

## **Series V: Manuscripts concerning the early history of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Wyoming Valley, 1758-1841**

Series V: Manuscripts concerning the early history of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Wyoming Valley, 1758-1841, is arranged into two further subseries: Subseries I: General, 1770-1841, Subseries II: Susquehanna Purchase, 1772-1804, and Susquehanna Claim, 1758-1841. Each subseries is arranged in chronological order by date and contains correspondence, memorandums, notices, handwritten lists, reports, official decrees, certificates, court proceedings and legal acts, and booklets concerning the development of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, and the Wyoming Valley in the mid-eighteenth century through the mid-nineteenth century as well as the Pennamite-Yankee wars that occurred towards the latter half of the eighteenth century.

As many of the subjects across the three subseries are similar, they have been delineated specifically in three conversations. **Subseries I: General**, contains various items that pertain to the day to day lives of those in the valley. These include receipts for different orders, the creation of a refugee settlement, French Azilum, personal correspondence and professional business. **Subseries II: Susquehanna Purchase**, contains manuscripts concerning the early settlements of the Wyoming Valley, specifically the lands being sold and laid out under the Susquehanna Company's Purchase along the Susquehanna River. The [Susquehanna Company](#) was a group of Connecticut settlers and land speculators, organized in the mid-18th century, after receiving a [royal charter to the lands in 1662](#). They sought to claim and settle the lands in what is now [northeastern Pennsylvania](#) for future expansion of Connecticut. The company purchased land from the Iroquois, though the legitimacy of this transaction was later contested during the Decree of Trenton, and began sending settlers to establish communities in the Wyoming Valley. This effort sparked a series of violent conflicts with Pennsylvania settlers, known as the [Yankee Pennamite Wars, 1769–1784](#). These items include share or land right certificates, meeting minutes of the Susquehanna Company commissioners, including the creation of roads and appointment of committees, and itemized lists of the people who have lots of lands in the purchase and their improvements. **Subseries III, Susquehanna Controversy** includes a number of items that pertain to the three part conflict sparked in the valley between Pennsylvania and Connecticut settlers, as well as other conflicts, including the Battle of Wyoming and the American Revolution.

Themes that appear in this collection are interests and conflicts relating to land, the Yankee Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807, titles, land, town meetings, local government, the establishment of townships, petitions for the construction of vital infrastructure, military and battle strategy, itemization of ammunition and personal and professional correspondence.

Historical figures included in this first general subseries are [John Durkee](#), [John Sullivan](#), [Ezekiel Pierce](#), [Nathan Dennison](#), [Zebulon Butler](#), [Obadiah Gore](#), [Johnathan Trumbull](#), [Benjamin Stoddert](#), [Matthias Hollenback](#), [Timothy Pickering](#), [Samuel Kirkland](#), [Thomas Mifflin](#), [Clement Biddle](#), [Louis Marie De Noailles](#), [Antoine Omer Talon](#), [Isaac Dewitt](#), [Le Ray De Chaumont](#), and [Archibald McCall](#).

**Condition Note:** A majority of the materials in this collection are in fragile condition due to their age and

previous exposures. They should all be handled with care, but most carefully are those marked 'poor,' including:

- 12.49 Item 9: Notice by Ezekiel Pierce, 1772 October 5.
- 12.52 Item 12: A Gubernatorial Decree by Jonathan Trumbull, establishing a Corporation for the County of Westmoreland, 1778 June 1 (Removed to Black Box #1)
- 12.57 Item 17: Letter from Benjamin Stoddert to Zebulon Butler, 1779 October 20.
- 12.61 Item 21: A Letter from John Franklin to "Unknown," 1784 July 30.
- 12.64. Item 24: Receipt by Timothy Pickering to Matthias Hollenback, 1789 December 15.
- 12.69b. Item 29b: Letter from [Antoine] Omer de Talon to Isaac Dewitt, 1794 July 30.
- 12.78. Item 38: Letter from Le Ray de Chaumont to Joseph Kingsbery, 1821 February 14.
- 12.83 Item 43: A Receipt by Elijah Dyer to Jonathan Trumble, 1760 March.
- 12.85 Item 45: Letter from Eliphalet Dyer to Walter Franklin, 1772 May 16.
- 12.86a Item 46a: Notice from Ezekiel Pierce, for [Zebulon Butler], 1772 November 30.
- 12.86b Item 46b: Notice from Ezekiel Pierce, for [Zebulon Butler], 1772 November 30.
- 12.87 Item 47: Booklet titled "The Right of the Governor and Company," printed by Eben Watson, 1773.
- 12.88 Item 48: Notice by Butler, Pierce, Fuller, and Gore, 1773 March 15
- 12.91 Item 51: "A List of the numbers of the lots of Land at Wyoming & names of the Purchasers with the Quantities of acres and rates of Purchase," by unknown, [1771-1773]. (Removed to Legal Box #1)
- 12.92 Item 52: A Historical Address of the Battle of Wyoming Before the Monument, by [David Scott], [ca. 1833].
- 12.93 Item 53: A Receipt by Hugh For(e)sman to Benj[ami]n Harvey, 1779 December 16
- 12.96 Item 56: Letter from Zebulon Butler to Colonels [Eliphalet] Dyer and [Jesse] Root, 1783 October 4. (removed to legal size box#1)
- 12.97 Item 57: Letter from Roger Sherman to Zebulon Butler, 1784 June 15. (Removed to Legal Box #1)
- 12.101 Item 61: Letter from "Unknown" to "Sir," 1787 March 9. (removed to legal size box #1)
- 12.104 Item 64: Letter from Jonathan Heart to Zebulon Butler, 1787 July 21. (removed to legal size box #1)
- 12.111 Item 71: A Copy by [Zebulon Butler], 1790 March 25, of a Letter from Geo[rge] Clymer to W[illia]m Rawle, 1790 March 20. (removed to legal size box #1)
- 12.112 Item 72: A Copy by Putnam Catlin, [no date], of the Minutes of a Susquehanna Company Meeting, led by Lord Butler et. al, 1793 March 4. (Removed to Legal Box #1)
- 12.116 Item 76: A Copy by [Zebulon Butler], 1794 October 25, of a Letter from Unknown to General Montgomery, 1794 October 25. (removed to black box #5)

Cross-Reference Collections Note: There are various items in the collection that have been processed in other series due to context that better serves those than Series V. However, they still pertain to the contents of the Susquehanna Company and Controversy, such as **Series IX: Map and Land Deeds, 1737-1966**, 15.94 Item 39: Town charter for Berlin Township, 1773 November 19 (Removed to Legal

Box #2), and **Subseries III: Butler Correspondence, 1770-1820**, which contains correspondence from a pivotal military figure, Colonel Zebulon Butler. Additionally, **Subseries I: Presidents of the United States, 1777-1959** has two letters, **9.1**. Item 1: Letter from George Washington to Zebulon Butler, 1777 June 12. (removed to Legal Box #1), and **9.2**. Item 2: Letter from George Washington to Zebulon Butler, 1780 December 29. (removed to Legal Box #1), with the same figure.

