

Nicholas Low Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012108>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Nicholas Low Papers

Span Dates: 1773-1897

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1784-1828)

ID No.: MSS30627

Creator: Low, Nicholas, 1739-1826

Extent: 36,000 items

Extent: 100 containers plus 4 oversize

Extent: 40 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81030627>

Summary: New York merchant, financier, land speculator, and state legislator. Family and business correspondence, business and ship's papers, legal papers, accounts of voyages to Asia, Europe, and South America, and printed matter. Includes correspondence with foreign merchants and relates to trade conditions, Loyalist matters, and to events in Congress during the first session following the adoption of the Constitution.

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

Low, Isaac, 1735-1791--Correspondence.

Low, Isaac--Correspondence.

Low, Nicholas, 1739-1826.

Organizations

Great Britain. Army--Officers.

Low & Wallace (New York, N.Y.)

Mordecai Lewis & Company (Philadelphia, Pa.)--Correspondence.

Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures.

United States. Congress.

United States. Constitution.

Subjects

American loyalists.

Business records--New York (State)

Commerce.

Land speculation--Kentucky.

Land speculation--New York (State)

Land speculation--Ohio.

Merchants--New York (State)--New York.

Merchants--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Ship's papers--18th century.

Ship's papers--19th century.

Voyages and travels.

Places

Argentina--Commerce.

Asia--Description and travel.

Ballston Spa (N.Y.)--History.

Canada--Commerce.

China--Commerce.

Europe--Commerce.
Europe--Description and travel.
Great Britain--Commerce.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
India--Commerce.
Ireland--Commerce.
Lowville (N.Y.)--History.
Mexico--Commerce.
New York (State)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
New York (State)--Social life and customs.
South America--Description and travel.
United States--Commerce.
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Claims.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
United States--Politics and government--1783-1789.
Uruguay--Commerce.
West Indies--Commerce.

Occupations

Land speculators.
Merchants.

Provenance

The papers of Nicholas Low, New York merchant, financier, land speculator, and state legislator, were given to the Library of Congress by Emil Hurja in 1938-1939.

Processing History

The papers of Nicholas Low were processed between 1955 and 1965. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Nicholas Low 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, Nicholas Low Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1739, Mar. 30	Born near New Brunswick, N.J.
1784	Appointed member of the committee to receive subscription for the stock in the Bank of New York
1785	Elected a director of the Bank of New York
1788	Elected on the Federalist slate to the New York state convention that met at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and ratified the United States Constitution
1793	Gave support to the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, Paterson, N.J.
1796	Became a part proprietor of a large tract of land in Jefferson and Lewis counties, New York, beginning his career as a land speculator
1810	Built a hotel and a cotton factory, Ballston, N.Y.
1814	Joined the New York Hussars to defend New York, N.Y., against the British
1826, Nov. 15	Died, New York

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Nicholas Low (1739-1826) span the years 1773-1897, with the bulk of the material from 1784 to 1828. The collection consists largely of financial papers and correspondence and includes family and business correspondence of Low & Wallace, New York, New York, ship records, legal records, accounts of voyages to Asia, Europe, and South America, and printed matter. Included are correspondence with foreign merchants, letters from Low's brother, Isaac Low (1735-1791), and his nephew, Isaac Low (commissary-general, British army), dealing with trade conditions, Loyalist matters, progress of British-American relations, and the proceedings for recovery of property seized from Isaac Low during the Revolution. Correspondence of Mordecai Lewis & Company, merchants of Philadelphia, relates in part to events in Congress during the first session following the adoption of the Constitution. The collection also includes papers relating to Low's lands in Kentucky, Ohio, and New York; the founding of Ballston Spa and Lowville, New York; the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures; and other matters relating to life in New York. Prominent as well is material relating to commercial contacts abroad, mainly in Britain, Ireland, and the European continent, with connections also in Argentina, Canada, China, India, Mexico, the West Indies, and Uruguay.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized into family papers, general correspondence, special correspondence, miscellany, and oversize material. The family papers and special correspondence in this collection are arranged alphabetically by name of person or institution. The general correspondence is organized chronologically and therein by name of city.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Family papers
BOX 1	Allen, John
BOX 1	Low, Alice
BOX 1	Low, Catherine
BOX 1	Low, Cornelius
BOX 1	Low, Elizabeth
BOX 1	Low, Henrietta
BOX 1	Low, Isaac (1783-1818) (brother)
BOX 1	Low, Isaac 1784-1803 (nephew)
BOX 2	Ogden, Euphemia
BOX 2	Ogden, Samuel
BOX 2	Wallace, Alexander, 1785-1798
BOX 2	Wallace, Cornelius Low
BOX 2	Wallace, Gertrude
BOX 2	Wallace, Hugh
BOX 2	Wallace, Magil
BOX 2	Wallace, Sarah
BOX 2	Wallace, William
BOX 3	General correspondence
BOX 3	1773
BOX 3	1777-1778
BOX 3	1777
BOX 3	Glasgow, Scotland-London, England
BOX 3	Swansea, Mass.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 3	1781, Curacao
BOX 3	1782
BOX 3	1783
BOX 3	Ostend, Belgium-Moudon, Switzerland
BOX 3	Cheshire, Conn.-St. Thomas, V. I.
BOX 4	1784
BOX 4	Bay Honduras-Newry, Ireland
BOX 5	Kingston, Jamaica-Cadiz, Spain
BOX 5	Green Bush, Maine-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 6	Philadelphia, Pa.-Williamsburg, Va.
BOX 7	1785
BOX 7	Anvers, Belgium-St. Eustatius, D.W.I.
BOX 7	Derby, England-Cadiz, Spain
BOX 7	Savannah, Ga.-Spotswood, N.J.
BOX 8	Albany, N.Y.-Tortola, V.I.
BOX 9	1786
BOX 9	Anveis, Belgium-Cadiz, Spain

