

Joseph Hopper Nicholson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2016

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82034728>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms016017>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016

Collection Summary

Title: Joseph Hopper Nicholson Papers

Span Dates: 1789-1827

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1789-1817)

ID No.: MSS34728

Creator: Nicholson, Joseph Hopper, 1770-1817

Extent: 2,200 items

Extent: 7 containers

Extent: 1.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82034728>

Summary: Jurist and U.S. representative from Maryland. Correspondence and other papers relating chiefly to Nicholson's service as U.S. representative and judge of the U.S. Circuit Court and U.S. Court of Appeals.

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

Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836.

Chase, Samuel, 1741-1811--Impeachment.

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804.

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826.

Macon, Nathaniel, 1758-1837--Correspondence.

Monroe, James, 1758-1831.

Nicholson, Joseph Hopper, 1770-1817.

Randolph, John, 1773-1833--Correspondence.

Rodney, C. A. (Caesar Augustus), 1772-1824--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Congress.

United States. Navy--Appropriations and expenditures.

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Dueling--United States.

Elections--United States--1800.

Elections--United States.

Embargo, 1807-1809.

Finance, Public--Maryland.

Finance, Public--United States.

Governmental investigations--United States.

Impeachments--United States.

Impressment.

International finance.

Navy-yards and naval stations--United States.

Presidents--United States--Election--1800.

Securities--United States.

Slavery.

Stocks--United States.

Stocks.

Places

United States--Appropriations and expenditures.
United States--History--War of 1812--Campaigns.
United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.
Washington (D.C.)--History--Capture by the British, 1814.

Occupations

Judges.
Justices, State--Maryland.
Lawyers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Maryland.

Provenance

The papers of Joseph Hopper Nicholson, jurist and U.S. representative from Maryland, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1920. An addition of a single item was purchased in 1958.

Processing History

The Nicholson Papers were processed and bound after the collection was received in 1920. A single item received in 1958 was added in 1959. The finding aid was created in 2016.

Additional Guides

An index to the Nicholson Papers is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Joseph Hopper Nicholson 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, Joseph Hopper Nicholson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1770, May 15	Born, Chestertown, Md.
1787	Graduated, Washington College, Chestertown, Md.
1796-1798	Member, Maryland House of Delegates
1799-1806	Member, U.S. House of Representatives

1804	Appointed manager by the House of Representatives to conduct impeachment proceedings against John Pickering, judge of the United States District Court for New Hampshire, and against Samuel Chase, associate justice of the Supreme Court
1806-1817	Chief justice, sixth judicial district of Maryland, and associate justice, Maryland court of appeals
1812	Participated in the defense of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812
1817, Mar. 4	Died, Baltimore County, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Joseph H. Nicholson (1770-1817) span the years 1789-1827, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1789-1817. The collection consists of correspondence and other papers relating chiefly to Nicholson's service as U.S. representative from Maryland and judge of the United States Circuit Court and United States Court of Appeals.

Among the subjects featured are investigations of federal departments, navy yards, and naval expenditures; the impeachment in the House of Representatives of Samuel Chase, associate justice of the Supreme Court; the capture of Washington, D.C., by the British in 1814; finance and appropriation bills; American and foreign stocks; and President James Monroe's handling of United States securities. Other topics include the presidential election of 1800; the duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr; Maryland finances; slavery; naval embargos and impressment of sailors; and Nicholson's legal and personal affairs. Correspondents include Nathaniel Macon, John Randolph, and C. A. Rodney.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized chronologically in bound volumes.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	1789, July 29-1801, Feb. 17
BOX 2	1801, Feb. 19-1805, Aug. 5
BOX 3	1805, Aug. 7-1807, Nov. 17
BOX 4	1807, Nov. 19-1810, Feb. 27
BOX 5	1810, Mar. 1-1812, Apr. 6
BOX 6	1812, Apr. 7-1814, Mar. 31
BOX 7	1814, Apr. 2-1827, Dec. 14, undated