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, 1732-1808
Lee, Arthur, 1740-1792
Trumbull, Jonathan, 1710-1785
Webster, Noah, 1758-1843