



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn transcription of Henry Dearborn journals : manuscript

1822

MssCol 23300

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

Summary

Creator: Dearborn, H.A.S. (Henry Alexander Scammell), 1783-1851

Title: Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn transcription of Henry Dearborn journals : manuscript

Date: 1822

Size: .21 linear feet (1 volume)

Source: Purchased from C.F. Libbie & Co., 1897

Abstract: Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn (1783-1851) of Roxbury, Massachusetts was a politician, militia officer, author and horticulturist. Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, he was the son of Henry Dearborn (1751-1829), an American army officer and statesman, and Dorcas Osgood Marble. H.A.S. Dearborn's manuscript work, in one volume with loose drafts, is an edited transcription of journals kept from 1777 December 5 to 1782 October 5 by his father, Continental Army officer Henry Dearborn of New Hampshire. Drafts include prefatory material for the journal of Sullivan's Campaign against the Six Nations in 1779, and rough notes taken by H.A.S. Dearborn regarding the captivity of Mrs. Rennels, one of a party of freed Indian captives transported to Saratoga by Henry Dearborn in the summer of 1782. The work was intended for publication.

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Processing note: Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

Creator History

Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn

Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn (1783-1851) of Roxbury, Massachusetts was a politician, militia officer, author and horticulturist. Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, he was the son of Henry Dearborn (1751-1829), an American army officer and statesman, and Dorcas Osgood Marble.

H.A.S. Dearborn began his career as a lawyer and held various public offices and military commands during his life. He was Collector of Customs at Boston, 1812-1829, and in 1812 was appointed

brigadier general in the Massachusetts militia, commanding volunteers at Boston Harbor defenses. Dearborn was a delegate to the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1820-1821, and a member of the Massachusetts legislature, 1829-1830, and the U.S. House of Representatives, 1831-1833. In 1835 he was appointed Adjutant General of Massachusetts, but was dismissed in 1843 for loaning state arms to the government of Rhode Island to suppress the Dorr Rebellion in 1842. Dearborn was the author of several non-fiction works and wrote extensively on political, horticultural and other topics for newspapers and periodicals. He collaborated with his father to transcribe and edit his Revolutionary War journals, wrote sketches of his father's life and military career, and prepared materials for publication in the press on his behalf. A noted horticulturist and leader in the rural cemetery movement, Dearborn served as the first president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, founded in 1829. He also helped found the New England Society for the Promotion of Manufactures and the Mechanical Arts, which existed from 1826 to 1868. In 1847 the Native American Party, later known as the American Party and popularly as the Know Nothing Party, nominated him to run for U.S. Vice President. H.A.S. Dearborn was Mayor of Roxbury from 1847 until his death in 1851.

Henry Dearborn

Henry Dearborn (1751-1829) of New Hampshire was an American army officer and statesman. He fought in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, attaining the rank of senior Major General in the U.S. Army. Dearborn was U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts, 1793-1797; U.S. Secretary of War, 1801-1809; and U.S. minister to Portugal, 1822-1824.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Henry Dearborn was a practicing physician and captain of a New Hampshire militia company. He fought with the First and Third New Hampshire Regiments of the Continental Army, rising from captain to lieutenant colonel. In July 1781 he was appointed Deputy Quartermaster General and served on Washington's staff in Virginia. Notable events in his military service included the battle of Bunker Hill with the First New Hampshire Regiment, 1775; the expedition to Quebec, 1775, resulting in his capture, imprisonment and exchange; the battles of Saratoga, 1777, and Monmouth, 1778; and Major General John Sullivan's campaign against the Six Nations, 1779. He was with the main army in New York and New Jersey in 1780 and participated in the Yorktown Campaign in 1781. Upon his exchange in 1777, Dearborn served as major and then lieutenant colonel in the Third New Hampshire Regiment, transferring to the First New Hampshire Regiment in early 1781. He commanded the regiment upon the death of Colonel Alexander Scammell at Yorktown in October. Dearborn served at the garrison at Saratoga in the summer and fall of 1782, and received his discharge in June 1783.

