



Guide to the Devonshire Collection Archive

Part 1 Family Papers

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Summary of the Devonshire Collection Archive
Family Papers

Introduction

The Devonshire Collection Archive holds the majority of the extant historic personal papers of the Dukes and Duchesses of Devonshire. In addition the archive holds many papers for other family members and associated individuals. These include papers of other lines that married into the Cavendish family, and papers of persons closely associated with the family - such as Thomas Hobbes, the political philosopher or Sir Joseph Paxton, architect and gardener.

The purpose of this guide is to set out what archival material has been catalogued, but not to provide detailed listings of the material itself. If you wish to see the catalogues of any collections mentioned in this guide please contact us by email at archives@chatsworth.org. Catalogues are not currently available online.

For the purposes of this guide, the catalogues to the family papers have been broadly arranged into three groups:

- 1) Correspondence Series
- 2) Cavendish and Devonshire Family Collections
- 3) Collections of other family lines, or persons closely associated with the Cavendish family

The guide is not comprehensive and does not include partly or fully uncatalogued collections, or material still closed to researchers.

There are many nuances in using the catalogues in the Devonshire Archives, as such it is always worth asking the archivist if you have any doubts. See "Section 2: Note on the arrangement of the family papers" for further information on how the collections came to be arranged as they are.

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Summary of the Devonshire Collection Archive
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1. Archival Catalogues

1.1 Correspondence Series

CS1 First Correspondence Series, 1490-1839

Correspondence of the Cavendish family, their friends and acquaintances from 1490-1839. This series includes political and personal correspondence.

CS2 Second Correspondence Series, 1840-1908

Correspondence of the Cavendish family, their friends, and acquaintances from 1840-1908. This series includes political and personal correspondence.

CS4 4th Duke's Group, 1755-1764

Correspondence of the 4th Duke, his friends, family and acquaintances. This series includes political and personal correspondence.

SEE ALSO: DF2

CS5 5th Duke's Group, 1764-1811

Correspondence of the 5th Duke, his friends, family and acquaintances, including personal and political material.

SEE ALSO: DF3, DF11 and DF12

CS6 6th Duke's Group, 1811-1840

Correspondence of the 6th Duke, his friends, family and acquaintances from 1811 up to and including 1839.

SEE ALSO: DF4 and CS2



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CS8 8th Duke's Group, 1841-1908

Correspondence of the 8th Duke. Unlike the other ducal groups, this group includes material that predates the 8th Duke coming into the title. There is family material from his childhood, but later material is predominately political.

SEE ALSO: DF6 and DF14

P Paxton's Group, 1826-1907

Correspondence of Joseph Paxton, his friends, family and acquaintances.

SEE ALSO: DF4, DF37, CS2 and CS6

WC Newsletters and correspondence of William Cavendish, 3rd Earl of Devonshire (1617-1684) with later estate material

Dates of material: 1676-1820



Summary of the Devonshire Collection Archive
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1.2 Cavendish and Devonshire Family Collections

The Devonshire Family collections contain a wide variety of material including correspondence, diaries, financial papers, journals, notebooks and political papers of the Dukes and Duchesses of Devonshire, other members of the Cavendish family, and associated individuals.

DF1 Papers of William Cavendish, 3rd Duke of Devonshire (1698-1755)

Dates of material: 1713-1759

DF2 Papers of William Cavendish, 4th Duke of Devonshire (1720-1764)

Dates of material: 1740-1768

DF3 Papers of William Cavendish, 5th Duke of Devonshire (1748 -1811)

Dates of material: 1764-1811

DF4 Papers of William George Spencer Cavendish, 6th Duke of Devonshire (1790-1858)

Dates of material: 18th century-19th century

DF5 Papers of William Cavendish, 7th Duke of Devonshire (1808-1891)

Dates of material: 1838-1896

DF6 Papers of Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire (1833-1908)

Dates of material: 1856-1911

DF11 Papers of Elizabeth Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire (1757-1824)

