minister of France	21 Sept. 1781	Box 3	10
McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to Governor Greene	21 Sept. 1781	Box 3	11
Washington, George McKean, Thomas, Draft letters to the governors of North Carolina and Georgia	23-24 Sept. 1781	Box 3	12
Clinton, Gen. Henry to Earl Cornwallis, Duplicate of intercepted letter in code	24 Sept. 1781	Box 3	13
Clinton, Gen. Henry to Earl Cornwallis, Duplicates of two decoded intercepted letters	24 Sept. 1781	Box 3	14
Clinton, Gen. Henry to Earl Cornwallis, Duplicate of intercepted letter in code	25 Sept. 1781	Box 3	15
McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to Col. Broadhead	25 Sept. 1781	Box 3	16
McKean, Thomas, Draft letter to William Houston	25 Sept. 1781	Box 3	17
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to Dr. Cochran, Director of Military Hospitals during the American Revolution	25 Sept. 1781	Box 3	18
McKean, Thomas, Copy of Private letter to General Washington	26 Sept. 1781	Box 3	19
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Washington and Draft of letter to General Nathanael Greene	26, 27 Sept. 1781	Box 3	20
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Nathanael Greene	27 Sept. 1781	Box 3	21
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Minister de la Luzerne	28 Sept. 1781	Box 3	22
Lee, Arthur, Letter with envelope, copy in next folder	29 Sept. 1781	Box 3	23
McKean, Thomas, Draft of circular letter	29 Sept. 1781	Box 3	24
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letters to the president of New Hampshire and General Stark	29 Sept. 1781	Box 3	25

Reed, Joseph	2 Oct. 1781	Box 3	26
Jay, John	2 Oct. 1781	Box 3	27
McKean, Thomas, Evidence respecting correspondence between General Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis	6 Oct. 1781	Box 3	28
Delancey, Oliver, Intercepted letter to the officer commanding the whale boat	1 Oct. 1781	Box 3	29
Delamcey, Oliver and Capt. William Luce; Intercepted orders	11 Sept. 1781; 20 Aug. 1781	Box 3	30
Washington, George	6 Oct. 1781	Box 3	31
Forman, David Gen.	8 Oct. 1781	Box 3	32
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to President of Pennsylvania Joseph Reed and Governor of Virginia Neilson	8 Oct. 1781	Box 3	33
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Nathanael Greene	10 Oct. 1781	Box 3	34
McKean, Thomas, Copy of letter to General Washington	12 Oct. 1781	Box 3	35
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Count De Grasse	13 Oct. 1781	Box 3	36
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Washington, with photocopy	13 Oct. 1781	Box 3	37
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Washington	14 Oct. 1781	Box 3	38
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Count De Grasse	14 Oct. 1781	Box 3	39
Seely, Silvanus, Copy of letter to General Washington	14 Oct. 1781	Box 3	40
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General William Heath	15 Oct 1781	Box 3	41
Stewart, Charles	15 Oct. 1781	Box 3	42
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to James Milligan	16 Oct. 1781	Box 3	43
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letters to James Duane, General William Heath, and Governor Hancock	17 Oct. 1781	Box 3	44
Heath, General William	17 Oct. 1781	Box 3	45
Heath, Col. – contains copy of intercepted letter	14 Oct. 1781	Box 3	45A
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Washington	18 Oct. 1781	Box 3	46
Seely, Silvanus,	18 Oct. 1781	Box 3	47
Stewart, Charles	18 Oct. 1781	Box 3	48
Baldwin, Daniel, with unaddressed letter dated 4 Oct. 1781	18 Oct. 1781	Box 3	49
Lotbiniere, the Rev. Louis	18 Oct. 1781	Box 3	50

