



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Timothy Pickering papers

1780-1825

MssCol 4580

Compiled by Kit Messick, 2013

Summary

Creator: Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829

Title: Timothy Pickering papers

Date: 1780-1825

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Gift of John S. Kennedy, 1896, John Pierpont Morgan, 1899, with additional gifts, and purchases from Wormser, G.A. Baker Co. sale, Mar. 30, 1939.

Abstract: Timothy Pickering (1745-1829) was a Massachusetts statesman who served variously as colonel in the Continental Army, United States Secretary of War, and United States Secretary of State. The Timothy Pickering papers consist mainly of letters written by Pickering in the 1780s and 1790s in a professional capacity, with Samuel Hodgdon and Jedidiah Huntington being his most frequent correspondents. Earlier papers document the conditions and movements of the Army, 1780-1781, and include bills for services and supplies signed by Pickering as Quartermaster General. Letters relative to his duties as Secretary of War discuss the acquisition of provisions and munitions. Letters and documents created during his tenure as Secretary of State include "an estimate of the expence of negotiating a treaty with the French Republic," 1799, and "Principles which should govern in choosing a president of the United States." Later material relates to personal and family matters, including an 1827 letter to Virgil Maxcy asking for advice in the growing of hops. Also present are autographs, seals, and receipts.

Alternative Form Available: Available on microfilm, New York Public Library; *ZL-34815.

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Custodial History

Some material was originally received as part of the George Bancroft, Thomas Addis Emmet, and Ford collections.

Scope and Content Note

Timothy Pickering (1745-1829) was a Massachusetts statesman who served variously as colonel in the Continental Army, United States Secretary of War, and United States Secretary of State. The Timothy Pickering papers consist mainly of letters written by Pickering in the 1780s and 1790s in a professional capacity, with Samuel Hodgdon and Jedidiah Huntington being his most frequent correspondents. Earlier papers document the conditions and movements of the Army, 1780-1781, and include bills for services and supplies signed by Pickering as Quartermaster General. Letters relative to his duties as Secretary of War discuss the acquisition of provisions and munitions. Letters and documents created during his tenure as Secretary of State include "an estimate of the expence of negotiating a treaty with the French Republic," 1799, and "Principles which should govern in choosing a president of the United States." Later material relates to personal and family matters, including an 1827 letter to Virgil Maxcy asking for advice in the growing of hops. Also present are autographs, seals, and receipts.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Bills of sale

Receipts (financial records)

Occupations

Statesmen -- Massachusetts -- 18th century

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783

United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1809

Names

Hodgdon, Samuel, 1745-1824 -- recipient

Huntington, Jedediah, 1743-1818 -- recipient

Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829 -- Correspondence

United States. Continental Army