

Library Company of Philadelphia

McA MSS 026

JOHN SMITH PAPERS

1802-1819

.42 linear feet, 1 box

- Series I. General Correspondence (1804-1819)
- Series II. Court Functions (1805-1818)
- Series III. Property Disposal (1802-1818)
- Series IV. War of 1812 (1812-1819)

October 2006

Descriptive Summary**Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

Call Number

McA MSS 026

Creator

Smith, John, marshal

Title

John Smith Papers

Inclusive Dates

1802-1819

Quantity

.42 linear feet (1 box)

Language of Materials

Materials are in English.

Abstract

The papers document some of Smith's activities as a United States marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Administrative Information**Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society's reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, <http://www.hsp.org/>, for reading room hours.

Acquisition Information

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

Processing Information

The John Smith Papers were formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The papers were reunited, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2006, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Edith Mulhern and Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Preferred Citation

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Online Catalog Headings

Subject Names

Steele, John, 1764-1815
Duvall, Gabriel, 1752-1844
Lawrence, James, 1781-1813
Mason, John, 1766-1849
Monroe, James, 1758-1831
Pleasanton, Stephen, d. 1855
Anderson, Joseph, 1757-1837
Evans, Oliver, 1755-1819--Trials, litigation, etc.
United States--Army--Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, 1st
United States--Marshal (Pennsylvania)
United States--Comptroller of the Treasury

Subject Topics

Prisoners of war--Pennsylvania
Aliens--Pennsylvania
Ships--Passenger lists
Safe-conducts
Seizure of vessels and cargoes
United States--History--War of 1812--Prisoners and prisons.
Pennsylvania--Politics and government.
United States marshals--Pennsylvania--Archives

Document Types

Bonds (legal records)
Inventories
Passenger lists
Letters
Receipts (financial records)
Passports

Related Collections

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania holds additional John Smith Papers (Coll. 608), with letters relating to the interpretation and execution of Federal legal matters, claims against the government, courts-martial, finance, maritime regulations, land cases, 1801-1817; and Smith's official receipt book, 1801-1818.

Biographical/Historical Notes

John Smith was appointed United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by Thomas Jefferson on March 28, 1801, replacing John Hall. James Monroe reappointed him to a four-year term on November 27, 1818, but in January 1819 he was removed from office and replaced by Samuel D. Ingram. Smith was listed in the Philadelphia city directories as "late marshal" from 1819 to 1822, and was not listed thereafter. He married Elizabeth Turner on October 15, 1795, at St Michael and Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. No date of death is known.

United States Marshals were public servants appointed by the President; their primary function was to provide local support for the operation of federal courts. The post involved a wide range of duties including procuring witnesses, serving subpoenas and warrants, and paying the fees and expenses of court clerks, judges, federal attorneys, and jurors. Marshals advertised seized property and oversaw its sale. In addition, until 1870, marshals conducted the federal census, and collected a variety of statistical information on behalf of the federal government.

In time of war, such as the War of 1812, the marshal's duties expanded to include keeping track of enemy aliens living in the United States, issuing passports for their domestic travel, and guarding and providing for British prisoners of war.

John Smith also had a long military career, serving almost continuously from 1776 until 1814, when the 1st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Cavalry, which he commanded, was disbanded.

Collection Overview

The papers of John Smith span the years 1802 to 1819, and primarily relate to his career as the U.S. Marshal for the District of Pennsylvania. The papers are arranged in four series: Series I, General Correspondence; Series II, Court Functions; Series III, Property Disposal; and Series IV, War of 1812.

Series I, General Correspondence (1804-1819) is arranged in two subseries: Marshal, and Military. The first holds twenty-seven letters from officials of the United States Department of the Treasury's Comptroller's Office, including comptrollers John Steele (1764-1815, served 1796-1802), Gabriel Duvall (1752-1844, served 1802-1811), and Joseph Anderson (1757-1837, served 1815-1836). Their letters inform Smith of the balance of his accounts, and of compensation for the local enumerators on the second federal census. A single printed circular letter from Treasurer Albert Gallatin (1761-1849) in 1812 described the compensation allotted to marshals and their staff for surveying the country's manufactures and manufacturing establishments. Among the additional six single letters in the subseries is one from Henry Reges of Chambersburg, PA, warning Smith against Greenberry Murphy, whom Smith had appointed as Deputy Marshal.

