

William Dunbar papers

OBU.0066*

Finding aid prepared by Jacynda Ammons and Gail Hennagin

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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May 25, 2001
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Summary Information

Repository	Ouachita Baptist University Library
Creator	Dunbar, William, 1749-1810
Title	William Dunbar papers
Date	1775-1919
Extent	2.0 Cubic feet two archive boxes, two flat archive boxes
Language	English
Language of Materials	English

Preferred Citation

William Dunbar Papers. Ouachita Baptist University Collection. Riley-Hickingbotham Special Collections. Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical note

Most Americans have heard the story of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery sent by Thomas Jefferson to explore the new Louisiana Purchase area from 1804 to 1806. What most people do not realize is that Jefferson also commissioned a second expedition to explore the southern areas of that new frontier. The president asked William Dunbar, a Mississippi planter/scientist/surveyor, and George Hunter, a Philadelphia chemist/apothecary, to lead that expedition on the Red, Black, and Ouachita Rivers up to the hot springs. The two men and their crew mapped, described flora and fauna, tested the waters of the Hot Springs area, and sent Thomas Jefferson the first report on the huge territory that had just been purchased from France.

Scope and Contents

The journal in this collection was carried by Dunbar on the Dunbar-Hunter exploration of the Ouachita River. Also included is family correspondence, and other materials related to the Dunbar family and their Natchez, Mississippi, plantation, "The Forest."

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Ouachita Baptist University Library May 25, 2001

Conditions Governing Access

These materials are available for research subject to the approval of the Director of Library Services and the Archivist. Manuscripts may only be photocopied by Special Collections staff.

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Hickingbotham Library, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3742, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001. When permission to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the Riley-Hickingbotham Library Special Collections.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Dunbar, Mary
- Hunter, George

Subject(s)

- Diaries.
- Dunbar diary.
- Dunbar expedition.
- Dunbar family.

Collection Inventory

Journal	
	Box
1. William Dunbar, 1804-1805	1
Correspondence	
2. 1775 November 19: Margaret Dunbar (Elgin) to William Dunbar, "My Dear Brother" ("Planter in Richmond Settlement on the Mississippi") [copy]	
3. 1776 July 24: Anne Dunbar (Elgin) to William Dunbar (Richmond Settlement on the Mississippi)	
4. 1777 April 2: Anne Dunbar (Elgin) to William Dunbar (Richmond Settlement on the Mississippi)	
5. 1779: Anne Dunbar to William Dunbar	
6. 1782 September 10: Thomas Dunbar (New York) to William Dunbar "Brother"	
7. 1797 April: Margaret Dunbar to William Dunbar (New Orleans, America)	
8. Undated: Margaret Dunbar (London) to William Dunbar "My Dearest Brother" (New Orleans)	
9. 1799 February 2: Margaret Dunbar (London) to William Dunbar "Dearest Brother" (Natchez)	

Correspondence

10. 1808 May 14: [William] Dunbar Jr. (New Orleans) to William Dunbar "Dear Parents" (Natchez)

11. 1810 June 15: Robert R. Livingston (Clermont) to William Dunbar (Natchez)

12. 1810 September 18: W. Alex Wilson (Philadelphia) to William Dunbar (near Natchez)

13. 1810 October 14: W. Dunbar and J. Dunlop to S. Postlethwaite ("Relative to the last hours" of William Dunbar) [copy]

14. 1810 December 16: William Dunbar "Son" (Philadelphia) to Mrs. William Dunbar "Mother" (Forest, near Natchez)

15. 1811 November 20: William Dunbar "Son" (Princeton) to Mrs. William Dunbar (Natchez)

16. 1812 September 12: William Dunbar "Son" (Princeton) to "My Dear Mother"

17. 1817 January 7: Archibald Dunbar (Cambridge) to Dinah Dunbar (Natchez)

18. 1817 February 12: [William Dunbar, Jr.] (Philadelphia) to Mrs. William Dunbar "Dear Mother" (Forest, Natchez)

19. 1817 May 8: William Dunbar "Son" to Mrs. William Dunbar "Dearest Mother (Forest, Natchez)

20. 1818 September 1: William Dunbar "Son" (Princeton) to Mrs. William Dunbar "Dearest Mother" (Forest, Natchez)

21. 18-- March 19: [William Dunbar, Jr.] to Mrs. William Dunbar "My Beloved Mother"

Correspondence

22. 1820 July 5: William Dunbar (Philadelphia) to William Dunbar "Esteemed Parents" (Forest near Natchez)

23. 1823 January 2: Robert Dunbar (Cambridge) to Mrs. Margaret Dunlop "Dear Sister" (Natchez)

24. 1827 November 5: R.T. Dunbar (Paris) to Mary Dunbar "Dear Sister" (Forest near Natchez)

25. 1827 November 5: R.T. Dunbar to William Dunbar, Jr. "Brother" (Natchez)

26. 1828 May 13: R.T. Dunbar (Florence) to William Dunbar, Jr. (Natchez)

27. 1845 March 7: M.F. Dunbar (Forest) to Mrs. G.T. Olmstead "Dearest Sister" (Princeton, New Jersey)

28. 1857 June 14: [Allie] to Julie

29. 1857 November 13: Allie (Philadelphia) to Julie

30. 1857 December 28: [Allie] to Julie

31. 1858 January 15: Allie to Julie

32. 1858 May 1: Allie to Julie

33. 1858 May 6: C.A. Page [?] (Philadelphia) to "My Darling Nephew"

34. 1899 December 22: A. Field "Mother" (Princeton) to Mrs. William (Mary) Dunbar (Forest near Natchez)

Legal

Legal

35. Justice of the Peace appointment, 1792: Manuel Gayoso do Lemos to William Dunbar

36. 1794: Manuel Gayoso de Lemos/William Dunbar

37. 1794: Manuel Gayoso de Lemos/Melling Woolley

38. Dunbar estate documents (hand-copied), 1822-1835

39. Marriage certificate, 1869: Alfred Davis and Mary Dunbar

40. Marriage record, 1919: James M. Ogden and Marian Dunbar Davis

Family history documents

41. Coat-of Arms (Field and Stockton)

42. Miscellaneous

Maps/Drawings

43. "Forest Plantation" plat

44. "Original plan of my beloved Mother's flower garden" by M.F. Dunbar, 1840

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

45. Catechism "composed and written" by William Dunbar, 1760s

46. Currency, CSA and USA

47. Essay by Mary C. Dunbar, 1896

48. Essay by S.H. Greene, 1819

49. Photo album cover, "Mother"

50. Receipts, construction of church [Forest], 1839-1840

51. Recipes

52. Miscellaneous

Photograph

Box

53. William Dunbar

2

Artifacts

54. Compass, William Dunbar

Printed material

55. Eyeglasses, William Dunbar

56. Pen, William Dunbar

57. Tweezers, William Dunbar

58. Brick from "The Forest"

Printed material

59. Photocopy, "Life, Letters and Papers of William Dunbar of Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland, and Natchez, Mississippi: Pioneer Scientist of the Southern United States" by Mrs. Dunbar (Eron) Rowland, published by Press of the Mississippi Historical Society, 1930

60. Photocopy, "The Western Journals of Dr. George Hunter, 1796-1805," edited by John Francis McDermott, published by the American Philosophical Society, 1963

Exhibit material

Box
3-4