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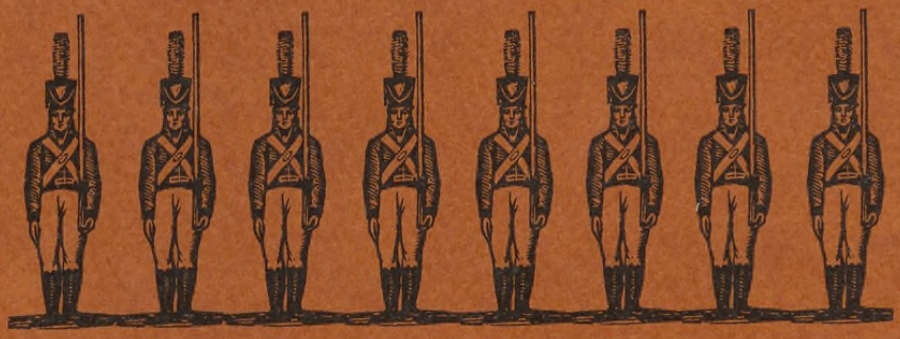
THE SHREVE PAPERS

1776-1792



The Gift of
Emily Scott Evans

The Israel Shreve Papers at the University of Houston. When our good friend, Mrs. Joseph W. Evans, first showed me her collection of American Revolutionary War letters, I remember commenting to a colleague how strange it was that such a collection should exist in Houston, Texas. Upon further reflection, their presence here seemed not so unusual. After all, many distinguished collections of all kinds are now found in numerous places around the globe. Richard Altick, in his fascinating book, *The Scholar Adventurers,* relates a maxim of Professor Thomas O. Mabbott concerning manuscripts, "If you are searching for something, the first place to look is where it should be. . . . If it isn't there, the next place to look is somewhere it *shouldn't* be. Guessing the 'shouldn't' of course is pure luck or something like telepathy."

Actually the Israel Shreve papers have a very logical reason for being in Houston. Mrs. Evans' family were originally Virginians who made their way across the country to St. Louis from whence she herself came to Houston. Among the family possessions were the Revolutionary War papers of their colonial ancestor, Israel Shreve. These papers have therefore been in the family for more than 150 years. Perhaps the only unusual part of this story is that Mrs. Evans' family had such a high regard for such material. In the course of human history far too many descendants have consigned such valuable papers either to the flames or the junk heap.

My initial suggestion to Mrs. Evans was that similar materials belonged together. Anyone who has had to travel far and wide examining manuscripts for his research is well aware of the problem of "scholarly convenience." On the other hand, in a day of inexpensive photocopying, the scholar can often be served rather well from great distances. Moreover, even donors of more modest gifts seldom find much personal satisfaction in giving to an institution in which they have no personal interest.

Mrs. Evans weighed carefully the various possibilities. She suggested that scholarship might well be served by an exchange of photocopies with the other repository of Israel Shreve Papers, Rutgers—The State University. Contact with Rutgers' Curator of Spe-

cial Collections, Mr. Donald A. Sinclair, brought an immediate response to this suggestion. Happily each institution now has copies of the other's holdings and both have originals of high quality. Miss Mary A. Benjamin of New York City provided the arrangement and inventory which appear here.

One additional problem for the scholar, that of knowing where such material is, has been solved through the generosity of Mrs. Evans' daughter, Mrs. Alice Evans Pratt. Her assistance has enabled the University of Houston Libraries to publish this attractive brochure and to distribute it to other interested repositories of Revolutionary War material. To both Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Pratt the University community acknowledges its considerable debt. At the same time we invite our friends to visit the exhibit of the Emily Scott Evans Collection in the new rare book room of the M. D. Anderson Memorial Library.

EDWARD G. HOLLEY
Director of Libraries
University of Houston
Houston, Texas

Who Was Israel Shreve? Israel Shreve was one of the most unusual men to serve in the American Revolution. Born in 1739, he was thus thirty-six years old when the Battle of Bunker Hill occurred and at that time was living on a farm in New Jersey. Although he was a Quaker by religion, he was nonetheless appointed a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Second Battalion of New Jersey troops, November 8, 1775. When the New Jersey Line was reorganized on February 28, 1776, he became Colonel of the Second Regiment. Subsequently his regiment was with George Washington in many of the important battles and won a number of laurels in these encounters. At Brandywine two horses were shot out from under him and he was wounded. Marching to Germantown, his battalion formed the left wing for the American forces in the battle of Germantown. He passed the winter of 1777–78 among the suffering troops at Valley Forge. In May, 1779, part of his troops took part in General Sullivan's expedition against the Seneca Indians, and a number of the letters in the Emily Scott Evans Collection deal with this period of Shreve's life. Owing to his corpulency (he reportedly weighed in at three hundred and twenty pounds and no horse was able to carry him faster than a walk), he was compelled to resign in 1781.

