

Clinton Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the 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://lcn.loc.gov/mm76016204>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009119>

Prepared by Harry G. Heiss

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Clinton Family Papers

Span Dates: 1776-1806

ID No.: MSS16204

Creator: Clinton family

Extent: 55 items

Extent: 1 container plus 1 oversize

Extent: 0.4 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm76016204>

Summary: Army officer, governor of New York, and public officials. Chiefly correspondence (mainly transcripts and drafts) of George Clinton and James Clinton relating to military engagements during the Revolution, drafting of the Articles of Confederation by the Continental Congress, and land transactions in New York; orderly book of James Clinton containing orders given during the expedition against the Iroquois; and various commissions, land grants, and resolves.

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

Clinton family.

Clinton, George, 1739-1812. George Clinton papers.

Clinton, George, 1771-1809. George Clinton papers.

Clinton, James, 1736-1812. James Clinton papers.

Gates, Horatio, 1728-1806--Correspondence.

Lafayette, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, marquis de, 1757-1834--Correspondence.

Schuyler, Philip John, 1733-1804--Correspondence.

Spencer, Ambrose, 1765-1848--Correspondence.

Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Articles of Confederation.

United States. Continental Army.

United States. Continental Congress.

Subjects

Indians of North America--New York (State)

Indians of North America--Wars--1775-1783.

Iroquois Indians.

Land grants--New York (State)

Places

New York (State)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

New York (State)--Politics and government--1783-1865.

United States--History--Confederation, 1783-1789.

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

United States--Politics and government--1783-1809.

Occupations

Army officers.

Governors--New York (State)

Public officials.

Provenance

The papers of the Clinton family were transferred to the Library of Congress from the Pension Office in 1909 and supplemented with purchases in 1910-1921. An additional item was purchased and added to the collection in 1997.

Processing History

The papers of the Clinton family were originally arranged and described as the George and James Clinton Papers. In 1997 with the addition of a letter from George Clinton's son, George, the papers were renamed the Clinton Family Papers. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Clinton family 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 part of these papers is available on one reel. 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 or reel number, Clinton Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Clinton family span the years 1776-1806 and include correspondence, land grants, an orderly book, resolve, and surrogate commission. The papers are chiefly those of George Clinton (1739-1812), delegate to the Continental Congress, governor of New York, and vice president; his brother, James Clinton (1733-1812), an officer in the Continental Army and public official; and his son, George Clinton (1771-1809), congressman.

The correspondence includes original manuscripts, typewritten transcripts, and photostatic copies pertaining primarily to military engagements during the Revolutionary War, the drafting of the Articles of Confederation by the Continental Congress, and land transactions in New York. Correspondents include Horatio Gates, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier Marquis de Lafayette, Philip John Schuyler, Ambrose Spencer, and George Washington. An orderly book of James Clinton contains orders given during the expedition against the Iroquois in 1779. Land grants pertain to patents for Nicholas Fund, 1790, in Clinton County, New York, and Garrett Tunison, 1791, in Montgomery County, New York. The resolve, passed by the New York legislature in 1786, pertains to a boundary settlement with the state of Massachusetts. The commission for surrogate of Tioga County, New York, was granted to John Mersercan by the New York legislature in 1791.

An addition to the collection consists of a letter of 1806 from George Clinton (1771-1809) to Ambrose Spencer concerning matters before Congress.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,794. The microfilm edition differs from the arrangement of the originals.

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1776-1783, 1789, undated (4 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Land grants, 1790 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Orderly book, 1779
BOX 1 REEL 1	Resolve, 1786 (2 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Surrogate commission, 1791
BOX 1 not filmed	Addition, letter to Ambrose Spencer, 1806
BOX OV 1 REEL 1	Oversize, land grant, 1791