Thomas Truxtun Papers
A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the
Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70054189

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008140

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April
**Collection Summary**

Title: Thomas Truxtun Papers  
Span Dates: 1796-1885  
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1796-1822)  
ID No.: MSS54189  
Creator: Truxtun, Thomas, 1755-1822  
Extent: 18 items  
Extent: 1 container  
Extent: 0.2 linear feet  
Language: Collection material in English  
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
LC Catalog record: [https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70054189](https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70054189)  
Summary: United States Navy officer. Correspondence, property share, funeral announcement, and other printed matter relating to Truxtun's resignation from the United States Navy in 1802 and to his duties as sheriff of Philadelphia, Pa., also including an 1885 article on Truxtun's grandson, William Talbot Truxtun.

**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**
Balfour, George, active 1798-1804--Correspondence.  
Clarkson, David M.--Correspondence.  
Cornman, Joseph.--Correspondence.  
Murray, Alexander, 1754 or 1755-1821--Correspondence.  
Patterson, William, 1752-1835--Correspondence.  
Stoddert, Benjamin, 1751-1813--Correspondence.  
Swartwout, Samuel, 1783-1856--Correspondence.  
Truxtun, Thomas, 1755-1822.  
Truxtun, William Talbot, 1824-1887.

**Organizations**
Asylum Company.  
United States Darien Exploring Expedition (1871 and 1873)  

**Subjects**
Sheriffs--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.  
Surveys--Panama--Panama, Isthmus of.

**Places**
Darien (Panama and Colombia)--Description and travel.  
Panama Canal (Panama)  
Panama, Isthmus of (Panama)--Discovery and exploration.

**Occupations**
Naval officers.

**Provenance**
The papers of Thomas Truxtun, United States Navy officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1952 and 1984. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.
Processing History
The papers of Thomas Truxtun were arranged and described in 1997. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material
Other papers of Thomas Truxtun are also included in the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection in the Manuscript Division.

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

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Thomas Truxtun 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.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas Truxtun Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1755, Feb. 17</td>
<td>Born, near Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794</td>
<td>Appointed captain, U.S. Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798-1800</td>
<td>Commanded the Constellation (frigate) during the Quasi-War with France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Resigned from U.S. Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1822, May 5</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note
The papers of Thomas Truxtun (1755-1822) span the years 1796-1885, with the bulk of the items dating from 1796 to 1822. Truxtun served in the United States Navy during the Revolutionary War and later as commander of the Constellation (frigate) and of the Mediterranean Squadron. He resigned his commission in 1802 following a controversy with the Navy Department.


Arrangement of the Papers
This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1799-1817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Printed matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>One share in the property of the Asylum Co., 1796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><em>Reply of Commodore Truxtun to the Attack Made on Him in the National Intelligencer, in June, 1806</em>, 1806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Invitation to funeral of Truxtun, 1822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Truxtun, William Talbot, Darien Exploring Expedition (1871 and 1873), 1885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>