After the war closed, Col. Shreve went west and took up a tract of land purchased from General George Washington known as "Washington Bottom." He remained here until his death on December 14, 1799, the same night that Washington died.

Notes from articles in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography,* 28 (1904), 114; 52 (1928), 193–204.

Israel Shreve Papers

1. SCHUYLER, General Philip. ALS, 1p. fol., Albany, April 5, 1776. To Lieutenant-Colonel Shreve.
2. TILGHMAN, Colonel Tench. Aide to General Washington. ALS, 1p. 4to, no date. Torn. To Colonel Alexander Scammell.
3. PUTNAM, Major-General Israel. LS, 1p. sm. 4to, Princeton, April 5, 1777. To Colonel Shreve.
4. MAXWELL, Brigadier-General William. ALS, 1p. fol., Westfield, April 11, 1777. To Colonel Shreve.
5. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. Autograph Manuscript, 1½pp. fol., Chimney Rock, opposite Crown Point, New York, Monday, Aug. 4, [1777].
6. PICKERING, Colonel Timothy. ADS, 1p. 4to, in camp, August 10, 1777. To Major-General Lord Sterling, or, in his absence, to Brigadier-General William Maxwell.
7. GENERAL STAFF OF THE ARMY AS OF NOV. 1, 1777. Autograph Manuscript, 1p. fol., Nov. 2, 1777. In unknown handwriting.
8. LIVINGSTON, General William. ALS, ½p. fol., Trenton, March 23, 1778. To Colonel Shreve.
9. FORMAN, General David. Chief of Washington's Secret Service in New Jersey. ALS, 1¾pp. fol., Barnegat, April 7, 1778. To Colonel Shreve.
10. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. Draft of his ALS, 1½pp. fol., Mt. Holly, April 9, 1778. To General Washington.
11. RHEA, Lieutenant-Colonel David. ALS, 1p. fol., Freehold, April 17, 1778. To Colonel Shreve.
12. DICKINSON, Major-General Philemon. ALS, ½p. fol., Trenton, May 25, 1778. To Colonel Shreve. With franked address on verso.

To Colonel Israel Shrieve Commanding the 2nd J. Batt.

You are ordered to march the Regiment under your Command, forthwith to Little Town, or to the Head Quarters of Genl. Maxwell, by the Safest and most convenient Route. You will give timely Notice of your Approach by sending forward an Officer, that your Post, and Quarters may be assigned you - and receive and obey the further Orders of Genl. Maxwell

Given at Princeton
April 5th 1777.

Israel Putnam Mg

NB - Those of your Regiment who are employed at this Post as Artificers must remain for the Present

No. 3 General Putnam's Orders, 1777

13. DICKINSON, General Philemon. ALS, 1p. 4to, Trenton, May 27, 1778. To Colonel Shreve. Franked.

14. HOWELL, Major Richard. ALS, 1¾pp. fol., October 5, 1778. Beneath his letter is short ANS, ¼p., October 18, 1778, of Captain John Peck.

15. HAND-DRAWN PEN AND INK SKETCH OF FORT SULLIVAN AT TIOGA, 1p. fol., circa May-November, 1779.

16. HAMILTON, Alexander. ALS, 1p. small 4to, Head Quarters Middle Brook, May 26, 1779. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

17. McHENRY, James. ALS, 1p. fol., Head Quarters Middlebrook, May 27, 1779. To Colonel Shreve.

18. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. Draft of ALS, 1p. fol., Elizabethtown, May 27, 1779. To General George Washington.

19. FURMAN, M. ALS, 1p. small 4to, Pitts-Town, June 10, 1779. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

20. HOWELL, Major Richard. Portion of ALS, 1p. fol., June 12, 1779. Opening salutation and one line apparently missing.

21. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. ALS, 1p. fol., Wyoming, July 8, 1779. To his wife Polly.

22. SCULL, Peter. Brigade Major. ALS, 1p. fol., War Office, July 12, 1779. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

23. HAND, General Edward. ALS, 1p. fol., Nesquepee, July 22, 1779. To Major-General John Sullivan, commanding the Western Army. With franked integral address sheet.

