

Harman Blennerhassett Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2002

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm74050633>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007010>

Prepared by Nancy L. Hayden
Revised by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Harman Blennerhassett Papers

Span Dates: 1755-1866

ID No.: MSS50633

Creator: Blennerhassett, Harman, 1765-1831

Extent: 500 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Extent: 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm74050633>

Summary: Lawyer, planter, and scholar. Correspondence, journals, articles for the Ohio Gazette, memoirs, and legal and financial papers, chiefly 1795-1831, relating, in part, to the trial of Aaron Burr for treason, the indictment of Blennerhassett for conspiracy with Burr, and the subsequent misfortunes experienced by the Blennerhassett family. Includes MS. volume attributed to Harman Blennerhassett (1801-1854).

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Anglesey, Henry William Paget, Marquis of, 1768-1854--Correspondence.

Blennerhasset, Dominic, 1799- --Correspondence.

Blennerhassett family.

Blennerhassett, Harman, 1764-1831.

Blennerhassett, Harman, Jr., 1801-1854. Harman Blennerhassett, Jr., manuscript volume.

Blennerhassett, Joseph Lewis--Correspondence.

Blennerhassett, Margaret, approximately 1778-1842--Correspondence.

Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836--Trials, litigation, etc.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.

Cox, Nathaniel--Correspondence.

Emmet, Robert, 1792-1873--Correspondence.

Langley, John--Correspondence.

Lewis, Joseph S.--Correspondence.

Lewis, Mordecai, 1748-1799--Correspondence.

Mullins, Thomas--Correspondence.

Nolte, Vincent, 1779-1856--Correspondence.

Peel, Robert, 1788-1850--Correspondence.

Tyndall, Joseph--Correspondence.

Wheatley, Richard S.--Correspondence.

Woodbridge, D. (Dudley)--Correspondence.

Subjects

American newspapers--Ohio.

Trials (Treason)

Occupations

Lawyers.

Plantation owners.

Scholars.

Provenance

The papers of Harman Blennerhassett, lawyer, planter, and scholar, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1900.

Processing History

The papers of Harman Blennerhassett were arranged and described by Nancy L. Hayden prior to microfilming by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service in 1973. The finding aid was revised by Patrick Kerwin in 2001.

Related Materials

A microfilm of the Blennerhassett Papers is located at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. A collection of Blennerhassett Family Papers is also located at the Campus Martius State Museum, Marietta, Ohio.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Harman Blennerhassett is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Harman Blennerhassett are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on three reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Harman Blennerhassett Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1765, Oct. 8	Born, Hampshire, England
1790	Admitted to bar in Ireland
1790-1796	Traveled in Europe
1796	Married Margaret Agnew
1798	Established residence on Backus Island, Wood Co., Va., later the center of Aaron Burr's activities
1805	First encounter with Aaron Burr, Marietta, Ohio
1805-1806	With Aaron Burr, developed conspiracy to separate western states from the Union and to invade Mexico

1807	Indicted for treason in Richmond, Va., but released after failure to convict Aaron Burr on a count of <i>nolle prosequi</i>
1810-1816	Cotton planter in Louisiana
1819-1822	Practiced law, Montreal, Canada
1831, Feb. 2	Died on the Isle of Guernsey, England

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harman Blennerhassett (1765-1831) span the years 1755-1866 and consist of journals, business and family correspondence, legal and financial papers, and miscellaneous material. The trial of Aaron Burr for treason, the indictment of Blennerhassett for conspiracy with him, and the subsequent misfortunes experienced by the Blennerhassett family are revealed in Blennerhassett's three-volume journal, 20 July-20 Nov. 1807, his correspondence with his wife, Margaret Agnew Blennerhassett (died 1842), and a manuscript volume attributed to his son, Harman Blennerhassett (1801-1854).

Other correspondents include Henry William Paget, the Marquis of Anglesey, Dominic Blennerhassett (born 1799), Joseph Lewis Blennerhassett, Henry Clay, Nathaniel Cox, Robert Emmet, John Langley, Joseph S. Lewis, Mordecai Lewis, Thomas Mullins, Vincent Nolte, Sir Robert Peel, Joseph Tyndall, Richard S. Wheatly, and Dudley Woodbridge.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 15,903

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Journal, 1807, 20 July-20 Nov. (3 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Journal entitled "Account of a Voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi," 1807
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	1795-1820 (4 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	1822-1866 (4 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	Legal and financial papers, 1755-1862 (3 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 3	Miscellany
BOX 3 REEL 3	Legal brief on behalf of Blennerhassett, 1807
BOX 3 REEL 3	Manuscript and printed matter relating to charges against Aaron Burr and Blennerhassett, 1806-1807, 1831
BOX 3 REEL 3	"Memoir on the Views and Capacities of the United States," 1822
BOX 3 REEL 3	Volume attributed to Harman Blennerhassett (1801-1854), undated
BOX 3 REEL 3	"Querist," (pseudonym for Blennerhassett) material and other writings, 1804-1806, 1861
BOX 3 REEL 3	St. Paul's Masonic Lodge; diploma; list of correspondence; fragments, 1809-1822, n.d