

Nicholas Biddle

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Allan Teichroew

Revised by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

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Manuscript Division, 2005**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms005007>

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Nicholas Biddle

Span Dates: 1681-1933

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1775-1846)

ID No.: MSS12690

Creator: Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844

Extent: 15,000 items; 133 containers; 39.2 linear feet; 51 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Banker, editor, diplomat, lawyer, and legislator. Correspondence, letterbooks, account books, and writings together with family papers concerning Charles, Clement, Edward, James, Nicholas, Thomas, and William S. Biddle.

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:

Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844

Biddle, Charles, 1745-1821

Biddle, Clement, 1740-1814

Biddle, Edward, 1738-1779

Biddle, James, 1783-1848

Biddle, Thomas, 1776-1857

Biddle, William S.

Binney, Horace, 1780-1875--Correspondence

Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850--Correspondence

Cooper, Thomas, 1759-1839--Correspondence

Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817--Correspondence

Dickins, Asbury, 1780-1861--Correspondence

Hamilton, James, 1786-1857--Correspondence

Ingersoll, Charles Jared, 1782-1862--Correspondence

Lawrence, Abbott, 1792-1855--Correspondence

Lewis, Charles J.--Correspondence

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence

Livingston, Edward, 1764-1836--Correspondence

McDuffie, George, 1790-1851--Correspondence

McLean, John, 1785-1861--Correspondence

Tyler, John, 1790-1862--Correspondence

Watmough, John G. (John Goddard), 1793-1861--Correspondence

Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence

Bedell family

Pennsylvania. General Assembly

United States. Legation (France)

Bank of the United States (1816-1836)

Princeton University

Port folio (Philadelphia, Pa. : 1801)

Subjects:

Agriculture--Pennsylvania

Diplomatic and consular service, American--France

Universities and colleges--New Jersey

Pennsylvania--Commerce

Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1775-1865

Pennsylvania--Social life and customs
United States--Economic policy

Occupations:

Bankers
Diplomats
Editors
Lawyers
Legislators--Pennsylvania

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Nicholas Biddle, banker, editor, diplomat, lawyer, and legislator, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his grandsons, Charles and Edward Biddle, 1913-1914. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1952. Other gifts and purchases were received from 1909 to 1978.

Processing History:

The papers of Nicholas Biddle were bound in 1916 and the collection was microfilmed in 1965. The collection was described and additions to the collection were processed in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

Transfers:

Some pictorial material has been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Nicholas Biddle 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 fifty-one reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1786, Jan. 8	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1801	Graduated, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1804-1806	Secretary to the American legation, Paris, France
1806-1807	Secretary to the American legation, London, England
1809	Admitted to the bar, Philadelphia, Pa.
1811	Married Jane Craig

1819-1821	Director, Bank of the United States
1822-1839	President, Second Bank of the United States (later renamed the United States Bank of Pennsylvania)
1844, Feb. 27	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Nicholas Biddle (1786-1844) span the years 1681-1933, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1775-1846. The papers pertain primarily to Biddle's career as president of the Bank of the United States, 1822-1839, and cover topics such as the attitude of Congress and the president toward the bank, fiscal operations, and the views of the public regarding the bank. Other material relates to Biddle's student years at Princeton University, his position as secretary of the American legation in Paris, his editorship of and contributions to *Port Folio* magazine, his work as a member of the Pennsylvania legislature, and to business, social affairs, and farming.

The collection also includes family papers, chiefly 1775-1846, concerning Charles, Clement, Edward, James, Thomas, and William S. Biddle. Correspondents include Horace Binney, John C. Calhoun, Thomas Cooper, Alexander James Dallas, Asbury Dickens, James Hamilton (1786-1857), Charles Jared Ingersoll, Abbott Lawrence, Charles J. Lewis, Francis Lieber, Edward Livingston, George McDuffie, John McLean, John Tyler, John G. Watmough, and Daniel Webster.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1823-1841.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1776-1925, n.d.](#)
- [Family Papers, 1681-1933, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-113 REEL 1-41	<u>General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.</u> Correspondence and other papers. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 114-120 REEL 42-46	<u>Letterbooks, 1823-1841.</u> Letterbooks kept by Biddle while president of the Second Bank of the United States. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 121-123 REEL 47	<u>Miscellany, 1776-1925, n.d.</u> Correspondence, financial records, notes, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 124-133 REEL 47-51	<u>Family Papers, 1681-1933, n.d.</u> Correspondence and other material relating to various members of the Biddle Family. Arranged chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-113 REEL 1-41	General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d. Correspondence and other papers. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1775, Dec. 26-1809, Dec. 18
BOX 2 REEL 1	1809, Dec. 26-1812, Jan. 24
BOX 3 REEL 2	1812, Jan. 25- 1815, Jan. 27
BOX 4 REEL 2	1815, Jan. 30-1817, Dec. 28
BOX 5 REEL 2	1817, Dec. 30-1819, Feb. 15
BOX 6 REEL 3	1819, Feb. 16-1820, Mar. 16
BOX 7 REEL 3	1820, Mar. 22-1822, Feb. 8
BOX 8 REEL 4	1822, Feb. 9-1823, Mar. 16
BOX 9 REEL 4	1823, Mar. 7-Dec. 8
BOX 10 REEL 4	1823, Dec. 9-1824, July 31
BOX 11 REEL 5	1824, Aug. 1-1825, Jan. 17
BOX 12 REEL 5	1825, Jan. 18-Oct. 17
BOX 13 REEL 6	1825, Oct. 19-1826, Feb. 1
BOX 14 REEL 6	1826, Feb. 2-Aug. 9
BOX 15 REEL 7	1826, Aug. 10-1827, Jan. 24
BOX 16 REEL 7	1827, Jan. 25-Sept. 22
BOX 17 REEL 7	1827, Sept. 24-1828, Mar. 5
BOX 18 REEL 8	1828, Mar. 6-Oct. 26
BOX 19 REEL 8	1828, Oct. 27-1829, Feb. 25
BOX 20 REEL 9	1829, Feb. 26-Oct. 19