**First round transcriptions done by Christopher Smith in Fall 2020-Summer 2021. 2nd round transcription and description done by Conrad Middleton, Spring 2023, Archives intern, supervised and edited by Suzanna Calev, Archivist, Spring 2023.**

## **Subseries I: General, 1770-1841**

**Subseries I: General, 1770-1841**, is arranged chronologically and contains various letters, receipts, notes, testimony, and notices by various historical figures who made significant contributions to the establishment of, not only the Wyoming Valley, during their lives, but Luzerne County, Pennsylvania as a whole.

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### **12.41 Item 1: Letter from John Sullivan and Caleb Emary to unknown, no date.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** This letter is written by John Sullivan (1740-1795) and Caleb Emary (1736-1793) in regards to a case where the Defendant, Simon Emery, is requested to make a sufficient plea for his damages and costs. John Sullivan is most known for being a General in the Revolutionary war and winning severe key battles. At the time that this letter was created Sullivan was serving as New Hampshire's attorney general.

**Dates:** N/A

**Creator:** [Sullivan, John \(1740-1795\)](#); [Emery, Caleb \(1736-1793\)](#)

**Subjects:** Legal affairs

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Emery, Simon \(1727-abt.1790\)](#)

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 6 ¼ in. x 3 ½ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

[front]

and the Plan.f[Plaintiff] agreeing as aforesaid says the Deff. [Defendant's] plea to Issue is bad & no Legal answer to the Plan.f[Plaintiff's] Demand wherefore for want of a sufficient Plea in that behalf the said Simon Emery ~~says~~ prays Judgment for his Damages & Cost

Jno [Jonathan] Sullivan

and the said John ^ agreeing as afores[ai]d says his plea to Issue is good~~  
and because the said Simon refuses to join the Issue Tender he prays Judgment for his Costs  
Caleb Emery

**Written along the side of the page:** No.19

**Written in pencil, in another hand:** Genl in Revolution

**Back:**

No [number] 19

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## **12.42 Item 2: Note written by Jonathan Downing to John Durkee, 1770 May.**

Type of Material: Note

Title: N/A

**Description:** This is a note written by Jonathan Downing of Canterbury to John Durkee in May of 1770, however, there is not enough context to clearly understand what the note is referencing. This note appears to be a receipt of some kind including the mentions of the price of flower. John Durkee was a Justice of the Peace; Member of the Connecticut General Assembly; and an Innkeeper. He laid out the town of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

**Dates:** May 1770

**Creator:** [Durkee, John 1728-1782](#)

**Subjects:** Wyoming Valley (PA)

**Locations:** [Wyoming Valley](#); [Hartford \(CN\)](#)

**People:** [Downing, Jonathan](#) 1703-1786; [Durkee, John 1728-1782](#)

**General Condition:** Good. Vinegar smell.

**Measurements:** 7 ¾ in. x 3 ⅛ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Dr. Jonathan Downing of Canterbury to Jn<sup>o</sup> [sic] [Jonathan] Durkee

May 1770 To ¾ of flower £0.19.0

To Capt on the Road from }

Wyoming to Hartford } 0.19.5

in Connecticut } 1:18:5

Errows Excepted John Durkee

{back}

John Durkee

v

Jonathan Downing

2-7-2

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### **12.43 Item 3: List by Matthias and John Hollenback, 1770 July. [removed to black box #5]**

**Type of Material:** List

**Title:** A List of Effects written by Matthias and John Hollenback which the subscriber Lost when the Indians made an Incursion on Westmoreland County in the State of Connecticut which was in the month of July 1770.

**Description:** A list of items, written by Matthias (1752-1829) and John Hollenback (1720-1793), lost when natives attacked a shipment. Matthias Hollenback is the son of John Hollenback. At the time when this list was created Matthias Hollenback was establishing himself in Wyoming Valley after moving there in hopes of finding untuned while settled under the Connecticut claim. He left his birth place in 1769 with only his horse, the clothes on his back and fifty dollars. Hollenback was successful in business and trading, while also serving in the army during the Revolutionary War. He solidified himself in trade through his various shops along the Susquehanna river, most notably his affairs at Tioga Point. Near the end of his life Matthias Hollenback served honorably as a Judge and continued to contribute greatly to the establishment of the Wyoming Valley through investments.

**Dates:** July 1770

**Creator:** [Hollenback, Matthias](#) 1752-1829; [Hollenback, John](#) 1720-1793

**Subjects:** Native Americans; Military

**Locations:** [Westmoreland County](#)

**People:** Hollenback, Matthias, 1752-1829; Hollenback, John 1720-1793

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 14 ¾ in. x 9 ¼ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

A List of Effects which the subscriber Lost when the Indians made [sic] an Incursion [sic] on Westmoreland County in the State of Connecticut which was in month of July 1770

£      S[hilling]   d[pence]

|   |                                                                    |     |   |   |   |                                            |   |    |   |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---|---|---|--------------------------------------------|---|----|---|
| 1 | Dewlling (sic)<br>[dwelling] House<br>with a Large<br>Cithen (sic) | 400 | 0 | 0 | 4 | Large sows with<br>pigns [sic]             | 4 | 8  | 0 |
| 1 | Deto (sic) [Ditto,<br>Same as above]                               | 30  | 0 | 0 | 1 | Year old barow (sic)<br>[wheelbarrow]      | 1 | 0  | 0 |
| 1 | paire (sic) of<br>Large oxen                                       | 16  | 0 | 0 | 1 | Gun                                        | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 1 | paire Deto (sic)<br>[Ditto]                                        | 12  | 0 | 0 | 1 | Pan & Coper (sic)<br>Tey (sic) Kitle (sic) | 1 | 0  | 0 |

|   |                                                            |       |    |   |       |                                                                         |    |    |   |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|---|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 1 | odd ox                                                     | 8     | 0  | 0 | 1     | Large Iron Kitle (sic)                                                  | 2  | 0  | 0 |
| 1 | paire of 4 years olde (sic) Steares (sic)                  | 10    | 0  | 0 | 1     | Small Deto Deto (sic) [Ditto]                                           | 0  | 15 | 0 |
| 1 | Paire (sic) of 3 Deto Deto (Sic) [Ditto]                   | 9     | 0  | 0 | 3     | Large Iron potts (sic)                                                  | 3  | 0  | 0 |
| 1 | Cow                                                        | 4     | 0  | 0 | 30    | Small Deto Deto                                                         | 11 | 0  | 0 |
| 1 | plow Irons & Cleavesess (sic) [Clevises]                   | 3     | 0  | 0 | 1 1/2 | Barils (sic) <a href="#">shad</a> salted                                | 3  | 12 | 0 |
| 1 | Ox Chain                                                   | 0     | 12 | 0 | 1     | Fut wheel (sic) <a href="#">[foot wheel]</a> 1 large Deto (sic) [Ditto] | 1  | 10 | 0 |
| 1 | paire (sic) weges (sic) [wedges] & mall ringes             | 0     | 10 | 0 | 8     | thousand Feet pin[e] (sic) bords (sic)                                  | 16 | 0  | 0 |
| 1 | teen (sic) [tin] plait (sic) Stove with a Longe (sic) pipe | 10    | 0  | 0 | 20    | barill (sic) casks                                                      | 4  | 0  | 0 |
| 1 | Cuting (sic) box & knife                                   | 10    | 0  | 0 | 2     | barils of wineger(sic) [winegar/vinegar]                                | 3  | 0  | 0 |
| 3 | Fether (sic) beeds (sic)                                   | 12(?) | 0  | 0 | 1     | Coat with tow (sic) [two] [illegible] Coats                             | 7  | 8  | 0 |
| 4 | beed Steads(sic) [bedstead] with Cords                     | 3     | 0  | 0 | 2 1/2 | yds[yards] of blow Cloth with Trim[min]g                                | 8  | 0  | 0 |
| 2 | Black walnot (sic)                                         | 3     | 0  | 0 | 1     | paire (sic) of                                                          | 1  | 10 | 0 |

