



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

John Macpherson Berrien letters, legal papers, and miscellany

1811-1855

MssCol 7300

Summary

Creator: Berrien, John MacPherson, 1781-1856

Title: John Macpherson Berrien letters, legal papers, and miscellany

Date: 1811-1855

Size: 0.1 linear feet (1 folder)

Abstract: United States Senator from Georgia and U.S. Attorney General under Andrew Jackson. These letters include one from 1825 describing his involvement in the case of the slave ship Antelope.

Preferred citation: John Macpherson Berrien letters, legal papers, and miscellany, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Scope and Content Note

Includes 1825 letter describing his involvement in THE ANTELOPE case of 1825. The Antelope was a slave ship that was commandeered by a ship named the Arraganta. After the Arraganta was wrecked, its captain transferred remaining supplies and cannon to the Antelope, and renamed it the Ramirez (mentioned in this letter). A subsequent court case ensued about international law regarding slavery. "I have felt myself called upon to give, and have given free expression of my Southern feelings.." Mentioned in this letter: William Wirt, Attorney General of the United States. Francis Scott Key, Attorney for the Africans and author of U.S. national anthem. Charles Ingersoll- represented Spanish interests along with John Macpherson Berrien. John Jackson- Captain of revenue cutter Dallas. John Caldwell Calhoun- Vice President of the USA. Josiah Tattnall, Georgia Senator. Sources of information: <http://mysite.verizon.net/jkesst/Antelope.htm>, accessed 31 August, 2011 <http://supreme.justia.com/us/23/66/case.html>, accessed 31 August, 2011