24. SHREVE, Caleb. ALS, 1p. fol., Mansfield, July 24, 1779. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

25. SHREVE, Israel. ALS, 2pp. fol., Fort Sullivan at Tioga, August 28, 1779. To his wife Polly.

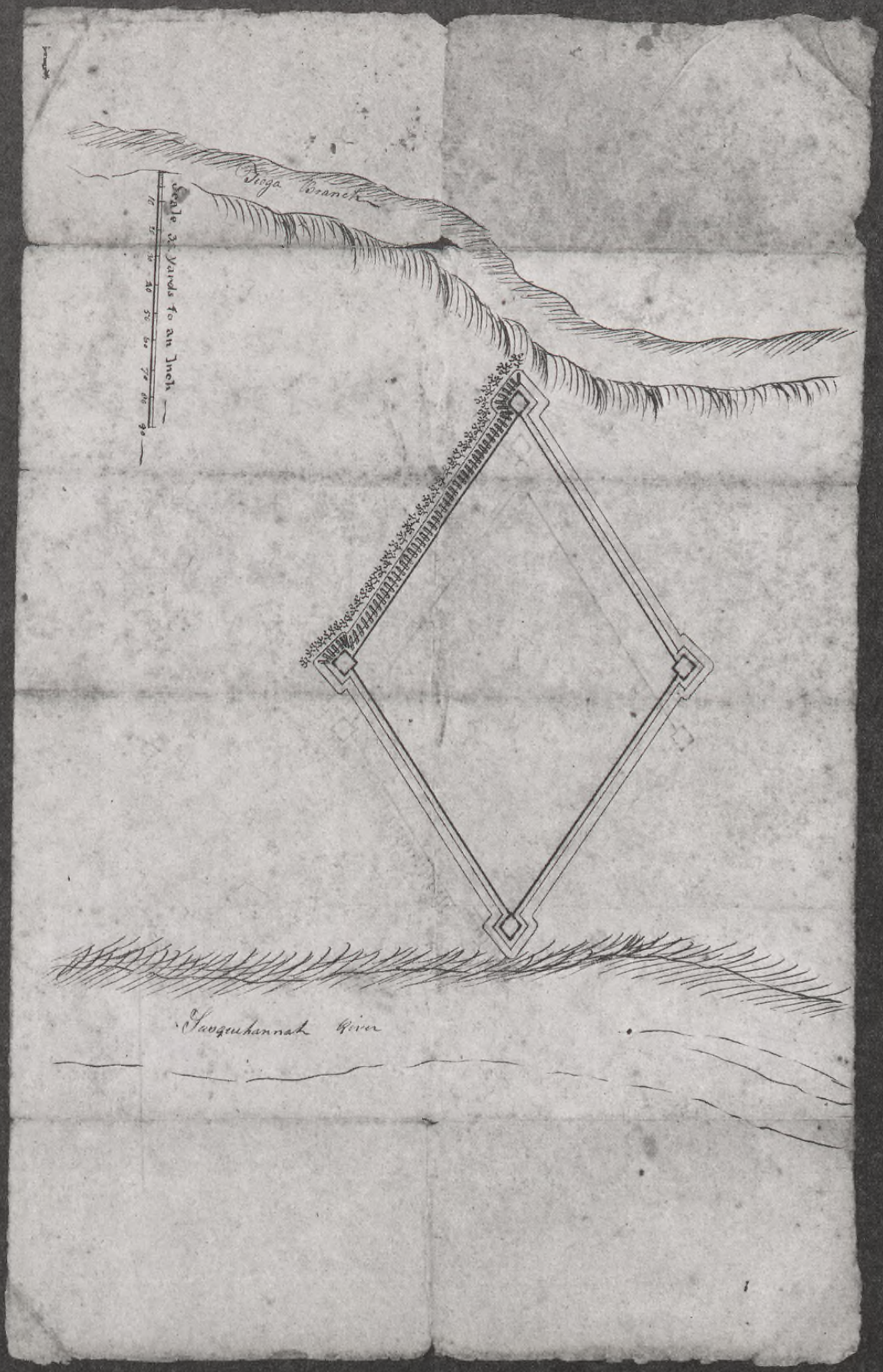
26. BRUEN, Benjamin. Secretary to Major-General John Sullivan. ALS, 1p. fol., Headquarters Newtown, August 30, 1779. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

