

Duncan McArthur Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78031831>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012138>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Revised 2023 June

Collection Summary

Title: Duncan McArthur Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1783-1848

ID No.: MSS31831

Creator: McArthur, Duncan, 1772-1839

Extent: 4,600 items

Extent: 54 containers

Extent: 21.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78031831>

Summary: Ohio governor and legislator, military officer, and U.S. representative. Correspondence, land survey notes, plats, tax returns, and other documents on land holdings in and near the Scioto River Valley in Ohio; also account books, orderly book of the U.S. 19th Infantry Regiment during the War of 1812, and printed matter. With the correspondence are army returns, reports, and general orders for the years 1814-1815 while McArthur was in command of the U.S. Army Department of the Northwest; other papers relate to the period of his congressional service.

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

McArthur family.

McArthur, Duncan, 1772-1839.

Organizations

United States. Army. Department of the Northwest.

United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 19th (1812-1815)

Subjects

Land tenure--Ohio.

Places

Ohio--Politics and government.

Scioto River Valley (Ohio)--History.

United States--History--War of 1812.

United States--Politics and government--1817-1825.

Occupations

Army officers.

Governors--Ohio.

Legislators--Ohio.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Ohio.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Duncan McArthur, Ohio governor and legislator, military officer, and U.S. representative, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1905.

Processing History

The papers of Duncan McArthur were arranged and described in 1984 by Mary M. Wolfskill. The finding aid was revised in 2012. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Additional Guides

The Duncan McArthur Papers have been described in the *Handbook of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1918).

Transfers

Some printed matter has been transferred to the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Duncan McArthur 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, Duncan McArthur Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1772, Jan. 14	Born, Dutchess County, N.Y.
1780	Moved to Pittsburgh, Pa.
1790	Participated in Josiah Harmar's campaign against the Shawnee Tribe of Native Americans and other expeditions
1792-1793	Worked as a salt-boiler near Maysville, Ky.
1793	Joined a party surveying under Nathaniel Massie from the Scioto River Valley to the area around Chillicothe, Ohio
circa 1893-1895	Observed the movement of Native Americans as a ranger
1795	Rejoined Nathaniel Massie and learned surveying
1796	Married Nancy McDonald and settled near Chillicothe, Ohio
1804	Elected to lower house, Ohio legislature
1805-1814	Member, Ohio state senate, speaker for the 1809-1810 session
1806	Elected a colonel in the Ohio militia
1808	Promoted to major-general

1812	Marched with Ohio militia for Detroit and later was elected colonel of one of the three militia regiments under the command of William Hull
1813	Brigadier general, Ohio Volunteers in defense of Fort Meigs
1814	Commanded troops at Sacketts Harbor on Lake Ontario and later appointed commander of the army in the Northwest
1815-1816	Member, lower house, Ohio state legislature
1816	Member of various commissions for treaty-making with Native Americans
1817-1818	Member, lower house, Ohio state legislature
1821-1823	Member, upper house, Ohio state legislature
1823-1825	Member, United States Congress
1829-1830	Member, upper house, Ohio state legislature
1830-1832	Governor of Ohio
1839, Apr. 28	Died at "Fruit Hill" near Chillicothe, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Duncan McArthur (1772-1839) span the years 1783-1848 and consist of correspondence, land survey notes, plats, tax returns, and other documents on land holdings in and near the Scioto River Valley in Ohio; account books, orderly book of the United States 19th Infantry Regiment during the War of 1812, and printed matter. With the correspondence are army returns, reports, and general orders for the years 1814-1815 while McArthur was in command of the United States Army Department of the Northwest. Other papers relate to the period of his congressional service, 1823-1825. The collection also includes papers stemming from McArthur's daughters.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized into bound volumes arranged chronologically and unbound material by type of document or subject.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Bound vols.
BOX 1	1783, Oct. 5-1807, July 5
BOX 2	1807, July 5-1812, Dec. 2
BOX 3	1813, Dec. 3-1813, Sept. 20
BOX 4	1813, Sept. 22-1814, Feb. 2
BOX 5	1814
BOX 5	Feb. 3-Mar. 1
BOX 6	Mar. 2-30
BOX 7	Mar. 31-Apr. 28
BOX 8	Apr. 30-May 20
BOX 9	May 21-June 8
BOX 10	June 9-22
BOX 11	June 23-July 2
BOX 12	July 3-16
BOX 13	July 17-Aug. 6
BOX 14	Aug. 7-30
BOX 15	Aug. 31-Sept. 15
BOX 16	Sept. 16-29
BOX 17	Sept. 30-Oct. 13
BOX 18	Oct. 14-Nov. 2
BOX 19	Nov. 3-24
BOX 20	Nov. 25-Dec. 30
BOX 21	1814, Dec. 31-1815, Jan. 13
BOX 22	1815
BOX 22	Jan. 14-Feb. 1
BOX 23	Feb. 2-Mar. 2
BOX 24	Mar. 3-30
BOX 25	Mar. 31-May 15
BOX 26	May 26-July 10
BOX 27	1815, July 12-1817, Jan. 30
BOX 28	1817, Feb. 1-1818, Nov. 24
BOX 29	1818, Nov. 26-1821, Feb. 9
BOX 30	1821, Feb. 13-1822, Nov. 5
BOX 31	1822, Nov. 6-1824, Feb. 23
BOX 32	1824, Feb. 24-Dec. 21
BOX 33	1824, Dec. 22-1825, Aug. 31
BOX 34	1825, Sept. 1-1826, June 14
BOX 35	1826, June 15-1827, Jan. 19
BOX 36	1827, Jan. 20-1827, July 29
BOX 37	1827, July 30-1828, June 15
BOX 38	1828, June 17-1829, June 3

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 39	1829, June 4-1830, Feb. 6
BOX 40	1830, Feb. 7-Sept. 23
BOX 41	1830, Sept. 25-1831, Mar. 14
BOX 42	1831, Mar. 16-1832, Feb. 1
BOX 43	1832, Feb. 3-1832, Nov. 5
BOX 44	1834, Nov. 6-1834, Mar. 7
BOX 45	1834, Mar. 8-1835, May 9
BOX 46	1835, May 11-1848, June 4
BOX 47	Undated
BOX 48	Undated
BOX 49	Account books
BOX 49	1809-1811
BOX 50	1814-1815
BOX 51	Unbound material
BOX 51	Almanac, circa 1779-1780 (1 vol.)
BOX 51	Financial papers
BOX 51	Account books, 1824-1837, undated (4 vols.)
BOX 51	Checks, receipts, etc. (2 folders)
BOX 51	"Indian treaties," 1817
BOX 51	Land documents (2 folders)
BOX 52	(5 folders)
BOX 53	(5 folders)
BOX 54	(4 folders)
BOX 54	Miscellaneous
BOX 54	Ohio general assembly, a bill for organizing and disciplining the militia, circa 1825
BOX 54	Orderly book, United States 19th Infantry Regiment, 1812-1813