**York County History Center**

**Manuscript Collection**

**American Revolution Era Documents**

**1775 – 1783**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Object ID Number: No object ID number has been assigned to this collection

Title: American Revolution Era Documents

Creator: Various

Dates: 1775 – 1783

Media: Letters, documents, notes, books. Photocopies, microfilm and digital images of the original documents are available.

Quantity: 1 folder, 2 books

**BACKGROUND OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA IN YORK COUNTY**

York County played an important role in the Revolutionary War. The people of York County selected a committee to protest the British, and provided financial and military support for the War. In 1776, James Smith, a York resident, signed the Declaration of Independence. From September 30, 1777 to June 28, 1778, the Second Continental Congress relocated to York after British troops occupied Philadelphia. During its time in York, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation, signed the French Alliance, and declared a day of national prayer and thanksgiving. The presence of the Continental Congress in York brought the first printing press to the County. This press was used to print military and legislative news, as well as Continental currency. The Conway Cabal, a group of senior Continental Army officers who sought to have General George Washington replaced as the commander-in-chief of the Army, occurred while the Continental Congress was in York.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The American Revolution Era Documents are a collection of 101 miscellaneous items from the Revolutionary era in York County, primarily consisting of letters, documents and notes. Please note that this collection does not contain documents created by the Second Continental Congress or its delegates. Because these documents relate to the federal government, they are maintained by the Library of Congress.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

It is believed that items were added to this collection as they were discovered or received by the York County Heritage Trust (formerly the Historical Society of York County). They have not been arranged in any particular order. See the Detailed Description of the Collection at the end of this finding aid.

**SEE ALSO**

Manuscript files with general information on the following topics may also be of interest:

* American Revolution, MSS file 00734
* Continental Congress at York, MSS file 00839
* General Gates House and Golden Plough Tavern, MSS file 10430
* Second Pennsylvania Brigade, MSS file 14998
* Camp Security, MSS file 16140
* Articles of Confederation, MSS file 19678
* Revolutionary War, Local, MSS file 32792
* York Blues (York County Militia Company), MSS file 33836
* Minute Men of York County, 1775-1776, MSS file 39250
* Militia of York County, 1777-1783, MSS file 39251
* Conway Cabal, MSS file 39650
* Continental Courthouse, MSS file 00725

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the York County Heritage Trust. The original documents have been photocopied, microfilmed and digitized. To help preserve the original documents, researchers are asked to utilize these copies. Access to the original documents is granted at the discretion of YCHT staff.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name and the York County Heritage Trust in all footnotes and bibliographic references.

Property Rights: York County Heritage Trust owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: York Country Heritage Trust holds the copyright to this collection.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

Item Description

1 Leather bound, hand stitched book, 20 pages: “Extracts From The Votes of the House of Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, Containing Rules and Regulations for the better Government of the Military Association in Pennsylvania, the Articles of said Association, and, the Resolutions directing the Mode of levying Taxes on Non-Associators in Pennsylvania”, published by order of the Committee of Safety. Printed by W. and T. Bradford, Philadelphia

2 Letter to the Committee of York County dated September 15, 1775

3A Receipt from Peter Dinkle for 13 shot pouches dated July 16, 1776, signed by Captain John Wright

3B Receipt from Michael Hahn for eight cartridge boxes dated July 22, 1776

3C Receipt from Peter Dinkle for one cartridge box, signed by Captain Samuel Nelson

4 Account of Peter Dinkle dated 1776

Item Description

5 Note concerning suspension of commissions for officers of the 5th Battalion, undated

6 Public notice that persons employing prisoners of war must record the names of such prisoners with the nearest justice of the peace by order of the War Office, dated 1782. Inhabitants of York Town are directed to make their entries with Col. William Scott. Ordered in Council, Philadelphia, June 27, 1782, that all persons hawking or selling contrary to law be arrested, especially British prisoners and their dependents.