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 9	Hartford, Conn.-Schenectady, N.Y.
BOX 10	Philadelphia, Pa.-St. Croix, V I.
BOX 10	1787
BOX 10	Dominico, B.W.I.-Londonderry, Ireland
BOX 11	Lisbon, Portugal-Trinidad
BOX 11	Sandy Hook, Conn.-St. Croix, V.I.
BOX 12	1788
BOX 12	Rum Cay, Bahama Islands-Trinidad
BOX 12	Augusta, Ga.-St. Croix, V.I.
BOX 13	1789
BOX 13	Rio Essequibo, Br. Guiana-Lamberton, Scotland
BOX 13	Millstone, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 14	Philadelphia, Pa.-Providence, R. I.
BOX 14	1790
BOX 14	Rio Essequibo, Br. Guiana-Teneriffe, Spain
BOX 14	New Haven, Conn.-Green Bush, Mass.
BOX 15	Burlington, N. J.-St. Croix, V.I.
BOX 16	1791
BOX 16	Liverpool, England-Gibraltar, Spain
BOX 16	Canaan, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 17	Philadelphia, Pa.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 18	1792
BOX 18	China-Gibraltar, Spain
BOX 18	Hamburg, Conn.-Ballston, N. Y.
BOX 19	Catskill, N.Y.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 19	1793
BOX 19	Curacao, D. Antilles-London, England
BOX 20	Flanders, France-Gibraltar, Spain
BOX 20	Hartford, Conn.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 21	1794
BOX 21	Falmouth, England-Berne, Switzerland
BOX 21	Millstone, Conn.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 22	1795
BOX 22	Liverpool, England-Lausanne, Switzerland
BOX 22	Hamburg, Conn.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 23	1796
BOX 23	Falmouth, England-Madeira, Portugal
BOX 23	Hartford, Conn.-Pittsfield, Vermont
BOX 24	1797
BOX 24	London, England-Lausanne, Switzerland
BOX 24	Hamburg, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 25	1798
BOX 25	London, England-Kingston, Jamaica
BOX 25	Middletown, Conn.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 26	1799
BOX 26	Falmouth, England-Leghorn, Italy

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 26	Hartford, Conn.-St. Croix, V.I.
BOX 27	1800
BOX 27	Falmouth, England-Cadiz, Spain
BOX 27	Hamburg, Conn.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 28	1801
BOX 28	St. Petersburg-Strabane, Ireland.
BOX 28	Lexington, Ky.-Richmond, Va
BOX 29	1802
BOX 29	St. Petersburg-Fully, Switzerland
BOX 29	Plainfield, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 30	1803
BOX 30	St. Pierre-Madeira, Portugal
BOX 30	Hartford, Conn.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 31	1804
BOX 31	Liverpool, England-Fully, Switzerland
BOX 31	Hartford, Conn.-St. Croix, V.I.
BOX 32	1805
BOX 32	Buenos Aires, Spain
BOX 32	Montevideo, Spain
BOX 33	Hartford, Conn.-Richmond, Va.
BOX 34	1806
BOX 34	Montreal, Canada-Larned, Ireland
BOX 35	Londonderry, Ireland-Fully, Switzerland
BOX 35	Litchfield, Conn.-Geneva, N. Y.
BOX 36	Lansingburgh, N.Y.-Monkton, Vt.
BOX 37	1807
BOX 37	St. Georges, Bermuda
BOX 37	Montevideo, Spain
BOX 38	Canton, China-Junior, W. Va.
BOX 39	1808
BOX 39	Montreal, Canada-Madeira, Portugal
BOX 39	New London, Conn.-Perth Amboy, N. J.
BOX 40	Albany, N. Y.-Norfolk, Va.
BOX 41	1809
BOX 41	London, England.
BOX 41	Lisbon, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 41	1810
BOX 41	Liverpool, England-Trinidad
BOX 41	Lisbon, Conn.-Canandaigua, N.Y.
BOX 42	Claverack, N.Y.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 42	1811
BOX 42	London, England-Trinidad
BOX 42	Lisbon, Conn.-Utica, N. Y.
BOX 42	1812
BOX 42	London, England-Trinidad
BOX 42	Lisbon, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 43	1813
BOX 43	London, England-Elmwood, Ont.
BOX 43	Caldwell, N.J.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 43	1814
BOX 43	St. Vincent, B.W.I.-Trinidad
BOX 43	Lisbon, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 44	1815
BOX 44	London, England-Rotterdam, Holland
BOX 44	Hadley, Mass.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 44	1816
BOX 44	London, England-Gibraltar, Spain
BOX 44	New Brunswick, N.J.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 45	1817
BOX 45	London, England-Trinidad
BOX 45	Lebanon, N.J.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 45	1818
BOX 45	London, England
BOX 45	Lisbon, Conn.-Alexandria, Va.
BOX 46	1819
BOX 46	London, England
BOX 46	Lisbon, Conn.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 46	1820
BOX 46	London, England
BOX 46	Albany, N.Y.-Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 46	1821
BOX 46	London, England
BOX 46	Perth Amboy, N.J.-Winchester, N.Y.
BOX 47	1822
BOX 47	London, England
BOX 47	New Haven, Conn.-Waddington, N. Y.
BOX 47	1823, Albany, N.Y.-Winchester, N.Y.
BOX 47	1824, Albany, N.Y.-Waddington, N. Y. 48
BOX 48	1825
BOX 48	London, England
BOX 48	Caldwell, N.J.-Utica, N.Y.
BOX 48	1826
BOX 48	Paris, France
BOX 48	Greenfield, Mass.-Watertown, N.Y.
BOX 48	1827
BOX 48	London, England
BOX 48	Albany, N.Y.-Watertown, N.Y.
BOX 49	1828
BOX 49	London, England-Paris, France
BOX 49	Albany, N. Y.-Watertown, N.Y.
BOX 49	1829
BOX 49	London, England-Paris, France

