



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

George Bancroft collection

1606-1887

MssCol 195

Summary

Creator: Bancroft, George, 1800-1891

Title: George Bancroft collection

Date: 1606-1887

Size: 60 linear feet (432 v. and 15 boxes)

Source: Purchase (by Lenox Library), Bancroft, George - Estate; commercial dealers, 1893

Abstract: George Bancroft (1800-1891) was an American historian, diplomat and public official who wrote the ten-volume History of the United States. Bancroft's positions included Collector of the Port of Boston, Secretary of the Navy under Polk, Minister to Great Britain from 1846 to 1849, and Minister to Germany from 1867 to 1874. In addition to History of the United States, Bancroft wrote other historical studies and biographies. Collection consists of transcripts (and some originals) of letters, dispatches, statistical data, journals, minutes of proceedings, and other papers culled from American, British and European sources by George Bancroft in the course of research for his historical works. Bulk of the collection reflects the economic, political, military, and diplomatic relations between Great Britain and its North American colonies during the 17th and 18th centuries, particularly the period leading up to the American Revolution of 1775-1783, the war itself, and the immediate aftermath of the war culminating in the writing and adoption of the U.S. Constitution. There are materials on the presidencies of George Washington and James K. Polk, and the 1872 dispute between Great Britain and U.S. over the water boundary between the U.S. and British Columbia. Also, records dealing with relations in the 18th century between the U.S. and continental European countries, and various European countries with each other (especially Prussia, Austria, France, Spain, and Great Britain).

Alternative Form Available: Selected materials (including Hessian manuscripts) available on microfilm; New York Public Library

Preferred citation: George Bancroft collection, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: Some materials are in German, French or Spanish

Creator History

George Bancroft (1800-1891) was an American historian, diplomat and public official who wrote the ten-volume History of the United States. Bancroft's positions included Collector of the Port of Boston, Secretary of the Navy under Polk, Minister to Great Britain from 1846 to 1849, and Minister to Germany from 1867 to 1874. In addition to History of the United States, Bancroft wrote other historical studies and biographies.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Geographic Names

Canada -- Boundaries -- United States
Europe -- Foreign relations -- United States
Great Britain -- Colonies -- America
Great Britain -- Foreign relations -- United States
Great Britain -- History -- 1714-1837
Great Britain -- History -- Stuarts, 1603-1714
United States -- Boundaries -- Canada
United States -- Foreign relations -- Europe
United States -- Foreign relations -- Great Britain
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Participation, German
United States -- Politics and government -- 1789-1809
United States -- Politics and government -- 1845-1849

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries
Dispatches

Subjects

Hessian mercenaries -- Diaries
Hessian mercenaries -- United States -- Sources
International relations -- 18th century

Names

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848
Adams, John, 1735-1826
Adams, Samuel, 1722-1803
Bernard, Francis, Sir, 1712-1779
Burgoyne, John, 1722-1792
Burke, Edmund, 1729-1797
Colden, Cadwallader, 1688-1776
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790
Hawley, Joseph, 1723-1788
Lee, Arthur, 1740-1792
Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1795-1849
Riedesel, Friedrich Adolf, Freiherr von, 1738-1800
Schuyler, Philip John, 1733-1804
Washington, George, 1732-1799
Wayne, Anthony, 1745-1796
United States