

United States War Department Records
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/mm82076072>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009152>

Prepared by Brian McGuire
Revised by Patrick Kerwin

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Collection Summary

Title: United States War Department Records

Span Dates: 1794-1848

ID No.: MSS76072

Creator: United States. War Dept.

Extent: 500 items

Extent: 6 containers plus 21 oversize

Extent: 24.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82076072>

Summary: Correspondence, letterbooks, ledgers, account books, legal records, lists, and other material relating primarily to the United States Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, later know as the Frankford Arsenal, and to superintendents of military stores William Irvine and his son Callender Irvine.

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

Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852.

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804.

Irvine, Callender, 1775-1841.

Irvine, William, 1741-1804.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.

Johnson, Richard M. (Richard Mentor), 1780-1850.

Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866.

Taylor, Zachary, 1784-1850.

Wirt, William, 1772-1834.

Organizations

Frankford Arsenal (Philadelphia, Pa.)

United States. War Department.

Subjects

Creek Indians--Wars.

Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Military supplies.

Seminole Indians--Wars.

Places

New Orleans (La.)--History.

United States--Armed Forces--History.

United States--Armed Forces--Supplies and stores.

United States--History--War of 1812.

Provenance

The records of the United States War Department were acquired by the Library of Congress in 1920 by transfer from the War Department zone supply officer of Philadelphia, Pa. A letterbook of Callender Irvine was purchased by the Library in 1934 and added to the collection.

Processing History

The records of the United States War Department were arranged and described in 1985. The collection was expanded and revised in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The contents of public records created by federal agencies may or may not be covered by copyright legislation. It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Access and Restrictions

The records of the United States War Department 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, United States War Department Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the United States War Department span the years 1794-1848 and include correspondence, letterbooks, ledgers, account books, legal records, lists, and other material. The collection relates primarily to the United States Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pa., later known as the Frankford Arsenal, and to superintendents of military stores William Irvine and his son Callender. The material depicts the growth of the United States military and its supply needs during the early national period. For example, the letterbook of Callender Irvine and William Duncan of 1812-1813 reveals that as early as April 1812 extensive preparations were being made to provide New Orleans with the means of defending itself. Other topics include operations against the Creek and Seminole Indians and items relating to the war with Mexico, 1846-1848. The collection is arranged in the following series: [Chronological File](#) and [Oversize](#).

Significant individuals represented in the collection include John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, Alexander Hamilton, Andrew Jackson, Richard M. Johnson, Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, and William Wirt.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Chronological File, 1794-1848](#)
- [Oversize, 1795-1825](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-6

Series

Chronological File, 1794-1848

Correspondence, letterbooks, journals, ledgers, account books, lists, abstracts, legal records, printed matter, and other material.

Arranged chronologically by date of latest material within each heading.

BOX OV 1-OV 21

Oversize, 1795-1825

Oversize letterbooks, journals, ledgers, account books, lists, and abstracts.

Organized and described according to the series, containers and folders from which the items were removed

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-6	Chronological File, 1794-1848 Correspondence, letterbooks, journals, ledgers, account books, lists, abstracts, legal records, printed matter, and other material. Arranged chronologically by date of latest material within each heading.
BOX 1	1798
BOX 1	Ledger, military stores keeper, unknown post, 1796-1798
BOX 1	1799
BOX 1	Ledger, Major Craig, unknown post, provisions receipt book, 1797-1799
BOX 1	Letterbook, Samuel Hodgden, Philadelphia, Pa., depot, 1798-1799 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	1800
BOX 1	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1797-1800 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	List (partial) of officers of the infantry regiments of the United States, citing rank, date of acceptance, and date of resignation, 1799-1800 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., account of stores, 1799-1800 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., journal, 1799-1800 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	1801
BOX 1	Lists of promotions and appointments made by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	1802
BOX 1	List of officers in the army as of 31 March 1802 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1797-1802 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	1805
BOX 1	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., provisions receipt book, 1795-1805
BOX 1	1806
BOX 1	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1800-1806 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., multipurpose book, 1794-1806
BOX 2	1807
BOX 2	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., journal of purchases, 1801-1807 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1808
BOX 2	Engels, George, Military Stores Keeper, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., return book, 1803-1808
BOX 2	1809
BOX 2	Irvine, Callender, Superintendent of Stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., letterbook, 1808-1809
BOX 2	1810
BOX 2	Superintendent of military stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., account of stores, 1795-1810 <i>See Oversize</i>

