

**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)**

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

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## **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

**PROVENANCE:** Estate of Charles F. Cockran, La Porte, IN, 1963; Mrs. Robert Coffman, 709 Harrison, La Porte, IN, 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1975; Halvor Americana, Box 221, Clarendon Hills, IL 18 May 1988; King V. Hostick, Springfield, IL, 1968; P. Malcolm Lewis, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, England, 1973; La Porte County Historical Museum, La Porte, IN, 1973

**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)

**ACCESSION NUMBERS:** 1936.1003, 1963.0704, 1968.0707, 1970.0613, 1970.0902, 1972.1207, 1973.0409, 1973.0410, 1973.0505, 1973.0606, 1973.0706, 1973.1206, 1974.0212, 1974.0313, 1974.1010, 1975.0308, 1975.1014, 1975.1110, 1977.0109, 1978.1207, 1988.0441

**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***

#### **FOLDER CONTENTS**

- 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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- 1 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-March 1789 (also OMB 0034).  
Lieutenant's Commission for John Armstrong, 1789, in Flat File: FF 11-m
- 2 Papers & Correspondence, April-Sept. 1789 (also OMB 0034).  
Land indenture, Illinois Grant, 1789, in Flat File: FF 11-m
- 3 Papers & Correspondence, Oct.-Dec. 1789 (also OMB 0034)
- 4 Papers & Correspondence, 1789
- 5 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-March 1790 (also OMB 0034)
- 6 Papers & Correspondence, April-May 1790
- 7 Papers & Correspondence, June-Dec. 1790
- 8 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-May 1791
- 9 Papers & Correspondence, June-Oct. 1791
- 10 Papers & Correspondence, Nov. 1-15, 1791
- 11 Papers & Correspondence, Nov. 16-30, 1791
- 12 Papers & Correspondence, Dec. 1-19, 1791 (also OMB 0034)
- 13 Papers & Correspondence, Dec. 20-31, 1791
- 14 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-Apr. 1792 (also OMB 0034)
- 15 Papers & Correspondence, May-June 1792
- 16 Papers & Correspondence, July-Aug. 1792 (also OMB 0034)
- 17 Papers & Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1792

**BOX 3: *Papers and Correspondence, 1793-1798***

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- 1 Papers & Correspondence, Jan. 1793
- 2 Papers & Correspondence, Feb. 1793
- 3 Papers & Correspondence, March-May 1793

- 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)
- 15 Papers & Correspondence, June-Dec. 1797 (also OMB 0034)
- 16 Papers & Correspondence, 1798 (also OMB 0034)

**BOX 4: *Papers and Correspondence, 1799-1805***

**FOLDER CONTENTS**

- 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
- 6 Papers & Correspondence, April-June 1801
- 7 Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1801
- 8 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-May 1802
- 9 Papers & Correspondence, June-Dec. 1802
- 10 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1803 (also OMB 0034)

- 11 Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1803 (also OMB 0034)
- 12 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1804
- 13 Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1804 (also OMB 0034)
- 14 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-May 1805 (also OMB 0034)
- 15 Papers & Correspondence, June-Aug. 1805 (also OMB 0034)
- 16 Papers & Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1805
- 17 (F 0393-0395) Microfilm of Armstrong Papers, 1792-1799

**BOX 5: *Papers and Correspondence, 1806-1813***

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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
- 9 Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1810
- 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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- 1 Papers & Correspondence, 1814 (also OMB 0034)
- 2 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-Aug. 1815
- 3 Papers & Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1815
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- 5 Papers & Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1816 (also OMB 0034)
- 6 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-June 1817 (also OMB 0034)
- 7 Papers & Correspondence, July-Dec. 1817
- 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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- 2 Papers & Correspondence, 1822 (also OMB 0034)
- 3 Papers & Correspondence, 1823 (also OMB 0034)
- 4 Papers & Correspondence, 1824 (also OMB 0034)
- 5 Papers & Correspondence, 1825
- 6 Papers & Correspondence, 1826 (also OMB 0034)
- 7 Papers & Correspondence, 1827
- 8 Papers & Correspondence, 1828 (also OMB 0034)

