

Guide to the William Jackson Papers

MS 783



compiled by John Dojka

April 1977

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Existence and Location of Copies	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE, 1782-1828	6
Series II: MANUSCRIPTS IN THE HAND OF WILLIAM JACKSON, 1818, undated	11
Series III: MISCELLANEOUS AND PRINTED ITEMS, 1782-1824, undated	12
Selected Search Terms	13

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 783

CREATOR: Jackson, William, 1759-1828

TITLE: William Jackson papers

DATES: 1782-1828

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, memoranda, and miscellaneous items of William Jackson, a major in the American Revolution and later an active political figure. Most of the items in the papers are letters received by Jackson between 1782 and 1828. Also included are memoranda relating to payments for surviving officers of the Continental Army and an account of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. Among the correspondents are John Quincy Adams, Alexander Garden, Joseph Hopkinson, Ebenezer Huntington, Benjamin Lincoln, Charles Pinckney, John Sergeant and George Washington.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0783>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0783>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Henry Kirschenbaum to Beinecke Rare Book Library; transferred to Manuscripts and Archives, 1976.

Conditions Governing Access

The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use HM 210 instead of the originals.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

William Jackson Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies

Entire collection is also available on microfilm (407 frames on 1 reel, 35 mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM210.

Biographical / Historical

William Jackson was born in Cumberland, England, on March 9, 1759. Orphaned in early youth, Jackson was brought to South Carolina where he was raised under the guardianship of Owen Roberts. During the Revolutionary War Jackson served in the First South Carolina Regiment and later as an aide to Major-General Benjamin Lincoln. He subsequently served as Assistant Secretary of War under Lincoln (1782-1783). In 1787 he was appointed secretary of the Constitutional Convention and in the following year was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar. From 1789 to 1791 Jackson served as personal secretary to President Washington and in 1796 was appointed Surveyor of Customs at Philadelphia. After losing his customs post in 1801 Jackson founded and edited the Philadelphia *Political and Commercial Register* (1801-1817).

Among his other notable activities Jackson was secretary of the Society of the Cincinnati from 1800 to 1828 and in this capacity was appointed by the surviving officers of the Continental Army to obtain for them an equitable adjustment of their promised half pay.

Jackson died in Philadelphia on December 18, 1828. For further information on his career see the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

Scope and Contents

The William Jackson Papers consist of approximately 120 items, the majority of which are letters received by Jackson during the years 1782 to 1828. Jackson corresponded with a large number of eminent men,

among them George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, William Henry Harrison, Henry Knox, and Charles Pinckney. However, most of the correspondence is routine in nature, e.g., cover letters, acknowledgements, and thank-you notes. Many of the letters, especially those written in 1818 and 1819, relate to efforts by Jackson and the Society of the Cincinnati to obtain the promised half pay of the surviving officers of the Continental Army. The bulk of this correspondence consists of letters acknowledging the receipt of memorials on behalf of the surviving officers and notes from sympathetic congressmen deploring the failure of Congress to act speedily on the matter.

The only material in the papers relating to Jackson's role as secretary to the Constitutional Convention is a letter from John Quincy Adams dated October 16, 1818, in which Adams asked Jackson if he had any material relating to the Constitutional Convention in his possession. Jackson responded that when he left Philadelphia in 1787 he turned over any relevant materials to Washington.

Other material of note includes several letters from the First Marquess of Lansdown (William Petty) commenting on Anglo-American relations and expressing his admiration of George Washington, a manuscript in Jackson's hand of a memorial to Congress on behalf of the surviving officers of the Continental Army, and an account, also in Jackson's hand, of Col. John Lauren's version of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

The William Jackson Papers were given to Yale University Library by Henry Kirschenbaum, Purchase, New York, 1976 June 3.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series: I. Incoming Correspondence. II. Manuscripts in the Hand of William Jackson. III. Miscellaneous and Printed Items.

Collection Contents

Series I: INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE, 1782-1828

0.5 linear feet

Incoming correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. Letters of a particular correspondent are organized chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Adams, John Quincy (1767-1848) With copies of two letters from Jackson to Adams: 19 and 21 October 1818	16 October 1818 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Beck, Paul, Jr.	20 May 1812 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Biddle, Clement (1740-1814)	17 November 1818 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Biddle, James (1783-1848)	20 July 1813 (2p.), 29 August 1817 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Bingham, William (1752-1804)	4 September 1789 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 6reel 1U	Blake, W.	7 March 1786 (1p.), 3 June 1786 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 7reel 1U	Bloomfield, Joseph (1753-1823)	4 February 1818 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 8reel 1U	Burrows, W. W.	23 February 1800 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 9reel 1U	Carrington, Edward	10 October 1782 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 10reel 1U	Clarkson, Matthew (1758-1825)	24 January 1785 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 11reel 1U	Colquhoun, Patrick (1745-1820)	30 January 1784 (2p.), 1 March 1784 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 12reel 1U	Corbin, Francis	3 January 1815 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 13reel 1U	Cushman, Joshua (1761-1834)	15 April 1820 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 14reel 1U	Custis, George Washington Parke (1781-1857)	No date, Sunday (1p.), No year, October 15 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 15reel 1U	Davis, S. B.	23 May 1815 (2p.)

