Thomas Truxtun Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008140

Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Truxtun Papers
Span Dates: 1796-1885
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1796-1822)
ID No.: MSS54189
Creator: Truxtun, Thomas, 1755-1822
Extent: 18 items; 1 container; 0.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: United States Navy officer. Correspondence, property share, funeral announcement, and other printed matter relating to Truxtun's resignation from the United States Navy in 1802 and to his duties as sheriff of Philadelphia, Pa., also including an 1885 article on Truxtun's grandson, William Talbot Truxtun.

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
Balfour, George, fl. 1798-1804--Correspondence.
Clarkson, David M.--Correspondence.
Cornman, Joseph--Correspondence.
Murray, Alexander, 1754 or 5-1821--Correspondence.
Patterson, William, 1752-1835--Correspondence.
Stoddert, Benjamin, 1751-1813--Correspondence.
Swartwout, Samuel, 1783-1856--Correspondence.
Truxtun, Thomas, 1755-1822.
Truxtun, William Talbot, 1824-1887.

Organizations
United States Darien Exploring Expedition (1871 and 1873)
United States. Navy--Officers.

Subjects
Sheriffs--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Thomas Truxtun, United States Navy officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1952 and 1984. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History:

The papers of Thomas Truxtun were arranged and described in 1997. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material:

Other papers of Thomas Truxtun are also included in the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection in the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas Truxtun is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Thomas Truxtun 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, Thomas Truxtun Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	***Event***
1755, Feb. 17	Born, near Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.
1794	Appointed captain, U.S. Navy
1798-1800	Commanded the *Constellation* (frigate) during the Quasi-War with France
1802	Resigned from U.S. Navy
1816-1819	Sheriff, Philadelphia, Pa.
1822, May 5	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Truxtun (1755-1822) span the years 1796-1885, with the bulk of the items dating from 1796 to 1822. Truxtun served in the United States Navy during the Revolutionary War and later as commander of the *Constellation* (frigate) and of the Mediterranean Squadron. He resigned his commission in 1802 following a controversy with the Navy Department.

The papers consist of correspondence and printed matter. A letter of 1806 details Truxtun's account of the circumstances related to his resignation. Several letters pertain to Truxtun's position as sheriff of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1816-1819. An article from 1885 concerns his grandson, William Talbot Truxtun, who participated in the Darien Exploring Expedition. Correspondents include George Balfour, David M. Clarkson, Joseph Cornman, Alexander Murray, William Patterson, Benjamin Stoddert, and Samuel Swartwout.

Arrangement of the Papers

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

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1799-1817
BOX 1	Printed matter
BOX 1	One share in the property of the Asylum Co., 1796
BOX 1	*Reply of Commodore Truxtun to the Attack Made on Him in the National Intelligencer, in June, 1806,* 1806
BOX 1	Invitation to funeral of Truxtun, 1822
BOX 1	Truxtun, William Talbot, Darien Exploring Expedition (1871 and 1873), 1885