McKean, Thomas, Draft of letters to General William Heath, Gov. George Clinton, and Judge Advocate General John Laurence	19 Oct. 1781	Box 3	51
Livingston, Robert R.	21 Oct. 1781	Box 3	52
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Charles Thomson	23 Oct. 1781	Box 3	53
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Major General Benjamin Lincoln	31 Oct. 1781	Box 3	54
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Brigadier General Francis Marion	31 Oct. 1781	Box 4	1
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Count de Grasse	31 Oct. 1781	Box 4	2
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Washington	31 Oct. 1781	Box 4	3
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Count de Rochambeau	31 Oct. 1781	Box 4	4
McKean, Thomas, Draft of circular	31 Oct. 1781	Box 4	5
Moore, William	31 Oct. 1781	Box 4	6
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Dr. Franklin	Oct. 1781	Box 4	7
Paine, Thomas	Oct. 1781	Box 4	8
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to General Nathanael Greene	2 Nov. 1781	Box 4	9
McKean, Thomas, draft of letter to General William Heath	3 Nov. 1781	Box 4	10
Green, Gov. W., of Rhode Island, and Lieutenant Gov. Jaber Bowen; Adams, Samuel	6 Nov. 1781; 7 Nov. 1781	Box 4	11
Hanson, John	10 Nov. 1781	Box 4	12
Thomson, Charles	7 Nov. 1781	Box 4	13
Lee, Richard Henry	22 Nov. 1781	Box 4	14
Livingston, William	29 Nov. 1781	Box 4	15
Dickinson, John Adams, Samuel	5 Sept. 1782 5 Sept. 1782	Box 4	16
Woodward, Beza?	26 Sept. 1782	Box 4	17
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to Samuel Adams	6 Aug. 1782	Box 4	18
Dickinson, John, president of State Executive Council	10 Jan. 1783	Box 4	19
Adams, John	6 Feb. 1783	Box 4	20
Dickinson, John	9 Feb. 1784	Box 4	21
Dickinson, John	11 Feb. 1784	Box 4	22
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to John Dickinson	13 Feb. 1784	Box 4	23
Dickinson, John	25 May 1784	Box 4	24

Dickinson, John	1784	Box 4	25
Dickinson, John	9 July 1785	Box 4	26
Thomas McKean, Draft of letter to George Washington; Washington George	23 Apr. 1785; 16 May 1785	Box 4	27
McKean, Thomas to John Henderson; John Dickinson to Thomas McKean	19 July 1786	Box 4	28
Dickinson, John	10 Mar. 1787	Box 4	29
Penn, Richard	18 Apr. 1787	Box 4	30
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to John Adams	30 Apr. 1787	Box 4	31
Randolph, Edmund, Governor of Virginia	26 June 1787	Box 4	32
Invitation of the Gentlemen of the Convention, Addressed to McKean	1 July 1787	Box 4	33
Franklin, Benjamin	8 Apr. 1788	Box 4	34
Steuben, General Fredrich Wilhelm von	7 Aug. 1788	Box 4	35
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Bayard, John	30 Mar. 1789	Box 4	37
Dallas, A.J.	18 Apr. 1789	Box 4	38
Dickinson, John	18 July 1789	Box 4	39
Dickinson, John	29 July 1789	Box 4	40
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Barbé -Marbois, French Vice Consul Francois de	15 Apr. 1790	Box 4	42
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Dallas, A.J.	30 June 1790	Box 4	45
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to President George Washington; John Penn	12 July 1790; 25 Sept. 1790	Box 4	46
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Telfair, Gov. Edward of Georgia	3 Jan. 1793	Box 4	51
Galloway, Joseph	7 Mar. 1793	Box 4	52
McKean, Thomas, Certificate of Membership in Hibernian Society	17 Mar. 1794	Box 4	53
King, Rufus,	5 June 1794	Box 4	54
Jaudenes, Joseph de	16 June 1794	Box 5	1
Washington, President George	9 July 1794	Box 5	2
McKean, Thomas, Duplicate of letter to Dr. Joseph Priestley	12 Nov. 1794	Box 5	3
Priestley, Joseph	16 Nov. 1794	Box 5	4
Penn, John?	1794	Box 5	5