The second subseries holds four letters from Smith's military career, addressed to him as head of the 1st Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry. Among those is one from Captain James Lawrence (1781-1813) written in early April 1813, just after he returned to the United States between his capture of the HMS *Peacock* and his command of the USS *Chesapeake*. In his letter, Lawrence thanked Smith for the kind sentiments sent him from Smith's regiment for the captain's services to the country regarding the *Peacock*. Lawrence died at sea two months afterward.

Series II, Court Functions (1805-1818) contains two letters and several summonses, which were addressed to witnesses called to testify in various cases. Four of the cases involve Oliver Evans (1755-1819), the noted Philadelphia inventor. The documents do not give details of the cases, however.

Series III, Property Disposal (1802-1818) covers the sale of goods seized from captured ships as well as the ships themselves. It is arranged in three subseries: Bonds; Land Sales; and Maritime Sales. Many of the papers are simply writs for sale instructing Smith to sell at auction. The most detailed information exists for the sale of the goods from the ship *Brilliant* that had been unlawfully imported into the United States in 1813. The cargo included a range of musical instruments: dozens of violins, clarinets, fifes, flutes, bassoons, trumpets, and fifteen fortepianos.

Series IV, War of 1812 (1812-1819), deals with wartime concerns, including the control and processing of prisoners and aliens during the war. It is arranged in two subseries: Aliens; and Prisoners of War. The Aliens section holds a letter from Secretary of State James Monroe instructing Smith on procedures regarding passports. The single passenger list is for the Swedish schooner *Crown Prince*, of Saint-Barthélemy, which left Philadelphia, bound for Havana, and carried citizens of Switzerland, Spain, France, and Saint-Domingue (now Haiti). The remainder of the subseries has a group of passports issued to British subjects, and paperwork describing resident aliens, individually and in regional groups.

Prisoners of War correspondence holds seven letters from John Mason (1766-1849), the U.S. Commissary General of Prisoners, who was responsible for overseeing local marshals' safekeeping and accommodation of wartime prisoners. Mason wrote about the conditions for British prisoners, including allowing limited travel to Canada and providing blankets. There is one letter from Stephen Pleasonton, Fifth Auditor of the Treasury Department, regarding Smith's accounts. Documents include financial papers, lists of Americans taken prisoner by British vessels and released, and a parole agreement signed by sailors from three American ships.

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SERIES I. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1804-1819

Arranged in two subseries: Marshal; and Military.

Marshal

1	1	Dallas, Alexander J	1814 Jul 2
	2	Heth, William	1804 Feb 27
	3	Murphy, Sarah	1814 Jun 23
	4	Reges, Henry	1814 Nov 17
	5	Russart, E.	1809 Mar 16

United States, Department of the Treasury

6		Comptroller's Office	1801-1802
7		Comptroller's Office	1803-1806, 1819
8		Treasurer's Office	1812 Jun 17

Military

9		Haslet, John	1813 May 18
10		Lawrence, James	1813 Apr 2
11		Ogden, Aaron	1812 Dec 25
12		Stewart, Robert, Fort Mifflin	1814 Sept 18

Box Folder

SERIES II. COURT FUNCTIONS

1805-1818

Correspondence

[1]	13	Davies, Edward	1812 Apr 6
	14	Reiley, David	1815 Feb 8
	15	Receipt for Abraham Ruth for Montgomery Co. court martial	1818 Jan 4

Summonses

	16	Evans v. Young	1805 May 23
	17	White, Bartholomew, for misdemeanor	1807 Oct 31
	18	Butler v. Wareham	1812 Oct 28
	19	Evans v. Eaton, for violation of patent rights	1813 May 1
	20	Evans v. Hoover, for violation of patent rights	1813 May 1
	21	Trelease, Charles, to testify for US v. Humbold	1815 Nov 25
	22	Evans v. Whiting et al.	1817 Nov 1
	23	U.S. v. Walter Harding, for forgery	1818 Jun 6

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Series III. PROPERTY DISPOSAL

1802-1818

Arranged in three subseries: Bonds; Land Sales; and Maritime Sales.