|            |                                                              |   |    |   |    |                                               |   |    |   |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|---|----|-----------------------------------------------|---|----|---|
|            | Tables                                                       |   |    |   |    | knite[knit?] patterin<br>(sic) breath(?)      |   |    |   |
| 6          | Flaitg (sic)<br>botomed (sic)<br>Chaires (sic)               | 1 | 16 | 0 | 1  | Silver Wach (sic)<br>[Watch]                  | 5 | 8  | 0 |
| 1          | Chist (sic) with<br>Lock & hinges --                         | 1 | 0  | 0 | 10 | Bushills (sic) of<br>Rey (sic) [Rye]          | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 30         | of teenpaneye<br>(sic) [ <a href="#">tenpenny</a> ]<br>Nails | 4 | 10 | 0 | 2  | ackers (sic) [acres]<br>of oats               | 2 | 0  | 0 |
| 30<br>[Lb] | of Shingels (sic)<br>Deto (sic) [Ditto]                      | 3 | 0  | 0 | 1  | paire (sic) of Sillver<br>(sic) buckels (sic) | 1 | 10 | 0 |

|     |                                                                           |    |   |   |   |                                               |   |   |   |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 10  | Dollers (sic) hard<br>Cash                                                | 3  | 0 | 0 | 1 | paire (sic) of boots                          | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 200 | Contenatel (sic)<br>[ <a href="#">Continental</a> ]<br>according to seals | 19 | 0 | 0 | 3 | Hund[re]d feet<br>walnot (sic) bords<br>(sic) | 1 | 4 | 0 |

£554 8 0

£81 15 0

554 8 0

£636 3 0

The half of the  
Damege (sic) Don[e]  
to tow (sic) Saw Mills {-35-

### [Back]

Matthias & John  
Hollenbacks List  
of Losses by the  
Indian &c [etcetera]

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## **12.44 Item 4: Note by John Durkee, 1772 September 21.**

**Type of Material:** Note

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** This note is a recording written by John Durkee on September 21 1772 in regards to money that was collected by Dudley Woodbride. John Durkee was a Justice of the Peace; Member of the Connecticut General Assembly; and an Innkeeper. He laid out the town of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

**Dates:** 21 September 1772

**Creator:** [Durkee, John 1728-1782](#)

**Subjects:** Money collection; Shilling; Norwich

**Locations:** [Norwich](#)

**People:** [Woodbridge, Dudley 1705-1790](#); [Durkee, John 1728-1782](#)

**General Condition:** Good.

**Measurements:** 8 ¼ in. x 4 in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Norwich 21..<sup>st</sup> Sept.<sup>m</sup> [sic] 1772  
Recd. [sic] [received] of Dudley Woodbridge Fifteen Pounds  
Three shillings se money, money collected by sd [sic] [said]  
Woodbridge. essay [?] Recd f.<sup>m</sup> me John Durkee  
{Col 4th Regiment Conn}

{back}

Maj. John Durkee

Rect. £15.3

Sept 1772

-----END-----

## **12.45 Item 5: Note by John Bayard to David Rittenhouse, 1777 October 13.**

**Type of Material:** Note

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** Request to pay James Carmon eight pounds and five shillings and a note the payment was received.

**Dates:** 13 October 1777

**Creator:** [Bayard, John 1738- 1807](#)

**Subjects:** Accounting note

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Bayard, John 1738- 1807](#); Carmon, James [Unknown B-D]; [Rittenhouse, David 1732-1796](#); [Davidson, James](#), 1750-1825

**General Condition:** Fair. A few ink smudges, however ink is still legible.

**Measurements:** 7 ¾ in. x 3 ⅝ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

In Assembly Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 1777

Please to pay James Carmon the sum of eight pounds five shillings  
To David Rittenhouse  
Esq<sup>r</sup> State Treasurer

John Bayard Speaker

{back}

Received of Mr. David Rittenhouse the sum of Eight pounds five shills: on account of Mr. James Carmon  
This 5<sup>th</sup> day of Novem. 1777

James Davidson

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## **12.46 Item 6: A General Receipt by Elisha Satterlee and others, 1777 January 1-1781 January 1, Witnessed by Azel Hyde Major Alden, 1782 March 23.**

**Type of Material:** Note

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** The manuscript dated March 23, 1782, depicts a testimony and general receipt by Elisha Satterlee and others regarding a debt of dues by Matthew Hollenbach. In the note, Satterlee and the others note that they have received the sum of money that was previously lost due to the depreciation of the currency printed. This payment covered a period of service the men conducted between January 1, 1777 to January 1, 1781. The language seems to allude to the dues being related to military service, as the men note that their service was conducted by a term, which they performed Severly and Fairly. The others signed with Elisha Satterlee's name include Isaac Smith, Ambrose Gaylord, Rufus Bennet, Israel Harding, John O'Neal, Nathaniel West, and John Cary. These men have each drawn a seal next to their names. The manuscript was witnessed in the presence of Azel Hyde and Major Alden.

**Dates:** 23 March 1782

**Creator:** [Hyde, Azel](#), 1750-1828; Major Alden, [Pos. [Alden, Mason Fitch](#), 1750-1812]; [Satterlee, Elisha](#), 170-1826; Smith, Isaac; [Gaylord, Ambrose](#), 1755-1844; [Bennett, Rufus](#), 1754-1842; [Harding, Israel](#), 1756-1835; O'Neal, John [Unknown B-D]; West, Nathaniel, [Pos. [West, Nathaniel](#), 1722-1812]; [Carey, John](#), 1756-1844

**Subjects:** Payment note

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Hollenback, Matthias 1752-1829](#)

**General Condition:** Fair. Ink is fading and there is staining.

**Measurements:** 8  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. x 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Wee (sic) the Subscribers Do herby acknoledge [sic] [acknowledge] to have Rec<sup>d</sup> [sic] [received] from Mathew Hollenback Fortey [sic] Five pounds Lawfull (sic) money of Connecticut in full for Each of our Depreciasion (sic) and pay from the First Day of January one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Seven to the First Day of January one thousand Seven hundred and Eighty one Including all Servings Dun(sic) by us and Each of us Severly (sic) and Faintly to or including that Tarm(sic) [Term] of time in servis (sic) have one and Each of us Rec<sup>d</sup> the sum above Riten (sic) In witness whereof wee(sic) have herein to set oure(sic) hands and seals this 23<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1782. Elisha Satterlee

In presents of  
Azel Hyde  
Major Alden

Isaac Smith  
Ambrose Gaylord  
Rufus Bennet

Israel Harding  
John O'Neal  
Nathaniel West  
John Carey

{back}  
A general  
Receipt [receipt]  
for the Depreciation (sic)  
notes on Connecticut  
March 23 1782

powers-&c[etcetera]

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## 12.47 Item 7: A Receipt by [Hugh For\(e\)sman](#) to [Benjamin Harvey](#), 1779 December 16

**Type of Material:** Receipt

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** The item dated December 16, 1779, depicts a receipt by Hugh Foresman to Benjamin Harvey. The receipt states that Harvey paid £563 per pound of beef and £274 per pound of pork to Foresman.