7 Blank enlistment form used by the Minute Men of the York County Battalion, 1775

8 Letter from the Committee of Safety to the York County Committee dated June 14, 1776, Philadelphia

9 Order from the War Office to deliver all prisoners to Captain Weaver, York Town, October 4, 1777 (said to be the first order issued by the Board of War after Congress came to York in 1777)

10 Letter from the War Office, York, concerning the treatment of sick prisoners, signed by Richard Peters, secretary to Colonel John Hay, dated November 15, 1777

11 Draft for Continental Army with a class list from York County, dated January 30, 1781

12 Letter to the Committee of York County concerning officers’ commissions dated September 29, 1775, signed by Owen Biddle

13 Letter to the York County Committee regarding an order for powder and gear dated October 14, 1775

14 Letter to the Committees of York, Cumberland and Northampton Counties requesting them to furnish 56 firelocks, dated April 26, 1776

15 Receipt for hay, feed and stabling for horses for militia, signed Travers Nash, wagon master, dated November 12, 1777

16 Letter from York concerning the supply and price of salt dated March 13, 1778, signed by John Brown

17 Receipt for horse, saddle and bridle for William Walker, signed by Charles Lukens, dated May 13, 1778

18 Letter from W. Nichols at York to Colonel John Davis dated May 14, 1778

19 Receipt for $720 signed by Alexander McDowell, dated May 29, 1778, Carlisle

Item Description

20 Return of men employed at York by the Quartermaster, signed by D. Grier, dated June 2, 1778

21 Receipt for $12,000 received by George Hacket and acknowledged by John McPherson and David Grier, dated August 25, 1778

22 Receipt for shingles, nails, etc. from John Davis, signed by John Pollock, dated September 1, 1778

23 Receipt for $1100 signed by Alexander McDowell, dated November 2, 1778

24 Request for a wagon and horses signed by Charles Lukens, dated March 2, 1779

25 Letter from John McPherson at York, dated April 27, 1779

26 Letter from Alexander McDowell at Hanover concerning transportation and the condition of horses, dated April 30, 1779

27 Return of prisoners employed in the Forage Department at York Town, signed by David Grier, dated May 1, 1779

28 Letter from Alexander McDanell concerning teams to go to Fort Pitt, dated May 1, 1779

29 Letter from John McPherson at York to Samuel Postlethwaite, dated May 4, 1779

30 Letter from Carlisle concerning the movement of wagons dated May 14, 1779

31 Letter from John Davis at Carlisle concerning the procurement of transportation to Fort Pitt, dated May 28, 1779

32 Receipt for a horse signed by Charles Lukens, dated May 29, 1779

33 Receipt for a black mare dated June 4, 1779

34 Letter from Charles Lukens to Colonel Davis concerning the need for a team, dated June 4, 1779, Washingtonsburg

35 Letter from Charles Lukens to John Davis concerning the furnishing of a horse, dated June 28, 1779, Washingtonsburg

36 Letter from Joseph Mitchel to John Davis concerning gun blocks, dated July 7, 1779

37 Letter from Charles Lukens to John Davis concerning the provision of a horse, etc., dated July 12, 1779, Washingtonsburg

Item Description

38 Letter from Charles Lukens to Colonel Davis concerning the provision of a team, dated July 26, 1779, Washingtonsburg

39 Letter from Alexander McDowell to Samuel Postlethwaite concerning financial matters, dated August 7, 1779, Hanover

40 Letter from Alexander McDowell to Samuel Postlethwaite concerning vouchers, dated August 12, 1779, Hanover

41 Letter from Alexander McDowell to Samuel Postlethwaite concerning the need for cash, dated August 22, 1779, Hanover

42 List for expenses for August 1779 at York Town

43 Expense list for August 1779 at Hanover Quartermaster Post

44 Letter from John McPherson to Samuel Postlethwaite concerning rope dated September 5, 1779, York

45 Letter from David Grier to John Davis concerning money dated October 21, 1779, York Town

46 List of supplies at York post dated November 1, 1779

47 List of expenses for November 1779 at Quartermaster post at York

48A List of payment to employees in the Quartermaster post at York dated December 1, 1779, signed by David Grier

48B List of payment to employees at York Forage Department dated December 1, 1779, signed by David Grier

49 List of supplies at York dated December 1, 1779, signed by David Grier

50 Letter from David Grier to John Davis concerning forage dated Dec. 5, 1779, York Town

51 Letter concerning two wagons dated December 22, 1779

52A Letter to John Davis concerning four wagons dated April 7, 1780

52B Promissory note signed by John McPherson dated Feb. 8, 1780

53 Letter from Miller to Samuel Postlethwaite concerning rum and whiskey dated May 24, 1780, York Town

Item Description

54 Letter concerning wood dated February 28, 1781

55 Two receipts signed by William Scott dated March 6, 1781, York

56 Receipt for cartridges signed by Andrew Johnston dated March 20, 1781

57 Letter concerning wood dated March 29, 1781

58 Letter from Christopher Hays to George Stahr concerning ammunition dated May 3, 1781

59 Letter from Christopher Hays to John Hay concerning ammunition dated May 7, 1782, Hagers Town

60 Letter from John Hazelworth concerning Indians and Fort Pitt dated March 17, 1783, Philadelphia

61 Docket, Pennsylvania vs. John Miller et al., January Sessions 1780

62 Order for Major Bartholomas dated October 9, 1776, Fort Constitution

63 Letter from Thomas Wharton, Jr. to John Donaldson concerning participants in a riot dated August 19, 1777, Philadelphia