Request to Attend Funeral of John Penn (who did not die until 1795)	1794	Box 5	6
Penn, John	3 June 1794	Box 5	7
Jefferson, Vice President Thomas (Despite date on document, Jefferson did not become Vice President until 1797)	25 Mar. 1796	Box 5	8
Dallas, A.J.	19 Sept. 1796	Box 5	9
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to A.J. Dallas	26 Sept. 1796	Box 5	10
Dickinson, John	14 Apr. 1797	Box 5	11
Jaudenes, Joseph de	27 May 1797	Box 5	12
Dickinson, John	29 May 1797	Box 5	13
Dickinson, John	13 Oct. 1797	Box 5	14
Dickinson, John	5 Nov. 1797	Box 5	15
McKean, Thomas, Draft of letter to John Dickinson	20 June 1798	Box 5	16
Preface to Letters of Fabius (by Thomas McKean)	Jan. 1798	Box 5	17
Dickinson, John	2 Feb. 1798	Box 5	18
Dickinson, John	3 May 1798	Box 5	19
Dickinson, John	5 May 1798	Box 5	20
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Thomas McKean Jr.	5 May 1798	Box 5	21
Gerry, Elb., Copy of letter to the minister of foreign affairs of the French Republic	13 Jan. 1798	Box 5	22
McKean, Thomas, Draft and final letter to John Dickinson	24 June 1798	Box 5	23
Dickinson, John	1 July 1798	Box 5	24
Dickinson, John	28 July 1798	Box 5	25
Dickinson, John	29 Dec. 1798	Box 5	26
McKean, Robert, Letter to Captain Wiliam Jones	20 Jan. 1799	Box 5	27
Dickinson, John	2 Feb. 1799	Box 5	28
Dickinson, John	9 Aug. 1799	Box 5	29
Agreement between Thomas McKean Jr. and Claudio Montant	15 Oct. 1799	Box 5	30
Jefferson, Vice President Thomas	9 Jan. 1800	Box 5	31
Dallas, A.J.	20 Feb. 1800	Box 5	32
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McKean, Thomas, Letter to Thomas McKean Jr. Receipt from Claudio Montant	2 Mar. 1800 29 Apr. 1800	Box 5	34
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McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	29 Sept. 1793	Box 11	42
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	13 Apr. 1799	Box 11	43
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	11 May 1799	Box 11	44
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	20 Dec. 1799	Box 11	45
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	9 Jan. 1800	Box 11	46
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	19 Jan. 1800	Box 11	47
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	undated	Box 11	48
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean?	1 Dec. 1801	Box 11	49
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	3 Dec. 1801	Box 12	1
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	30 Dec. 1801	Box 12	2

McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	11 Aug. 1802	Box 12	3
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	3 July 1803	Box 12	4
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sally McKean	16 Oct. 1803	Box 12	5
McKean, Thomas, Letter to Sophia McKean	16 Jan. 1806	Box 12	6
Oaths of allegiance by Thomas McKean	30 June 1777 2 Jan. 1779	Box 12	7
A Discourse of a Vacuum by Robert McKean	11 Oct. 1752	Box 12	8
Passport of Thomas McKean Jr.	12 Mar. 1846	Box 12	9
McKean, H.P. -- Songs Montant, Claudio -- Occurances	undated	Box 12	10
Certificate of oath of allegiance by Thomas McKean	25 Jan. 1779	Box 12	11
Stillé, A., Note to Thomas McKean (grandson of Thomas McKean Jr.)	18 Jan. 1890	Box 12	12
Stillé, A., Note to Thomas McKean (grandson of Thomas McKean Jr.)	18 Feb. 1890	Box 12	13
Heltherington, A.G., Letter to Thomas McKean (grandson of Thomas McKean Jr.)	25 Apr. 1890	Box 12	14
Church, Richard, Letter to Thomas McKean (grandson of Thomas McKean Jr.)	22 Feb. 1892	Box 12	15
Two checks by Thomas McKean (grandson of Thomas McKean Jr.) Newspaper clipping about historical Thomas McKean and Caesar Rodney	1890 undated	Box 12	16
Two silhouettes (unlabeled)	undated	Box 12	17
Silhouettes of the Marquis and Marchioness de Casa Yrujo	undated	Box 12	18
Silhouettes of Charles (Carlos) de Yrujo y McKean and Narcissa de Yrujo y McKean	23 Apr. 1805	Box 12	19
To John McKean	12 Sept. 1831	Box 12	20
Notes on Charges to a Grand Jury- Thomas McKean	undated	Box 12	21
Rodney, Caesar, Letter to Thomas McKean	11 June 1778	Box 13	1
Postscript to the Freeman's Journal	23 Nov. 1781	Box 13	2
Military commission of Thomas McKean Jr.	1 May 1801	Box 13	3
Military commission of Thomas McKean Jr.	3 June 1802	Box 13	4
Military commission of Thomas McKean Jr.	18 Dec. 1807	Box 13	5