This item was originally curated with Series II: the McClintock Family Series, as part of a binder, original number 1.6 Binder: Andrew McClintock Correspondence and Biographical Materials and Photo, 1831-1881. The binder was dissolved in processing the collection and items pertaining to the Susquehanna Claim and General Wyoming Valley Collection moved to corresponding collections.

**Dates:** December 16, 1779

**Creator:** [Foresman, Hugh, 1748-1811](#)

**Subjects:** Finances; Receipts; Meat

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Foresman, Hugh, 1748-1811](#); [Harvey, Benjamin, 1718-1795](#)

**General Condition:** Poor. The page has a large tear in the middle of the page.

**Measurements:** 8 3/16 in. x 2 3/4 in.

**Transcription Attempt:**

**Letter Front:**

Rec<sup>d</sup> [Received] Wyoming Dec[ember] 16 1779 of M<sup>r</sup> Benj<sup>[ami]n</sup>  
Harvey five hundred sixty three pounds of Beef  
two hundred seventy four pounds of Pork  
P<sup>d</sup> [Paid] me Hugh Forsman

**Letter Back:**

X

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**12.48 Item 8: A Letter from John Armstrong to Re[a]ding Be[at]ty, 1784  
March 21.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** A letter written by John Armstong, informing Doctor Beatty about what happened during the flood on March 20, 1784. The flood was known as the Great Ice Flood. It was the result of the thick ice that laid on the Susquehanna, melting rapidly and causing the river to rise at an alarming rate. Masses of ice swept down and lodged into the lower part of the valley until the pressure got to be too much, breaking the flood through the icy barrier sweeping everything in its path off the ground. John Armstrong was an officer in the Continental Army. He also served as Minister to France and Spain under Thomas Jefferson, and as the Secretary of War under James Madison. During the time this letter was written Amerstrong was a Colonel in the Pennsylvania Militia during the Third Pennamite War.

In 1784, fighting broke out between settlers in the Wyoming Valley, a region that was claimed by both Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania was able to claim ownership and wanted to remove the Connecticut settlers. Armstrong Jr. and another representative, Alexander Patterson, were sent to the Valley to help restore peace. However, Armstrong found himself involved in yet another political controversy. Armstrong Jr. and Patterson gave the settlers six months to leave, but their homes were wiped out by a flood. When the settlers started to move back onto the land they believed was rightfully theirs, Patterson had some of them whipped, and Armstrong gathered militia forces in Lancaster and marched them into the Valley to keep more settlers from returning. To read more on the flood see [here](#).

**Dates:** 21 March 1784

**Creator:** [Armstrong, John \(Jr.\) 1755-1843](#)

**Subjects:** Flood; Ice; History

**Locations:** [Wyoming County](#); [Cross Roads](#), Bucks County

**People:** [Beatty, Reading](#), 1757-1831; [Beatty, Erkuries](#), 1759-1823; [Armstrong, John](#), 1717-1795;

**General Condition:** Good.

**Measurements:** 6 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. x 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. (cover); 8 ½ in. x 6 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. (letter)

**Transcript Attempt:**

**First Page:**

**In Pencil:** Flood Letter

Wyoming 21st March 1783

Sir

I have to regret that the subject of this letter is of so melancholy a nature- suffice it to say Its altogether suited to our situation— from the Window at which I am now sitting I can scarcely see one Hundred yards for the mountains of Ice by which we are surrounded. On the night of the 15th, the River rose 10 feet in thirty six Minutes, over flowed all this country swept off greatest part of the Houses in the

settlement, with Horses Cattle & Grain- several houses with families in them were swept four miles down the river, and landed safe on higher ground.--- Some saved them selves (sic) by climbing trees. where they continued for several hours- we were obliged to evacuate the Fort in which the water was four feet deep. The ground at this time for several miles is covered with Ice four & five feet thick- what will become of the poor Inhabitants God only knows, Our Dist[ri]ct at present is baid (sic) wheat & salt Beef

**Page 2:**

Rum, Wine, &c [etcetera] we have plenty there is not a mill dam left standing in the settlement for buildings would have been swept off had not the strength of the Works prevented the Ice coming with its full forse(sic)-- I sincerely Pitty(sic) the Inhabitants the women & children in a particular manner-

Be so good as give my Love to my good friend Mr. Cahalls family Betsy in a particular manner, Compliments to your Brother Aceurious(sic) [Erkuries] & believe me to be with friendship you humble servant

John Armstrong

Doctor Beaty (sic)

**Back Cover When Folded:**

Doctor

Redding (sic) Beaty(sic)

Mr. Cross Roads, Bucks County

Craige

The river was 30 feet above low water Mark

**Reverse direction, Bottom of the page:**

J. Armstrong

21 March

**In Pencil and Another Hand:**

See annals of Luzerne County

by Stuart Peance page 478

Flood of March 20, 1784

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**12.49 Item 9: A Letter from John Franklin to "Unknown," 1784 July 30.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** The manuscript dated July 30, 1784, is written by John Franklin to an unknown recipient. In the manuscript, Franklin is requesting that the recipient deliver a gallon of rum by the notes barer and

charge it to Franklin's account. Franklin includes a note at the bottom of the page, stating that he desires the rum because he has a couple of gentlemen from Sunbury visiting him. The order is witnessed by a Mr. Hagerman.

**Dates:** 30 July 1784

**Creator:** Franklin, John

**Subjects:** Order, Finances, Goods

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Franklin, John](#), 1749-1831; Mr. Hagerman [Unknown B-D]

**General Condition:** Poor. Hard to read.

**Measurements:** 8 ¼ in. x 2 ⅛ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

July 30th 1784

Sir, please to deliver the Barer one gallon of Rum and change your hum[bl]e serv[an]t John Franklin  
Mr. Hageman present

Sir the reason for wanting the rum is I have some gentleman from Sunbury.

