

**Neil Jamieson 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/mm75027664>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014084>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014  
Revised 2024 February

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Neil Jamieson Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1757-1789

**Bulk Dates:** 1760-1776

**ID No.:** MSS27664

**Creator:** Jamieson, Neil

**Extent:** 2,000 items

**Extent:** 8 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 3.2 linear feet

**Extent:** 8 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm75027664>

**Summary:** Merchant of Norfolk, Va. Chiefly business correspondence relating to Jamieson's role as a resident partner of the firm Glassford, Gordon, Monteath & Company, of Glasgow, Scotland, and to various mercantile enterprises in North America and the West Indies, especially Antigua.

## 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

Aisquith, William--Correspondence.

Aylett, William--Correspondence.

Balmain, William--Correspondence.

Blair, Alexander--Correspondence.

Braxton, Carter, 1736-1797--Correspondence.

Buchanan, Neill--Correspondence.

Campbell, John--Correspondence.

Christie, Robert--Correspondence.

Cunningham, Alexander--Correspondence.

Donald, Robert--Correspondence.

Dunlop, James, 1724-1790--Correspondence.

Dunmore, John Murray, Earl of, 1732-1809.

Ellegood, Mathias--Correspondence.

Fleming, Adam--Correspondence.

Gibson, James--Correspondence.

Gilchrist, Robert--Correspondence.

Glassford, John, 1715-1783.

Gordon, James, 1714-1768--Correspondence.

Gordon, James, 1714-1768.

Henderson, Alexander--Correspondence.

Hewes, Joseph, 1730-1779--Correspondence.

Irving, Thomas--Correspondence.

Jamieson, Neil.

Leitch, Andrew--Correspondence.

Lilly, Thomas--Correspondence.

Lyle, James--Correspondence.

McCaul, Alexander--Correspondence.

Mitchell, John--Correspondence.

Montgomerie, Thomas--Correspondence.

Morson, Arthur--Correspondence.

Purviance, Robert--Correspondence.  
Purviance, Samuel, Jr., active 1774-1788--Correspondence.  
Redwar, Richard--Correspondence.  
Riddell, Henry--Correspondence.  
Ross, Hector--Correspondence.  
Sanford, Daniel--Correspondence.  
Taylor, John--Correspondence.  
Warden, James--Correspondence.  
Wood, John, approximately 1775-1822--Correspondence.

### **Organizations**

Alexander Houston and Company.  
Bogle & Scott--Correspondence.  
Ferguson, Murdock & Co.--Correspondence.  
Glassford, Gordon, Monteath & Co.  
Great Britain. Army.  
Great Britain. Commission Appointed to Enquire into the Losses of American Loyalists, 1783-1789.  
Henry Tucker & Son--Correspondence.  
Jamieson, Campbell, Calvert & Company (Virginia)  
Jesson Welsh & Co.--Correspondence.  
Mayne & Co.--Correspondence.  
Robert Herris & Co.--Correspondence.  
Robertson, Jamieson & Co.--Correspondence.  
William Robertson & Co.--Correspondence.

### **Subjects**

American loyalists--Virginia.  
Lumber trade--Virginia.  
Merchants--Scotland--Glasgow.  
Merchants--Virginia--Norfolk.  
Tobacco industry--Virginia.

### **Places**

Antigua--Commerce.  
Chesapeake Bay Region (Md. and Va.)--Commerce.  
Glasgow (Scotland)--Commerce.  
Norfolk (Va.)--Commerce.  
North America--Commerce.  
Scotland--Commerce.  
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--British forces.  
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.  
Virginia--Commerce.  
West Indies--Commerce.

### **Occupations**

Merchants.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Neil Jamieson, merchant of Norfolk, Va., were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1899.

## Processing History

The papers of Neil Jamieson were described and prepared for microfilming by Audrey Walker in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2014. Box and reel numbers were corrected by Colleen Benoit Kim in 2018. 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 Description

A calendar to volumes 1-5 of the Neil Jamieson Papers are available as a [PDF](#) document.

## Related Material

A journal and a listing of losses cited as part of the Neil Jamieson Company are located in the [John Glassford and Company Records](#), also in the Manuscript Division of the Library.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The Jamieson Papers 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 eight 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, Neil Jamieson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Neil Jamieson cover the years 1757-1789, with most of the material concentrated between 1760 and 1776. The collection consists of correspondence, accounts cargo manifests, invoices, supply orders, receipts, and a few legal records organized into five series: [Correspondence](#), [Financial Records](#), [Legal File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

Neil Jamieson was the partner in Glassford, Gordon, Monteath & Company, one of the firms constituting the Glassford group of interlocking partnerships of Glasgow tobacco trading companies. The business interests of the company in Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Great Bridge were conducted under the name of Neil Jamieson,<sup>[1]</sup> and the Jamieson Papers are a record of the business activities of the Virginia company.

The Jamieson Papers present an overall view of the tobacco trade with Scotland and are particularly illustrative of the store system used by Glasgow merchants. As tobacco production expanded and planters moved further inland, merchants established chains of stores at various localities to collect the annual crops, sell goods and participate in the slave trade.

