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.
Blennerhassett, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1765, Oct. 8</td>
<td>Born, Hampshire, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>Admitted to bar in Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790-1796</td>
<td>Traveled in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>Married Margaret Agnew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798</td>
<td>Established residence on Backus Island, Wood Co., Va., later the center of Aaron Burr's activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1805</td>
<td>First encounter with Aaron Burr, Marietta, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1805-1806</td>
<td>With Aaron Burr, developed conspiracy to separate western states from the Union and to invade Mexico</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1807 Indicted for treason in Richmond, Va., but released after failure to convict Aaron Burr on a count of *nolle prosequi*
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).


**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material.
## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 15,903

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 |