b. 1, f. 16reel 1U	Eustis, William (1753-1825)	14 August 1819 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 17reel 1U	Finley, S. B. R.	4 November 1828 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 18reel 1U	Forrest, Thomas	17 April 1820 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 19reel 1U	Forsyth, John (1780-1841)	28 January 1818 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 20reel 1U	Fuller, Timothy	25 April 1820 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 21reel 1U	Garden, Alexander (1757-1829)	Undated (4p.), 2 June 1818 (3p.), 12 June 1818 (2p.), 4 August 1818 (2p.), 6 August 1818 (2p.), 18 October 1819 (3p.), 1 May 1821 (3p.), 2 December 1825 (2p.), 19 October 1827 (2p.), 13 October 1828 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 22reel 1U	Gibbon, James	20 August 1819 (3p.), 16 December 1819 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 23reel 1U	Goldsborough, Robert Henry (1780-1836)	19 April 1818 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 24reel 1U	Harper, Robert Goodloe (1765-1825)	14 March 1824 (2p.), 5 November 1824 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 25reel 1U	Harrison, William Henry (1773-1841)	2 March 1819 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 26reel 1U	Hamphill, Joseph (1770-1842)	17 April 1820 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 27reel 1U	Henderson [Francis?]	16 February 1827 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 28reel 1U	Hopkinson, Joseph	14 July 1817 (2p.), 15 March 1818 (3p.), 1 March 1819 (2p.)

b. 1, f. 29reel 1U	Howard, John E.	14 August 1817 (1p.), 4 August 1818 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 30reel 1U	Huntington, Ebenezer (1754-1834)	2 March 1819 (2p.), 16 August 1819 (2p.), 17 November 1819 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 31reel 1U	Hyrne, Edmund Massingberd (1748-1783)	1 December 1783 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 32reel 1U	Jefferson, Thomas (1743-1826)	1 March 1800 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 33reel 1U	Johnson, Richard Mentor (1781-1850)	2 March 1819 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 34reel 1U	King, Rufus (1755-1827)	3 March 1819 (1p.), 29 November 1820 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 35reel 1U	Knox, Henry (1750-1806)	11 December 1793 (5p.)
b. 1, f. 36reel 1U	Lansdowne, William Petty, 1st marquess of (1737-1805)	5 October 1793 (1p.), 31 July 1795 (2p.), 19 April 1796 (2p.), 5 March 1797 (4p.)
b. 1, f. 37reel 1U	Latimer, George (1750-1825)	6 April 1804 (1p.), 21 January 1819 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 38reel 1U	Laurens, Henry, Jr.	1 May 1792 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 39reel 1U	Levy, Moses	27 August 1818 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 40reel 1U	Lincoln, Benjamin (1733-1810) (Plus a copy made by Jackson)	7 December 1799 (2p.), 10 August 1784 (2p.), 30 October 1783 (2p.), 26 March 1800 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 41reel 1U	Livingston, Edward (1764-1836)	22 December 1785 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 42reel 1U	Lyman, Daniel	2 August 1818 (2p.), 5 September 1819 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 43reel 1U	Meigs, (Henry 1783-1861?)	2 May 1820 (2p.)

b. 1, f. 44reel 1U	Mercer, Charles Fenton (1778-1858)	2 March 1819 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 45reel 1U	Monroe, J. J.	11 December 1818 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 46reel 1U	Noailles, Emanuel Marie Louis, marquis de (1743-1822)	Undated (1p.)
b. 1, f. 47reel 1U	Pinckney, Charles (1757-1824)	15 April 1820 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 48reel 1U	Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth (1746-1825)	No year September 24 (2p.), 15 May 1800 (2p.), 5 September 1812 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 49reel 1U	Pinckney, Thomas (1750-1828)	23 September 1800 (1p.), 1 August 1817 (1p.), 17 September 1827 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 50reel 1U	Platt, Richard	14 November 1817 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 50reel 1U	Enclosing two printed documents relating to the Society of the Cincinnati.	
b. 1, f. 51reel 1U	Rawle, William (1759-1836)	24 August 1818 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 52reel 1U	Reed, Philip (1760-1829)	3 March 1819 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 53reel 1U	Rutledge, John, Jr. (1739-1800)	28 July 1786 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 54reel 1U	Scott, Winfield (1786-1866)	8 July 1815 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 55reel 1U	Sergeant, John (1779-1852) 10 December 1817 contains draft of Jackson's reply. (2p.)	10 December 1817 (1p.), 4 March 1819 (1p.), 18 May 1828 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 56reel 1U	Shippen, Thomas Lee	19 August 1786 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 57reel 1U	Tilghman, William (1756-1827) Signed also by John B. Gibson & Thomas Duncan	5 August 1819 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 58reel 1U	Varick, Richard (1753-1831)	14 July 1818 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 59reel 1U	Washington, George (1732-1799)	

