

# Patrick Henry Papers

Patrick Henry Papers  
1778-1792, 1923-1927

---

## Title Statement

Patrick Henry Papers Guide to the Patrick Henry Papers Mss. 39.2 H41

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center  
Earl Gregg Swem Library  
400 Landrum Dr  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
Business Number: 757-221-3090  
spcoll@wm.edu  
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

---

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-16 07:03:21 -0400.

**Language Usage:** English

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

Mss. 39.2 H41

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/7780

**Unit Date**

1778-1792, 1923-1927

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Henry, Patrick, 1736-1799

**Extent**

0.01 Linear Foot

**Repository**

Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia, § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

## Conditions Governing Use

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from the Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

29 items, in the possession of Swem Library before 1939. 1980.12: 6/3/1980. Purchase. 1 item. 2006.59: 9/1/2006. Purchase. 1 item.

## Preferred Citation

Patrick Henry Papers, Special Collections Research Center, William & Mary Libraries

# Biographical / Historical

Patrick Henry was born in Hanover County, Virginia in 1736. He was largely self-educated, becoming a prominent trial lawyer and great orator. The most famous phrase attributed to him is "Give me liberty or give me death." He was delegate to the House of Burgesses, 1765-1774; the Continental Congress, 1774-1776; and the Virginia provincial convention, 1775. He also served as governor of Virginia from 1776 to 1779 and from 1784 to 1786. Patrick Henry died in 1799.

# Scope and Contents

Includes letters, 1778-1792, of Patrick Henry while living in Prince Edward County, Virginia and including letter, 28 May 1778, to Richard Henry Lee.

Also includes materials about Patrick Henry: copies of letters received by William Wirt from persons to whom he had written seeking biographical and anecdotal material concerning Henry (including one letter from George Wythe); prints and engravings of Henry; and an article concerning Patrick Henry's mother, Sarah Henry from the "Journal of American History."

Mss. Acc. 2006.59 Addition: Agreement, July 3, 1780, stating Habersham, of Georgia, will loan Patrick Henry twenty enslaved persons, thirteen men and seven women, at a monthly rate of 24 schillings for the men and 16 schillings for the women. Agreement has further conditions for use and treatment of the enslaved.

# Keywords

Slavery--Virginia--18th century

Slave labor

# Description of Subordinate Components

## Papers

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/269108

**Unit Date** 1778-1792, and 1923-1927

**Mixed Materials** Manuscripts Group 2 Box 15 (Box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Language** English

## Scope and Contents

Patrick Henry, Williamsburg, Virginia, to Richard Henry Lee, no place, May 28, 1778. 2 pages. Autographed letter signed.

Francis Watkins to Patrick Henry, April 15, 1790. 3 pages. Autographed letter signed.

Col. William Fleming, Botetourt County, Virginia, to Patrick Henry, Prince Edward County, Virginia, October

23[?], 1790. 2 pages. Autographed letter signed.

William Fleming, Botetourt County, Virginia, to Col. Patrick Henry, Prince Edward County, Virginia, June 18, 1791. 1 page. Autographed letter signed.

Patrick Henry, Prince Edward County, Virginia, to [?], August 19, 1792. 1 page. Autographed letter signed. With a note included from T.S. Meade.

John Fontaine to Patrick Henry, undated. 2 pages. Autographed letter signed.

Photostatic copies of papers in the Library of Congress relating to Patrick Henry

"Patrick Henry's Mother," by Jean Cabell O'Neill. In the Journal of American History. 13 pages. Printed volume.

Notes on Sarah Henry, mother of Patrick Henry. 3 items. 8 pages. Autographed letter signed. 2 photostats. With photographs of her tombstone and of the house in which she died.

A letter regarding the Fontaine Ms. in the Cornell University Library, January 19, 1923. 1 page. Typed letter signed.

ALS of Patrick Henry, Williamsburg, to Richard Henry Lee, 28 May 1778, concerning military matters in Virginia and French participation.

Agreement stating Joseph Habersham, of Georgia, will loan Patrick Henry twenty enslaved persons, thirteen men and seven women, at a monthly rate of 24 shillings for the men and 16 shillings for the women. Agreement has further conditions for use and treatment of the enslaved. July 3, 1780.