-----END-----

## **12.50. Item 10: Receipt by Timothy Pickering to Matthias Hollenback, 1789 December 15.**

**Type of Material:** Receipt

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** During this time period there were many battles between Native Americans and the white settlers. After the [Battle of Newton](#) in 1779 a series of treaties were signed the years following to settle land disputes. Hundreds of people would gather at conferences that would be held to draw up these treaties and sign them. These conferences would take days and would cause tension between the Native Americans and the whites. Thus, items such as cigars, rum and food would be requested from nearby merchants to ease the tension. This relates to this document United States President George Washington sent Col. Timothy Pickering into this region to make the Painted Post Treaty. The gathering was a huge historical event for New York. Iroquois confederacy tribes represented included Cayugas, Oneidas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras, Stockbridge, Mohawks and Mohicans. Col. Pickering made an agreement with store owner, Matthias Hollenback, to have special goods on hand for the thousands of visitors to Newtown. Due to the finding of this information it can be inferred that this note involves Pickering requesting resources from Hollenback. It is also important to note that Timothy Pickering and Matthias Hollenback were both great business partners and friends. (cross reference with **Letter from Matthias Hollenback to Timothy Pickering, 1788 August 15.**)

**Dates:** 15 December 1789

**Creator:** [Pickering, Timothy 1745-1829](#)

**Subjects:** Personal note

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Hollenback, Matthias 1752-1829](#); [Pickering, Timothy 1745-1829](#)

**General Condition:** Poor. Paper has severe tearing and is thin. Ink is smeared in some areas.

**Measurements:** 6 in. x 3 ¾ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Timothy Pickering to M. Hollenback

Decr. 15<sup>th</sup> } to Si[g]ning . 25. Advertisements

1789 } to Do- 47. Summons Writes up  
& Subpenied (sic) & Rules

£72 to Dec'[December] Term 17[illegible]

½ Dozen trim cigars at Newtown point [Tioga Point]

Carriage(sic) in the Stage 15/

{back}

Timothy Pickering

M. Hollenback

memorandum

of fares

-----END-----

## **12.51. Item 11: Letter from Guy Maxwell to Matthias Hollenback, 1791**

**August 26.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** This letter is written by Guy Maxwell to Matthias Hollenback back to update on the affairs at one of Hollenback's Enterprises. Maxwell met Colonel Hollenback in Martinsburg. Hollenback had such a liking for Maxwell that he invited him to come with him back to Elmira to manage the Hollenback enterprise located at Tioga point. It was not uncommon for Hollenback to employ young men to work for his businesses. Hollenback was a successful merchant of his time and had several enterprises located on various posts along the Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers, thus he needed to employ others to look after business affairs. Guy Maxwell in particular managed the selling and trading of rum. Maxwell became integrated into the Hollenback family after marrying a relative of Matthias. To read more about Hollenback's enterprises see [here](#).

**Dates:** 26 August, 1791

**Creator:** [Maxwell, Guy 1770-1814](#); [Hollenback, Matthias, 1752-1829](#)

**Subjects:** Personal Letter; Rum; Tioga Point (Pa.)

**Locations:** Tioga Point

**People:** [Maxwell, Guy 1770-1814](#); [Hollenback, Matthias 1752-1829](#)

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 13 ¼ in. x 8 in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Tioga Point August 26<sup>th</sup> 1791

Dear Sir

Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant by William Scott. I receiv'd Herewith is a Letter from Jacob Hart to me with the Acco<sup>t</sup> [sic] [account] of Provision furnish'd the Indians, it came here about an hour ago by Tho<sup>s</sup>

[sic] [Thomas] Reece, George Tracy's(?) Account against Lampher, I delivered to Maj. Hooper who promises to pay attention to it.

Person, Snell and Abraham Minin wh(?) all agreed to take up the Lease which they did and all three drank wine till Drunk, on the Occasion In a New York paper dated the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant I observ'd an advertisement signed by the Executors of Major Fondas (who died lately) requesting all his creditors to come in and have their Accounts adjusted a few days before I seen this advertisement. I met with a person going to the Mohawks River, by whom I wrote a Letter to Lawyer Cochorn(?) requesting him to use his utmost endeavors to collect Estonda's(?) Bond and to give us notice by the first opportunity so that the money might with safety be sent for. Inclosed is my certificate of Rum sold ---- Thomas attested to before Esquire Murray- I can't recollect of any other rum being sold into York state only at the Treaty except it might be a single Gallon or two or quarts &c, which I can't call particularly to mind at present, neither have I any charge in the books against any person in York state, unless it may a small quantity not worth mentioning. I began at the well a day or two ago which goes on very well so far. Give me leave to congratulate you on the birth of your young Heir, and you are heartily welcome to your Baby clothes which put to use of your young son & change(?) the same to your Able servant, One pint of the wine you are also welcome to the other I will Drink your son Health with. Nelly joins with me in respects to you & Mrs. Hollenback, wishing her much happiness with her young heir.

I am with Respect,  
Yours tr

G Maxwell

Mr. Hollenback

Guy Maxwell  
Letter August 26<sup>th</sup> 1791

-----END-----

## **12.52. Item 12: Letter from Thomas Mifflin to Clement Biddle, 1791 December 14.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** "A request to pay 400 pounds to Henry Drinker to pay for "Opening and improving a road from Stockport on the river Delaware to harmony on the river Susquehanna." The contractor John Hillbourn." Thomas Mifflin has a significant background in the establishment of the United States of America. Mifflin was a politician from Pennsylvania who is most known for his roles during the American Revolution and is regarded as a founding father. Furthermore, Mifflin signed the U.S constitution and was elected as the first governor of Pennsylvania, serving nine years in office from 1790-1799. Clement Biddle was a successful nary, scrivener, and broker, hence why he is involved in this monetary affair. Biddle also served as an American Revolutionary War soldier. Lastly Henry Drinker was a successful Philadelphia Quaker merchant and served as clerk of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. These three figures are intertwined due to their involvement in the Commonwealth's economy at that time which was heavily influenced by merchants and those with enterprises.

Dates: 14 December 1791; 18 January 1793

**Creator:** [Mifflin, Thomas 1744-1800](#)

**Subjects:** Professional letter

**Locations:** [Philadelphia](#), PA

**People:** [Biddle, Clement 1740-1814](#); [Drinker, Henry 1734-1809](#); [Mifflin, Thomas 1744-1800](#)

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 9  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. x 7  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

(Stockport & Harmony Contract)      Philadelphia 14.<sup>th</sup> December 1791  
£400.

Sir.

Please to pay to Henry Drinker Esq, or to his order, the sum of Four Hundred Pounds; the same being a payment to him, as Attorney of John Hillbourne, in full of the consideration money of the Contract, for opening and improving a Road from Stockport on the river Delaware to Harmony on the river Susquehanna, entered into by the said John Hillbourne; agreeably to the Act of Assembly, in such case made and provided; which sum you will pay out of the monies arriving from stock transferred to you, for the case of the Commonwealth.

To

Clement Biddle Esq.      E--

Tho[sic] Mifflin

John Donaldson

Reg S-----

Jan 18. 1793

{Aide-de-camp

To Geo. Washington}

{back}

Recd [Received]. payment

Henry Drinker

Stockport to Harmony

John Hillbourne

£400    -1066.67

N<sup>o</sup> 45'6

-----END-----

**12.53. Item 13: Note from Nathan Denison, 1792 October 11; Reverse, A  
Fragment of a Note by Unknown to Matthias Hollenback et al, 1792  
Dec[embe]r 27.**

**Type of Material:** Note

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** The manuscript dated October 11, 1792, depicts a note written by Nathan Denison to Matthias Hollenback, a prominent mercantile entrepreneur in the Wyoming Valley. The note contains a receipt of dues paid by Hollenback for a half year's salary being paid to Denison. The reverse of the

**Description:** The following item depicts a letter written by Tench Coxe to an unknown recipient, dated June 3, 1793. In the letter, Coxe discusses information concerning some lands in Pennsylvania that are being purchased by a number of “French gentlemen,” namely Jacques Donatien Leray de Chaumont, through the lands of Eleazer McComb and lands owned by other people. The beginning of the item details an account being rendered as it stands by Coxe, with the balance being paid totalling to 40 pounds, 11 shillings, and 9 pence. He includes a receipt of the account. The body of the letter states that the accounts have included 32,000 dollars being deposited in the French Banks and that LeRay will receive 1,500,000 for McComb’s lands. There are also lands connected to the Flemming and Dutch, amounting to 6/3 of the remaining cost and comprising 80, 000 acres.