Military commission naming Thomas McKean Jr. as brigadier-general	23 July 1808	Box 13	6
The Estate of Sarah McKean	1 Dec. 1820	Box 13	7
Passport of Pratt McKean	1 May 1830	Box 13	8
Document naming Thomas McKean Jr. as alderman	25 July 1831	Box 13	9
Passport of Don Carlos Fernando Martinez Yrujo	undated	Box 13	10
Document proclaiming Thomas McKean's membership in the Society of Cincinnati (signed by George Washington)	31 Oct. 1785	Box 13	11
Commission naming Thomas McKean chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court	29 July 1784	Box 13	12
College of New Jersey diploma of doctor of laws for Thomas McKean	26 Sept. 1781	Box 13	13
College of Dartmouth diploma of doctor of laws for Thomas McKean	18 Sept. 1782	Box 13	14
Commission naming Thomas McKean chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court	29 Jan. 1791	Box 13	15
Commission naming Thomas McKean chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court	28 July 1777	Box 13	15
Land deed in city of Amsterdam. [missing]	12 Dec. 1792	Box 13	15
Newspaper article about the Battle of Vicksburg	2 July 1863	Box 13	16

Appendix: Descendants of Thomas McKean

Generation No. 1

1. THOMAS¹ MCKEAN was born March 19, 1733/34 in New London, PA, and died June 24, 1817 in Philadelphia, PA. He married (1) MARY BORDEN. She was born July 21, 1744 in Bordentown, NJ, and died December 03, 1773 in New Castle, DE. He married (2) SARAH ARMITAGE September 03, 1774 in New Castle, DE. She was born 1747 in New Castle, DE, and died May 06, 1820 in Philadelphia, PA.

More About THOMAS MCKEAN:

Burial: Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, PA

Children of THOMAS MCKEAN and MARY BORDEN are:

2. i. JOSEPH BORDEN² MCKEAN, b. July 28, 1764, New Castle, DE; d. September 03, 1826, Philadelphia, PA.
3. ii. ROBERT MCKEAN, b. March 09, 1766, New Castle, DE; d. June 03, 1802, Philadelphia, PA.
4. iii. ELIZABETH MCKEAN, b. August 18, 1767, New Castle, DE; d. September 09, 1811, Philadelphia, PA.
5. iv. LETTIA MCKEAN, b. January 06, 1769, New Castle, DE; d. February 09, 1845, Philadelphia, PA.
6. v. MARY MCKEAN, b. February 18, 1771, New Castle, DE; d. December 27, 1781, Bordentown, NJ.
6. vi. ANNE MCKEAN, b. February 25, 1773; d. May 27, 1804.

