William Torrey Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

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Collection Summary

Title: William Torrey Papers
Span Dates: 1777-1904
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1777-1783)
ID No.: MSS97006
Creator: Torrey, William, 1751?-1828
Extent: 24 volumes; 2 containers; 0.8 linear feet; 3 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Continental Army officer. Orderly books of the Second Massachusetts Regiment, 1777-1783, kept primarily by Torrey, including general, division, brigade, and regimental orders, a muster roll of the regiment, memorandum book containing returns, Continental Congress resolves, and miscellaneous material.

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
Torrey, William, 1751?-1828.

Organizations
United States. Continental Army--Order-books.
United States. Continental Army. Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1776-1783)
United States. Continental Congress.

Places
Connecticut--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
New Jersey--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
New York (State)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

Occupations
Army officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Torrey, Continental Army officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the United States Army War College in 1916.

Processing History

The papers of William Torrey were arranged and described in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Torrey is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Torrey Papers 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 three 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

William Torrey, born circa 1751, died 1828, from Hanover, Massachusetts, was a soldier and army officer in the Revolutionary War. He was a member of the company of Minute Men at Lexington, April 19, 1775; a sergeant in Bailey's Massachusetts Regiment, May to December 1875; first lieutenant in the Second Massachusetts Regiment as of January 1777; and became regimental adjutant in March 1778. He served in the American cause until June 1783.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Torrey (1751?-1828), span the years 1777-1904, with the bulk from 1777 to 1783. The collection consists of orderly books of the Second Massachusetts Regiment, September 6, 1777 to May 31, 1783, kept primarily by Torrey while serving as a Continental Army officer during the Revolutionary War. Included are general, division, brigade, and regimental orders issued at Danbury and Hartford, Connecticut; Middlebrook, New Jersey; and Saratoga, White Plains, West Point, and New Windsor, New York. Also in the collection are a muster roll of the regiment, a memorandum book containing returns, Continental Congress resolves, and miscellaneous material. A list of the volumes with notations by A. A. Folsom, 1904, precedes the collection.

Arrangement of the Papers

The volumes are arranged in a numerical sequence that is largely chronological.

Container List

Available on microfilm, Shelf no. 16,859

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1 REEL 1	List of vols. prepared by A. A. Folsom, Boston, Mass., 1904, Feb. 19
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 1, Battle of Saratoga and John Burgoyne's surrender, 1777, Sept. 6-Dec. 17
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 2, kept by Luther Bailey Hudson River, 1778, Aug. 24-1779, Apr. 25
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 3, regimental book, muster roll, 1779, Mar.1
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 4, West Point, N.Y., 1779, Apr. 26-July 31
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 5, West Point, N.Y., 1779, July 30,-Nov. 19
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 6, West Point, N.Y., 1779, Nov. 19-1780, Feb. 29
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 7, West Point, N.Y., 1780, Mar. 1-June 6
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Vol. 8, West Point, N.Y. and Hudson River, 1780, June 7-Aug. 16
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Vol. 9, Orangetown, N.Y. and Benedict Arnold's treason, 1780, Aug. 17-Oct. 6
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Vol. 10, Potoway and West Point, N.Y., 1780, Oct. 6-Dec. 23
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Vol. 11, West Point, N.Y., 1780, Dec. 24-1781, Mar.
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Vol. 12, West Point, N.Y. and Peekskill, N.Y., 1781, June 10-Sept. 3
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Vol. 13, West Point, N.Y., 1781, Sept. 4-Nov. 29
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 14, 1781, Dec. 1-1782, Jan. 15
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 15, West Point, N.Y., 1782, Jan. 12-Mar. 23
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 16, West Point, N.Y., 1782, Mar. 23-May 17
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 17, West Point, N.Y., 1782, June 22-Aug. 11
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 18, 1782, Aug. 12-Sept. 9
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 19, 1782, Sept. 10-Nov. 12
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 20, 1782, Nov. 14-1783, Jan. 6
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 21, returns and resolves, 1782-1783, Aug. 1

Container	*Contents*
BOX 3 REEL 3	Vol. 22, 1783, Jan. 7-Feb. 16
BOX 4 REEL 3	Vol. 23, 1783, Feb. 15-Mar. 28
BOX 4 REEL 3	Vol. 24, 1783, Mar. 27-May 31