Chronological File, 1794-1848

Container	Contents
BOX 2	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1802-1810 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1811
BOX 2	Irvine, Callender, Superintendent of Stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., letterbook, 1809-1811 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1812
BOX 2	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores
BOX 2	1806-1812 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1809-1812 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., journal of purchases, 1809-1812 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1813
BOX 2	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1809-1813 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Irvine, Callender, and William Duncan, superintendents of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., letterbook, 1812-1813 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1814
BOX 2	Statement of ordnance, military and quartermaster stores in several arsenals, abstract of returns, 1801-1814 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1820
BOX 2	Johnson, Col. Thomas, contract arbitration case, 1817-1820 (2 folders)
BOX 3	(6 folders)
BOX 4	(4 folders)
BOX 4	1822
BOX 4	Irvine, Callender, Commissary General, account book, 1817-1822
BOX 4	United States Indian Factory, Ft. Edwards, [N.Y.?], 1818-1822
BOX 5	1825
BOX 5	List of real estate purchased by the United States from July 1776 to Jan. 1825 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 5	1835
BOX 5	Appointment of boot inspector by Callender Irvine, 1833-1835 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Complaints of seamstresses at Schuylkill Arsenal, Pa., 1834-1835
BOX 5	1845
BOX 5	Hetzel, A. R., Assistant Quartermaster, Washington, D.C., letterbook, 1842-1845
BOX 5	Jesup, S. T., Quartermaster General, letter to Representative Howell Cobb
BOX 5	1846
BOX 5	Herburne, John H., letter from
BOX 5	Walker, Robert J., Secretary of the Treasury, letter to
BOX 5	1847
BOX 5	Scott, H. L., Acting Assistant Adjutant General, to General Winfield Scott, general orders, Headquarters of the Army
BOX 5	1848
BOX 5	Sibley, E. S., Assistant Quartermaster, letterbook, 1845-1848
BOX 6	Irwin, J. R., Chief Quartermaster, to General Winfield Scott, letterbooks, 1847-1848 (2 volumes)
BOX 6	<i>The State of California and the Boundary of Texas</i>
BOX 6	Undated

Chronological File, 1794-1848

Container	Contents
BOX 6	List of officers of the First Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers, undated <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1-OV 21	Oversize, 1795-1825 Oversize letterbooks, journals, ledgers, account books, lists, and abstracts. Organized and described according to the series, containers and folders from which the items were removed
BOX OV 1	Chronological File
BOX OV 1	1799
BOX OV 1	Letterbook, Samuel Hodgden, Philadelphia, Pa., depot, 1798-1799 (Container 1)
BOX OV 2	1800
BOX OV 2	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1797-1800 (Container 1)
BOX OV 3	List (partial) of officers of the infantry regiments of the United States, citing rank, date of acceptance, and date of resignation, 1799-1800 (Container 1)
BOX OV 4	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX OV 4	Account of stores, 1799-1800 (Container 1)
BOX OV 5	Journal, 1799-1800 (Container 1)
BOX OV 6	1801
BOX OV 6	Lists of promotions and appointments made by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate (Container 1)
BOX OV 7	1802
BOX OV 7	List of officers in the army as of 31 March 1802 (Container 1)
BOX OV 8	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1797-1802 (Container 1)
BOX OV 9	1806
BOX OV 9	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1800-1806 (Container 1)
BOX OV 10	1807
BOX OV 10	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., journal of purchases, 1801-1807 (Container 2)
BOX OV 11	1810
BOX OV 11	Superintendent of military stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., account of stores, 1795-1810 (Container 2)
BOX OV 12	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1802-1810 (Container 2)
BOX OV 13	1811
BOX OV 13	Irvine, Callender, Superintendent of Stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., letterbook, 1809-1811 (Container 2)
BOX OV 14	1812
BOX OV 14	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores
BOX OV 14	1806-1812 (Container 2)
BOX OV 15	1809-1812 (Container 2)
BOX OV 16	Superintendent of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., journal of purchases, 1809-1812 (Container 2)
BOX OV 17	1813
BOX OV 17	Military depot, Philadelphia, Pa., general account of stores, 1809-1813 (Container 2)
BOX OV 18	Irvine, Callender, and William Duncan, superintendents of stores, United States Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., letterbook, 1812-1813 (Container 2)
BOX OV 19	1814

Oversize, 1795-1825

Container	Contents
BOX OV 19	Statement of ordnance, military and quartermaster stores in the arsenals, abstract of returns, 1801-1814 (Container 2)
BOX OV 20	1825
BOX OV 20	List of real estate purchased by the United States from July 1776 to Jan. 1825 (Container 5)
BOX OV 21	Undated
BOX OV 21	List of officers of the First Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers, undated (Container 6)