

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

73 M 57, 76 M 39, 79 M 35
Accession # 80 M 17, 82 M 38, *86 M 85

Location Annex D 2-C-5

Title. Cathcart Family Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1785-1962 , bulk dates 1785-1806, 1830-1844

Date of receipt 1929, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1979, Received from purchase, Paul H. Cathcart
1980, 1982

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 3 fb, 31f.

Condition mixed: much of the later accessions have been flattened and de-acidified, but a great deal of the earliest materials are heavily stained, water damaged, creased and torn.

Restrictions none

Description see attached sheets

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries
see attached sheets

Accessioned by CRK

Date 12-1-86

Cathcart Family Papers

Biographical Sketch

James Leander Cathcart (1767-1843) was a seaman, American consul to the Barbary States, and a civil servant. Cathcart's career began at an early age, as the youngest midshipman to serve in the American Revolution at age 12. Captured by the British, after his escape Cathcart served in the American Merchant Marine until captured by Algerian pirates in 1785, and was sold into slavery in Algeria. During his 11 years of captivity he served in a variety of positions, finally reaching the rank of Christian clerk to the Dey of Algiers, the highest position attainable by a slave. As Clerk, he helped conduct the negotiations for his own release, and eventual peace with the Barbary States in 1796. Following his release and return to the United States (at which time he married) James Leander Cathcart was appointed consul to Tunis, and served in the Barbary States until 1806. He continued in the diplomatic service in Madeira and Cadiz until 1817, and returned to the United States. After a term as a naval agent in Florida, 1818-1820, he worked as a clerk at the United States Treasury until his death.

Charles Cathcart (1800-1888) was the eldest son of James Leander Cathcart, and the recipient of the bulk of the letters in the family correspondence in the Cathcart Family Papers. He moved west to the Michigan and Indiana territories in 1830 and after serving in the Black Hawk Indian War, invested successfully in property in Indiana. As he prospered financially, Charles Cathcart became a politically active Democrat. He sat two terms in the House of Representatives, and was appointed to the U.S. Senate. During the Civil War he aligned himself with the Republicans, but remained an active and influential Democrat until his death.

Cathcart Family Papers

Content Note

The Cathcart Family Papers consist of two main series: James Leander Cathcart's letters and papers while a prisoner of and later emissary to the Barbary States, 1785-1806, and letters to his sons, particularly after their moves to the Michigan and Indiana Territories, 1827-1844. Cathcart's correspondence while in Algiers, Tripoli and Tunis include letters to and from American government officials describing conditions in the Barbary States, and the progress of negotiations - both for the redemption of captives, and eventual peace treaties, as well as American relations with the other nations represented in Barbary, including France and Great Britain. Also included are lists of captives and mortality statistics, accounts of Cathcart's expenses as a United States government representative, and lists of military casualties during the subsequent military operations that took place after negotiations failed there.

Correspondents include William Eaton, Richard O'Brien, and Thomas Pickens.

A The remainder of the Cathcart Family Papers are comprised of letters from James Leander Cathcart to three of his sons, Charles, Henry and James, though the letters are largely addressed to Charles, the eldest of his children. The letters refer to travel arrangements for their western migration, and the ongoing financial problems of the family that prompted the seeking further opportunities in the American west. Cathcart expresses his concerns over the physical, political and economic insecurity of life of life on the frontier in Michigan and Indiana, especially concerning the Indian wars, and land purchases. Also included in the papers are a few letters from other family members to Charles Cathcart, and a small amount of printed matter concerning the Cathcart Family. (An item level inventory of the family portion of the correspondence is available.)

Cathcart Family Papers

Container Listing

Box

Contents

1	<u>James Leander Cathcart Correspondence</u> 1785-1801
2	1802-1816
3	<u>Cathcart Family Correspondence</u> 1827-1834
	1835-1868
	<u>Genealogical Material</u>
	<u>Printed Matter</u>

Cathcart Family Papers Box 3

(Chiefly Letters by James L. Cathcart to Chas. W. Cathcart)

F.1	1827,	Mar. 30	F. 18	1833	Apr. 15
	1828,	Dec. 31		"	" 17
	1829,	Jan. 13		"	" 27
	"	" 27		19	" May 1
	"	Feb. 9		"	" 29
	"	" 16		20	" Jun 17
	"	Dec. 4		21	" Jul 18
	"	" 8		22	" Sept 6
	"	" 17-22		23	" Oct. 24
	1830,	Jan. 15		24	" Nov. 2 - Dec. 9
	"	Feb. 2		25	" Dec. 14 - Jan. 2
F.2	1831,	Mar. 21		26	1834, Mar. 1
	"	Jun 14			" 29
	"	Jul 1		27	" Apr. 18 - May 1
	"	" 23		28	" May 6 - 10
	"	" 24		29	" Jun 1 - May 24
F.3	"	Aug. 16 - Sept. 16		30	" Jul 2
	"	Oct. 6			" " 23 (2)
	"	Nov. 12		31	" Aug. 15
4	"	Dec. 19			" " 22
	"	" 21			" Sept 6 (2)
5	1832,	Feb. 1		32	" " 12
6	"	Mar. 17			" " 18-23
7	"	Apr. 29		33	" " 25
8	"	May 29		34	" Oct. 20 (4)
9	"	Jul 1-7			" " 21
10	"	" 12		35	" " 28
		15		36	" Dec. 23
		24/25			
11	"	Aug. 31 -			
12	"	Sept. 17 (2)			
13	"	Oct. 10			
14	"	Nov. 10			
15	"	Dec. 9			
16	1833	Jan. 1			
17	"	" 31			
17	"	Mar. 15			