General Staff of the Army Novem.r 1.st 1777

1775	General and		Decem.r 1	Friend homme	France
June 15.th	Commander in			De Bore	Resigned
	Chief his Excellency				
	George Washington	Virginia	27.th	Henry Knox	Massachu: Artillery
	Esq.r				
	Major Generals		Febry 5	Francis Nash	N. Carolina killed
			24	Enoch Poor	N Hampshire
17	Charles Lee prisoner	Virginia		John Glover	Massachusets
19	Philip Schuyler	N. York		John Patterson	D.o
	Israel Putnam	Connect.t		Anthony Wayne	Pennsylvania
1776 May 16.th	Horatio Gates	Virginia		James M. Varnum	R.d Island
Aug.t 9.th	Wm Heath	Mass.ac.ts		Peter Muhlenburgh	Virginia
	~~Joseph Spencer~~	~~Connect.t~~		George Weedon	D.o
	John Sullivan	N Hamp.r		Wm Woodford	D.o
1777	Nath.l Green	R Island	March 25	George Clinton	New york
Febr 19	Wm Earl of Sterling	Jersey		Edward Hand	Pennsylvania
	Thomas Mifflin	Pennsy.a		Charles Scott	Virginia
	Arthur Sinclair	D.o	May 2.d	Ebenezer Learned	Massachusets
Broke	Adam Stephen	Virginia	19.th	Jedediah Huntington	Connecticut
	Benj.n Lincoln	Massachu	13	Thomas Conway	France Resigned
May 2.d	Benedict Arnold	Connect.t		Count Pulaski	Seperate Horse
July 31	Marquis de Fayette	France			
Oct.r	Robert Howe	N Carolina			
	Alex.r McDougal	N York			
	Baron De Kalb	Germany			
	Brigadier Gen.ls				
1776 March 1	Wm Thompson	P. Pennsy.a			
Aug 9.th	John Nixon	Massachu			
	Sam.l H Parsons	Connect.t			
	James Clinton	N York			
Sept.r 16	Christ.r Gadsden	S Carolina			
	Wm Moultrie	D.o			
	Laughlin M.Intosh	Georgia			
Oct.r 23	Wm Maxwell	Jersey			
	Wm Smallwood	Maryland			
	Mathias Alexander	France			
	De Roche Fermoy				

	Major Gen.ls	Brigadiers
New Hampshire	1	1
Massachusetts	2	5
Rhode Island	1	1
Connecticut	3	2
New York	2	2
New Jersey	1	1
Pennsylvania	2	3
Maryland		1
Virginia	3	4
North Carolina	1	1
South Carolina	0	2
France	1	2
Germany	1	0
Poland	0	1

No. 7 Army General Staff, 1777



No. 15 Fort Sullivan at Tioga, 1779

Just now a Column of Smoke Arose supposed to be the Burning of Redtown, an Indian town 20 miles from hence, Our Army Marched from hence Two Days ago, Colonel Broadhead is in the Indian Country with fifteen Hundred Men from fort Pitt, about forty miles from this place The Good News from the West Indies And the Certain Destruction of Most of the Indians I hope will hasten on a Glorious Peace — then Shall Return with pleasure from the Bustle of a Camp, to the peaceful Enjoyments of Retirement, to Spend the Remainder of my Days with a Companion fully Agreeable in Every Respect, — untill this Happy, Happy Day May the Great Director of All Glory be your Assistant, and Director, Happiness Attend you is the Prayer of an Indulgent And Effectionate Husband

Israel Shreve

to Mary Shreve

40. SCAMMELL, Colonel Alexander. ADS, 1p. fol., Headquarters New Windsor, December 19, 1780. Transcript of General Orders.

41. WAYNE, General Anthony. ALS, 2pp. 4to, Mt. Kemble, December 22, 1780. With additional postscript of 8 lines in his hand and signed, dated December 25, 1780. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

42. PERES, P. Surgeon in the German regiment. ALS, 1p. fol., Ramabough, December 26, 1780. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

43. SCAMMELL, Colonel Alexander. DS, 1¾pp. fol., Headquarters New Windsor, December 31, 1780. To Colonel Israel Shreve. Extract from General Orders.

44. ARNOLD, Jacob. ALS, 1p. fol., [January 1, 1781]. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

45. WAYNE, General Anthony. ALS, 1p. obl. 4to, Mt. Kemble, January 2, 1780 [1781]. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

46. ELMER, Ebenezer. Surgeon in the Revolution. Brigadier-General New Jersey Militia. Legislator. ALS, 2pp. 4to, Camp in New Windsor, N.Y., November 4, 1782. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

47. COOMBS, John. N.J. Captain in Revolution. Served under General David Forman. ALS, 1p. 4to, Sunday morning, no date. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

48. BEATTY, John. N.J. physician, member of the Continental Congress. Major, Sixth Penna. Regiment in Revolution. ALS, 2pp. 4to, Annapolis, April 3, 1784. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

49. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. Autograph Manuscript, not signed, 1p. large fol. & ½p. obl. fol., 1784. Petition to Congress for lands on the Ohio River.

