



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Jonathan Lawrence papers

1765-1810

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Summary

Cre: Lawrence, Jonathan, 1737-1812

Title: Jonathan Lawrence papers

Date: 1765-1810

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Acquired from Werner, 1929.

Abstract: Jonathan Lawrence (1737-1812) of Newtown, Queens County, Long Island was a New York City merchant, politician and militia officer. The Jonathan Lawrence papers, 1765-1810, contain letters written by Jonathan Lawrence, documents, and two account notebooks pertaining to the mercantile and shipping affairs of Lawrence and members of his family, 1779-1810, with two peripheral business letters, 1765-1766. Letters written by Lawrence comprise three letters to his partner at Lawrence & Tom in Dover, New York regarding shipments sent via the Hudson River, 1783-1784; a letter to Henry Livingston, 1788; and a letter to Captain Peter Hodgkinson, 1793. Documents consist of loose invoices and accounts for Jonathan Lawrence, Lawrence & Tom, and John Ireland, including customs documents for imports by Lawrence from St. Croix and St. Eustatius, 1783-1796 and undated; an order to deliver the brig Seaflower, 1787; and land conveyances by family members for property in Manhattan, 1806 and 1810. A notebook, dated 1779 at Fishkill, contains accounts with the unidentified writer's father and mother, and Thomas Fanning. A notebook for the brig Olive Branch, 1789, contains accounts for Jonathan Lawrence Jr. and Samuel Tibbals, both identified as captains, and others.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Jonathan Lawrence papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2018

Creator History

Jonathan Lawrence (1737-1812) of Newtown, Queens County, Long Island was a New York City merchant, politician and militia officer. During the Revolutionary War era, he was a Queens County delegate to the Provincial Congress of New York, a member of the state constitutional convention, and a New York State senator. He was also a major in the Long Island militia, serving under Nathaniel Woodhull in 1776, and he participated in the Rhode Island campaign in 1778. Having removed to Dutchess County after the Battle of Long Island, Lawrence and his family returned to Queens County in 1783. He resumed his mercantile activities in New York City to restore his finances.

Scope and Content Note

The Jonathan Lawrence papers, 1765-1810, contain letters written by Jonathan Lawrence, documents, and two account notebooks pertaining to the mercantile and shipping affairs of Lawrence and members of his family, 1779-1810, with two peripheral business letters, 1765-1766.

Letters written by Lawrence comprise three letters to his partner at Lawrence & Tom in Dover, New York regarding shipments sent via the Hudson River, 1783-1784; a letter to Henry Livingston, 1788; and a letter to Captain Peter Hodgkinson, 1793. His business partner was likely Nathaniel Tom, identified in a 1784 account. Documents consist of loose invoices and accounts for Jonathan Lawrence, Lawrence & Tom, and John Ireland, including customs documents for imports by Lawrence from St. Croix and St. Eustatius, 1783-1796 and undated; an order to deliver the brig Seaflower, 1787; and land conveyances by family members for property in Manhattan, 1806 and 1810. A notebook, dated 1779 at Fishkill, contains accounts with the unidentified writer's father and mother, and Thomas Fanning. A notebook for the brig Olive Branch, 1789, contains accounts for Jonathan Lawrence Jr. and Samuel Tibbals, both identified as captains, and others.

The papers also include a letter from John M. Scandrett at St. Eustatius to an unidentified recipient, 1765, referring to Mr. Thomas who will look over some accounts, and a letter written to merchant Thomas Thomas at St. Eustatius by John Ewetse at St. Croix, 1766, mentioning the sale of the sloop Betsey by Mr. Lawrence. Loose accounts in the collection mention Thomas Thomas; the Lawrence family traded in the West Indies at that time.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Accounts
Property records

Geographic Names

Dover (N.Y. : Town) -- History
New York (N.Y.) -- Commerce
United States -- Commerce -- West Indies
West Indies -- Commerce -- United States

Subjects

Merchants -- New York (State)
Real property -- New York (State) -- New York
Shipping -- Hudson River (N.Y. and N.J.)

Occupations

Merchants.
Politicians.
Ship captains.
Soldiers.

Names

Lawrence, Jonathan, 1737-1812
Lawrence, Jonathan, 1737-1812 -- Correspondence
Lawrence family
Lawrence & Tom (Firm)