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 49	Albany, N. Y.-Winchester, N.Y.
BOX 50	1830
BOX 50	London, England-Paris, France
BOX 50	Albany, N. Y.-LeRoysville, Pa.
BOX 50	1831
BOX 50	London, England-Paris, France
BOX 50	Albany, N.Y.-Woodburn, N.Y.
BOX 50	1832, Hudson, N.Y.
BOX 50	1833, Hudson, N.Y.-New York
BOX 50	1834
BOX 50	London, England
BOX 50	Hudson, N.Y.
BOX 50	1835
BOX 50	London, England
BOX 50	Ballston, N.Y.-Waddington, N.Y.
BOX 51	1836
BOX 51	London, England
BOX 51	Albany, N.Y.-Utica, N.Y.
BOX 51	1837
BOX 51	London, England-Madeira, Portugal
BOX 51	Bath, N.Y.-Painted Post, N.Y.
BOX 51	1838
BOX 51	London, England
BOX 51	St. Mary's County, Md.-New York
BOX 51	1839
BOX 51	London, England
BOX 52	Boston, Mass.-Bellows Falls, Vt.
BOX 52	1840, Albany, N.Y.-Utica, N.Y.
BOX 52	1841, Ballston, N.Y.-Stockholm, N.Y.
BOX 52	1842, Bath, N.Y.-Utica, N. Y
BOX 52	1843, Bath, N.Y.-Lowville, N.Y.
BOX 52	1844, Oswego, N.Y.
BOX 52	1845, Albany, N.Y.
BOX 52	1847, Bath, N.Y.
BOX 52	1848, Ballston, N.Y.-Schenectady, N.Y.
BOX 52	1849, Bath, N.Y.-Utica, N. Y.
BOX 52	1850, Bath, N.Y.-New York
BOX 52	1851, Bath, N.Y.
BOX 52	1852, Lowville, N.Y.
BOX 52	1853, Brasher, N.Y.
BOX 52	1854, Brasher, N.Y.-Lowville, N.Y.
BOX 52	1855
BOX 52	London, England
BOX 52	Brasher, N.Y.-New York
BOX 52	1856, Utica, N.Y.
BOX 52	1858, Bath, N.Y.-Minerva, N. Y.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 52	1859, Bath, N.Y.
BOX 52	1860, Bath, N.Y.-Prattsburg, N.Y.
BOX 52	1861, Bath, N.Y.
BOX 52	1862, Brasher, N.Y.
BOX 52	1863, Bath, N.Y.
BOX 52	1864, Brasher, N.Y.-Lowville, N.Y.
BOX 52	1867
BOX 52	1869, New York-Washington, D.C.
BOX 52	1874-1875
BOX 53	1890, Red Bank, N.J.-Brooklyn, N.Y.
BOX 53	1894, New York
BOX 53	1895
BOX 53	1896
BOX 53	1897, New York
BOX 53	Undated
BOX 54	Special correspondence
BOX 54	Bank of New York
BOX 54	Bank of Pennsylvania
BOX 54	Bank of the United States
BOX 54	Bank of Utica
BOX 54	Slave miscellany
BOX 55-100	Miscellany
BOX 55-99	Accounts, invoices, legal matter, etc. (formerly listed as nos. 127-172) <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 100	Items re Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (formerly no. 173)
BOX OV 1-OV 4	Oversize
BOX OV 1-OV 4	Accounts (removed from Containers 55-100)