

James Grant of Ballindalloch Papers

A Finding Aid to the Microfilm Edition of Selected Items from the Grant Family Papers in the Archives of Scotland



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2004**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2003084960>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011219>

Prepared by Robert D. Clyde
Revised by Karen Linn Femia

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: James Grant of Ballindalloch Papers

Span Dates: 1740-1819

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1760-1780)

ID No.: MSS84960

Creator: Grant, James, 1720-1806

Extent: 49 microfilm reels

Extent: (8,000 items

Extent: 49 containers

Extent: 9 linear feet)

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2003084960>

Summary: British army officer, governor, and member of Parliament. Microfilm edition of selected items including diaries; correspondence; maps and plans; military commissions; regimental returns; financial, land, and plantation records; parliamentary acts and speech; and lists. The selections document Grant's activities related to North America and the West Indies, including military service in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution, participation in military expeditions against Cherokee Indians on the South Carolina frontier in 1760-1761, and his governorship of East Florida from 1763 to 1773.

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

Cornwallis, Charles Cornwallis, Marquis, 1738-1805--Correspondence.

Grant, James, 1720-1806.

Howe, William Howe, Viscount, 1729-1814--Correspondence.

MacPherson family.

McPherson family.

Montgomerie, Archibald, 1726-1796

Pitt, William, 1759-1806--Correspondence.

Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.

Organizations

Great Britain. Army. Highland Regiment, First.

Subjects

Cherokee Indians--Wars, 1759-1761.

Indigo--Florida.

Plantations--Florida.

Places

East Florida--History.

Florida--History--English colony, 1763-1784.

Great Britain--Colonies--America.

Nova Scotia--History--1713-1763.

United States--History--French and Indian War, 1754-1763--British forces.

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--British forces.

West Indies--History--1775-1783.

Occupations

Army officers.

Governors.

Members of Parliament.

Provenance

Papers of James Grant of Ballindalloch, military officer and colonial governor, were culled from family papers at Ballindalloch Castle, Banffshire, Scotland, and sent to the National Archives of Scotland by Mr. and Mrs. Oliver H. Russell in 1999. Material pertaining to America was microfilmed in 2001 by the National Archives of Scotland in collaboration with the Library of Congress.

Processing History

The items identified for filming were organized and described for the Library of Congress by Robert D. Clyde. The papers were housed in containers awaiting filming by the National Archives of Scotland. When the finding aid prepared by Dr. Clyde was revised in 2004, the numbers assigned to these containers were included in the Description of Series section of this finding aid.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this microfilm edition. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

Microfilm

The microfilm edition produced by the National Archives of Scotland is available on 49 reels at the Library of Congress.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, James Grant of Ballindalloch Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1720	Born, Ballindalloch Castle, Banffshire, Scotland
1735-1741	Studied law, College of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland
1741	Commissioned ensign, Royal Scots regiment
1744	Promoted to captain while serving in Flanders, Belgium
1745-1748	Aide-de-camp to James St. Clair
1757	Promoted to major in newly-formed First Highland Regiment commanded by Archibald Montgomery
	Traveled with regiment to South Carolina
1758	Defeated and captured by the French army at Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh), Pa.
1760-1761	Second in command of expedition against Cherokee Indians on South Carolina frontier

1762	Promoted to temporary rank of colonel, Fortieth Regiment Appointed lieutenant governor, Havana, Cuba
1763-1773	Royal governor, East Florida
1770	Became laird of Ballindalloch Castle on death of nephew, William Grant
1771	Departed Florida for Scotland
1774	Elected member, House of Commons
1775	Delivered speech in House of Commons criticizing American colonial troops Promoted to permanent rank of colonel and given command of Fifty-fifth Regiment
1775	Promoted to temporary rank of brigadier and later major general in America
1775-1778	Participated in the siege of Boston, Mass., and in battles on Long Island, Harlem Heights, White Plains, and Fort Washington, N.Y.; Morristown, Princeton, and Woodbridge, N.J.; and Brandywine, Germantown, and Barren Hill, Pa.
1778	Captured St. Lucia as commander of British military expedition
1779	Returned to Great Britain
1780	Defeated in parliamentary elections
1782	Promoted to permanent rank of lieutenant general
1787	Reelected to Parliament
1791	Given command of Eleventh Regiment
1796	Retired from active military service
1802	Relinquished seat in House of Commons
1806, Apr. 13	Died, Ballindalloch Castle, Banffshire, Scotland

