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COLLECTIONS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

NAME OF COLLECTION: Richard HARISON Papers

SOURCE: Gift of Thomas L., Richard M., and George D.L. Harison, 1887 (tr. from "X" Coll);  
Frances Harison, 1948/49 (tr. from Columbiana); Richard Harison, 1981.

SUBJECT: Post-Revolutionary period in New York City and Albany, with references to legal  
affairs of New York State, and Harison family.

DATES COVERED: 1734 - ca. 1900 NUMBER OF ITEMS: 56

STATUS: (check appropriate description)

Cataloged:  Listed:  Arranged:  Not organized:

CONDITION: (give number of vols., boxes, or shelves)

Bound:  Boxed: 1 Stored: VAULT /3

LOCATION: (Library) Rare Book and Manuscript CALL-NUMBER Ms Coll/Harison

RESTRICTIONS ON USE None (VAULT) /3

DESCRIPTION: Papers of Richard Harison, 1747-1829, (AB 1764, AM 1767) including correspondence, manuscripts, and documents. Harison received his Columbia degrees in the same years as John Jay, and they each received an LL.D. from University of Edinburgh, 1792. He was Secretary of the Regents of New York State from 1784-90; vestryman, warden and comptroller of Trinity Church, 1783, 1788-1827, where he is buried; Delegate to the New York Constitutional Convention; Member, New York Assembly, 1788-89; Trustee, Columbia College, 1788-1829; U.S. District Attorney for New York State, appointed by George Washington, 1789-1801; Recorder, New York City, 1798-1801. His second wife, Frances, was daughter of George Ludlow, Jurist and loyalist, and niece of Daniel Ludlow, merchant and banker.

The correspondence consists of letters from Richard Harison to his wife, Frances, 1790-94, from his trips to Albany and one to Philadelphia. There seem to be periodic meetings with various well-known legal figures (Egbert Benson, Josiah Ogden Hoffman, Abraham Ten Broeck, Morgan Lewis, William North, etc.), who are mentioned in the letters. Two letters from Princeton and Philadelphia, Jan-Feb 1794, have interesting reference to Citizen Genêt. Of his wife's letters to him, from New York, 16 were while he was in Poughkeepsie at the New York State Legislature in 1788, and 3 letters, 1783-84, were sent to him in New Jersey while she was attending to family affairs in New York during his exile from the City. The manuscripts include his Commonplace book, entitled Extracts from various authors, upon several subjects, [after 1763] - 1781, and ten genealogical and biographical records from his family papers. The documents include his licenses to practice law, 1771-99, in New Jersey, New York City, and New York State; and a copy of the will of Francis Harison, who came to this country from England in 1708.

The Law School Library has a collection of Richard Harison's law books.  
 J. Lord-Wood, 8.81