DAR Library Manuscript Collections
Donations Overview

The DAR Library welcomes suitable donations from members and the public to the Manuscript Collections. We are primarily interested in collecting materials of family and local history which document relationships and describe lives. Generally, we prefer older and original material that is not readily available and should be preserved for future researchers. There is no requirement of any connection to the Revolutionary War, however we are particularly interested in material that documents activities and people of that time. We presently cannot accept any multimedia or digital components of collections.

Examples of types of materials we collect include but are not limited to:
- Family history documents (marriage records, deeds, wills, etc.)
- Family Bibles (See further explanation below)
- Diaries
- Letters
- Old, labeled photos with contextual information
- Business ledgers

Examples of what is NOT collected:
- Internet printouts (from FamilySearch, Ancestry, Find A Grave, RootsWeb, etc.)
- Family vacation pictures or other modern family photos
- Material not of genealogical or historical interest
- CDs, floppy discs, flash drives, or hard drives

Family Bibles
We may accept Bibles that contain family record information. The Bible Records Collection includes originals, photocopies, and transcripts of Bible record pages. Full Bibles are preferable, but photocopies and typewritten transcripts may also be useful. When possible, the Bible title page and publication information should be included along with a short summary of the Bible’s past ownership (even the fact that it was purchased at a flea market in a location can be helpful to researchers).

Prior to any manuscript donation, you must contact the library for approval. Only approved donations will be accepted. Do not send unapproved material to the library.

Donors are also required to sign a Deed of Gift upon donation. Along with the approved donation and Deed of Gift, please include some background information on the origin of the collection, such as who did the research, when the material was gathered, or prior ownership of items.

Questions may be addressed to the library at 202-879-3229 or library@dar.org; please ask for or send to the attention of the Manuscripts and Special Collections Librarian.