

Edward Dixon Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2005

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78018580>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009251>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009
Revised 2023 January

Collection Summary

Title: Edward Dixon Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1743-1808

Bulk Dates: 1750-1775

ID No.: MSS18580

Creator: Dixon, Edward

Extent: 39 items

Extent: 39 containers

Extent: 6 linear feet

Extent: 11 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78018580>

Summary: Merchant, of Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia. Ledgers, daybooks, journal, waste books, blacksmith accounts, receipts, letters, and a mathematics exercise book, chiefly 1750-1775, relating to Dixon's business and financial transactions in Port Royal, Virginia. Includes information relating to the Virginia tobacco trade, plantations, and trade with Great Britain.

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

Boucher, Jonathan, 1738-1804.

Boutwell, John, 1700-1774.

Catlett, John, Jr.

Dixon, Edward, approximately 1700-1779.

Fitzhugh, William, 1741-1809.

Gilchrist, Robert, 1721-1790.

Jameson, James (of colonial Virginia)

Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794.

Micou, John (of colonial Virginia)

Pendleton, Edmund, 1721-1803.

Randolph, Thomas M. (Thomas Mann), 1768-1828.

Taliaferro, William (of colonial Virginia)

Taylor, James, 1769-1848.

Tennant, John (of colonial Virginia)

Turner, Thomas, -approximately 1757.

Younger, John (of Whitehaven, England)

Organizations

Friendship (Merchant ship)

Glassford and Company.

Subjects

Blacksmithing--Virginia--18th century

Mathematics--Study and teaching--18th century.

Merchants--Virginia--Caroline County.

Merchants--Virginia--Port Royal.

Plantations--Virginia.

Slavery--Virginia--Caroline County.

Tobacco industry--Virginia.

Places

Great Britain--Commerce--History--18th century.
Great Britain--Commerce--Virginia.
Virginia--Commerce--Great Britain.
Virginia--Commerce.
Virginia--History.

Occupations

Merchants.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Edward Dixon, merchant, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1911.

Processing History

The papers of Edward Dixon were processed by Audrey Walker and microfilmed in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2003 by Patrick Kerwin.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edward Dixon 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 eleven 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
circa 1700	Born, Whitehaven, Eng.
1750	Came to Port Royal, Va., and became a merchant
1751	Appointed magistrate, Port Royal, Va.
1757	Appointed sheriff, Port Royal, Va.
1777	Appointed port master, Port Royal, Va.
1779, June	Died, Caroline County, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward Dixon span the period 1743-1808, with the heaviest concentration during the years 1750-1775. The collection consists of ledgers, daybooks, rough account books also known as waste books, a journal, blacksmith accounts, a miscellaneous volume containing receipts and two letters, and a mathematics exercise book.

The papers represent the financial transactions of Edward Dixon, prominent citizen and merchant, who operated a store at Port Royal, Virginia. The ledgers include descriptions of goods traded locally and those imported into and exported from the colony and note the prevailing prices of the period. Many of the accounts are maintained in both sterling and Virginia currency and reflect the role of tobacco in the economy. The ledgers also indicate that Dixon acted as agent for a number of foreign trading companies in London, Bristol, and Whitehaven, England, and Glasgow, Scotland. The most extensive account is with John Younger. Factors of other tobacco trading firms, such as Alexander Henderson and Arthur Morson of Glassford and Company, are also cited in the accounts.

The ledgers identify many of Dixon's customers by county of residence and occupation. Some accounts are in the names of single and married women, and a few carry the names of overseers. Among the Virginians listed are Jonathan Boucher, John Boutwell, John Catlett, William Fitzhugh, Robert Gilchrist, James Jameson, Richard Henry Lee, John Micou, Edmund Pendleton, Thomas M. Randolph, William Taliaferro, James Taylor, and John Tennant. Although the volumes contain references to various ships, only the *Friendship* appears with any regularity.

Some of the ledgers contain accounts which relate to Dixon's personal financial affairs and list entries for his household expenses and accounts with his tenants in Fauquier and Loudoun counties. The ledger for 1747-1756 includes an account with the colonial treasury indicating that Dixon served in the Virginia Assembly during 1752 and 1753. A ledger for 1743-1747 contains a list of his "Negro children at home" and at Elks Run with their birth dates and the names of their mothers. A later list of slaves belonging to the estates of Dixon's sons, Harry and Turner, is found in the volume for 1784-1799.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,618

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Ledgers
BOX 1 REEL 1	1743-1747
BOX 2 REEL 1	1747-1756
BOX 3 REEL 1	1748-1752
BOX 4 REEL 1	1749-1775
BOX 5 REEL 2	1749-1750
BOX 6 REEL 2	Daybook, 1750-1751
BOX 7 REEL 2	Ledgers
BOX 7 REEL 2	1750-1751
BOX 8 REEL 3	1751-1752
BOX 9 REEL 3	1752-1753
BOX 10 REEL 3	1755-1765
BOX 11 REEL 4	1753-1754
BOX 12 REEL 4	1754-1755
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BOX 14 REEL 5	1756-1757
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BOX 17 REEL 6	1759-1760
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BOX 19 REEL 6	1761-1762
BOX 20 REEL 7	1762-1763
BOX 21 REEL 8	1763-1764
BOX 22 REEL 8	1764-1765
BOX 23 REEL 8	1765-1767; 1801, Oct.-Nov.
BOX 24 REEL 8	1767-1774; 1784, Aug. 25
BOX 25 REEL 9	1767-1779
BOX 26 REEL 9	1768-1771
BOX 27 REEL 9	1771-1775
BOX 28 REEL 10	1779-1785, blacksmith ledger
BOX 29 REEL 10	1784-1799
BOX 30 REEL 10	1761-1763, 1776-1779, 1783, blacksmith ledger
BOX 31 REEL 10	1771-1775, blacksmith ledger
BOX 32 REEL 10	Daybook, 1763-1766
BOX 33 REEL 10	Miscellaneous financial papers (unbound items at back of volume), 1743-1808
BOX 34 REEL 10	Journal, blacksmith accounts, 1779-1783
BOX 35 REEL 11	Invoice book, 1767-1774
BOX 36 REEL 11	Waste books
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Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 39 REEL 11

Mathematics exercise book, undated