Scope and Content Note

The microfilm edition of the papers of James Grant of Ballindalloch (1720-1806) spans the years 1740-1819, with the bulk of the material dating from 1760 to 1780. Largely in English but also containing Spanish and French material, the papers are organized in the following series: [Governorship](#), [Personal Papers](#), [Army Career](#), [Macpherson Family Papers](#), [Archibald Montgomery Papers](#), and [Oversize](#).

A survey of family papers at Ballindalloch Castle in Banffshire, Scotland, by staff of the National Register of Archives in Edinburgh, now the National Archives of Scotland, revealed that a substantial amount of these papers related to North America. Papers of James Grant were subsequently identified and removed for filming. Much of Grant's correspondence showed evidence of a previous alphabetical arrangement. Since this arrangement had been disrupted, however, it was determined to establish a simple chronological arrangement for the items organized for filming.

The [Governorship](#) series contains papers relating to James Grant's tenure as governor of the British province of East Florida (1763-1773) and spans the years 1764-1810. Correspondence consists primarily of incoming correspondence ranging from letters from colonial and trade officials in London to diplomatic communications with leaders of the Creek Indians. Included among the miscellaneous material are plans of land allocations, lists of East Florida planters, and Grant's housekeeping receipts. The [Governorship](#) series also contains correspondence and miscellaneous business records from Grant's indigo plantation in East Florida (1768-1783) and his letterbooks of outgoing correspondence from 1764 to 1771.

The [Personal Papers](#) series contains material pertaining to James Grant's life and American connections.

The [Army Career](#) series includes records of Grant's long military career. Having entered the British army in 1742, he retired from active military service in 1796. The series includes his army commissions and miscellaneous records from the 1740s and 1750s as well as financial accounts of the colony of Nova Scotia from 1754 to 1758. Grant's expedition against the Cherokee Indians in 1761 and the British occupation of Cuba in 1762 are also represented. The series resumes with Grant's return to the British army in 1775 and contains detailed material on his wartime experiences in the American colonies from 1775 to 1778 and his command of British forces in the West Indies from 1778 to 1780. Correspondents include the British generals Charles Cornwallis, Marquis, and William Howe, Viscount, Prime Minister William Pitt, and George Washington.

The [Macpherson Family Papers](#) series contains correspondence from two cousins of James Grant, John and Robert Macpherson, who served as British soldiers in North America in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

The papers include firsthand accounts of the battle of Louisbourg. In letters to his family written in September and November of 1776, John Macpherson discussed the Battle of Long Island and subsequent military action in New Jersey. Two items concern his capture at the Battle of Princeton, 1777. A letter granting safe conduct signed by George Washington concerns the movement of supplies to the Hessians and the passage of a surgeon and medicines for the wounded at Princeton.

