Collection #’s
M 0006
OMB 0034 (Flat Files in FF 11-m),
F 0393–0395, 0584, 1705–1706
BV 3187–3188

JOHN ARMSTRONG (1755–1816)
PAPERS, 1772–1950 (BULK 1779–1867)

Collection Information
Biographical Information
Scope and Content Note
Box and Folder Inventory
Cataloging Information

Processed by
Paul Brockman
24 October 1989; 1 October 1997

Revised 24 November 2004

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 14 manuscript boxes, 2 bound volumes, 1 oversize box, 6 microfilm reels. Some oversize materials are stored in Flat File: FF 11-m.

COLLECTION DATES: 1772-1950


RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: John H. Armstrong Papers (M 0410); Charles W. Smith Papers (M 0348)


NOTES: This is an open, artificial collection to which additions are made periodically. Collection calendar available in IHS Library.
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

John Armstrong (1755-1816) was a soldier, merchant, and land speculator. He served as a soldier and an officer with the 3rd and 12th Pennsylvania regiments (1776-1784) and with the United States Army in the West (1784-1793). He participated in Pennsylvania's conflict with the Connecticut settlers at Wyoming (1783-1784), was commandant at Fort Pitt (1785-1786), and was stationed at Fort Finney (1786-1790). Armstrong helped explore the lower Missouri River and the Wabash River (1790). He also participated in the military campaigns of Col. Josiah Harmar (1790) and General Arthur St. Clair (1791). From 1791-1792 Armstrong served as commandant at Fort Hamilton. Upon his retirement from the army, Armstrong owned a general store near Cincinnati, Ohio from 1793-ca. 1807. He also served as justice of the peace for Hamilton County, Ohio from 1796-1797, was treasurer for the Northwest Territory from 1796-1802, and was an officer in the Hamilton County Militia from 1796-ca. 1811. Armstrong was also a land speculator in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. He lived in Clark County, Indiana from 1814 until his death in February, 1816.

Other prominent people in the John Armstrong collection includes his father-in-law, William Goforth (1731-1807), a merchant in New York, Philadelphia, and Hamilton County, Ohio (1789-1807), Hamilton County judge (1790), member of the Northwest Territory legislature (1799), and president pro tem of the Ohio constitutional convention (1802); and his son, William G. Armstrong (1797-1858), Whig member, Indiana House of Representatives (1822-1825, 1834-1837) and Indiana State Senate (1838-1841), and president of the Jeffersonville Railroad Company (1847-1858).
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists principally of papers from the period 1779-1867. John Armstrong's papers include his military correspondence regarding supplies, military operations, and relations with the Indians and settlers (1782-1793), including retained copies of his letters and reports to James Wilkinson, Arthur St. Clair, Anthony Wayne, and other officers; his notebooks containing copies of orders, military correspondence, and accounts (1781-1793), including accounts for Fort Pitt and Fort Finney (1785-1790), and garrison orders for Fort Hamilton and Fort Washington (1792); bills, receipts, and accounts for army contractors (1784-1793); personal business documents, including surveys, indentures, receipts, and correspondence regarding his mercantile business and land speculation (1780s-1816); account books for his general store in Cincinnati (1793-1811) and other business ventures. Also included is a notebook for Armstrong's business as Northwest Territory treasurer (1798); documents relating to his work as Hamilton County justice of the peace (1796-1797); and correspondence and papers regarding the claims of Richard McCarty as a member of George Rogers Clark's Illinois expedition (1779, 1788-1818).

William Goforth papers include daybooks for his businesses in New York City (1774-1788) and Cincinnati (1788-1816); Hamilton County Court records (1790-1794, 1805); and diary of his trip from New York to Ohio (1788-1789). William G. Armstrong papers include correspondence of Armstrong and his mother, Tabitha Armstrong Lockhart (d. 1848), with family members in Brookville, Franklin County, LaPorte, LaPorte County, Cincinnati and Madisonville, Ohio, and Georgetown, Kentucky (1817-1858); indentures, receipts, correspondence, and other papers relating to his land and business dealings (1816-1858). There is also Armstrong's correspondence regarding the Indiana legislature and the Whig Party in Indiana (1820s-1840s), and papers relating to the Jeffersonville Railroad Company (1847-1858). The collection also includes family correspondence of William G. Armstrong, Jr., of Jeffersonville (1858-1867); and correspondence and the research notes of biographer Charles F. Cochran regarding John Armstrong and the Armstrong family (1896-1950).
BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY

BOX 1: Biography, Genealogy, and Land Grants; Papers & Correspondence, 1772-1788

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1. Biography and Genealogy, Items 1-4
2. Biography and Genealogy, Items 5-13
3. Biography and Genealogy, Items 14-25
4. Biography and Genealogy, Items 26-40
5. Biography and Genealogy, Items 41-66
6. Clippings
7. Maps (photocopies)
8. Illinois Grant or Clark's Grant
9. Land (misc. notes about)
10. McCarty, Richard (land, Clark's Grant)
11. Notes by Charles F. Cochran, numbers 1-5
12. Papers & Correspondence, 1772-1782
13. Papers & Correspondence, 1783-1784
14. Correspondence, 3-21-1784
15. Papers & Correspondence, 1785 (Western Boundaries of Pennsylvania, 1785 (?), in Flat File: FF 11-m)
16. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-March 1786
17. Papers & Correspondence, April, 1786
18. Papers & Correspondence, May-Dec. 1786
19. Papers & Correspondence, Feb. 1787-March 1787
20. Papers & Correspondence, April-Dec. 1787 (also OMB 0034)
21. Papers & Correspondence, 1788 (also OMB 0034)
### BOX 2: Papers and Correspondence, 1789-1792