Dates of material: 1782-1820



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DF12 Papers of Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire (1757-1806)

Dates of material: 18th century-1820

DF13 Papers of Blanche Cavendish, Countess of Burlington (1812-1840)

Dates of material: 1820-1840

DF14 Papers of Louise Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire (1832-1911)

Dates of material: 1855 -1922

SEE ALSO: DF6 and CS8

DF18 Papers of Lord Edward Cavendish (1838-1891)

Dates of material: 1858-1900s

DF19 Papers of Lady Frederick Lucy Cavendish (1841-1925)

Dates of material: 1813-1913

DF22 Papers of Lady Edward Emma Cavendish (1838-1920)

Dates of material: c.1860- c.1920

DF23 Papers of Lord Frederick Cavendish (1836-1882)

Dates of material: 1845-1930s

DF25 Papers of Lady Louisa Egerton (1835-1907)

Dates of material: 1880-1907

DF26 Papers of Major Lord John Spencer Cavendish (1875-1914)

Dates of material: 1886-1914



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DF27 Papers of William Cavendish (1783-1812), Louisa Cavendish (d.1863) and Family

Dates of material: 1821-1839

DF31 Papers of George Augustus Henry Cavendish, 1st Earl of Burlington of the 2nd creation (1754-1834), Lady Elizabeth Cavendish, Countess of Burlington (1760-1835) and members of the Compton Family

Dates of material: 1717-c.1834

DF32 Papers of William Cavendish, 2nd Duke of Devonshire (1672-1729) and Rachel Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire (1674-1725)

Dates of material: c.1715-1723

DF37 Papers of Joseph Paxton (1803-1865)

Dates of material: 1830s-1860s



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1.3 Other family collections

BU Burlington Miscellaneous Manuscripts

This collection consists of the papers of Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Burlington (1612-1698), Charles Boyle, 2nd Earl of Burlington (c.1662-1704), Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington (1694-1753), Henry Boyle, Baron Carleton (1669-1725) and Lady Charlotte Boyle, (1731-1754). Largely accounts and estate correspondence.

Dates of material: 1673-1758

CH36 Inventories and valuations of the household effects and other material goods of the Cavendish family

NB. Certain later material in this collection is not open for general research.

Dates of material: 1728-20th century

CM Papers of Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork and later members of the Boyle family

This is a large and important collection of papers that provide many unique insights into English colonial expansion in Ireland. Material includes diaries of the 1st and 2nd Earls, and the 2nd Earl's wife, Elizabeth Clifford, as well as an abundance of correspondence from many individuals of historical and cultural significance.

Dates of material: 1396-1774

FCH Papers of the Finch Family, Earls of Aylesford

Dates of material: 1663-1719

HS Manuscripts and papers of Thomas Hobbes (1588 -1679), political philosopher



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Hobbes was tutor to the 2nd and 3rd Earls of Devonshire, and retained a strong connection to the family through his life time.

Dates of Material: c.1591-1684

HX

Manuscripts and papers of the Savile Family, Marquesses of Halifax

Literary and political papers of the 1st Marquess of Halifax and his brother Henry Savile; estate correspondence, and some material on the management of the East India Company, 1660-1690.

Dates of material: 1642-1695

HY

The scientific papers of Henry Cavendish (1731-1810) natural philosopher

Papers and letters of the scientist Henry Cavendish. The papers within this collection cover Cavendish's experiments across several of the scientific fields, including electricity, optics, mechanics, and meteorology.

Dates of material: c.1771-1778

R

Letters and papers of Rachel Russell (1637-1723) and those of her husband Lord William Russell (1639 -1683)

Letters and papers of Rachel Russell (1637-1723) and those of her husband Lord William Russell (executed in 1683)

Dates of material: 1657-1792



Summary of the Devonshire Collection Archive
Family Papers

2. Note on the arrangement of the family papers

The archive at Chatsworth has a complicated history, as such the process for finding all existing papers for one particular person is not limited to searching one catalogue. Researchers may find it useful to have an understanding of how the archives came to be catalogued, and how they came to be arranged as they are.

