

William Tilghman papers, 1771-1838
1771-1838
Mss.B.T45

American Philosophical Society
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Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Background note | 4 |
| Scope & content | 5 |
| Administrative Information | 6 |
| Indexing Terms | 6 |
| Other Descriptive Information | 7 |
| Collection Inventory | 8 |
| Papers..... | 8 |

Summary Information

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| Repository | American Philosophical Society |
| Title | William Tilghman papers, 1771-1838 |
| Date [inclusive] | 1771-1838 |
| Call number | Mss.B.T45 |
| Extent | 58.0 Item(s) 1 Volume |
| Extent | 1 volumes; 61 items. |
| Location | LH-MV-B-2; LH-MV-E-15 (B T45.2); LH-SB-Black Case-30 (OS) |
| Language | English |
| Container | 1 |
| Container | 1 |
| Abstract | <p>William Tilghman (1756-1827; APS 1805) was a jurist and chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He held several positions as a judge and lawyer in the Philadelphia area and was active in the American Philosophical Society. He helped form and served as the head of the Committee of History, the Moral Sciences and General Literature for the APS and was elected the President of the APS in 1824, a position he held until his death.</p> |

Background note

William Tilghman (1756-1827; APS 1805) was a jurist and chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He held several positions as a judge and lawyer in the Philadelphia area and was active in the American Philosophical Society. He helped form and served as the head of the Committee of History, the Moral Sciences and General Literature for the APS and was elected the President of the APS in 1824, a position he held until his death.

William Tilghman was born in 1756 in Talbot County, Maryland, to James and Anna (Francis) Tilghman. James Tilghman was a lawyer and Maryland Assembly member, and later secretary of the proprietary land office in Philadelphia. Having graduated from the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) in 1772, William Tilghman read law with Benjamin Chew until the onset of the Revolution in 1776.

During the Revolution, the Tilghman family was split. William's older brother, Trench Tilghman, supported the Revolution, joined the Continental Army and was promoted to Washington's aid-de-camp until the end of the war. A younger brother, Philemon Tilghman, joined the British Navy, married a daughter of Admiral Milbanke, and moved to England after the war. William's father benefited from several appointments from the Royal government, and remained loyal, choosing to live quietly on his estate in Talbot County Maryland. William also quietly lived in Maryland, finishing his education, focusing primarily on law and classical literature, during the Revolution.

In 1783 Tilghman was admitted to the practice of law in Maryland. From 1788 to 1790 he served as a member of the Maryland Assembly and was a delegate to the Maryland convention to ratify the federal Constitution. He then moved to Philadelphia in 1791, where he was admitted to the bar and married Margaret Elizabeth. In 1801 John Adams appointed Tilghman chief justice of the third circuit court, one of the "Midnight Judges," Adams appointed at the end of his administration. Tilghman returned to private practice after this court was abolished in 1802. In 1805 he was appointed president judge of the court of common pleas for the area including and surrounding Philadelphia. This same year he was appointed to the Pennsylvania high court of errors and appeals. In 1806 he was commissioned chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a position he held until his death. William Tilghman was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 1805. He helped form, and served as the chairman for, the Committee of History, the Moral Sciences and General Literature. In 1816 he was elected Vice President of the APS and in 1824 he was elected president, a position he held until his death three years later.

Tilghman was a member of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture. As a proponent of the development of home industry, he refused, during the last ten years of his life, to wear any garments not made in the United States. Starting in 1802 he was a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania. He was an early proponent of canals connecting the Susquehanna and Alleghany rivers. He died in Philadelphia in 1827.

Scope & content

These papers include letters on business and legal affairs, sales of land, payment of taxes, court sittings, and Dr. S. Bouchell. Also included is a volume of check stubs for expenditures from Tilghman's estate (1827-1838).

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Purchased and accessioned, 1958 (1958 1364ms). See in-house shelf list for additional accession numbers.

Indexing Terms

Family Name(s)

- Bouchell, S.

Genre(s)

- Business Records and Accounts
- Check stubs.
- General Correspondence
- Legal Records

Personal Name(s)

- Drinker, Henry, 1734-1809
- Goldsborough, Robert
- Goldsborough, William
- Lloyd, Richard
- Meade, George, 1741-1808
- Tilghman, Richard

Subject(s)

- Courts.
- Land and Speculation
- Law
- Law.

Other Descriptive Information

This collection consists of two different holdings. B.T45.2 is a small, bound volume that contains receipts from his checkbook. The second part of the collection is slightly richer and contains correspondence and receipts relating to the Tilghman family's various business interests. Land holdings and legal proceedings are discussed. Most of the correspondence dates to before 1800.