Due to the date of the letter, 1793, the lands being purchased are likely connected to the establishment and creation of the French Azilum in Bradford county the same year. [The French Azilum](#) was an asylum settlement that consisted of French royalists, established in Bradford County during the fall of 1793 and the spring of 1794, when Pennsylvania residents sought a way to bolster the economy while aiding French refugees. The purpose of the settlement was to house and support those fleeing the [French Revolution](#) primarily, as well as the enslaved rebellions occurring within the French colony of [Saint-Domingue](#), Haiti. A marker of the settlement, as well as further information resources can be found at the [Historical Marker Project](#). An article examining the inciting incidents and early history of the colony can be found in [JSTOR](#)'s digitized collection.

The letter specifically mentions [Owegy](#), or Owego, a territory previously owned by Native Americans near the east branch of the Susquehanna.

**Dates:** June 3, 1793

**Creator:** [Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824](#)

**Subjects:** Letters; Correspondence; Finances; Business

**Locations:** Philadelphia

**People:** [Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824](#); [McComb, Eleazer, 1740-1798](#); [De Chaumont, Jacques-Donatien Leray, 1725-1803](#)

**General Condition:** Fair. Paper contains a non obstructive tear, and contains signs of age. Ink is severely faded.

**Measurements:** 12 ¾ in. x 7 ⅞ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Dear Sir

The instrument having gone  
forward last week, I shall Send you an acco<sup>[un]t</sup>  
& Bill<sup>rec[eip]t</sup> as soon as the Money shall be seen?  
By Mr. Lora. I have given him a Note of  
the Amo<sup>[un]t</sup> being £41.11.9. [41 pounds, 11 shillings, and 9 pence]

For the perfect respect  
your mo[st]. obed<sup>t</sup> [obedient] st. [servant]

Tench Coxe

Philad<sup>[elphi]a</sup>. June 3<sup>[r]d</sup>. 1793

I find a company of French Gentlemen have  
purchased 80,000 Acres of land in Penns.<sup>[sylvani]a</sup> South  
of the New York line on or about the head waters of the  
Southern branches of Tyoga (sic) [Tioga]. This purchase  
was made by an Agent sent over to London with  
McComb. Mr. LeRay de Chaumont was the Agent  
& is concerned. They have gone into another  
considerable purchase, as I suppose of Mr. McComb's lands  
in your Washington or Clinton; and one more

in the vicinity of Philad<sup>[elphi]</sup>a. When it comes to be  
known that our Government has declared  
in favor of neutrality & that the French have  
not brought forward the loca<sup>[tion]</sup> of our engaging,  
I think much more is to be expected. A gentleman from Martine is  
with 32,000 Dr. [Dollars]

**[page 2]**

Subscribers the whole into the new Penns<sup>[ylvani]</sup>a Bank.  
He has had no inducement better but peace  
& the Education of his the crew.

I just learn that LeRay gets 1,500,000 of Mr. McComb's  
lands in your northern counties for  
himself and a number of wealthy Flemings & Dutch  
who mean to push a settlement from Europe in  
Division of lot No. 4. thereof his lands in  
Pennsylvania are on the the Eastern side of Susquehannah (sic)  
North of Wyoming & South of Owegy [Owego]; a good  
purchase this last for 6/3 cost for 80,000 A[cres] The  
parcel of McComb is very much lower.

From  
Tench Coxe Esq [Esquire].  
June 3<sup>[rd]</sup> 1793

-----END-----

**12.55a. Item 15a: Letter from Louis Marie De Noailles to Matthias  
Hollenback, 1793 November 8.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** Item 33a and 33b are housed together, as they are both concerned with the French Azilum. The French Azilum was a planned settlement built in 1793 in Bradford County, Pennsylvania for French refugees fleeing the French Revolution and slave uprisings. Both creators Louis Marie De Noailles (Item 33a) and Antoine Omar Talon (item 33b) were heavily involved in the settlement's affairs and created the Asylum Company, which only consisted of them and John Keating. For context on this particular letter, Louis Marie De Noailles was of royal blood, coming from a family of aristocrats. However, once the French Revolution broke out and was not going the way De Noailles was expecting he fled to America on his own accord. He, along with his step brother Marquis de Lafayette, were French officers who volunteered to come to America and serve under George Washington in the American Revolution. Matthias Hollenback was a judge and businessman, who opened trading posts along the susquehanna river, his most prominent post being Tioga Point. Matthias played a prominent role in shipping supplies to

the French Asylum as it was being built and after it was settled. Thus why there is communication between Noailles and Hollenback in this letter. The letter's contents consist of Noailles wishing to meet with Hollenback in Wilkes-Barre after a missed attempt of seeing one another a few days prior. To read more on the establishment of the French Asylum see [here](#).

Dates: 8 November 1793

**Creator:** [Louis Marie de Noailles \(1756-1804\)](#)

**Subjects:** Azilum (Pa.)

**Locations:** [Wilkes-Barre, PA](#)

**People:** [Hollenback, Matthias 1752-1829](#)

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 9 ½ in. x

**Transcript Attempt:**

Dear Sir

I received the letter you favoured me with on Friday I was unhappy enough to miss you at Wilkes barre where I arrived few hours after your departure. I shall proceed to day to Standing Stone and be back on next Saturday morning the 16<sup>th</sup> to Wilkes barre. I will spend the evening in the town and go to Philadelphia early Sunday morning seventeen. I hope I shall meet you at Wilkes barre. I wish you will do the greatest diligence that I may have a consideration with you on our business.

believe me dear sir your most obedient and humble servant.

Vis. Noailles

{back}

Viscount De Noailles

Letter Novr. 8.<sup>th</sup> 1793

The Asylum Company

To M. Hollenback

-----END-----

## **12.55b. Item 15b: Letter from [Antoine] Omer de Talon to Isaac Dewitt, 1794 July 30.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** Item 33a and 33b are housed together, as they are both concerned with the French Azilum. The French Azilum was a planned settlement built in 1793 in [Bradford County, Pennsylvania](#) for French refugees fleeing the French Revolution and slave uprisings. Both creators Louis Marie De Noailles (Item 33a) and Antoine Omar Talon (item 33b) were heavily involved in the settlement's affairs. For context on this particular letter, Antoine Omer Talon, also referred to as "The Count", was from France, though not from royal blood he was from a popular family, who had practiced law. During the beginning of the French Revolution Talon was civil lieutenant of the prison of the Chétlet and chief justice of the Criminal Court of France. He was associated with planning for the king's escape to Varennes, and subsequent failed escape plans. Because of his involvement with the royal family, Talon was forced to flee to Marseilles,

England, and eventually Philadelphia. During this journey he met Laporte, a Frenchman whose descendents would play an integral role in the Asylum colony. In Philadelphia, Talon made the acquaintance of and befriended De Noailles. To read more on the establishment of the French Asylum see [here](#). In this letter Talon orders shutters from Isaac Dewitt, later writings on the letter show that the order was received.

