



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

William Alexander papers

1709-1835 [bulk 1762-1812]

MssCol 44

Summary

Creator: Alexander, William, 1726-1783

Title: William Alexander papers

Date: 1709-1835 [bulk 1762-1812]

Size: .4 linear feet (1 box); 1 microfilm reel

Source: Purchase, Sayre, F, 1899

Abstract: William Alexander (1726-1783) of New York City, popularly known as Lord Stirling, was a merchant, public official, the first governor of King's (Columbia) College, and a soldier in the American Revolution. He joined the British army at the onset of the French and Indian War, acting as commissary, aide and secretary to Governor William Shirley. In 1757 the House of Lords officially revoked his appeal as rightful heir of the earldom of Stirling; despite the ruling, Alexander assumed the title of Lord Stirling. On his return to America in 1761 he was made a member of the New Jersey Council and he acted as surveyor-general and assistant to the governor of the colony. He subsequently became the leader of the first New Jersey Regiment of the Revolutionary army. Alexander fought throughout the war in the Battles of Long Island, Trenton, Princeton, Matouchin, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. In 1781 Alexander took command of a battalion in Albany, New York, and two years later he died after preliminary peace negotiations were drafted. Collection consists of correspondence and documents dealing with personal, legal and commercial matters. Correspondence, ca. 1762-1779, includes Alexander's incoming and outgoing mail with some supplementary copies and facsimiles of letters held in other repositories. Core of the collection contains letters, ca. 1753-1835, exchanged between well-known merchants of the day. Also, legal and commercial papers, ca. 1790-1833, relating to Alexander, his family and his business associates.

Alternative Form Available: Entire collection available on microfilm; New York Public Library

Preferred citation: William Alexander papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

William Alexander (1726-1783) of New York City, popularly known as Lord Stirling, was a merchant,

public official, the first governor of King's (Columbia) College, and a soldier in the American Revolution. He joined the British army at the onset of the French and Indian War, acting as commissary, aide and secretary to Governor William Shirley. In 1757 the House of Lords officially revoked his appeal as rightful heir of the earldom of Stirling; despite the ruling, Alexander assumed the title of Lord Stirling. On his return to America in 1761 he was made a member of the New Jersey Council and he acted as surveyor-general and assistant to the governor of the colony. He subsequently became the leader of the first New Jersey Regiment of the Revolutionary army. Alexander fought throughout the war in the Battles of Long Island, Trenton, Princeton, Matouchin, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. In 1781 Alexander took command of a battalion in Albany, New York, and two years later he died after preliminary peace negotiations were drafted.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

Counterfeits and counterfeiting
Embezzlement -- New Jersey
Lotteries -- Delaware
Shipment of goods

Geographic Names

Georgia -- Commerce
New York (State) -- Commerce
United States -- Commerce

Occupations

Merchants

Names

Alexander, William, 1726-1783
Bancker, Gerard, 1740-1799
Franklin, Samuel
Ogdon, Uzal, 1744-1822
Rapelje, Garret, b. 1771
Skinner, Stephen
Alexander family