General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 21 REEL 9	1829, Oct. 21-1830, Jan. 2
BOX 22 REEL 9	1830
BOX 23 REEL 10	Jan. 4-May 29 May 30-Nov. 20
BOX 24 REEL 10	1830, Nov. 21-1831, Jan. 20
BOX 25 REEL 10	1831
BOX 26 REEL 11	Jan. 21-Feb. 28 Mar. 1 -Apr. 19
BOX 27 REEL 11	Apr. 20-July 18
BOX 28 REEL 11	July 19-Nov. 11
BOX 29 REEL 12	Nov. 12-Dec. 30
BOX 30 REEL 12	1831, Dec. 31-1832, Jan. 28
BOX 31 REEL 12	1832
BOX 32 REEL 13	Jan. 29-Feb. 28 Feb. 29-Apr. 26
BOX 33 REEL 13	Apr. 27-June 16
BOX 34 REEL 13	June 17- Aug. 1
BOX 35 REEL 14	Aug. 2-Oct. 14
BOX 36 REEL 14	Oct. 15-Dec. 3
BOX 37 REEL 14	Dec. 4-31
BOX 38 REEL 15	1833
BOX 39 REEL 15	Jan. 1-Feb. 5 Feb. 6-Apr. 7
BOX 40 REEL 15	Apr. 8-Aug. 8
BOX 41 REEL 16	Aug. 9-Sept. 27
BOX 42 REEL 16	Sept. 28-Dec. 2
BOX 43 REEL 16	Dec. 3-30

General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 44 REEL 17	1833, Dec. 31-1834, Jan. 2
BOX 45 REEL 17	1834
	Jan. 3-Feb. 3
BOX 46 REEL 17	Feb. 4-28
BOX 47 REEL 18	Mar. 1-Apr. 4
BOX 48 REEL 18	Apr. 5-May 14
BOX 49 REEL 18	May 15-July 1
BOX 50 REEL 19	July 2-Sept. 26
BOX 51 REEL 19	Sept. 27-Nov. 29
BOX 52 REEL 19	1834, Nov. 30-1835, Jan. 22
BOX 53 REEL 20	1835
	Jan. 23- Apr. 17
BOX 54 REEL 20	Apr. 18- July 19
BOX 55 REEL 20	July 21-Oct. 10
BOX 56 REEL 21	Oct. 12-Dec. 22
BOX 57 REEL 21	1835, Dec. 23-1836, Jan. 30
BOX 58 REEL 21	1836
	Jan. 31-Feb. 22
BOX 59 REEL 22	Feb. 23-Apr. 9
BOX 60 REEL 22	Apr. 10-May 31
BOX 61 REEL 22	June 1-July 21
BOX 62 REEL 23	July 23-Oct. 24
BOX 63 REEL 23	Oct. 25-Dec. 27
BOX 64 REEL 23	1836, Dec. 28-1837, Jan. 29
BOX 65 REEL 24	1837
	Jan. 30-Mar. 8
BOX 66 REEL 24	Mar. 9-Apr. 10