64 Muster roll of several companies of the First Battalion of the York County Militia dated April 11, 1778, comprising part of a return of three companies of the Second Battalion

65 Muster roll of the Second Battalion of the York County Militia dated April 17, 1778

66 List of Associators in Companies of Huntington, Reading, Dover, Monaghan and Warrington Townships, undated

67 Letter from the Committee of York County, including James Smith, concerning a company of riflemen and their officers dated July 1, 1775, York Town

68 Petition to the Pennsylvania General Assembly from the Commissioners of York County concerning muskets and ammunition, undated

69 Letter from Hugh Mercer to Colonels McAllister and Slagle and field officers of York recommending John Clark for Major in the Second Battalion dated September 8, 1776, Perth Amboy

70 List of Associators in the Lower End of Shrewsbury Township, Captain Gideon Bausley’s Company, undated

Item Description

71 List of Officers and Associators of Captain Charles Lukens’ Company in York Town, of the First Battalion of York County Militia, undated

72 List of part of the inhabitants in York Town, Associators under Captain Rudolph Spangler, undated

73 List of Captain Hoover’s Company in Codorus Township, undated

74 Captain Miller’s Company and Captain Ament’s Company, undated

75 List in German script containing 86 names, beginning with George Welsh, undated

76 Articles and list of Associators of a company in the First Battalion of York County Militia dated December 27, 1775

77 List of Associators in Captain Michael Ege’s Company, March to June 1776

78 Return of Captain Bailey’s Company in York Town dated June 14, 1776, York

79A Note from Colonel Philip Albright concerning muskets dated August 10, 1778, York Town

79B Note from Captain Perigrin Mercer to Colonel Davis concerning wagons for Albrite’s battalion dated August 27, 1778

80 Letter from Charles Lukens to John Hay, Esquire dated November 4, 1779, Washington, received by George Cotter, November 5, 1779

81 John Hay’s rough docket in German script dated 1780

82 Return of the third and fourth class of the Second Company and Sixth Regiment of the York County Militia commanded by Conrood Sherman, undated

83 Class return of Captain Daniel Dubs’ Company dated 1795

84 List of third and fourth class of Hanover and Eighth Company dated November 27, 1797

85 Absentee return of Fourth Company, Sixth Regiment dated October 22, 1798

86 Absentee return of Fourth Company, Sixth Regiment dated October 1, 1798

87 Delinquent return of Eighth Company, Sixth Regiment dated October 22, 1798

88 Class list of Fourth Company, Third Regiment dated November 14, 1814

Item Description

89 Letter from Commercial Committee dated January 30, 1778, York

90 Letter dated September 14, 1777

91 Letter from Philip Livingston to Colonel Phlip Schuyler dated March 13, 1769, New York

92 Letter from James Smith, undated

93 Warrant to the Sheriff of York County to take John Ross into custody dated April 26, 1759, signed by George Stevenson and endorsed by James Smith and Zach Shugart, Sheriff

94 Printed broadside muster roll of Captain Spangler’s Company dated August 29, 1814

95 Broadside, words to the song “The Battle of Baltimore” and the chorus of “Yankee Doodle”, undated

96 Certificate of service of John Fisher in 1794, dated March 26, 1803, Lancaster

97 Extract from contract for supplying provisions to the troops of the United States in 1791

98 Letter from Hugh Bradly to General Wayne, certification signed by Anthony Wayne, dated November 2, 1785

99 Broadside, “An Address of the Congress to the Inhabitants of the United States of America” dated, May 9, 1778, In Congress

100 Broadside, “Establishment of the American Army” which includes the organization of Continental Army officers and soldiers, dated May 27, 1778, In Congress

101 Payroll accounts of Captain Michael Quickel’s militia company, Dover Township, York County, 1776