The [Archibald Montgomery Papers](#) consist of correspondence and miscellaneous records of the First Highland Battalion commanded by Montgomery. James Grant took part in the recruitment of the battalion in northern Scotland and served with it in North America in the 1750s. Many of the papers relate to British military offensives against Cherokee Indians in South Carolina. The series also includes receipts for tartan purchased in Glasgow for the soldiers' highland dress.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Governorship, 1760-1810](#)
- [Personal Papers, 1752-1819](#)
- [Army Career, 1740-1805](#)
- [Macpherson Family Papers, 1757-1798](#)
- [Archibald Montgomery Papers, 1757-1760](#)
- [Oversize, 1755](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
REEL 1-26	<p><u>Governorship, 1760-1810</u></p> <p>Diary; correspondence; maps and plans; financial, land, and plantation records; lists; and parliamentary acts pertaining to Grant's official duties as governor of East Florida, his household expenses, and his ownership of an indigo plantation in the colony of East Florida.</p> <p>Arranged as a diary, letterbooks, and a chronological file organized by year and thereunder by type of material. (Containers 1-27)</p>
REEL 27	<p><u>Personal Papers, 1752-1819</u></p> <p>Material concerning Grant's private activities and connections.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically. (Container 28)</p>
REEL 28-45	<p><u>Army Career, 1740-1805</u></p> <p>Journal, correspondence, parliamentary address, commissions, maps, regimental returns, financial records, and lists documenting Grant's career in the British army.</p> <p>Organized as letterbooks and a chronological file arranged by year and thereunder by type of material. (Containers 29-46)</p>
REEL 46-47	<p><u>Macpherson Family Papers, 1757-1798</u></p> <p>Correspondence, military pass, and other material documenting the military service of John Macpherson and Robert Macpherson in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder chronologically. (Container 47)</p>
REEL 48	<p><u>Archibald Montgomery Papers, 1757-1760</u></p> <p>Correspondence and military records pertaining to Montgomery's command of the First Highland Regiment, including the regiment's service in North America.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically and thereunder by type of material. (Container 48)</p>
REEL 49	<p><u>Oversize, 1755</u></p> <p>Map of North America by John Mitchell.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed. (Container 49)</p>

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 22,671

Container	Contents
REEL 1-26	Governorship, 1760-1810 Diary; correspondence; maps and plans; financial, land, and plantation records; lists; and parliamentary acts pertaining to Grant's official duties as governor of East Florida, his household expenses, and his ownership of an indigo plantation in the colony of East Florida. Arranged as a diary, letterbooks, and a chronological file organized by year and thereunder by type of material. (Containers 1-27)
REEL 1	Diary, 1767, Jan. 1-Mar. 5
REEL 1	Letterbooks
REEL 1	1764, Aug. 31-1766, Sept. 8
REEL 1	1764, Sept. 2-1771, Mar. 20
REEL 2	1766, Oct. 3-1768, June 1
REEL 2	1768, June 24-1770, Mar. 20
REEL 3	1770, Sept. 1-1772, Apr. 1
REEL 3	Chronological file
REEL 3	Circa 1700s, Maps and plans
REEL 3	1760, Miscellany
REEL 3	1761, Miscellany
REEL 4	1763
REEL 4	Correspondence
REEL 4	June-July
REEL 4	Sept.-Dec.
REEL 4	Circa 1763
REEL 4	Miscellany
REEL 4	Maps and plans, circa 1763
REEL 5	1764
REEL 5	Correspondence (13 folders)
REEL 6	Miscellany (5 folders)
REEL 6	Acts of Parliament concerning America
REEL 7	1765
REEL 7	Correspondence
REEL 7	Jan.-June (6 folders)
REEL 8	July-Dec., circa 1765 (6 folders)
REEL 8	Miscellany (4 folders)
REEL 8	Maps and plans
REEL 9	1766

Governorship, 1760-1810

Container	Contents
REEL 9	Correspondence
REEL 9	Jan.-June (8 folders)
REEL 10	July-Dec., circa 1766 (7 folders)
REEL 11	Miscellany
REEL 11	Acts of Parliament concerning America
REEL 11	Maps and plans
REEL 12	1767
REEL 12	Correspondence
REEL 12	Jan.-May (6 folders)
REEL 13	June-Dec. (9 folders)
REEL 13	Miscellany
REEL 13	Acts of Parliament concerning America
REEL 14	1768
REEL 14	Correspondence
REEL 14	Jan.-June (7 folders)
REEL 15	July-Dec., circa 1768 (8 folders)
REEL 16	Miscellany (4 folders)
REEL 17	1769
REEL 17	Correspondence (13 folders)
REEL 18	Miscellany (7 folders)
REEL 18	Circa 1760s
REEL 18	Correspondence
REEL 18	Miscellany (3 folders)
REEL 18	Maps and plans
REEL 19	1770
REEL 19	Correspondence (12 folders)
REEL 20	Miscellany (2 folders)
REEL 21	1771
REEL 21	Correspondence (9 folders)
REEL 21	Miscellany
REEL 22	1772
REEL 22	Correspondence (4 folders)
REEL 22	Miscellany