General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 67	Apr. 11-May 17
REEL 24	
BOX 68	May 18-June 29
REEL 25	
BOX 69	June 30-Aug. 17
REEL 25	
BOX 70	Aug. 18-Sept. 28
REEL 26	
BOX 71	Sept. 29-Nov. 8
REEL 26	
BOX 72	Nov. 9-Dec. 22
REEL 27	
BOX 73	1837, Dec. 23-1838, Jan. 14
REEL 27	
BOX 74	1838
REEL 27	
	Jan. 15-Feb. 16
BOX 75	Feb. 17- Mar. 17
REEL 28	
BOX 76	Mar. 18-Apr. 13
REEL 28	
BOX 77	Apr. 14-May 16
REEL 29	
BOX 78	May 17-June 21
REEL 29	
BOX 79	June 22-Aug. 22
REEL 30	
BOX 80	Aug. 23-Oct. 12
REEL 30	
BOX 81	Oct. 13-Nov. 28
REEL 30	
BOX 82	Nov. 29-Dec. 31
REEL 31	
BOX 83	1838, n.d.-1839, Jan. 26
REEL 31	
BOX 84	1839
REEL 31	
	Jan. 27-Feb. 24
BOX 85	Feb. 25-Mar. 28
REEL 32	
BOX 86	Mar. 29-May 10
REEL 32	
BOX 87	May 11-Sept. 11
REEL 32	
BOX 88	Sept. 12-Dec. 30
REEL 33	
BOX 89	1839, Dec. 31-1840, Feb. 4
REEL 33	
BOX 90	1840
REEL 33	

General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Feb. 5-Apr. 3
BOX 91	Apr. 4-June 23
REEL 34	
BOX 92	June 24-Sept. 22
REEL 34	
BOX 93	Sept. 23-Dec. 26
REEL 34	
BOX 94	1840, Dec. 27-1841, Feb. 24
REEL 35	
BOX 95	1841
REEL 35	
	Feb. 25-Apr. 3
BOX 96	Apr. 4-May 17
REEL 35	
BOX 97	May 18-Aug. 24
REEL 36	
BOX 98	Aug. 25-Dec. 22
REEL 36	
BOX 99	1841, Dec. 23-1842, Feb. 22
REEL 36	
BOX 100	1842
REEL 37	
	Feb. 23-June 10
BOX 101	June 11-Oct. 24
REEL 37	
BOX 102	1842, Oct. 25-1843, Jan. 5
REEL 37	
BOX 103	1843, Jan. 6-July 7
REEL 38	
BOX 104	1843, July 9-1846, Dec. 18
REEL 38	
BOX 105	Undated
REEL 38	
	A
BOX 106	B
REEL 39	
BOX 107	C-K
REEL 39	
BOX 108	L-R
REEL 39	
BOX 109	S-Wa
REEL 40	
BOX 110	We-Wo, unidentified
REEL 39	
BOX 111-113	Colt, Roswell D., n.d.
REEL 41	
BOX 114-120	Letterbooks, 1823-1841.
REEL 42-46	

Letterbooks kept by Biddle while president of the Second Bank of the United States.

Letterbooks, 1823-1841.

Container

Contents

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 114

1823, Feb. 1-1825, Mar. 17

REEL 42

BOX 115

1825, Mar. 19-1829, Feb. 2

REEL 42

BOX 116

1829, Jan. 30-1831, June 21

REEL 43

BOX 117

1831, June 22-1833, Aug. 27; 1824, June 12-July 1

REEL 44

BOX 118

1833, Aug. 27-1836, Mar. 3

REEL 45

BOX 119

1836, Mar. 4-1838, Sept. 3

REEL 46

BOX 120

1838, Nov. 15-1841, May 13

REEL 46

BOX 121-123

Miscellany, 1776-1925, n.d.

REEL 47

Correspondence, financial records, notes, and printed matter.
Arranged by type of material.

BOX 121

Account book, 1826-1844

REEL 47

BOX 122

Household inventory, 1844-1888

REEL 47

BOX 123

Letters to William Ayres, 1840-1843

REEL 47

Letters to and from James Biddle (copies), 1825-1832
Correspondence and journal entry (originals and photostats), 1776-1834
Clifton Estate, n.d.
Literary notes, n.d.
Checks and account book, 1804-1871, 1922-1925
Printed matter, 1817-1842, n.d.

BOX 124-133

Family Papers, 1681-1933, n.d.

REEL 47-51

Correspondence and other material relating to various members of the Biddle Family.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 124

1681, Mar. 22-1805, Sept. 16

REEL 47

BOX 125

1805, Sept. 20-1810, Jan. 7

REEL 48

BOX 126

1810, Jan. 8-1813, Jan. 8

REEL 48

BOX 127

1813, Jan. 12-1817, Mar. 15

REEL 48

BOX 128

1817, Mar. 16-1822, Mar. 2

REEL 49

Family Papers, 1681-1933, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 129 REEL 49	1822, Mar. 25-1831, Mar. 1
BOX 130 REEL 50	1831, Mar. 14-1840, Mar. 24
BOX 131 REEL 50	1840, Mar. 25-1842, June 29
BOX 132 REEL 50	1842, July 8-1857, Mar. 17
BOX 133 REEL 51	1857, Mar. 19-1933, Jan. 4, n.d.