

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Hamilton, Thomas (c1767-1829)** **MC 2002.6**

Material: Papers (1789-1830)

Volume: .25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Friends of the Library, with additional support, 2002

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Hamilton, native of Belfast, Ireland, was born circa 1767. Having received his education at Belfast, he immigrated to America in 1785, and resided for some time with his brother, James Hamilton, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In 1788 he moved to Greensburg, PA and in 1793 was appointed prothonotary of Westmoreland County. He continued in that office until 1809 when he took up residence in Kittanning, and there he remained until his death on August 16, 1829.

James Hamilton, to whom the majority of the letters in this collection are addressed, was a prominent Carlisle figure. Born in Ireland in 1752, James Hamilton immigrated to America sometime before the Revolutionary War. He held the office of Deputy Attorney-General (or Prosecuting Attorney) prior to being appointed President Judge of the Ninth Judicial District in 1806. James Hamilton also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Dickinson College from 1794 until his death on March 13, 1819.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Hamilton Collection is housed in one document box and the materials are divided into two series: Correspondence and Miscellaneous Materials. The Friends of the Library purchased this collection in 2002, with additional financial support from private donors.

The series entitled Correspondence consists almost exclusively of letters received by James Hamilton from his brother Thomas Hamilton. The letters range in date from 1789 until 1818 and cover a variety of topics, including financial business and accounts, legal cases, local and national politics, family news and religion. The letters also reflect Thomas and James' activities as land speculators in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky. The collection also contains two letters not sent by Thomas to James Hamilton. One is

from Ann Power, daughter of Thomas Cruse, to her uncle, James Hamilton and the other is from James Hamilton, Jr. (Dickinson class of 1812) to Thomas McConnell, his cousin.

The series entitled Miscellaneous Materials consists of three items, two being financial accounts and the third being a notebook maintained by Thomas Hamilton. This notebook consists of various notes on matters pertinent to Thomas' financial accounts, active court cases and organizations in which he was interested or a member. The notebook also includes miscellaneous notes, such as a list of elected government officials, United States acreage statistics, a list of taxable inhabitants by Pennsylvania county, and election results, among other items. Short essays on religious matters are also included.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2002.6

CORRESPONDENCE

Thomas Hamilton – Letters Sent

- Folder 01) Letter to James Hamilton – Oct. 27, 1789
Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 8, 1791
- Folder 02) Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 9, 1791
Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 23, 1791
- Folder 03) Letter to James Hamilton – July 7, 1791
Letter to James Hamilton – Oct. 27, 1791
- Folder 04) Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 21, 1792
Letter to James Hamilton – May 18, 1792
- Folder 05) Letter to James Hamilton – July 14, 1792
Letter to James Hamilton – Sep. 25, 1792
- Folder 06) Letter to James Hamilton – Nov. 16, 1792
Letter to James Hamilton – Nov. 24, 1792
- Folder 07) Letter to James Hamilton – Jan. 7, 1793
Letter to James Hamilton – Nov. 16, 1793
- Folder 08) Letter to James Hamilton – Feb. 21, 1794
Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 25, 1794
- Folder 09) Letter to James Hamilton – May 23, 1794
Letter to James Hamilton – June 13, 1794
- Folder 10) Letter to James Hamilton – Sep. 5, 1794
Letter to James Hamilton – Sep. 19, 1794
- Folder 11) Letter to James Hamilton – Nov. 29, 1794
Letter to James Hamilton – Dec. 27, 1794
- Folder 12) Letter to James Hamilton – Jan. 30, 1795
Letter to James Hamilton – Mar. 4, 1795
- Folder 13) Letter to James Hamilton – Mar. 28, 1795
Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 6, 1795
- Folder 14) Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 25, 1795
Letter to James Hamilton – May 23, 1795
- Folder 15) Letter to James Hamilton – June 5, 1795
Letter to James Hamilton – July 3, 1795

BOX 1 - MC 2002.6 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Thomas Hamilton – Letters Sent (cont.)

- Folder 16) Letter to James Hamilton – July 18, 1795
Letter to James Hamilton – Sep. 12, 1795
 - Folder 17) Letter to James Hamilton – Sep. 22, 1795
Letter to James Hamilton – Sep. 25, 1795
 - Folder 18) Letter to James Hamilton – Dec. 5, 1795
Letter to James Hamilton – Feb. 9, 1796
 - Folder 19) Letter to James Hamilton – Feb. 26, 1796
Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 1, 1796
 - Folder 20) Letter to James Hamilton – May 14, 1796
Letter to James Hamilton – Feb. 6, 1811
 - Folder 21) Letter to James Hamilton – Feb. 20, 1817
Letter to James Hamilton – Mar. 22, 1817
 - Folder 22) Letter to James Hamilton – May 6, 1817
Letter to James Hamilton – July 8, 1817
 - Folder 23) Letter to James Hamilton – Aug. 5, 1817
Letter to James Hamilton – Sep. 23, 1817
 - Folder 24) Letter to James Hamilton – Nov. 11, 1817
Letter to James Hamilton – Jan. 5, 1818
 - Folder 25) Letter to James Hamilton – Jan. 20, 1818
Letter to James Hamilton – Mar. 2, 1818
 - Folder 26) Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 11, 1818
Letter to James Hamilton – Apr. 28, 1818
 - Folder 27) Letter to James Hamilton – May 23, 1818
Letter to James Hamilton – June 24, 1818
 - Folder 28) Letter to James Hamilton – Oct. 3, 1818
- James Hamilton, Jr. – Letter Sent
- Folder 29) Letter to Thomas McConnell – June 7, 1830
- Ann Power – Letter Sent
- Folder 30) Letter to James Hamilton – Jan. 5, 1813

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

Thomas Hamilton

- Folder 31) Notebook
- Folder 32) Statement of Accounts – Mar. 1793
Statement of Account to James Hamilton –1810