Governorship, 1760-1810

Container	Contents
REEL 23	1773
REEL 23	Correspondence (2 folders)
REEL 23	Miscellany
REEL 23	1774, Correspondence (2 folders)
REEL 23	1774-1775, Miscellany
REEL 23	1775, Correspondence
REEL 23	1776
REEL 23	Correspondence (2 folders)
REEL 23	Miscellany
REEL 24	1777, Miscellany
REEL 24	1778, Correspondence
REEL 24	1779, Correspondence
REEL 24	Circa 1770s
REEL 24	Correspondence
REEL 24	Miscellany
REEL 25	1780
REEL 25	Correspondence
REEL 25	Miscellany
REEL 25	1781
REEL 25	Correspondence
REEL 25	Miscellany
REEL 25	1782
REEL 25	Correspondence
REEL 25	Miscellany
REEL 25	1783, Correspondence
REEL 25	1784
REEL 25	Correspondence
REEL 25	Miscellany
REEL 25	1785, Correspondence
REEL 25	1786
REEL 25	Correspondence
REEL 25	Scroll
REEL 25	1787, Correspondence
REEL 25	1788
REEL 25	Correspondence
REEL 25	Miscellany
REEL 25	1789, Correspondence
REEL 26	1790, Correspondence
REEL 26	1791, Correspondence
REEL 26	1792, Correspondence
REEL 26	1793, Correspondence
REEL 26	1794, Correspondence
REEL 26	1795
REEL 26	Correspondence

Governorship, 1760-1810

Container

Contents

REEL 26	Miscellany
REEL 26	1796, Correspondence
REEL 26	1797, Miscellany
REEL 26	1798, Correspondence
REEL 26	1799, Correspondence
REEL 26	1800, Correspondence
REEL 26	1804, Correspondence
REEL 26	1810, Correspondence
REEL 27	Personal Papers, 1752-1819
	Material concerning Grant's private activities and connections. Arranged chronologically. (Container 28)
REEL 27	1752-1795 (2 folders)
REEL 27	1796, Board game
REEL 27	1800-1819
REEL 28-45	Army Career, 1740-1805
	Journal, correspondence, parliamentary address, commissions, maps, regimental returns, financial records, and lists documenting Grant's career in the British army. Organized as letterbooks and a chronological file arranged by year and thereunder by type of material. (Containers 29-46)
REEL 28	Letterbooks
REEL 28	1761, July 10-1762, Feb. 20
REEL 28	1775, Aug. 10-1777, Mar. 21
REEL 28	1776, Apr. 24-Nov. 24
REEL 28	1778, Dec. 26-1779, May 13
REEL 28	Chronological file
REEL 29	1740-1749, Miscellany
REEL 30	1751, Miscellany
REEL 30	1752, Miscellany
REEL 30	1753
REEL 30	Correspondence
REEL 30	Miscellany
REEL 30	1754, Financial accounts of the colony of Nova Scotia
REEL 30	1755
REEL 30	Correspondence
REEL 30	Miscellany
REEL 30	Map of North America by John Mitchell <i>See Oversize</i>
REEL 30	Financial accounts of the colony of Nova Scotia
REEL 30	1756
REEL 30	Correspondence
REEL 30	Financial accounts of the colony of Nova Scotia
REEL 30	1757
REEL 30	Correspondence (2 folders)