Washington, George (1732-1799) (continued)

b. 1, f. 59reel 1U	Copies of two letters to Jackson (the copies made by Jackson)	1 November 1783 (1p.), 26 December 1791 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 60reel 1U	Williams, Otho Holland (1749-1794)	22 September 1783 (3p.), 16 February 1786 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 61reel 1U	Willing, Thomas	[1800?] (2p.)
b. 1, f. 62reel 1U	Also a writ, signed by Willing and summoning several citizens of Philadelphia to appear before him and testify against 3 highway robbers. 12 April 1771.	
b. 1, f. 62reel 1U	Wycombe, Lord	29 September 1793

Series II: MANUSCRIPTS IN THE HAND OF WILLIAM JACKSON, 1818, undated

b. 1, f. 63reel 1U	Letter to Ebenezer Huntington	30 June 1818 (1p.)
	Other drafts of letters by Jackson See: John Quincy Adams, box 1, folder 1 See: Gamaliel Bradford, box 1, folder 67	
b. 1, f. 64reel 1U	Excerpts from the Journals of Congress outlining the resolutions of Congress relating to the half pay for officers of the Revolutionary Army	1818 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 65reel 1U	"To Major General La Fayette. The address of the citizens of Philadelphia in their collective capacity," English	(1824?) (2p.)
b. 1, f. 66reel 1U	Account, with corrections, of Col. Laurens's account of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis	Undated (2p.)
b. 2reel 1U	Memorial to Congress on behalf of the surviving officers of the Revolutionary Army	Undated (2p.)

Series III: MISCELLANEOUS AND PRINTED ITEMS, 1782-1824, undated

b. 1, f. 67reel 1U	Bradford, Gamaliel	10 September 1818 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 67reel 1U	Letter to Horace Binney	
b. 1, f. 67reel 1U	With a copy of Major Jackson's reply to Bradford	15 September 1818 (1p.)
b. 1, f. 68reel 1U	Carroll, Charles, of Carrollton (1737-1832): Letter to Charles Carroll, Jr.	7 January 1805 (3p.)
b. 1, f. 69reel 1U	Davis, John: Bill to William Jackson	1819 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 70reel 1U	Harper, Robert Goodloe (1765-1825): Letter to President James Monroe	5 November 1824 (2p.)
b. 1, f. 71reel 1U	Mifflin, Thomas (1744-1800): Letter to President John Adams	Undated [July 4?]
b. 1, f. 72reel 1U	Parker, Isaac (1768-1830): Letter to William Eustis Signed also by Charles Jackson and Samuel Putnam	16 November 1819 (4p.)
b. 1, f. 73reel 1U	Society of the Cincinnati: Proceedings of the New Jersey Society relative to the half-pay of the surviving officers of the Revolutionary Army and adopting the resolutions of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati	4 July 1818 (4p.)
b. 1, f. 74reel 1U	Goldsborough, Robert Henry, 1780-1836: In the Senate. Speech of Mr. Goldsborough upon the bill to provide for the surviving officers and soldiers of the revolutionary army [1818?] (Broadside)	
b. 1, f. 75reel 1U	Jackson, William: Memorial to Congress on behalf of the surviving officers of the revolutionary army	[December 1819] (Pamphlet)
b. 1, f. 76reel 1U	Marriage license form, filled in, for Henry Ferguson and Mary Potts	10 January 1782

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783

United States -- Politics and government
Yorktown (Va.) -- Siege, 1781

Occupations

Politicians
Soldiers

Names

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848

Harrison, William Henry, 1773-1841

Jackson, William, 1759-1828

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826

Knox, Henry, 1750-1806

Lansdowne, William Petty, Marquis of,
1737-1805

Pinckney, Charles, 1757-1824

Washington, George, 1732-1799

Corporate Body

Society of the Cincinnati