50. COX, John. ALS, 2½pp. fol., Bloomsbury, September 18, 1784. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

51. SHREVE, Colonel William. ALS, 1½pp. fol., Westmoreland County, November 20, 1785. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

My family and future Happiness here, —
Expect to hear from you soon, —

My Love to the Children & friends

I am with Sincerity your Loving
Husband

Israel Threve

to Mrs Mary Threve, —

CIRCULAR.

Philadelphia, August 3d, 1792.

Sir,

By the enclosed copy of the minutes of the proceedings of a general meeting of the Citizens of Philadelphia, you will perceive, that the Citizens are desirous to obtain information "of the sense of the people in the different parts of the State, respecting the characters proper to be nominated as Representatives in Congress, and Electors of a President and Vice-President of the United States;" and that they have committed to us the task of endeavoring to collect the materials, on which their judgment and choice, on this important business, may be fairly, independently, and satisfactorily, exercised.

We are solicitous, Sir, to discharge so honorable and so sacred a trust, with diligence and impartiality; and, relying upon the assistance of every virtuous and candid freeman, we believe it practicable to accomplish the object of our appointment, without exciting suspicion, or meriting reproach.

The purpose of our appointment, indeed, you will readily observe, is merely ministerial, with a view to collect necessary information. We are not delegated to deliberate upon the subject of the election; to admit, or to reject the names of the candidates; to declare the sense of the people; or to frame a Ticket: All that we are authorized to do, (all that we have undertaken or mean to do, on the present occasion) is, to obtain a list of the various characters, whom the citizens of every denomination, and in every part of the State, deem to be qualified for Representatives in Congress, and Electors of a President and Vice-President of the United States; and to submit this list, without the influence of a selection, or a comment, to the deliberate consideration, and unbiassed suffrages of the People. It is proper, however, at the same time to add, that no anonymous communications will be noticed.

Permit us, therefore, Sir, to request, that you will, as expeditiously as you can, communicate, by a letter addressed to the Honorable Thomas M'Kean, Esq. Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, the names of the persons (particularly of those in your neighbourhood) who, according to your own opinion, and the opinions of the inhabitants of the County in which you reside, ought to be preferred at the ensuing elections of **Thirteen** Representatives in Congress, and **Fifteen** Electors of a President and Vice-President of the United States.

We are, Sir, Your most obedient humble servants,

Tho M'Kean
James Hutchinson
John Barclay
A. J. Dallas
Jared Ingersoll
Hilary Baker

To Mr Yeral Shreve
of the County of Fayette

Philadel. 14th Augst 1792

No. 59 Circular Call for Nominations, 1792

52. SHREVE, Colonel William. ALS, 3pp. fol., Alexandria, September 14, 1787. To his brother Colonel Israel Shreve.

53. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. ALS, 3pp. fol., Pittsburgh, December 30, 1788 (?). To his wife Polly.

54. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. ALS, 3pp. fol., Fort Harmar, Muskingum, January 6, 1789. To his wife Mary.

55. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. ALS, 1p. fol., New Madrid, April 6, 1789. To his wife Mary.

56. ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT MAP OF "LANCELEGRACE", 1p. fol., described by Israel Shreve, in his letter of April 6, 1789, as being *"about 45 miles below the mouth of the Ohio River"*. Possibly in his hand.

57. SHREVE, Caleb. ALS, 1p. fol., Mansfield, April 27, 1789. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

58. PRINTED BROADSIDE, obl. 4to, July 30, 1792. Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Citizens of Philadelphia, held in the State House yard on Monday, the 30th of July, 1792.

59. McKEAN, Thomas. Signer of Declaration of Independence. Governor of Pennsylvania. Printed circular letter, 1p. fol., Philadelphia, August 3, 1792. Signed by McKean, James Hutchinson, John Barclay, A. J. Dallas, Jared Ingersoll, and Hilary Baker. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

60. SHREVE, Colonel Israel. ALS, 1p. 4to., January 12, 1793. To Nathan Brown.

61. SHREVE, Caleb, Jr. ALS, 2¼pp. fol., Mt. Pleasant, June 20, 1793. To Colonel Israel Shreve.

62. ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT MAP OF THE CITY OF SYMMES, 1p. large fol., no date. The city is shown lying in the angle of the Miami and Ohio Rivers; streets and squares are all noted.

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