



# ArchivesSpace

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## Van Schaack family papers4079435

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Van Schaack Family
<b>Title:</b>	Van Schaack family papers
<b>ID:</b>	4079435
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1290
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1659-1887
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Linear Feet 6 manuscript boxes (687 items)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Van Schaack family papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Family of Peter Van Schaack (1747-1832) of Kinderhook, N.Y. Peter Van Schaack graduated from King's College in 1762, studied law with Peter Silvester in Albany and later with William Smith in New York, revised the statutes of the colony of New York in 1774, was active in the "New York Correspondence Committee," was exiled as a Tory sympathizer to England from 1778 to 1785, and upon his return to this country conducted a law school at Kinderhook. His son was Henry Cruger Van Schaack (1802-1887).

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## Summary

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Correspondence and legal and business papers of Peter Van Schaack and his family. The collection includes letters to and from Egbert Benson, Henry Cruger, James Duane, William Laight, Theodore Sedgwick, Peter Silvester, John Vardill, and many others. The letters deal with such subjects as taxation, the siege of Boston, George Washington, Tories, the Jay Treaty, Shays' Rebellion, and the many prominent people with whom Van Schaack was acquainted, including the Jay family and Gouverneur Morris. There is a large number of letters to and from his brother, Henry Van Schaack (1733-1823). The correspondence contains many political and social opinions regarding America and England before, during, and after the Revolutionary War. Many of the legal documents concern the disputed claims to the Van Rensselaer properties in Claverack and Westenhook, N.Y., as well as land claims around Kinderhook, N.Y. Henry Cruger Van Schaack added to the collection more letters from well-known people as well as legal and family papers. These are mostly dated in the mid-19th century, and deal in part with the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, the Berkshire Iron Works, and similar business ventures. Many documents are Colonial-era deeds or concern early land disputes such as the New York-Massachusetts boundary dispute.

In 2024, a review of each item in the collection found about 40 items that relate to or discuss interactions with Indigenous people, including land transfers. Email [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## Arrangement

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Cataloged.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### **Revision Description**

Item-level description added. kws 2025-01-23

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located on-site.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Alternate Form Available**

Microfilm available.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1935, 1937. Accession number--M-35.

### **Processing Information**

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 09/--/89.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, with the United States of America (1794 November 19)
- Shays' Rebellion, 1786-1787
- Indians of North America -- Land tenure
- American loyalists

- Real property -- New York (State) -- Claverack
- Real property -- New York (State) -- Westenhook
- Iron industry and trade -- New York (State)
- Taxation
- Sieges -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- New York (State) -- Boundaries -- Massachusetts
- Massachusetts -- Boundaries -- New York (State)
- United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
- United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1775-1783
- United States -- Politics and government -- To 1775
- Great Britain -- Politics and government -- 18th century
- Great Britain -- Politics and government -- 19th century
- Boston (Mass.) -- History -- Siege, 1775-1776
- Boston (Mass.) -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
- Mohawk Indians
- New York (State) -- Kinderhook
- Van Schaack, Peter, 1747-1832
- Van Schaack, Henry Cruger, 1802-1887
- Van Schaack, Henry, 1733-1823
- Silvester, Peter
- Smith, William, 1728-1793
- Benson, Egbert, 1746-1833
- Duane, James, 1733-1797
- Laight, William
- Sedgwick, Theodore, 1746-1813
- Vardill, John, 1749-1811
- Washington, George, 1732-1799
- Morris, Gouverneur, 1752-1816
- Shays, Daniel, 1747-1825
- Delaware and Hudson Canal Company
- Berkshire Iron Works
- Jay Family

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Francis Adams to Peter Van Schaack. Bristol, UK, 17 May 1780	box 1
John Adams to Thomas M. Burt. Lyon, NY, 9 June 1858	box 1
H. Addison to Henry Van Schaack. Flushing, 7 July 1782	box 1

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Azel Backus to Henry Van Schaack. Bethlem, 18 Oct 1802 - 4 May 1803	box 1
John Bacon to Henry Van Schaack . Stockbridge, 1 Jan 1788	box 1
Henry Van Schaak to Jonathan Edwards. Pittsfield, 10 Jan 1788	box 1
Theodorus Bailey to Azariah Smith. New York, 5 Jan 1812	box 1
Maria Jay Banyer (Mrs. Goldsborough) to Peter Van Schaack . Albany, NY, 29 Dec 1807 - 16 Aug 1809	box 1
P. Bard to Peter Van Schaack. Savannah, 15 June 1774	box 1
Joseph Barrell to Henry Van Schaack. Boston, 19 Aug 1795	box 1
Lydia Van Schaack (Mrs. Thomas) to Peter Van Schaack, Margaret Van Schaack Pruyn. Peterboro, 20 Feb 1827	box 1
Thomas Beekman to Peter Van Schaack. Washington, 15 Dec 1829 - 25 Jan 1830	box 1
Egbert Benson to Peter Van Schaack . Poughkeepsie, New York, 16 May 1788 - 18 April 1812	box 1
Henry Benson to Peter Van Schaack . Albany, NY, 19 Aug 1799	box 1
Elizabeth Brailsford to Peter Van Schaack . London, ca 1780	box 1
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E. M. Camp to Henry Cruger Van Schaack. Philadelphia, 5 Aug 1887	box 1
Andrew Mayfield Carshore to Peter Van Schaack . Claverack, NY, 25 Feb 1792 - 21 Dec 1792	box 1
Mellen Chamberlain to Henry Cruger Van Schaack. Boston, 22 Jan 1885	box 1
Adoniram Chandler to Azariah Smith. New York, 3 Dec 1838	box 1
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Langdon Cheves to Richard Smith. Philadelphia, 12 May 1819	box 1
Alexander Colden to [Unknown]. N. P, 1769	box 1
Cadwallader Colden Jr. . New York, 29 June 1743	box 1