Army Career, 1740-1805

Container	Contents
REEL 30	Miscellany
REEL 30	Financial accounts of the colony of Nova Scotia
REEL 30	1758
REEL 30	Correspondence
REEL 30	Miscellany
REEL 30	Circa 1750s
REEL 30	Correspondence
REEL 30	Miscellany
REEL 31	1760
REEL 31	Correspondence (5 folders)
REEL 31	Miscellany
REEL 32	1761
REEL 32	Journal (13 folders)
REEL 32	Correspondence
REEL 32	Miscellany (3 folders)
REEL 33	1762
REEL 33	Correspondence (8 folders)
REEL 33	Miscellany (3 folders)
REEL 34	1763
REEL 34	Correspondence
REEL 34	Miscellany
REEL 34	1764, Correspondence
REEL 34	1772, Correspondence
REEL 34	1774
REEL 34	Correspondence
REEL 34	Miscellany
REEL 35	1775
REEL 35	Correspondence (5 folders)
REEL 35	Regimental returns
REEL 35	Miscellany
REEL 35	Address to House of Commons, circa 1775
REEL 36	1776
REEL 36	Correspondence (7 folders)
REEL 36	Miscellany (2 folders)
REEL 37	1777
REEL 37	Correspondence (6 folders)
REEL 37	Miscellany
REEL 38	1778

Army Career, 1740-1805

Container	Contents
REEL 38	Correspondence (5 folders)
REEL 38	Miscellany (3 folders)
REEL 38	Army account book, 1778-1779 <i>See Reel 44, same heading</i>
REEL 39	1779
REEL 39	Correspondence
REEL 39	Jan.-Feb. (12 folders)
REEL 40	Mar.-Apr. (9 folders)
REEL 41	May-July (8 folders)
REEL 42	Aug.-Dec., circa 1779 (5 folders)
REEL 43	Miscellany (10 folders)
REEL 44	List of French-owned property in St. Lucia, circa 1779
REEL 44	Army
REEL 44	Account book, 1778-1779
REEL 44	Temporary warrant book
REEL 44	Final warrant books (2 folders)
REEL 44	Maps and plans
REEL 44	Circa 1770s, Correspondence
REEL 45	1780
REEL 45	Correspondence
REEL 45	Miscellany
REEL 45	1781
REEL 45	Correspondence (7 folders)
REEL 45	1782
REEL 45	Correspondence
REEL 45	Miscellany
REEL 45	1783
REEL 45	Correspondence
REEL 45	Miscellany
REEL 45	1784, Correspondence
REEL 45	1785, Correspondence
REEL 45	1786, Correspondence and Miscellany
REEL 45	1788, Correspondence
REEL 45	Circa 1780s, Correspondence
REEL 45	1790, Correspondence
REEL 45	1794-1802, Correspondence

Army Career, 1740-1805

Container	Contents
REEL 45	1795-1805, Miscellany
REEL 46-47	Macpherson Family Papers, 1757-1798 Correspondence, military pass, and other material documenting the military service of John Macpherson and Robert Macpherson in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder chronologically. (Container 47)
REEL 46	John Macpherson Papers
REEL 46	Correspondence
REEL 46	1757
REEL 46	1776-1782
REEL 46	Miscellany, 1769
REEL 46	Robert Macpherson Papers
REEL 46	Correspondence, 1758-1761
REEL 46	Miscellany, 1774-1798
REEL 47	Safe conduct pass, 1777
REEL 48	Archibald Montgomery Papers, 1757-1760 Correspondence and military records pertaining to Montgomery's command of the First Highland Regiment, including the regiment's service in North America. Arranged chronologically and thereunder by type of material. (Container 48)
REEL 48	1757
REEL 48	Correspondence
REEL 48	Miscellany (2 folders)
REEL 48	1758
REEL 48	Correspondence
REEL 48	Miscellany
REEL 48	1759
REEL 48	Correspondence
REEL 48	Miscellany
REEL 48	1760, Correspondence
REEL 49	Oversize, 1755 Map of North America by John Mitchell. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed. (Container 49)
REEL 49	Army career
REEL 49	Chronological file
REEL 49	1755
REEL 49	Map of North America by John Mitchell (Reel 30)