**Dates:** 30 July 1794

**Creator:** [Talon, Antoine Omer, 1760-1811](#)

**Subjects:** Azilum (Pa.)

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** De Witt, Isaac

**General Condition:** Poor. Paper has stains. Part of the letter has been ripped off and not collected , therefore making it illegible in some areas.

**Measurements:** 7  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. x 3  $\frac{1}{4}$  in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

July the 30.<sup>th</sup> 1794

Mr. Talon to hanging five pare (sic) [pair] of shutters — Lo:-

august the first - to hanging three pare (sic) dito[\*] — o: 3

Talon

8

3. 6. 1

3. 15

3.

18.

Recd [Received] the order Isaac Dewitt 3.7.6

[\* ditto means same as above]

**Back:**

Mr. Talon Order

& Dewitt Rect [receipt]

8/-

**In pencil**

Comte Omar de Talon was the founder of the French settlement at Asylum.

-----END-----

## 12.56. Item 16: Letter from Timothy Pickering to Matthias Hollenback, 1797 November 21.

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** Timothy Pickering and Matthias Hollenback were great friends and business partners, in this letter Pickering is asking Hollenback about an affair regarding land sales in Sugar Creek. In a previous

letter Hollenback informs Pickering of John B. Seeley's interest in purchasing land on Sugar Creek where he lives. Pickering writes to Hollenback asking if Seeley wants a whole tract of land or only enough for a farm. He also discusses money in Hollenback's possession, which was supposed to be paid to John Ross. Pickering states he would like the money either given to Ross or returned to him as soon as possible.

**Dates:** 21 November 1797

**Creator:** [Pickering, Timothy 1745-1829](#)

**Subjects:** Sugar Creek (Armstrong County), Pa. : Township); Money;

**Locations:** [Sugar Creek, Pa](#)

**People:** [Hollenback, Matthias](#) 1752-1829; [John B. Seeley 1757-1813](#); [Ross, John 1770-1834](#)

**General Condition:** Fair. Vinegar smell.

**Measurements:** 9  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. x 7  $\frac{3}{8}$  in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Philadelphia Nov. 21. 1797.

Dr. Sir,

I duly rec.<sup>d</sup> [sic] [received] your letter of Sept.<sup>r</sup> [september] 5th and am obliged by your information relative to the taxes on new lands - and of Capt. Seeley who wants to purchase land on Sugar Creek, where he lives. Can you tell whether he wants to purchase the whole tract (which contains 1100 acres surveyed on the 1000 acre warrant) or only enough for a farm where he lives. -From your knowledge of the tract what should you think it would bring per acre, supporting the title clear?

You mention that you had money of mine in your hands, not paid over to Mr. Ross. I want money so much, I shall be obliged by your paying it to him, or remitting it to me, as soon as you can, the sooner the better. Or if you should be coming to the city between this and New Years day, you may bring it with you. A longer delay would be inconvenient to me.

I am sir yr. [your] friend & h'ble servt. [Humble Servant]

Timothy Pickering

Matthias Hollenback Esqr.

{back}

Timothy Pickering

H

Novr. 21. 1797

F the land at Sugar Creek and the money I owe him. --

-----END-----

## 12.57. Item 17: Letter from Matthias Hollenback to Jasper Parish, 1800

**October 8.**

**Type of Material:** Letter and newspaper clippings

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** In the letter dated October 8, 1800, Matthias Hollenback, a Luzerne County judge and patriot of the American Revolutionary War, is writing to Jasper Parish for the repayment of a debt. In the beginning of his letter, Hollenback makes reference to some notes that Parish was holding of Hollenback's at Niagra, and asks that he send information concerning them. Hollenback then goes on to ask about a Mr. Tubbs, stating that he holds a judgment against the man and asks Parish to see about

Tubbs' circumstances. He concludes by saying that he will take an execution out on Tubb's if he does not receive his money. Hollenback signs his letter by asking after Parish's wife. The item number includes two newspaper clippings to contain biographical snippets about Hollenback.

**Dates:** 8 October 1800

**Creator:** [Hollenback, Matthias](#) 1752-1829

**Subjects:** Payment

**Locations:** Newtown Point

**People:** [Parish, Jasper 1767-1836](#)

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 12  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. x 7  $\frac{5}{8}$  in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Newtown Point Oct[ober] 8.<sup>th</sup> 1800

Dear Sir

I have not had the pleasure of seeing or hearing from you this some time- to know any thing about the notes you'd (sic) held of him to collect at Niagara as your place is intirely [sic] out of my way of passing I would think you to write to me at Wilkes if you have Rec<sup>d</sup> [received] the money or not if so you had I could send you Receipt by this Post as he will make his stand at our place & I can send at any time-

I wish you to Do me a favor to inquire for a Mr. Tubbs I think his Chistian name was (Enos) a son in law to a Mr. Erle that lives in that country some where about the Lakes. I was told this Tubbs lived in the Swifts Township. Since that I am told he lives out on the Gunrigo(?) Road from Conandackway—

[Left Hand Side: Open]

he did live about the out set of the Tunkee Lake. but where he Doth Live I cant till. I hold a judg[men]t against him & I am told he is onable (sic) to pay anything- as you are likely acquainted (sic) with him. your inquiring for him & if you find him Seeing what surrcumstances (sic) he is in. I would be obliged to you and do you any favor you may as him again & in case he is worth the money Let me know as I would ----- my attorney to Isue (sic) the Execution & collect of him Dont fail to write by Post & oblige me Plaes(sic) to give my Respects to Mrs. Parish as she has a small aquantence (sic) with me. I am with your very humble Serv[an]t

M. Hollenback

Mr. Jasper Parish

[Right Hand Side: Open]

Matthias Hollenback

**Back:**

22

Mr Jasper Parrish

at Canandackway

Matthias Hollenback

Letter Octr. 8. 1800.

Collect a debt  
Very roll(?) Allen  
439(?)  
{back}  
Matthias Hollenback

-----END-----

## **12.58. Item 18: Letter from A. C. Miner to Richard Caton, 1804 May 31.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** This letter is about an advertisement being put into the “Luzerne Federalist” for the duration of December 1802-May 26, 1804 and the payment for the insertion of the ad \$4.75. The advertisement was about a parcel of land which was previously owned by Charles Carrol, at the time one of the last surviving who signed the Declaration of Independence, being up for sale. Carrol’s attorney Richard Caton married into the Carrol family, marrying his daughter Mary “Polly” Carrol. Both the Carrol and Caton family were heavily involved in American politics. To read more see [here](#).

**Dates:** 31 May 1804

**Creator:** A. C. Miner

**Subjects:** Payment certification

**Locations:** Wilkes-Barre

**People:** [Caton, Richard 1763-1845](#); [Carrol, Charles 1737-1783](#)

**General Condition:** Good. Vinegar smell.

**Measurements:** 10 ¾ in. x 8 ¼ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

[Advertisement Insert]

Will be sold in Wilkes Barre. The 18th day of May next, at the house of Judge fell, the sale to take place at ten o’clock in the forenoon, about 8,000 acres of LAND- lying in Luzerne county , between the waters of Towandee and Sugar Creek, located in the name of *Charles Carrol*, by warrants number 1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504- 1498-1505- Also 4663-4 acres of LAND, lying north of Sugar Creek being part of the Warrant number 1496– the legal title of said Land is in Charles Carrol, who means to dispose of theme to raise a sum of money due to him by James Wilson deceased.