Collection Inventory

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|--|------------------|--|
| Tilghman, William, 1756-1827 | 1771-1837 | |
| Papers | | |
| D. 58 items and one volume. Various sizes. | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--|
| Chaires, John | Oct. 21, 1771 | |
| Bond to John Cadwalader | | |
| A.D. 1p. with seal | | |

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------|
| Goldsborough, Robert, 1733-1788 | June, 1778 | 13-1/4x8-1/4 |
| Concerning a bond owned by John FauntLeRoy, sold to Edward Tilghman; | | |
| A.D.S. 2p.and end.with certifications signed by John FauntLeRoy and Joseph Bowley. (see William Tilghman papers.) | | |

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Bonchell, S. | Aug. 19, 1784 | 7-3/4x6-1/4 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |
| Bohemia, A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Can pay one bond in silver. Refers to Abel James. | | |

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|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Bonchell, S. | Sept. 8, 12, 1784 | 7-3/4x6-1/4 |
| Letter to William Tilghman, Chester; | | |
| Bohemia, A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Concerning money forwarded to pay a bill. | | |

| | | |
|--|---------------|----------|
| Drinker, Henry, 1734-1809 | Sept. 9, 1784 | 12-1/2x8 |
| Letter to William Tilghman, Chester Town, Md.; | | |
| Philadelphia, L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business matters. | | |

Papers

| | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------|
| Banthram, Lewis | Jan. 14, 1785 | 6x7-1/4 |
| Promissory note to Edward Tilghman; | | |
| D.S.: Attest: Rich.Tilghman. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) | | |
| Drinker, Henry, 1734-1809 | Feb. 5, 1785 | 12-3/4x8 |
| Power of attorney to William Tilghman; | | |
| D.S. Witnessed: Thos.Ewing and Robert Anderson. Certified by Thos.Van Dyke. 2p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) | | |
| Bonchell, S. | March 28, 1785 | 8x6-1/4 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman, Chester Town; | | |
| Bohemia, A.L.S. 1p.and add., end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Is sending payment for debts. | | |
| Bonchell, S. | Aug. 1, 1785 | 8x6-1/2 |
| Letter to Wil[lia]m Tilghman, Chester Town, Md.; | | |
| Bohemia, A.L.S. 1p.and add., end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Will send money on debt. | | |
| Bonchell, S. | Dec. 1, 1785 | 7-1/2x6 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |
| Bohemia, A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business matters. | | |
| Hubey, William | Dec. 5, 1785 | 3-1/2x7-1/2 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |
| A.L.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Has deposited money for him. | | |
| Hubey, William | Dec. 5, 1785 | 4x8-1/4 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |
| A.L.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business. | | |
| Hubey, William | Jan. 6, April 19, 1786 | |
| Account of money to William Tilghman; | | |

Papers

A.D.S. 3 leaves. Various sizes. (see William Tilghman papers.)

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Bonchell, S. | April 3, 1786 | 7-1/4x6-1/4 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman, Chester Town, Md.; | | |

A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Hubey, William | April 8, 1786 | 8-1/2x8-1/4 |
| Letter to W[illiam] Tilghman; | | |

A.L.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Hubey, William | May 2, 1786 | 9-1/4x8 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |

A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Concerning business of Mr.Drinker.

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Hubey, William | June 2, 1786 | 13-1/4x7-3/4 |
| Memorandum of the settlement of Benjamin Wilke's bond; | | |

A.D.S. 1p.and end.by William Tilghman. (see William Tilghman papers.)

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|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Hubey, William | Sept. 30, 1786 | 5x8-1/4 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |

A.L.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Hubey, William | Nov. 13, 1786 | 6x6 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |

A.L.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Earle, James, Sir, 1755-1817 | June 12, 1787 | 3-1/4x7-1/2 |
| Bill of cost for W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |

A.D.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) For court costs for a case.

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|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Tilghman, Richard | April 29, 1788 | 4x7-1/4 |
| Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; | | |

Papers

A.L.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Concerning a court case.

Ricketts, John Thomas May 14, 15, 1788 13-1/4x8

Letter to Simon Wilmer and William
Tilghman;

Chestertown, Md.; Big Elk, Md., A.L.S. 2p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business of
a law suit.

Bauldon, Jacob Aug. 14, 1789 12-1/2x7-1/2

Letter to William Tilghman, Chester Town;

A.L.S. 1p.and add. (see William Tilghman papers.) Concerning some real estate.

Keene, John Y. March 26, 1790 4-1/4x6-1/2

Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman;

Long Marsh, A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

Thompson, Richard April 8, 1790 8-1/4x6-1/2

Letter to William Tilghman;

Philadelphia, L.S. 1p.and add.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Asks him to care for a law
suit.

Vansant, John. Trustees Jan., 1791 3x8-1/2

Receipt to William Tilghman;

D. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.)

Porter, Benjamin March 5, 1791 13-1/4x8-1/4

Letter to William Tilghman;

A.D.S.: Benja[min] Porter for Rebecca Price. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Pertaining
to the estate of Joseph Price.