2.1 Family Correspondence

References:

- CS1: First Correspondence Series
- CS2: Second Correspondence Series
- CS4: 4th Duke's Correspondence Group
- CS5: 5th Duke's Correspondence Group
- CS6: 6th Duke's Correspondence Group
- CS8: 8th Duke's Correspondence Group

It was not until the 1920s that a concerted effort was undertaken to comprehensively catalogue the family, social and political correspondence that had accumulated through the centuries at Chatsworth.

During 1925 and 1926, all letters dated before and including 1839 were catalogued as First Correspondence Series (CS1). As well as the direct ancestors of the Cavendish line, CS1 included correspondence for persons who had married into the family and whose papers came to be kept at Chatsworth. Such families include the Earls of Burlington, and material for their ancestors, the Savile and Finch families. In its initial form, the First Correspondence Series comprised c.10,000 letters.

Subsequently, during 1926 and 1927, all letters (then known to exist) that were dated between 1840 and 1908 were catalogued as Second Correspondence Series (CS2).

Although these two collections still exist, they have been heavily altered across the last ninety years. Most pertinently, in various stages from the 1970s through the 2000s the correspondence of the 4th, 5th and 6th Dukes of Devonshire, their families and associates were extracted to form, respectively, the 4th Duke's Group (CS4); the 5th Duke's Group (CS5) and the 6th Duke's group (CS6).

With these ducal papers extracted, the number of letters remaining in First Correspondence Series is now approximately 2800, the vast majority of the papers dating to before 1755, the date when the 4th Duke came into his title.



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The Second Correspondence Series has been less altered, but all letters of the 8th Duke of Devonshire, including those before he became Duke, have been re-catalogued as the 8th Duke's Correspondence group (CS8) and removed from the Second Correspondence Series.

2.2 Devonshire Family Collections

References:

DF1 to DF37

A further complication that can be added to the above is that when the First and Second Correspondence Series collections were compiled they, by definition, did not include other family papers such as diaries, scrapbooks, photos, keepsakes and legal papers. Furthermore, correspondence of family members then still living were not then considered archival.

This extra material was left uncatalogued until 2014, when an 18 month project to gather and list any material not previously catalogued created the Devonshire Family collections-groups of material that predominately focus on family members from the 19th and 20th centuries.

2.3 Notes on searching the Collections

The above complications can make searching for all relevant material on a given member of the Cavendish family difficult. For example you can find personal material for the 6th Duke in the 5th Duke's Group (CS5), the 6th Duke's Group (CS6), Joseph Paxton's Correspondence (P), the Second Correspondence Series (CS2) and in the relevant Devonshire Family Collection (which is DF4)-a total of 5 separate collections!

It helps when searching for material to bear in mind:

- 1) If the person died before 1755 their correspondence is likely to be in the First Correspondence Series. Check also to see if they have a named collection (A DF number)
- 2) From 1755 until 1840, most correspondence is filed under the relevant ducal group and so it is helpful to know the years of the ducal reigns. For example, the 6th Duke's correspondence as Marquis of Hartington (i.e. before 1811), can be found in the 5th Duke's group.

Ducal periods and associated correspondence groups:

4th Duke (CS4) 1755-1764



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5th Duke (CS5) 1764-1811

6th Duke (CS6) 1811-1858

n.b. 6th Duke correspondence after 1840 can be found in Second Correspondence Series (CS2).

8th Duke (CS8) 1841-1908

n.b. unlike the other ducal series, this catalogue includes material from immediate family members to Spencer Cavendish before he became Duke in 1892

3) For correspondence between 1840 and 1908 material can be found in a number of places, notably CS8 and the Second Correspondence Series catalogue. Do also check if there was any extra material gathered together to form the Devonshire Family Collections (DF)- the majority of which date from the mid-19th century onwards.



