The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the
William Edgar papers
1750-1870
MssCol 893

Summary

Creator: Edgar, William, 1739-1820

Title: William Edgar papers

Date: 1750-1870

Size: 2 linear feet (11 v.)

Source: Negatives were made from originals owned by Herman L.R. Edgar, 1932

Abstract: William Edgar (1736-1820) was an Irish-born merchant of Detroit, Michigan, where he was a financial agent for the British Army post. He moved to New York City in 1780 or 1781 and engaged in trade with China and East India. Collection consists of negative copies of correspondence, accounts and other papers relating to Edgar's trading post at Detroit; and correspondence concerning family and personal matters. Papers until the end of the American Revolution are dated at New York, Albany, Montreal, Michilimackinac, Philadelphia, Trenton, and elsewhere. Later papers relate to trade with London, Calcutta, Canton, China, and locations within the U.S. Correspondents include Gerard Beekman, Aaron Burr, DeWitt Clinton, Horatio Gates, Alexander Hamilton, Brockholst Livingston, Philip Livingston, Alexander Macomb, Gurdon S. Mumford, Henry Remsen, Henry Rutgers, and Daniel Webster.

Alternative Form Available: Correspondence from vols. 1, 2 and 4 available on microfilm; New York Public Library

Location of Originals: Originals in possession of the Edgar family

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

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Geographic Names
Calcutta (India) -- Commerce
Detroit (Mich.) -- Commerce
Guangzhou (China) -- Commerce
New York (N.Y.) -- Commerce

Occupations
Merchants

Names
Edgar, William, 1739-1820
Beekman, Gerard
Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836
Clinton, DeWitt, 1769-1828
Edgar, William, 1739-1820
Gates, Horatio, 1728-1806
Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804
Livingston, Brockholst, 1757-1823
Livingston, Philip, 1716-1778
Macomb, Alexander, 1782-1841
Mumford, Gurdon Saltonstall, 1764-1831
Remsen, Henry, 1736-1792
Rutgers, Henry, 1745-1830
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852
Edgar family