Andrew Ellicott Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2003
Revised 2010 April

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006045

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm75019679

Prepared by Anita Nolen
Revised by Patrick Kerwin
Collection Summary
Title: Andrew Ellicott Papers
Span Dates: 1777-1829
ID No.: MSS19679
Creator: Ellicott, Andrew, 1754-1820
Extent: 925 items ; 7 containers ; 1.1 linear feet ; 2 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Surveyor and mathematician. Correspondence, maps, charts, and reports of astronomical observations chiefly concerning Ellicott's work in surveying the boundary between the United States and Florida under the San Lorenzo Treaty (1795) and also his surveys of the city of Washington, the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina, the town of Presque Isle (later Erie), Pennsylvania, and the boundary between the United States and Canada under the Treaty of Ghent (1814). Other subjects include international politics, Indian affairs, and the Blount conspiracy (1797).

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.

People
Clark, Daniel, 1766-1813--Correspondence.
Dunbar, William, 1749-1810--Correspondence.
Ellicott, Andrew, 1754-1820.
Ellicott, Joseph, 1760-1826--Correspondence.
Ellicott, Sarah--Correspondence.
Hawkins, Benjamin, 1754-1816--Correspondence.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Correspondence.
Madison, James, 1751-1836--Correspondence.
Minor, Stephen--Correspondence.
Patterson, Robert, 1743-1824--Correspondence.
Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829--Correspondence.
Pitchlynn, John, approximately 1756-1835--Correspondence.
Sargent, Winthrop, 1753-1820--Correspondence.
Van Ness, Cornelius P. (Cornelius Peter), 1782-1852--Correspondence.
Wilkinson, James, 1757-1825--Correspondence.

Organizations
Great Britain. Treaties, etc. United States, 1814 December 24.

Subjects
Astronomy.
Conspiracies--United States.
Indians of North America--Government relations.
Surveying--Georgia.
Surveying--Pennsylvania.
Surveying--South Carolina.
Surveying--Washington (D.C.)
World politics.

Places
Canada--Boundaries--United States.
Erie (Pa.)--Surveys.
Florida--Boundaries--United States.
Georgia--Boundaries--South Carolina.
Georgia--Surveys.
South Carolina--Boundaries--Georgia.
South Carolina--Surveys.
United States--Boundaries--Canada.
United States--Boundaries--Florida.
Washington (D.C.)--Surveys.

Titles
San Lorenzo Treaty, 1795.

Occupations
Mathematicians.
Surveyors.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Andrew Ellicott, surveyor and mathematician, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1931 and 1936. Additions were given by Charles B. Curtis, 1945-1953.

Processing History
The papers of Andrew Ellicott were processed in 1974. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Andrew Ellicott is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Andrew Ellicott 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.

Microfilm
A microfilm edition of these papers is available on two reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Andrew Ellicott Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1754, Jan.24</td>
<td>Born, Bucks County, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1775</td>
<td>Married Sarah (Sally) Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family founded Ellicott City, Md.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Appointed as surveyor of the Mason-Dixon Line</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1785 Mathematics teacher, Baltimore Academy, Baltimore, Md.
1789 Appointed to survey southwestern boundary of New York
1791-1793 Surveyor of area for permanent seat of the national government
1792 Revised Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the Federal City
1793 Published first map of the Territory of Columbia
1794 Appointed commissioner to lay out the town of Presque Isle (now Erie), Pa.
1796 Commissioned to survey boundary between the United States and Florida
1803 Published The Journal of Andrew Ellicott. Philadelphia: Printed by Budd & Bartram for Thomas Dobson
1811 Surveyed Georgia-South Carolina boundary
1813-1820 Professor of mathematics, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1818-1820 Chief American surveyor to establish the United States-Canadian border
1820, Aug. 28 Died, West Point, N.Y.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Andrew Ellicott (1758-1820) span the period 1777-1829. The collection includes volumes of letters received, letters sent, correspondence, and papers relating to Ellicott and David Gillespie.

The volumes of letters received and sent cover the period 1796-1800 and are chiefly concerned with Ellicott's work in surveying the boundary between the United States and Florida under the San Lorenzo Treaty of 1795. Other subjects discussed are international politics, Indian affairs, and the Blount conspiracy of 1797. Correspondents include Daniel Clark, Jr., William Dunbar, Manuel Gayoso de Lemos, Benjamin Hawkins, Stephen Minor, Timothy Pickering, John Pitchlynn, Winthrop Sargent, and James Wilkinson. Additional material relating to the boundary survey is in a volume of papers relating to Ellicott's correspondence with his assistant, David Gillespie.

Ellicott's activities on other projects such as surveys of the city of Washington, the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina, the town of Presque Isle (later Erie), Pennsylvania, and the boundary between the United States and Canada under the Treaty of Ghent of 1814, are documented in the volumes of correspondence. Although consisting largely of Ellicott's letters to his wife, Sarah, this material also includes maps, charts, and reports of astronomical observations as well as correspondence with his brother, Joseph Ellicott, and with Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Robert Patterson, and Cornelius P. Van Ness.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16232

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Letters received</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 1</td>
<td>1796, Sept. 17-1798, June 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1798, June 8-1800, Apr. 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 1</td>
<td>Letters sent, 1797, Feb. 24-1800, Apr. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>1784, Jan. 16-1800, Dec. 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 2</td>
<td>1801, Jan. 15-1804, Sept. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>1805, Mar. 1-1819, July 9; 1820, Aug. 28; 1829, Jan.-Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 2</td>
<td>Papers of Andrew Ellicott and David Gillespie, 1777, Oct.-1801, May 17</td>
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