Children of THOMAS MCKEAN and SARAH ARMITAGE are:

- vii. UNKNOWN² MCKEAN, b. November 01, 1775, Philadelphia, PA; d. November 01, 1775, Philadelphia, PA.
7. viii. SARAH MARIA THERESA MCKEAN, b. July 08, 1777, Newark, DE; d. January 04, 1841, Madrid, Spain.
8. ix. THOMAS MCKEAN JR., b. November 20, 1779, Philadelphia, PA; d. May 05, 1852, Philadelphia, PA.
- x. SOPHIA DOROTHEA MCKEAN, b. April 14, 1783, Philadelphia, PA; d. December 27, 1819, Philadelphia, PA.
- xi. MARIA LOUISA MCKEAN, b. September 28, 1785, Philadelphia, PA; d. October 21, 1788, Philadelphia, PA.

Generation No. 2

2. JOSEPH BORDEN² MCKEAN (*THOMAS*¹) was born July 28, 1764 in New Castle, DE, and died September 03, 1826 in Philadelphia, PA. He married HANNAH MILES April 23, 1786. She was born December 12, 1764, and died March 02, 1845 in Philadelphia, PA.

Children of JOSEPH MCKEAN and HANNAH MILES are:

- i. MARY C.³ MCKEAN, b. February 20, 1787; d. May 06, 1831.
- ii. CATHERINE MCKEAN, b. May 25, 1788; d. February 01, 1789.
- iii. SAMUEL MILES MCKEAN, b. November 28, 1789, Philadelphia, PA; d. February 08, 1868, Washington, DC.
- iv. THOMAS MCKEAN, b. October 25, 1791; d. July 12, 1792.
- v. JOSEPH KIRKBRIDE MCKEAN, b. November 14, 1792; d. February 26, 1816.
- vi. ELIZABETH MCKEAN, b. March 22, 1794; d. July 09, 1861.
- vii. ANN MCKEAN, b. August 16, 1796; d. December 18, 1806.
- viii. LETTIA MCKEAN, b. August 18, 1798; d. August 08, 1800.
- ix. WILLIAM WISTAR MCKEAN, b. September 1800; d. April 22, 1865.
- x. LETTIA HENRIETTA MCKEAN, b. August 14, 1802; d. March 16, 1863.
- xi. CAROLINE MCKEAN, b. April 27, 1805; d. March 19, 1833.
- xii. ADELIN JULIA MCKEAN, b. April 22, 1809; d. June 07, 1886.

3. ROBERT² MCKEAN (*THOMAS*¹) was born March 09, 1766 in New Castle, DE, and died June 03, 1802 in

Philadelphia, PA. He married ANNE SMITH April 17, 1794. She was born December 04, 1774 in Netherland Antilles, and died November 03, 1813 in Philadelphia, PA.

Children of ROBERT MCKEAN and ANNE SMITH are:

- i. MARY³ MCKEAN, b. January 08, 1797, Philadelphia, PA; d. June 13, 1882, West Chester, PA.
- ii. WILLIAM SMITH MCKEAN, b. 1799; d. 1799.

4. ELIZABETH² MCKEAN (*THOMAS*¹) was born August 18, 1767 in New Castle, DE, and died September 09, 1811 in Philadelphia, PA. She married ANDREW PETTIT December 08, 1791. He was born February 22, 1762 in New Castle, DE, and died March 06, 1837 in Philadelphia, PA.

Children of ELIZABETH MCKEAN and ANDREW PETTIT are:

- i. SARAH³ PETTIT, b. September 15, 1792; d. May 16, 1841.
- ii. MARY ANNE PETTIT, b. December 21, 1793; d. July 22, 1863.
- iii. CHARLES PETTIT, b. March 31, 1795; d. August 06, 1851.
- iv. LETTITIA PETTIT, b. December 24, 1796; d. February 20, 1797.
- v. THOMAS MCKEAN PETTIT, b. December 26, 1797; d. May 30, 1853.
- vi. ELIZABETH PETTIT, b. February 10, 1800; d. April 29, 1884.
- vii. THEODOSIA PETTIT, b. January 10, 1802; d. January 22, 1886.
- viii. ROBERT PETTIT, b. February 19, 1804, Philadelphia, PA; d. May 19, 1878, Philadelphia, PA.
- ix. HENRY PETTIT, b. December 10, 1806; d. April 15, 1836.

