

United States War Department Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Collection Summary

Title: United States War Department Records

Span Dates: 1794-1848

ID No.: MSS76072

Creator: United States. War Dept.

Extent: 500 items; 6 containers plus 21 oversize; 24.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Correspondence, letterbooks, ledgers, account books, legal records, lists, and other material relating primarily to the United States Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, later known as the Frankford Arsenal, and to superintendents of military stores William Irvine and his son Callender Irvine.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852.

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804.

Irvine, Callender, 1775-1841.

Irvine, William, 1741-1804.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.

Johnson, Richard M. (Richard Mentor), 1781-1850.

Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866.

Taylor, Zachary, 1784-1850.

Wirt, William, 1772-1834.

Organizations

United States. War Dept.

Subjects

Creek Indians--Wars.

Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Seminole Indians--Wars.

Locations

Frankford Arsenal (Pa.)

New Orleans (La.)--History.

United States--Armed Forces--History.

United States--Armed Forces--Supplies and stores.

United States--History--War of 1812.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The records of the United States War Department were acquired by the Library of Congress in 1920 by transfer from the War Department zone supply officer of Philadelphia, Pa. A letterbook of Callender Irvine was purchased by the Library in 1934 and added to the collection.

Processing History:

The records of the United States War Department were arranged and described in 1985. The collection was expanded and revised in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status:

The contents of public records created by federal agencies may or may not be covered by copyright legislation. It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Access and Restrictions:

The records of the United States War Department are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, United States War Department Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the United States War Department span the years 1794-1848 and include correspondence, letterbooks, ledgers, account books, legal records, lists, and other material. The collection relates primarily to the United States Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pa., later known as the Frankford Arsenal, and to superintendents of military stores William Irvine and his son Callender. The material depicts the growth of the United States military and its supply needs during the early national period. For example, the letterbook of Callender Irvine and William Duncan of 1812-1813 reveals that as early as April 1812 extensive preparations were being made to provide New Orleans with the means of defending itself. Other topics include operations against the Creek and Seminole Indians and items relating to the war with Mexico, 1846-1848. The collection is arranged in the following series: [Chronological File](#) and [Oversize](#).

Significant individuals represented in the collection include John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, Alexander Hamilton, Andrew Jackson, Richard M. Johnson, Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, and William Wirt.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Chronological File, 1794-1848](#)
- [Oversize, 1795-1825](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-6	<u>Chronological File, 1794-1848</u> Correspondence, letterbooks, journals, ledgers, account books, lists, abstracts, legal records, printed matter, and other material. Arranged chronologically by date of latest material within each heading.
BOX OV 1-OV 21	<u>Oversize, 1795-1825</u> Oversize letterbooks, journals, ledgers, account books, lists, and abstracts. Organized and described according to the series, containers and folders from which the items were removed

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-6	Chronological File, 1794-1848 Correspondence, letterbooks, journals, ledgers, account books, lists, abstracts, legal records, printed matter, and other material. Arranged chronologically by date of latest material within each heading.
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BOX 1	Ledger, military stores keeper, unknown post, 1796-1798
BOX 1	1799
BOX 1	Ledger, Major Craig, unknown post, provisions receipt book, 1797-1799
BOX 1	Letterbook, Samuel Hodgden, Philadelphia, Pa., depot, 1798-1799 <u>See Oversize</u>
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Chronological File, 1794-1848

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Chronological File, 1794-1848

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Oversize, 1795-1825

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