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Jan.-March 1789 (also OMB 0034). Lieutenant's Commission for John Armstrong, 1789, in Flat File: FF 11-m</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, April-Sept. 1789 (also OMB 0034). Land indenture, Illinois Grant, 1789, in Flat File: FF 11-m</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Oct.-Dec. 1789 (also OMB 0034)</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, 1789</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Jan.-March 1790 (also OMB 0034)</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, April-May 1790</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, June-Oct. 1791</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Nov. 1-15, 1791</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Nov. 16-30, 1791</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Dec. 1-19, 1791 (also OMB 0034)</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Dec. 20-31, 1791</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Jan.-Apr. 1792 (also OMB 0034)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, May-June 1792</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, July-Aug. 1792 (also OMB 0034)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1792</td>
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### BOX 3: Papers and Correspondence, 1793-1798

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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Feb. 1793</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, March-May 1793</td>
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</table>
4 Papers & Correspondence, June-Dec. 1793 (also OMB 0034)
5 Papers & Correspondence, 1794
6 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-May 1795 (also OMB 0034)
7 Papers & Correspondence, June-Oct. 1795 (also OMB 0034)
8 Papers & Correspondence, Nov.-Dec. 1795
9 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-March 1796 (also OMB 0034)
10 Correspondence, 3-15-1796
11 Papers & Correspondence, April-May 1796
12 Papers & Correspondence, June-July 1796
13 Papers & Correspondence, Aug.-Dec. 1796 (also OMB 0034)
14 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-May 1797 (also OMB 0034)
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1 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-July 1799
2 Papers & Correspondence, Aug.-Dec. 1799 (also OMB 0034)
3 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1800 (also OMB 0034)
4 Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1800 (also OMB 0034)
5 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-March 1801
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7 Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1801
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1. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1806 (also OMB 0034). Deed poll from John Smith, Pennsylvania, to Jacob Earnest, 1806, in Flat File: FF 11-m

2. Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1806

3. Papers & Correspondence, 1807

4. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-July 1808

5. Papers & Correspondence, Aug.-Dec. 1808 (also OMB 0034)

6. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-Sept. 1809 (also OMB 0034)

7. Papers & Correspondence, Oct.-Dec. 1809 (also OMB 0034)

8. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1810

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10. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1811 (also OMB 0034)

11. Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1811 (also OMB 0034)

12. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1812

13. Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1812 (also OMB 0034). Survey of land owned by John Armstrong in Flat File: FF 11-m

14. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1813 (also OMB 0034)

15. Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1813 (also OMB 0034)
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6. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1817 (also OMB 0034)
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8. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1818 (also OMB 0034)
9. Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1818 (also OMB 0034)
10. Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1819 (also OMB 0034)
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3. Papers & Correspondence, 1823 (also OMB 0034)
4. Papers & Correspondence, 1824 (also OMB 0034)
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Papers & Correspondence, 1831

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Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-April 1846

Papers & Correspondence, May-Dec. 1846

Papers & Correspondence, January 1847

Papers & Correspondence, Feb.-June 1847

Papers & Correspondence, July-Aug. 1847
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Oct.-Dec. 1848</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Jan.-Aug. 1849</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1849</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, 1858-1860</td>
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<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, 1861-1867; 1886-1950 (also OMB 0034). Jeffersonville Times, 7 and 13 April 1886, in Flat File: FF 11-m</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Papers &amp; Correspondence, n.d.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Wrappers</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>(VC) Armstrong &amp; Family Portraits, n.d.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>(VC) Armstrong family photographs, 1863-1966</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>(VC) Photographs from Publications, 1842, n.d.</td>
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2. Notebook Feb.-Oct., 1790; Notebook “d” 1792-1799
3. Notebook, 1793-1799
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6. Docket C Court Cases Aug. 22, 1796-April, 1797.
7. (F 0584) Microfilm of Armstrong Notebooks

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3. William Goforth's Daybook, 1774-1781
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2. (BV 3188) William Goforth's Daybook, 1783-17912
3. William Goforth's Daybook, Jan., 1793-Sept., 1795
5. William and Catharine Goforth's Receipt Book, 1796-1816
6 Account Book & Diary, 1789-1793 (Diary on pp. 43-47)
7 William Goforth's Court Records, July 2, 1791-1794
8 Transcripts of William Goforth's Diary & Ledgers, Transcribed by Charles F. Cochran, 1787-1790
9 William Goforth, Book of Expenses, 1810-1811
10 John Gray's Notebook, 1789-1794
11 Samuel Armstrong's Notebook, 1797-1798
12 John Gray's Notebook, 1790-1794
13 Col. John Armstrong, Small Ledger-Payments made by work, 1809-1811
14 John Armstrong Notebook, Land Records, 1801-1808; copies of correspondence, 1810
15 Col. John Armstrong, Miami Exporting Co., Nov. 8, 1813-June 1814
16 Col. John Armstrong's Receipt Book, April 24, 1812-July 9, 1812
17 William G. Armstrong's Account Book, April-June 1814
18 William G. Armstrong's Notebook, May, 1830
19 William G. Armstrong's Notebook, 1846
20 (OMB 0034) Gano Family Engravings & Silhouette, 1830, n.d.)

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3 Charles F. Cochran's Notebooks, n.d., Numbers 1-4
4 Charles F. Cochran's Notebooks, n.d., Numbers 5-8
5 Charles F. Cochran's Notebooks, n.d., Numbers 9-12
6 John Armstrong, Transcripts of Papers, 1783-1791
7 John Armstrong, Transcripts of Papers, 1792-1793
John Armstrong, Transcripts of Papers, 1793
John Armstrong, Transcripts of Papers, 1810

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1. John Armstrong Ledger, 1785-1800
2. William Goforth, Court Records, 1805
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0006).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.