



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Allan McLane letters**

1781-1807

MssCol 4542

Compiled by Kit Messick, 2013

## Summary

**Creator:** McLane, Allan, 1746-1829

**Title:** Allan McLane letters

**Date:** 1781-1807

**Size:** .1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Gift of John S. Kennedy, 1896, and John Pierpont Morgan, 1899, with additional purchase in 1941.

**Abstract:** Several letters written by Continental Army officer and Delaware statesman Allan McLane pertaining to his service in the Continental Army, and to his work as Collector of the Port of Wilmington. An undated essay or statement by McLane titled "A Hard Case" describes his financial struggles due to depreciation of loans made to the Continental Congress in 1779 and depreciation of his Army pay in 1783, and the attempts of political rivals to have him removed from his position in the Customs Bureau; and a manuscript copy of a 1791 letter from George Washington commends McLane's military service.

**Preferred citation:** Allan McLane letters, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Messick, 2013

## Creator History

Allan McLane (1746-1829) was an officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. He was appointed as first United States Marshal of Delaware in 1789, and as Collector of the Port of Wilmington in 1797.

## Custodial History

Some material in the collection was originally received as part of the Thomas Addis Emmet and Ford collections.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Several letters written by Continental Army officer and Delaware statesman Allan McLane pertaining to his service in the Continental Army, and to his work as Collector of the Port of Wilmington. An undated essay or statement by McLane titled "A Hard Case" describes his financial struggles due to depreciation of loans made to the Continental Congress in 1779 and depreciation of his Army pay in 1783, and the attempts of political rivals to have him removed from his position in the Customs Bureau; and a manuscript copy of a 1791 letter from George Washington commends McLane's military service.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Customs administration -- Delaware -- 19th century  
Statesmen -- Delaware -- 19th century

### **Geographic Names**

Delaware -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865

### **Occupations**

Soldiers -- United States -- 18th century  
Statesmen -- Delawards -- 19th century

### **Names**

Washington, George, 1732-1799  
United States. Bureau of Customs