

Harman Blennerhassett

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Nancy L. Hayden

Revised by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2002

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2007**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007010>

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Harman Blennerhassett

Span Dates: 1755-1866

ID No.: MSS50633

Creator: Blennerhassett, Harman, 1765-1831

Extent: 500 items; 3 containers; 1.2 linear feet; 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Lawyer, planter, and scholar. Correspondence, journals, articles for the Ohio Gazette, memoirs, and legal and financial papers, chiefly 1795-1831, relating, in part, to the trial of Aaron Burr for treason, the indictment of Blennerhassett for conspiracy with Burr, and the subsequent misfortunes experienced by the Blennerhassett family. Includes MS. volume attributed to Harman Blennerhassett (1801-1854).

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.

Names:

Blennerhassett, Harman, 1765-1831

Anglesey, Henry William Paget, Marquis of, 1768-1854--Correspondence

Blennerhassett, Dominic, b. 1799--Correspondence

Blennerhassett, Joseph Lewis--Correspondence

Blennerhassett, Margaret, ca. 1778-1842--Correspondence

Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836--Trials, litigation, etc.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence

Cox, Nathaniel--Correspondence

Emmet, Robert, 1792-1873--Correspondence

Langley, John--Correspondence

Lewis, Joseph S.--Correspondence

Lewis, Mordecai, 1748-1799--Correspondence

Mullins, Thomas--Correspondence

Nolte, Vincent, 1779-1856--Correspondence

Peel, Robert, Sir, 1788-1850--Correspondence

Tyndall, Joseph--Correspondence

Wheatley, Richard S.--Correspondence

Woodbridge, D. (Dudley)--Correspondence

Blennerhassett family

Blennerhassett, Harman, 1801-1854. Manuscript volume of Harman Blennerhassett

Subjects:

American newspapers--Ohio

Trials (Treason)

Occupations:

Lawyers

Plantation owners

Scholars

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Harman Blennerhassett (1765-1831), lawyer, planter, and scholar, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1900.

Processing History:

The papers of Harman Blennerhassett were arranged and described by Nancy L. Hayden prior to microfilming by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service in 1973. The finding aid was revised by Patrick Kerwin in 2001.

Copyright Status:

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

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on three reels for purchase from the Library's Photoduplication Service subject to the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.). This microfilm edition may also be requested on interlibrary loan through the Library's Loan Division.

Preferred Citation:

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1765, Oct. 8	Born, Hampshire, England
1790	Admitted to bar in Ireland
1790-1796	Traveled in Europe
1796	Married Margaret Agnew
1798	Established residence on Backus Island, Wood Co., Va., later the center of Aaron Burr's activities
1805	First encounter with Aaron Burr, Marietta, Ohio
1805-1806	With Aaron Burr, developed conspiracy to separate western states from the Union and to invade Mexico
1807	Indicted for treason in Richmond, Va., but released after failure to convict Aaron Burr on a count of <i>nolle prosequi</i>
1810-1816	Cotton planter in Louisiana
1819-1822	Practiced law, Montreal, Canada
1831, Feb. 2	Died on the Isle of Guernsey, England

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harman Blennerhassett (1765-1831) span the years 1755-1866 and consist of journals, business and family correspondence, legal and financial papers, and miscellaneous material. The trial of Aaron Burr for treason, the indictment of Blennerhassett for conspiracy with him, and the subsequent misfortunes experienced by the Blennerhassett family are revealed in Blennerhassett's three-volume journal, 20 July-20 Nov. 1807, his correspondence with his wife, Margaret Agnew Blennerhassett (died 1842), and a manuscript volume attributed to his son, Harman Blennerhassett (1801-1854).

Other correspondents include Henry William Paget, the Marquis of Anglesey, Dominic Blennerhassett (born 1799), Joseph Lewis Blennerhassett, Henry Clay, Nathaniel Cox, Robert Emmet, John Langley, Joseph S. Lewis, Mordecai Lewis, Thomas Mullins, Vincent Nolte, Sir Robert Peel, Joseph Tyndall, Richard S. Wheatly, and Dudley Woodbridge.

Related Materials

A microfilm of the Blennerhassett Papers is located at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. A collection of Blennerhassett Family Papers is also located at the Campus Martius State Museum, Marietta, Ohio.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 15,903

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Journal, 1807, 20 July-20 Nov. (3 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Journal entitled "Account of a Voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi," 1807
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	1795-1820 (4 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	1822-1866 (4 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	Legal and financial papers, 1755-1862 (3 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 3	Miscellany
BOX 3 REEL 3	Legal brief on behalf of Blennerhassett, 1807
BOX 3 REEL 3	Manuscript and printed matter relating to charges against Aaron Burr and Blennerhassett, 1806-1807, 1831
BOX 3 REEL 3	"Memoir on the Views and Capacities of the United States," 1822
BOX 3 REEL 3	Volume attributed to Harman Blennerhassett (1801-1854), n.d.
BOX 3 REEL 3	"Querist," (pseudonym for Blennerhassett) material and other writings, 1804-1806, 1861
BOX 3 REEL 3	St. Paul's Masonic Lodge; diploma; list of correspondence; fragments, 1809-1822, n.d