Scott, James July 6, 1795 9-1/4x8

Letter to William Tilghman, Philadelphia;

Chester, A.L.S. 3p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

Papers

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|---|----------------|---------|
| Scott, James Letter to William Tilghman; Chester, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business. | Sept. 21, 1795 | 9-1/4x8 |
|---|----------------|---------|

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|---|---------------|-------------|
| Gibbs, Joshua W. Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman; L.in 3rd.P.: J.W.and W.Gibbs. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business. | Nov. 18, 1795 | 7-3/4x4-1/2 |
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|---|---------------|-------------|
| Gibbs, Joshua W. Letter to William Tilghman; L.S.: Josh.W.and Wm.Gibbs. 1p.and add., end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business. | Nov. 23, 1795 | 7-1/4x4-1/2 |
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| Tilghman, William, 1756-1827 Memorandum of Messrs. Joshua W. and William Gibbs proposal; A.D.S.with initials. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) | Nov. 25, 1795 | 7x5 |
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|--|----------------|-------------|
| Scott, James Letter to William Tilghman, Philadelphia; A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business. | Sept. 10, 1796 | 9-1/4x7-1/2 |
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|--|--------------|-------------|
| Scott, James Letter to William Tilghman, Philadelphia; A.L.S. 5p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Concerning unfinished legal business. | Oct. 9, 1796 | 9-1/4x7-1/2 |
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|--|---------------|---------|
| Field, John Letter to William Tilghman; A.L.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business. | Feb. 12, 1798 | 8-3/4x8 |
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|--|-------------|-------------|
| Scott, James Letter to William Tilghman, Philadelphia; | May 4, 1798 | 9-1/4x7-3/4 |
|--|-------------|-------------|

Papers

A.L.S. 3p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Concerning the collection of debts through legal action.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Watson, William | Dec. 10, 1800 | 3-1/2x8-1/4 |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|

Receipt to John Lare, jr. on account of William Tilghman;

A.D.S.: W[illia]m Watson for James Watson 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.)

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|---------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Meade, George, 1741-1808 | April 1, 1801 | 9x7-1/4 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------|

Letter to William Tilghman;

A.L.S. 3p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business. Friendly letter.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Wilson, William | Feb. 18, 1802 | 3x7 |
|------------------------|---------------|-----|

Receipt to John Lare, jr. on account of W[illia]m Tilghman;

A.D.S.: W[illia]m Wilson for James Wilson 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.)
Not Found: 2/7/2011

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|----------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Wilson, James | Nov.-Dec., 1803 | 5x8 |
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Receipts to Fr[e]d[eric]k Beisel for William Tilghman;

A.D.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.)

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Tilghman, William, 1756-1827 | June 20, 1808 | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|

Agreement with John Handshoe's Estate for the sale of land;

D.S.: Wm.Tilghman and two others. Witnessed. 1p. On same sheet is agreement of sale of same land to Jacob Mock(?); Dec. 14, 1808. 1p. (see Tilghman papers.)

Item previously cataloged as: T45.1 No. 1.

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Tilghman, William, 1756-1827 | July 15, 1810 | 4x8 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----|

Calculations on a bond due;

A.D.S.with initials. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.)

Papers

Tilghman, William, 1756-1827

June 23, 1813

Letter to William Goldsborough, Frederick
Town, Maryland;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see Tilghman Papers.) Concerning the Coxe family's land claims.

Item previously cataloged as: T45.1 No. 2.

Saeger, Daniel & Jacob

March 13, 1819

10x8

Letter to W[illia]m Tilghman, Philadelphia;

L. 1p.and add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

Grosshof, James

April 9, 1821

3-1/2x8

Promise to pay William Tilghman;

A.D.S. 1p.and end. (see William Tilghman papers.)

Letter to Richard Lloyd, Providence, Penna.; Aug. 6, 1821

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 1p.and add. (see Tilghman Papers.) Is satisfied with his statement. Will write when he returns from the west.

Item previously cataloged as: T45.1, no. 3

Tilghman, William, 1756-1827

Dec. 12, 1821

12-3/4x8

Monies paid for road taxes;

D. 1p.and end. Receipted by G. Hewitt and R.H. Rose. (see William Tilghman papers.)

Tilghman, William, 1756-1827

July 18, 1825

Letter to Bishop [William] White;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see Tilghman Papers.) Gives his opinion on church matters.

Item previously cataloged as: T45.1 No.4

Tilghman, William. Estate

May 18, 1827

8-1/4x8-1/4

List and account of articles taken by James
Tilghman;

Papers

Cooke, W.

Undated

12-1/2x8

Letter to William Tilghman,

Chester Town. A.L.S. 2p.,add.,end. (see William Tilghman papers.) Business.

Copy of Mr. Tilghman's bill

Undated

A.D. 1p.

Tilghman, William, 1756-1827

Undated

Letter to Edward S. Burd;

Monday, A.L.S. 1p.and add. (see Tilghman Papers.) Must refuse invitation, since court is sitting.
