

Collection #:
M 0006
OMB 0034 (Flat Files in FF 11-m)
F 0393–0395, 0584, 1705–1706
BV 3187–3188

**JOHN ARMSTRONG (1755–1816)
PAPERS, 1772–1950 (BULK 1779–1867)**

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Processed by

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Paul Brockman

24 October 1989; 1 October 1997

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 14 manuscript boxes, 2 bound volumes, 1 oversize box, 6 microfilm reels. Some oversize materials are stored in Flat File: FF 11-m,

COLLECTION DATES: 1772-1950

PROVENANCE: Estate of Charles F. Cockran, La Porte, IN, 1963; Mrs. Robert Coffman, 709 Harrison, La Porte, IN, 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1975; Halvor Americana, Box 221, Clarendon Hills, IL 18 May 1988; King V. Hostick, Springfield, IL, 1968; P. Malcolm Lewis, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, England, 1973; La Porte County Historical Museum, La Porte, IN, 1973

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: John H. Armstrong Papers (M 0410); Charles W. Smith Papers (M 0348)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1936.1003, 1963.0704, 1968.0707, 1970.0613, 1970.0902, 1972.1207, 1973.0409, 1973.0410, 1973.0505, 1973.0606, 1973.0706, 1973.1206, 1974.0212, 1974.0313, 1974.1010, 1975.0308, 1975.1014, 1975.1110, 1977.0109, 1978.1207, 1988.0441

NOTES: This is an open, artificial collection to which additions are made periodically. Collection calendar available in IHS Library.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Armstrong (1755-1816) was a soldier, merchant, and land speculator. He served as a soldier and an officer with the 3rd and 12th Pennsylvania regiments (1776-1784) and with the United States Army in the West (1784-1793). He participated in Pennsylvania's conflict with the Connecticut settlers at Wyoming (1783-1784), was commandant at Fort Pitt (1785-1786) and was stationed at Fort Finney (1786-1790). Armstrong helped explore the lower Missouri River and the Wabash River (1790). He also participated in the military campaigns of Col. Josiah Harmar (1790) and General Arthur St. Clair (1791). From 1791-1792 Armstrong served as commandant at Fort Hamilton. Upon his retirement from the army, Armstrong owned a general store near Cincinnati, Ohio from 1793-ca. 1807. He also served as justice of the peace for Hamilton County, Ohio from 1796-1797, was treasurer for the Northwest Territory from 1796-1802, and was an officer in the Hamilton County Militia from 1796-ca. 1811. Armstrong was also a land speculator in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. He lived in Clark County, Indiana from 1814 until his death in February 1816.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists principally of papers from the period 1779-1867. John Armstrong's papers include his military correspondence regarding supplies, military operations, and relations with the Indians and settlers (1782-1793), including retained copies of his letters and reports to James Wilkinson, Arthur St. Clair, Anthony Wayne, and other officers; his notebooks containing copies of orders, military correspondence, and accounts (1781-1793), including accounts for Fort Pitt and Fort Finney (1785-1790), and garrison orders for Fort Hamilton and Fort Washington (1792); bills, receipts, and accounts for army contractors (1784-1793); personal business documents, including surveys, indentures, receipts, and correspondence regarding his mercantile business and land speculation (1780s-1816); account books for his general store in Cincinnati (1793-1811) and other business ventures. Also included is a notebook for Armstrong's business as Northwest Territory treasurer (1798); documents relating to his work as Hamilton County justice of the peace (1796-1797); and correspondence and papers regarding the claims of Richard McCarty as a member of George Rogers Clark's Illinois expedition (1779, 1788-1818).

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