



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

John Dickinson papers

1774-1802

MssCol 4343

Compiled by Kit Messick, 2013

Summary

Creator: Dickinson, John, 1732-1808

Title: John Dickinson papers

Date: 1774-1802

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Various gifts and purchases.

Abstract: John Dickinson (1732-1808) was an American lawyer and politician. Dickinson authored a series of essays published as *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, the Articles of Confederation, and drafted the Olive Branch Petition with Thomas Jefferson. He served as a delegate from Pennsylvania to the First and Second Continental Congresses, and as president of both Pennsylvania and Delaware. The papers consists of letters, 1774-1788 and 1802, from Dickinson; the transcript of an undated address given after his election as president of Pennsylvania; and several autographs. The letters generally relate to political and administrative issues, and include one dated 1774 to Charles Morrison urging him to write his associates in Boston to "avoid Blood or tumults." Other recipients include the Executive Council and Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Governor of Connecticut (Jonathan Trumbull), diplomat Arthur Lee, Mathew Carey, and John Vining. One letter to Noah Webster, dated 1786, discusses Webster's writing.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: John Dickinson papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Kit Messick, 2013 Revised June 2015

Creator History

John Dickinson (1732-1808) was an American lawyer and politician. Dickinson authored a series of essays published as *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, the Articles of Confederation, and drafted the Olive Branch Petition with Thomas Jefferson. He served as a delegate from Pennsylvania to the First and Second Continental Congresses, and as president of both Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Custodial History

Some material in the collection was originally received as part of the Ford collection.

Scope and Content Note

The papers consists of letters, 1774-1788 and 1802, from Dickinson; the transcript of an undated address given after his election as president of Pennsylvania; and several autographs. The letters generally relate to political and administrative issues, and include one dated 1774 to Charles Morrison urging him to write his associates in Boston to "avoid Blood or tumults." Other recipients include the Executive Council and Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Governor of Connecticut (Jonathan Trumbull), diplomat Arthur Lee, Mathew Carey, and John Vining. One letter to Noah Webster, dated 1786, discusses Webster's writing.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Delaware -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865

Pennsylvania -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865

Occupations

Governors

Statesmen

Subjects

Statesmen -- United States

Names

Carey, Mathew, 1760-1839

Dickinson, John, 1732-1808Political and Social Views

Lee, Arthur, 1740-1792

Trumbull, Jonathan, 1710-1785

Webster, Noah, 1758-1843