- 9 Papers & Correspondence, 1829 (also OMB 0034)
- 10 Papers & Correspondence, 1830
- 11 Papers & Correspondence, 1831
- 12 Papers & Correspondence, 1832-1833
- 13 Papers & Correspondence, 1834 (also OMB 0034)
- 14 Papers & Correspondence, 1835 (also OMB 0034)
- 15 Papers & Correspondence, 1836

**BOX 8: *Papers and Correspondence, 1837-1847***

**FOLDER CONTENTS**

- 1 Papers & Correspondence, 1837
- 2 Papers & Correspondence, 1838
- 3 Papers & Correspondence, 1839
- 4 Papers & Correspondence, 1840 (also OMB 0034)
- 5 Papers & Correspondence, 1841
- 6 Papers & Correspondence, 1842
- 7 Papers & Correspondence, 1843
- 8 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-March 1844
- 9 Papers & Correspondence, April-Dec. 1844
- 10 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-May 1845
- 11 Papers & Correspondence, June-Dec. 1845
- 12 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-April 1846
- 13 Papers & Correspondence, May-Dec. 1846
- 14 Papers & Correspondence, January 1847
- 15 Papers & Correspondence, Feb.-June 1847
- 16 Papers & Correspondence, July-Aug. 1847

17 Papers & Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1847

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- 1 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-March 1848
- 2 Papers & Correspondence, April-Sept. 1848
- 3 Papers & Correspondence, Oct.-Dec. 1848
- 4 Papers & Correspondence, Jan.-Aug. 1849
- 5 Papers & Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1849
- 6 Papers & Correspondence, 1850
- 7 Papers & Correspondence, 1851
- 8 Papers & Correspondence, 1852
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- 10 Papers & Correspondence, 1854
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- 13 Papers & Correspondence, 1857
- 14 Papers & Correspondence, 1858-1860
- 15 Papers & Correspondence, 1861-1867; 1886-1950 (also OMB 0034).  
Jeffersonville Times, 7 and 13 April 1886, in Flat File: FF 11-m
- 16 Papers & Correspondence, n.d.
- 17 wrappers
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- 19 (VC) Armstrong family photographs, 1863-1966
- 20 (VC) Photographs from Publications, 1842, n.d.

**BOX 10: *John Armstrong Notebooks, 1781-1813***

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- 1 Notebook, 1781-1813; Notebook "c" 1784-1801
- 2 Notebook Feb.-Oct., 1790; Notebook "d" 1792-1799
- 3 Notebook, 1793-1799
- 4 Accounts, business & land notations, 1785-1790; 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Regiment Nov. 16 1790 Land Records
- 5 Ledger, 1793-1797
- 6 Docket C Court Cases Aug. 22, 1796-April, 1797.
- 7 (F 0584) Microfilm of Armstrong Notebooks

**BOX 11: *John Armstrong Daybook (1796-1802) & Ledger (1798- 1811); William Goforth Daybook (1774-1781)***

**FOLDER CONTENTS**

- 1 Daybook, 1796-1802
- 2 Ledger, 1798-1811
- 3 William Goforth's Daybook, 1774-1781
- F 1706 Microfilm of William Goforth's Daybook, 1774-1781

**BOX 12: *William Goforth, Financial Records & Related Materials, 1774-1811***

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- 1 (BV 3187) William Goforth's Ledger, 1774-1788
- F 1705 Microfilm of BV 3187, William Goforth's Ledger, 1774-1778
- 2 (BV 3188) William Goforth's Daybook, 1783-17912
- 3 William Goforth's Daybook, Jan., 1793-Sept., 1795
- 4 William Goforth's Notebook, Feb., 1790-July, 1791
- 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.)

**BOX 13: *Armstrong Family Notebooks, 1798-1831 & Cochran's Notebooks***

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- 1 Ledger "E" 1830-1831, Clark Co., Ind. (Bethlehem)
- 2 Two Misc. Notebooks: (1) Acct. of Mares, 1798; (2) April 13, 1798-July, 1798, "I.A. Esqr."; Territorial Treasury Business
- 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

8                    John Armstrong, Transcripts of Papers, 1793

9                    John Armstrong, Transcripts of Papers, 1810

**BOX 14: *John Armstrong Ledger, 1785-1800; William Goforth, Court Records, 1805***

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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.