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Summary of the Devonshire Collection Archive
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3. Index to prominent persons and relevant collections

Person	Collection References*
Boyle, Charles (c.1662-1704) 2nd Earl of Burlington	CM, BU, CS1
Boyle, Elizabeth (nee Clifford) (1621 – 1698) heir of Henry Clifford, 5th Earl of Cumberland	CM
Boyle, Richard (1566-1643) 1st Earl of Cork	CM
Boyle, Richard (1612-1698) 1st Earl of Burlington, 2nd Earl of Cork	CM
Boyle, Richard (1694–1753) 3rd Earl of Burlington, 4th Earl of Cork, architect	CS1, BU, CM
Cavendish, Blanche (nee Howard) (1812-1840) Countess of Burlington, wife of the 7th Duke of Devonshire	CS6, DF13
Cavendish, Charlotte (nee Boyle)(1731-1754) wife of the 4th Duke of Devonshire	CS1, BU
Cavendish, Edward (1838-1891) politician; third son of William Cavendish, 7th Duke of Devonshire	DF18, DF22
Cavendish, Elizabeth (nee foster) (1757-1824) Duchess of Devonshire	CS5, DF11, DF12, DF3
Cavendish, Emma (nee Lascelles)(1838-1920) wife of Lord Edward Cavendish	DF22, DF18
Cavendish, Frederick (1836-1882) politician	DF23, CS2, CS8, DF18, DF19
Cavendish, George (1754-1834) 1st Earl of Burlington of the 2nd creation	DF31, CS1, CS4, CS6
Cavendish, Georgiana (nee Spencer) (1757-1806) Duchess of Devonshire	CS5, DF12, DF11, DF3
Cavendish, Henry (1731-1810) scientist	HY
Cavendish, John Spencer (1875-1914) soldier; brother of the 9th Duke of Devonshire	DF26
Cavendish, Louise (nee von Alten) (1832-1911) Duchess of Devonshire	DF14, DF6, CS8
Cavendish, Lucy (nee Littleton) (1841-1925) women's education pioneer; wife of Frederick Cavendish	DF19, CS2, DF23
Cavendish, Spencer (1833-1908) 8 th Duke of Devonshire	CS8, CS2, DF6
Cavendish, William (1552-1626) 1st Earl of Devonshire	HM, CS1
Cavendish, William (1590-1628) 2nd Earl of	HM



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Devonshire	
Cavendish, William (1617-1684) 3rd Earl of Devonshire	WC, CS1, HM
Cavendish, William (1641-1707) 1st Duke of Devonshire	CS1
Cavendish, William (1673-1729) 2nd Duke of Devonshire	DF32
Cavendish, William (1698-1755) 3rd Duke of Devonshire	CS1
Cavendish, William (1720-1764) 4th Duke of Devonshire	CS4, DF2
Cavendish, William (1748 -1811) 5th Duke of Devonshire	CS5, DF3, DF12
Cavendish, William (1790-1858) 6th Duke of Devonshire	CS5, CS6, DF4, CS2, P
Cavendish, William (1808-1891) 7th Duke of Devonshire	CS6, CS2, CS8, DF5
Egerton, Louisa (nee Cavendish) (1835-1907) daughter of the 7th Duke of Devonshire	CS2, P, CS8, DF25
Finch, Heneage (1648/9-1719) 1st Earl of Aylseford, politician	FCH, L
Hobbes, Thomas (1588-1679) political philosopher	HS, HM
Paxton, Joseph (1803-1865) gardener and architect	P, DF4, CS6, CS2
Russell, Rachel (nee Wriothsesley) (1637-1723) wife of Lord William Russell	CS1, R
Russell, William (1639-1683) politician, executed for part in Rye House Plot	R
Savile, George (1633 – 1695) 1st Marquess of Halifax, statesman, author	HX, CS1, L
Talbot, Elizabeth (nee Hardwick)(c.1527-1608) Bess of Hardwick	HM

- * See “Guide to the Devonshire Collection Archives: Part 2, Estate Papers and Related Collections” for descriptions of the L and HM series.