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Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Henry Knox papers

1779-1800

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Compiled by Casey Babcock, 2015

Summary

Creator: Knox, Henry, 1750-1806

Title: Henry Knox papers

Date: 1779-1800

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Donated by John S. Kennedy, 1896, as part of the Emmet collection, and J. Pierpont Morgan, 1899, as part of the Ford collection, and purchase, 1941

Abstract: Henry Knox (1750-1806), United States Army general, was chief artillery officer of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and first United States Secretary of War from 1789 to 1794. The Henry Knox papers consist of letters sent by Knox to military officers and government officials on various matters, as well as a few personal letters and miscellaneous military documents. The bulk of the letters are written in his capacity as Secretary of War, mainly to state governors and U.S. Commissioners of Loans in several states. These concern strengthening frontier defense, pension payments to invalid soldiers, and instructions on naval matters such as the repatriation of prizes seized by proscribed privateers and maintaining the embargo of 1794. Letters written during the Revolutionary War, chiefly to Army Quartermaster General Timothy Pickering, concern requests for ordnance, horses and drivers, and payroll matters. Personal letters to General Henry Jackson and M.M. Hays pertain to Knox's land purchases and related debt. A letter to U.S. Vice President Thomas Jefferson dated March 9, 1800 introduces Mr. Pope, inventor of improvements to a horizontal wind mill, and expresses disappointment with the path of his son Henry's naval career. Documents signed by Knox consist of a certificate of debt settlement and military discharge, and a warrant to survey land for a soldier's military bounty.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Henry Knox papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Casey Babcock, 2015

Custodial History

Most material was originally received as part of the Ford and Emmet collections.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Military documents

Subjects

Military pensions -- United States -- Revolution, 1775-1783

Occupations

Soldiers

Statesmen

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- 1783-1815

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

Names

Jackson, Henry, 1747-1809 -- recipient

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 -- recipient

Knox, Henry, 1750-1806

Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829 -- recipient

United States. War Department

Container List

Letters sent

- f. 1 **William Alexander, Lord Stirling** 1779 September 5
Alexander, William, 1726-1783 (Recipient)
American soldier during the Revolutionary War

- Timothy Pickering**
- f. 1 **1782 February 13**
Pickering, Timothy, 1726-1783 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **1782 August 25**
Pickering, Timothy, 1726-1783 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **1782 August 28**
Pickering, Timothy, 1726-1783 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Walker** 1783 February 15
- f. 1 **Henry Jackson** 1787 February 25
Jackson, Henry, 1747-1810 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Samuel Huntingdon** 1788 February 8
Huntingdon, Samuel, 1731-1796 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Edward Carrington** 1790 February 8
Carrington, Edward, 1749-1810 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Otho H. Williams** 1790 February 13
Williams, Otho Holland, 1747-1794 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Nathaniel Appleton** 1791 March 16
Appleton, Nathaniel, 1731-1798 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Joseph Cranch** 1791 July 20
Cranch, Joseph (Recipient)
- f. 1 **M.M. Hays** 1791 October 13
Hays, Moses M., 1739-1809 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **John Smith** 1791 November 7
- f. 1 **Governor of Virginia [Robert Brooke]** 1791 December 24
Brooke, Robert, 1761?-1800 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Lieutenant of the County of Washington, Pennsylvania** 1791 December 29
Henry Jackson
- f. 1 **1792 May 29**
Jackson, Henry, 1747-1809 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **1792 July 18**
Jackson, Henry, 1747-1809 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Nathaniel Appleton** 1792 August 13
Appleton, Nathaniel, 1731-1798 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Thomas Smith** 1792 September 3
- f. 1 **William Finlay** 1793 August 3
- f. 1 **Governor of North Carolina [Richard Dobbs Spaight]** 1794 January 13
Spaight, Richard Dobbs, 1758-1802 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **William Finlay** 1794 February 1
Warrant to pay listed invalid pensioners in Connecticut

Letters sent (cont.)

- f. 1 **Nathaniel Appleton** 1794 March 1
Appleton, Nathaniel, 1731-1798 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Governor of Connecticut [Samuel Huntington]** 1794 April 18
Huntington, Samuel, 1731-1796 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Nathaniel Appleton** 1794 July 3
Appleton, Nathaniel, 1731-1798 (Recipient)
Warrant to pay listed invalid pensioners in Massachusetts including District of Maine
- f. 1 **Samuel Hodgdon** 1794 December 13
- f. 1 **M.M. Hays** 1797 April 21
Hays, Moses M., 1739-1809 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Henry Jackson** 1799 December 8
Jackson, Henry, 1747-1810 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Thomas Jefferson** 1800 March 9
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 (Recipient)
- f. 1 **Certificate of debt settlement and military discharge of Captain Nathaniel Call**
1778 September
- f. 1 **Warrant to survey military lands for Barney Cox, soldier of the Delaware Line**
1789 September 2
- f. 1 **Autograph** undated
Appleton, Nathaniel, 1731-1798 (Recipient)