Bonds

[1]	24	Donaldson, Joseph Jr. and Sr.	1802 Mar 31
	25	Williamson, William, and Samuel Clothier	1803 Apr 13
	26	Kinnan, John	1815 Mar 20
	27	Pender, Benjamin, Franklin Thwing and Thomas Hunt	1818 Feb 6

Land Sales

	28	Smith & Bowne v. Stiles, land	1807 May 4
	29	Blagge v. Broome, lands in Montgomery Co. and Philadelphia	1807, 1808
	30	U.S. v Buckley & Oldin, lands in Montgomery Co. and Philadelphia	1808 Apr 9
	31	U.S. v. Buckley & Oldin, lands taken in Luzerne Co.	1810 Nov
	32	Clarkson, Jacob, inventory of household goods for sale	1812 Jan 29
	33	Report of sale by auction of properties on Chestnut St.	1812 Mar 3
	34	U.S v. John McKean and John Johnston, for debt	1813 Apr 9
	35	Survey of McKean and Johnston lands seized	1814 Apr 9
	36	U.S. v. Clarkson & Algeo, for debt	1816 May 29
	37	West, Francis, lands bid on for John B. Wallace	1816 Jul 16
	38	U.S. v. Myers & Kreeger, for debt	1818 Feb 16
	39	Patton, John, letter re: advertisement for sale	1818 Mar 20

Maritime sales

	40	Ship <i>Cornelia</i> to benefit Robert Lewis	1803 Nov 22
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Series III. PROPERTY DISPOSAL, cont.

Maritime sales, cont.

[1]	41	Undeclared barrels of sugar	1804 Dec 6
	42	Brigantine <i>Katharine</i> to benefit Forbes & Ellerman	1806
	43	Brig <i>Alligator</i> to benefit Brainard, Williamson, et al.	1812 Nov 10
	44	Receipt for wharfage paid for ship <i>Elizabeth</i>	1813 Mar 8
	45	U.S. v. ship <i>Lady Johnston</i>	1813 Apr 17
	46	U.S. v. ship <i>Brilliant</i> , account of sales of goods seized	1813 Oct 9
	47	U.S. v. brig <i>John</i> , for goods & wares taken from brig <i>Perry</i>	1815 Mar 3
	48	Ship <i>Young Wasp</i> v. brig <i>Margaret</i>	1815 Mar 10
	49	John Diehl v. ship <i>Betsey</i>	1815
	50	Ship <i>Young Wasp</i> v. brig <i>Lady of the Baron</i>	1815

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SERIES IV. WAR OF 1812

1812-1819

Arranged in two subseries: Aliens; and Prisoners of War.

Aliens

Correspondence

[1]	51	U.S. Secretary of State James Monroe	1813 Feb 6
	52	Passenger list, <i>Crown Prince</i> of Saint-Barthélemy	1814 Dec 3

Passports of British subjects

53	Buchanan, Alexander	1813 Mar 4
54	Fabery, John	1813 Oct 11
55	Inches, Thomas	1813 Mar 26
56	Jones, John	1813 Aug 14
57	Large, Daniel	1813 Aug 11
58	Thresher, George	1812

Reports of British subjects

59	Allegheny and Butler counties residents	1813 Jan
60	Blair, David	1815 Jan 15
61	Calahan, James	1815 Jan 6
62	Franklin County residents	1813 Jan
63	Kelly, James	1815 Jan 26
64	Luzerne County residents	1815 Mar
65	McLoughlen, Thomas, statement of facts	undated
66	Owens, Richard	1814 Dec 15
67	Washington County residents	1813 Mar/Apr

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SERIES IV. WAR OF 1812, cont.

Prisoners of War

Correspondence

[1]	68	Izard, George	1812 Aug 28
	69	Serry, B., Cape May Court House, NJ	1814 Nov 30
	70	United States, Commissary of Prisoners (Mason)	1814
	71	United States, Department of the Treasury (Pleasanton)	1819 Jan 2

Documents

	72	American sailors captured by the <i>Recruit</i> and liberated	1812 Jul 22
	73	Abstract of American prisoners liberated	1813
	74	Irish, William B., accounts re: prisoners	undated
	75	List of accounts respecting prisoners	1817 Jun 11
	76	Shoemaker, John, receipt for wood for prisoners	1815 Apr 1