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Cadwallader David Colden to Peter Van Schaack. New York, 3 June 1791	box 1
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Thomas Dwight to Henry Van Schaack. Springfield, 2 March 1791	box 1
James Emott to Peter Van Schaack . Washington, 4 Feb 1810 - 22 March 1810	box 1
John Ward Fenno to Henry Van Schaack . New York, 16 March 1801	box 1
Ebenezer Fitch to Henry Van Schaack. Williamstown, Mass, 20 Jan 1795 - 24 June 1796	box 1
Roger Flexman to Shute Adams. London, 31 Jan 1749	box 1
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Elizabeth Van Schaack Frey to James Vander Poel, Peter Van Schaack, Henry Cruger Van Schaack. Palatine Bridge, 29 May 1815 - 6 May 1842	box 1
Henry I. Frey to Peter Van Schaack. New York, 13 Dec 1803	box 1
Henry Van Schaack Frey to Peter Van Schaack. Hamilton College, 1 July 1825	box 1
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Henry Van Schaack (1733-1823) to Peter Van Schaack, Oliver Wendell, Caleb Strong, Theodore Sedgwick, Elkanah Watson. Richmond, Kinderhook, Lebanon Spring, Pittsfield, 10 Jan 1784 - Jan 1812	box 3
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## Series II: Documents.

Title/Description	Instances
Albany, NY, August 1774 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Committee of correspondence. Appointing delegates to the Continental Congress. Signed by Jacob Lansing, Jr.	box 5
Austin, Augustin and others. Sheffield, 20 June 1777 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Permission of the selectmen for Henry Van Schaack to live in the town of Sheffield.	box 5
Barnard, Daniel D. . Albany, NY, 5 Jan 1849 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Extract from eulogy on William W. Van Ness	box 5
Beekman, Cathering Van Schaack (Mrs. John P.) ., 1 May 1815 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Epitaph.	box 5
Barthrop, William. Kinderhook, NY, 14 March 1816 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Quit-claim deed of property to John P. & Thomas Beekman; also signed by Anna Pruyn Barthrop	box 5
Beardslee, Elizabeth Frey (Mrs. Augustus)., 2 Nov 1837 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Her obituary; in the hand of Henry Cruger Van Schaack.	box 5
Beekman, Thomas. Smithfield, NY, Nov 1829	box 5



**Scope and Contents**

His will.

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Benson, Egbert (1746-1833). box 5

**Scope and Contents**

His life and ancestry. In the hand of Henry C. Van Schaack.

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Benson, Egbert (1746-1833). box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Reminiscences. Copy in the hand of Henry C. Van Schaack, made 5 April 1867,

---

Bernard, Sir Francis (1711-1779). Boston, 29 June 1763 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Pay voucher.

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Bogardus, Jacob. New York State, 6 Sept 1785 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Power-of-attorney granted to Jacob Bogardus and William Malcom by the heirs of Everardus Bogardus; signed by many members of the family.

---

Burke, Edmund (1729-1797). London, ca. 1775 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Mr. Burke's letter respecting...the petition for removal of Gov. Hutchinson of Massachusetts.

---

Carr, Caleb. Goshen, ca. 1777 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

List of his children.

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Clarke, George. New York, 27 Nov 1741 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Permit allowing Stephen Bayard and Cornelius Van Schaack to purchase land.

---

Clinton, George (1686-1761). New York, 20 Dec 1748 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Affidavit re. Daniel Horsmanden (copy)

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Horsmanden, Daniel (1794-1778) to William Tryon. New York, 17 April 1777 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Copy. On same pages as above.

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Cockburn, William. New York State, 16 May 1801 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Receipt.

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Colfax, Schuyler (1823-1885). South Bend, Ind, 4 July 1844 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Tax receipt for Robert Fleming.

---

Collier, John A.. Albany, NY, 19 Jan 1842 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Affidavit of mortgage paid.

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Cosby, William (1690-1735/36). New York, 1 April 1734 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Speech to the Indians at New York, and their speeches to him.

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Cruger, Henry (1739-1827). London, 1780 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

The following extracts of letters from Bristol were printed in the London Morning Papers... . Broadside (incomplete).

---

Dagge, Henry . London, 20 March 1775 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Legal opinion of Indian land titles.

---

Glynn, John (1722-1779). London, 3 April 1775 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Legal opinion of Indian land titles. On same pages as above.

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Freemasons. Manlius, New York. Manlius, NY, 1 Oct 1824 box 5

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Van Schaack, Peter (1747-1832). Kinderhook, NY, 1776 - 1794 box 6

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Van Schaack, Peter (1747-1832). London, Kinderhook NY, Aug 1777 - 1782 box 6

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Van Schaack, Peter (1747-1832). New York, 1772 - 1794 box 6

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