The correspondence series contains numerous letters from other Glassford agents in Maryland and Virginia, such as Arthur Morson at Falmouth, Adam Fleming at Cabin Point, Henry Riddell at Piscataway, James Lyle at Manchester, and Alexander Henderson at Colchester. These storekeepers kept Jamieson abreast of prevailing prices and quantities of tobacco, corn, wheat, and other crops in their areas. In some instances, the agents placed orders with Jamieson for supplies and maintained accounts with the Jamieson store. The correspondence also shows how Jamieson coordinated the shipment of tobacco and other products from Virginia, hiring cargo space and sometimes having ships constructed when company ships were not available.

The Jamieson Papers also present insight into the financial operations of tobacco trade. The practice of extending credit in exchange for tobacco and other crops, the keeping of running accounts with planters, the problems of debt collection, the setting of prices at the General Court sessions, and the pattern of trade that existed between Spain, the West Indies, and Virginia, are all evident in the collection.

When the Revolutionary War started, many of the principal Glasgow agents were directed to ports controlled by the British. In February 1776 Jamieson left Norfolk, took refuge with Lord Dunmore's fleet, and finally reached New York in September. The papers contain several pay orders between June and September drawn on the account of the government, His Majesty's service, or Lord Dunmore. From his arrival at New York until 1784, Jamieson continued to trade in prize goods on behalf of the Glassford firm even though the partnership for the Virginia store had been terminated as of November 1, 1778. In 1786 he appeared before the commissioners of the Crown at Halifax in an effort to recover compensation for the loss of the Virginia properties, and afterwards placed his New York business in the hands of agent and left the country. A few documents relating to his claims for compensation are included in the legal series of the papers. A journal representing Jamieson's financial transactions, October 1775–May 1778, and a listing of losses claimed for the Norfolk, Falmouth and Cabin Point stores cited as part of the Neil Jamieson Company are located in Volumes 212 and 228 respectively of the John Glassford and Company Records in the Library of Congress.

Correspondents in the Jamieson collection include Robert Christie Jr., Robert Donald, Adam Fleming, James Glassford, John Glassford, Alexander Henderson, James Lyle, Mayne & Co., David Meade, John Montgomerie, Arthur Morson, George Muter, Henry Riddell, William Robertson, Daniel Sanford, Daniel Triplett, Henry Tucker, and James Wallace.

1. Research in U.S. sources and the Strathclyde Regional Archives in Glasgow revealed no further information about Jamieson.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1757-1789](#)
- [Financial Records, 1757-1789](#)
- [Legal File, 1763-1789](#)
- [Miscellany, 1769-1789](#)
- [Oversize, 1761-1783](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-6	<p><b><u>Correspondence, 1757-1789</u></b></p> <p>Primarily letters received with a few copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 5-8 REEL 5-8	<p><b><u>Financial Records, 1757-1789</u></b></p> <p>Accounts, cargo manifests, invoices, supply orders, and receipts. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 8 REEL 8	<p><b><u>Legal File, 1763-1789</u></b></p> <p>Affidavits, certificates, legal agreements, and papers relating to claims for losses, including those incurred as a result of the Revolutionary War. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 8 REEL 8	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1769, 1789</u></b></p> <p>Advertisement regarding an effigy dated Nov. 13, 1769, and a plan for voyage to London, Aug. 16, 1789. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX OV 1 REEL 8	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1761-1783</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, financial records, and legal file. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,575

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-5 REEL 1-6</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1757-1789</b> Primarily letters received with a few copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	1757-1765 (7 folders)
<b>BOX 2 REEL 2</b>	1766-1769 (8 folders)
<b>BOX 3 REEL 3-4</b>	1770-1772 (9 folders)
<b>BOX 4 REEL 4-5</b>	1773-1774 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 5 REEL 5-6</b>	1775-1779, 1782-1789, undated (3 folders)
<b>BOX 5-8 REEL 5-8</b>	<b>Financial Records, 1757-1789</b> Accounts, cargo manifests, invoices, supply orders, and receipts. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 5 REEL 5-6</b>	1757-1764 (5 folders)
<b>BOX 6 REEL 6-7</b>	1765-1770 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 7 REEL 7-8</b>	1771-1782 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 8 REEL 8</b>	1783-1789, undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 8 REEL 8</b>	<b>Legal File, 1763-1789</b> Affidavits, certificates, legal agreements, and papers relating to claims for losses, including those incurred as a result of the Revolutionary War. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 8 REEL 8</b>	1763-1789, undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 8 REEL 8</b>	<b>Miscellany, 1769, 1789</b> Advertisement regarding an effigy dated Nov. 13, 1769, and a plan for voyage to London, Aug. 16, 1789. Arranged chronologically.

## Miscellany, 1769, 1789

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 8 REEL 8	1769, 1789
BOX OV 1 REEL 8	<b>Oversize, 1761-1783</b> Correspondence, financial records, and legal file. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX OV 1 REEL 8	Correspondence, financial records, and legal file