In 1784 Dearborn moved to the District of Maine, then part of Massachusetts, settling in Pittston, now Gardiner, in Kennebec County. He became Major General of the Maine militia, was appointed U.S. Marshal for Maine in 1789, and served in the U.S. House of Representatives from the District, 1793 to 1797. After serving as Secretary of War during the Jefferson administration, he held the federal appointment of Collector of Customs for the port of Boston from 1809 until he was appointed senior Major General of the U.S. Army in January 1812. Although Dearborn's forces captured York (Toronto) and Fort George in the spring of 1813 during operations against Upper Canada, Dearborn's weakness as a strategic commander and severe illness led to his recall by Secretary of War John Armstrong in July of that year. Dearborn was re-assigned to command the military district of New York City and was honorably discharged in 1815. In 1817 he ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic-Republican candidate for governor of Massachusetts, and in 1818 his work *An account of the battle of Bunker Hill* was published. His final public office was U.S. minister to Portugal, 1822-1824.

Henry Dearborn was married three times: to Mary Bartlett in 1771, to Dorcas Osgood Marble in 1780, and to Sarah Bowdoin in 1813. Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn (1783-1851) was his son by his

second wife. Henry Dearborn died in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Scope and Content Note

H.A.S. Dearborn's manuscript work, in one volume with loose drafts, is an edited transcription of journals kept from 1777 December 5 to 1782 October 5 by his father, Continental Army officer Henry Dearborn of New Hampshire. Drafts include prefatory material for the journal of Sullivan's Campaign against the Six Nations in 1779, and rough notes taken by H.A.S. Dearborn regarding the captivity of Mrs. Rennels, one of a party of freed Indian captives transported to Saratoga by Henry Dearborn in the summer of 1782. The work was intended for publication.

The transcription covers Dearborn's diaries published and identified as numbers 3, 4 and 5 in *The Revolutionary War journals of Henry Dearborn, 1775-1783, edited from the original manuscripts by Lloyd A. Brown and Howard H. Peckham; with a biographical essay by Hermon Dunlap Smith* (Chicago: The Caxton Club, 1939). The manuscript appears to be a chronological continuation of similar transcripts identified as journals 1 and 2. An 1822 note written by H.A.S. Dearborn to his father following the entry for 1781 December 10 indicates that Henry Dearborn examined the Rennels material; he may have edited journal text as well.

The journal's date coverage spans: 1777 December 5-1779 June 16; 1779 June 17-October 18 (entry for October "16, 17 & 18" includes the published entry for October 25), October 28-November 16; 1780 June 24-December 28; 1781 May 10-December 10; and 1822 [i.e. 1782] June 20-October 5. The transcript lacks the remaining published entries for 1782 October 17-1783 March 1. The journal beginning 1779 June 17 has a title page for the Sullivan Campaign and includes two pen-and-wash diagrams for the order of march and order of battle in the entry for 1779 July 31 (published).

There are loose drafts for the battle of Monmouth (see 1778 June 28) and cavalry action at Gloucester during the Yorktown campaign (text covers 1781 September-October), as well as prefatory material for the 1779 Sullivan Campaign (inserts 1, 1A, 2, 3). See insert notes for 1779 June 16 and 23; an insert note numbered 1 is also found at 1778 April 22. Brief text on the capture and conduct of Major John Andre citing published sources is found on the recto of insert 1 (see insert symbol, 1780 October 3). The account of the captivity of Mrs. Rennels (possibly a phonetic spelling of Reynolds) states that she was captured with her family and other settlers from the Pittsburgh area while traveling the Ohio River to Kentucky in 1778.

The manuscript title "Journal of H. Dearborn kept during the Revolutionary War" appears on the front cover.

Key Terms

Subjects

Captivity narratives

Indian captivities

Monmouth, Battle of, Freehold, N.J., 1778

Sullivan's Indian Campaign, 1779

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries

Manuscript maps
Manuscripts for publication
Military maps

Occupations

Soldiers

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Campaigns
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Personal narratives
Yorktown (Va.) -- History -- Siege, 1781

Names

Dearborn, Henry, 1751-1829
United States. Continental Army -- Officers -- Diaries