Cathcart Family Papers - Box 3

F.37	1835	Jan. 22	F.51	1837	Sept. 28
	"	Mar. 10		"	Oct. 9
	"	' 11		'	19
38	"	' 21		Nov.	14
				Dec.	18
39	"	Apr. 15	52	1838	Jan. 4
40	"	May 6		'	16
		' 14	53	"	Feb. 28
		' 15 (2)		"	Jun 1
		Jun 1-25		"	' 19
41	"	' 13		"	' 25
	"	Jul 3	54	"	Sept 24
	"	Aug. 12		"	Oct. 14
		' 15		'	19
		' 28	55	"	Dec. 24
42	"	Sep 14		1839	Feb. 16
43	"	Oct. 22	56	1840	Jan. 11
		' 23 (2)		'	15
		Nov. 27	57	"	Feb. 1
44	"	Dec. 9			Mar. 12
	"	' 17			Apr. 18
		' 27			
45	"	"Proposition for Consideration"		1835	
46	1836	Apr. 30	58	1841	Mar. 28
47	1837	Jan. 2		"	May 12
	"	' 17			15
		' 25		July	24
48	"	Feb. 9	59	1842	Feb. 18
		Mar. 7		"	Mar. 22
		' 13		"	May 5
		' 17		"	June 1
		' 27		"	' 23 (2)
		May 17		"	Jul 1
				"	Oct. 15
49	"	Jun 1	60	1843	Jan. 17
		' 8		"	Mar. 22
		' 14		"	Aug. 19
50	"	Jul 17		1844	Jan. 29
		Aug. 28			

61 1839, July 10 JLC last will and testament

62 N.D. "Plans for Cathcart's Retreat

63 CWC's Passport, 10 Nov. 1829

64 1862-66 Schuyler Colfax to CWC

-- Copies of commissions and other documents of James L. Cathcart. Xerox copies.
In Case 20 (Oversize Box)

James L. Cathcart Papers - Box 3

Addendum

(80 M 17)

F65. Cathcart Family Letters

- A.L.S., 1828(?) Dec. 31, Jane B. Cathcart to her son Charles, 1 p.
A.L.S., 1834, Sept 15, " " " to her sons, 4 p.
A.L.S., 1834 Oct. 30, " " " to James L. Cathcart, Jr., 4 p.
A.L.S., 1836, John D. Barclay, to Charles W. Cathcart, 3 p.
A.L.S., 1836, May 21, Jane B. Cathcart, to Charles W. Cathcart, 2 p.
A.L.S., 1836 Nov. 18, [" " "] to " " " , 4 p.
A.L.S., 1837 Jan. 23, " " " to " " " , 3 p.
A.L.S., 1839 Jan. 16, James L. Cathcart, Jr., " " " , 3 p.
A.L.S., 1839 Oct. 3, Jane B. Cathcart, to Charles W. Cathcart, 4 p.
A.L.S., 1839 Dec. 13, James L. Cathcart, Jr., to Chas. W. Cathcart, 3 p.
A.L.S., 1841 Mar. 25, Jane B. Cathcart, to Charles W. Cathcart, 3 p.
A.L.S., 1860 Oct. 8, James H. Peabody, to [James?] L. Cathcart, 3 p.
L.S., 1863 Mar. 15, S.S. Hazelton, to Chas. Cathcart, 2 p.
A.L.S., 1863 Apr. 24, James G. Cathcart, to "Dear Father", 4 p.
A.L.S., 1863 Nov 23, James L. Cathcart, to Josephine Cathcart, 4 p.
A.L.S., 1868 July 17, James L. Cathcart, to "Dear John", 2 p.
A.L.S., n.y. "Christmas Night", Chas. W. Cathcart, to "My dear Josephine", 3 p.
A.L.S., n.d. "Saturday noon", Jane C[athcart], to "My dear Brother", 1 p.
A.L.S., [year illegible] Nov. 2, Chas. W. Cathcart, to "Josephine & Janie", 2 p.

F.66. Genealogical Notes

F. 67. Printed Matter