5. LETTITIA² MCKEAN (*THOMAS*¹) was born January 06, 1769 in New Castle, DE, and died February 09, 1845 in Philadelphia, PA. She married DR. GEORGE BUCHANAN June 11, 1789. He was born September 19, 1763 in Philadelphia, PA, and died March 06, 1837 in Philadelphia, PA.

Children of LETTITIA MCKEAN and GEORGE BUCHANAN are:

- i. SUSANNA³ BUCHANAN, b. April 09, 1790; d. August 24, 1795.
- ii. THOMAS MCKEAN BUCHANAN, b. September 17, 1791; d. October 05, 1792.
- iii. MARY ANN BUCHANAN, b. October 15, 1792, Baltimore; d. July 09, 1808, Philadelphia, PA.
- iv. REBECCA SUSANNA BUCHANAN, b. October 15, 1793; d. February 06, 1868.
- v. ANDREW BUCHANAN, b. November 10, 1794; d. April 29, 1796.
- vi. GEORGE BUCHANAN, b. July 27, 1796; d. June 09, 1879.
- vii. MCKEAN BUCHANAN, b. July 27, 1798, Baltimore; d. March 18, 1871, Charlestown, MA.
- viii. FRANKLIN BUCHANAN, b. September 17, 1800, Baltimore; d. May 11, 1874.

6. ANNE² MCKEAN (*THOMAS*¹) was born February 25, 1773, and died May 27, 1804. She married ANDREW BUCHANAN April 06, 1797. He was born July 29, 1766 in Baltimore, and died October 02, 1811 in Baltimore.

Children of ANNE MCKEAN and ANDREW BUCHANAN are:

- i. SUSANNA³ BUCHANAN, b. February 27, 1798, Baltimore; d. October 14, 1873, Boston.
- ii. MARY BUCHANAN, b. November 01, 1800, Baltimore; d. April 23, 1879.
- iii. THOMAS MCKEAN BUCHANAN, b. August 14, 1802; d. November 04, 1832.
- iv. ANNE MCKEAN BUCHANAN, b. May 08, 1803; d. June 25, 1860.

7. SARAH MARIA THERESA² MCKEAN (*THOMAS*¹) was born July 08, 1777 in Newark, DE, and died January 04, 1841 in Madrid, Spain. She married DON CARLOS MARTINEZ DE YRUJO April 10, 1798. He was born December 04, 1763 in Cartagena, Spain, and died January 17, 1824 in Madrid, Spain.

Children of SARAH MCKEAN and DON DE YRUJO are:

- i. CARLOS F.M. DE YRUJO Y³ MCKEAN, b. April 17, 1799; d. 1799.
- ii. NARCISA M.L.M. DE YRUJO Y MCKEAN, b. November 30, 1800; d. November 03, 1874.
- iii. CARLOS F.M. DE YRUJO Y MCKEAN, b. December 14, 1802, Washington, DC; d. December 26, 1855.

8. THOMAS MCKEAN² JR. (*THOMAS¹ MCKEAN*) was born November 20, 1779 in Philadelphia, PA, and died May 05, 1852 in Philadelphia, PA. He married SARAH CLEMENTINA PRATT September 14, 1809. She was born December 01, 1791 in Philadelphia, PA, and died December 31, 1836 in Philadelphia, PA.

Children of THOMAS JR. and SARAH PRATT are:

- i. HENRY PRATT³ MCKEAN, b. May 03, 1810, Philadelphia, PA; d. January 05, 1894.
- ii. SARAH ANN MCKEAN, b. August 10, 1811, Philadelphia, PA; d. October 26, 1887, Philadelphia, PA.
- iii. ELIZABETH DUNDAS MCKEAN, b. March 03, 1815; d. March 29, 1886.
- iv. CLEMENTINA SOPHIA MCKEAN, b. May 27, 1820; d. July 22, 1912.