

Haverford College Library  
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the Robinson Family Papers 1723 - ca. 1980

Collection No. 1136  
9 document boxes (4.5 linear feet)  
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**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions

**RELATED MATERIALS**

An extensive Robinson collection is located at the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, VT

Silhouettes of Mary and John Morton, Amy and Robert Bowne at American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia; Deborah Smith Lutman has a silhouette of Abigail Robinson. A similar collection of materials is to be found at the Newport Historical Society in Newport, R.I.

**ABSTRACT**

Primarily the letters of Mary Robinson Morton (1757-1829), a member of the Society of Friends, reflecting the social and cultural attitudes of the day.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Mary Robinson Morton (1757-1829) was a minister in the Society of Friends. Born in Rhode Island, she moved to Philadelphia with her husband, John Morton, whom she married in 1793.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Bowne, Amy Robinson.  
Morton, John, fl. 1790-1800.  
Morton, Mary Robinson, 1757-1829.  
Noailles, Louis Marie, vicomte de, 1756-1804.

Robinson, Abigail.  
Robinson, Rowland.  
Robinson, Sarah Richardson.  
Robinson, Thomas, 1731-1817.

[Epidemics -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia](#)

Philadelphia (Pa.) -- Social life and customs.  
Quaker women -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.

[Society of Friends -- Hicksite separation.](#)

United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Participation, French.

[Yellow fever -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia](#)

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Papers consist of approximately 500 letters written by Mary Robinson Morton (1757-1829) in the period 1790-1829 and transcripts of these letters. She wrote most often to her parents, Thomas Robinson and Sarah Richardson Robinson, sisters Abigail Robinson and Amy Robinson Bowne (who married Robert Bowne of New York), and brothers Thomas and Rowland. The letters are primarily of a personal and family nature, reflecting the social and cultural attitudes of the day, touching occasionally on the Hicksite controversy within the Society of Friends, the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 in Philadelphia and its continued ravages in 1798, as well as on the dreaded effects of smallpox.

In addition, there are transcripts of other Robinson family correspondence, including that written by the French officer Vicomte de Noailles to Mary Robinson while he was stationed in Newport, which are currently housed elsewhere; abstracts of selected letters; genealogical information; poetry of Mary Morton and Amy Bowne and other miscellany; [The Robinson Family Letters], in typescript, edited by Deborah Smith Lutman, a direct descendant, ca. 1980.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1: Letters of Mary Robinson Morton, 1790-1806

Box 2: Letters of Mary Robinson Morton, 1811-1829.

Box 3: Miscellaneous:

1. Volumes: Lettres d'une Peruvienne, par Mme. de Grafigny, 1773. The property of Maria (Mary) Robinson; Almanacs (2) beginning with 1794, containing notes by Mary R. Morton from 1793-1813 on daily events, prescriptions, letters written, quotes, etc.

2. Miscellaneous letters to or from Robinson family members with typed transcripts, 1770-1786 & n.d. (8 items)

3. Miscellaneous items: poetry of Mary Morton and Amy Bowne; some genealogical information; wills of Abigail Robinson and Lydia Hazard; description of the character of Abigail Robinson, commonplace book kept by Mary R. Morton which shows the wide range of her interests; etc. another added by purchase, 11-83.

Box 4: Transcripts of letters both at Haverford and elsewhere: 1723-1789; key to locations of Robinson family papers; abstracts of selected letters; genealogical information

Box 5: Transcripts of letters: 1790-96

Box 6: Transcripts of letters: 1797-1806

Box 7: Transcripts of letters: 1807-1817

Box 8: Transcripts of letters: 1818-1829

Box 9: Typescripts: [The Robinson Family Letters], edited by Deborah Smith Lutman, ca. 1000 pages; also photocopy of article: "Amy R. Bowne: Newport Quaker (1768-1802)" by Deborah Smith Lutman.