RICHARD CATON

Attorney for Charles Carrol

*Wilkes Barre*, Dec. 30 1803

[Written]

We certify that the above Advt. [sic] was inserted in the “Luzerne Federalist &c” from Dec. 1802, to May 26, 1804. Wilkes Barre, May 31, 1804.

A. C. Miners

Richard Caton, Esq.

To A. V. Miner D.

To inserting above Advt. as  
specified,-----\$4.75

Recd.[received] paymt. May 31, 1804.

A. C. Miners.

{back}

A. C. Miners  
Certificate of the  
Invitation of an advertize-  
-ment for the sale of  
Wilson's Land.

May 31<sup>st</sup> 1804

-----END-----

## **12.59a. Item 19a: Certificate from John Ross for “The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” 1808 August 9.**

**Type of Material:** Certificate

**Title:** No. 1219

**Description:** This certificate specifies that The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the owner of one share of the stock for the Eastern and Wilkes-Barre Turnpike Road. The Eastern and Wilkes-Barre Turnpike Road was a privately-owned toll road chartered in 1803 and completed by 1816. It followed the course of today's route 115 in our township, with tollgates about every 17-miles. Grain from the Wyoming Valley, lumber from the Poconos, and building plaster from NY State all moved on the turnpike, as did stagecoaches with US Mail. By 1860, railroads were the preferred mode for moving freight, causing the turnpike to become a public road. Commonly during the time period, people would invest in shares of stocks for newly established turnpike roads. John Ross ( 1770-1834) served as a member of the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1800. In 1808 he was working as the county register. Samuel Sitgreaves (1764-1827) was heavily involved in transportation and agriculture. He was largely responsible for the erection of the first bridge across the Delaware River at the foot of Northampton Street in 1806 which resulted in a large volume of covered wagon traffic headed west through Easton. Sitgreaves backed the building of the Easton and Wilkes-Barre turnpike which opened a vast section of Pennsylvania to commerce.

**Dates:** 9 August 1808

**Creator:** [Ross, John 1770-1834](#)

**Subjects:** Stock certificate

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Sitgreaves, Samuel 1764-1827](#);

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 8 in. x 5 in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

{Front}

No. 1219

It is hereby certified, That The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is entitled to One Share of the Stock of the President Managers and Company of the EASTON AND WILKES BARRE TURNPIKE ROAD numbered Twelve Hundred and nineteen —  
Transferable only in Person, or by Attorney duly constituted, and in Presence of the President or Treasurer of said Company.

Witness the Seal of the said Corporation the ninth— day of August A.D 1808  
John Ross President

Attest, Sitgreaves Treasurer

{back}

July 13 1843

Transferred to Geo M. Hollenback

S Butler ---

Dec. 22 1843- Transferred to Saml U. Cit

S. Butler ---

-----END-----

## **12.59b. Item 19b: Certificate from Joseph Priestley for Samuel McClintock, 1808 November 16.**

**Type of Material:** Certificate

**Title:** No. 69

**Description:** This certificate specifies that Samuel McClintock is the owner of one share of the stock for the Centre Turnpike Road. As the population was increasing in Sudbury during the early 19th century, Northumberland County needed to make progress in a better transportation system. In 1805 the Pennsylvania Legislature voted to incorporate the Centre Turnpike Co. The Centre Turnpike connected Sunbury to Reading and became a major highway. Joseph Priestly was a prominent lawyer of Northumberland who was appointed to take subscription of stock in the company and served as the organization's president. John Cowden was a merchant and first postmaster of Northumberland, the county's first post office and also had a share in the stock. Samuel McClintock was among the several other stockholders who were from Hamburg, Lycoming County, Philadelphia, and Reading. It took 7 years for the Turnpike to be completed and had cost an estimated \$1200 to \$3500 per mile. To read more about the Centre Turnpike see [here](#).

**Dates:** 16 November 1808

**Creator:** [Priestley, Joseph Michael, Jr., 1768-1833](#)

**Subjects:** Stock certificate

**Locations:** N/A

**People:** [Cowden, John \(1764-1837\)](#); McClintock, Samuel, 1787-1888

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 8 ¾ in. x 5 ¼ in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

{front}

No. 69

This is to certify that Samuel Mc]Clintock is entitled to One Share in capital or joint stock of the CENTRE TURNPIKE ROAD, on which twenty per cent has been paid; subject to the payment of the remaining eighty per cent. At such times in such proportions as may be prescribed by the President and Managers of the said Company, under the penalty of forfeiture for non-compliance, agreeably to the act of incorporation.

Transferable only in person, or by attorney, duly constituted in the presence of the President or Treasurer.

Witness the seal of the corporation the Sixteenth day of November AD. 1808

Joseph Priestley President

[Illegible] Treasurer

{back}

Rec.<sup>d</sup> 16.<sup>th</sup> June 1809 Fifteen dollars for the third fourth & fifth Installment

John Cowden

-----END-----

## **12.60. Item 20: Letter from Le Ray de Chaumont to Joseph Kingsbery, 1821 February 14.**

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** This letter was written by Jacques-Donatien Le Ray De Chaumont, known as James Le Ray in America, who traveled over to the North Country with hopes of collecting back his family's fortune. His father of the same name, was the single largest financial supporter of the American Revolution from France, even surpassing the French Government's monetary aid. James le Ray was sent by his father to America to regain the family's loan. However, though pleading with the American Government, he only gained back partial compensation with the help of Benjamin Franklin. Once married to Grace Coxé, James Le Ray gained his American citizenship, and believed he could regain his family fortune by investing in land in Northern New York. Eventually, Le Ray became "land poor" and this led him to seek out others to help him manage his estate. Among these people were Nicholas Biddle and James Kinsbery who are involved in this letter. Nicholas Biddle was an American Financier and at the time of this letter being written was heavily involved in the banking system, holding the presidential position for the Second Bank of America. Joseph Kingsbery was the local agent in active management of the lands of Bradford. In this letter Le Ray writes about his affairs in finding settlers for his lands in New York and his regrets for selling his lands in Bradford.

**Dates:** 14 February 1821

**Creator:** [Leray D. James \(1760-1840\)](#)

**Subjects:** Personal letter

**Locations:** New York.

**People:** [Kingsbery, Joseph](#) 1774-1849; [Biddle, Nicholas](#) 1786-1844

**General Condition:** Poor. Paper is severely stained and the paper is thin and brittle, resulting in tears.

**Measurements:** 9 ¾ in. x 8 in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

New York, 14 Feby 1821

[front]

Joseph Kingsbery Esq<sup>r</sup>

Since I wrote you relative to Mr. Biddle, I have been presented by traveling and by a pressure of business from writing to you more in detail. The fact is that wishing to raise some money upon that land which has been heretofore a source of heavy expenditures I preferred to have transmit it to Mr. Biddle under certain conditions, to giving a mortgage which would have presented sales &<sup>c</sup>. My object us at present to sell the whole and I can do it at a very low price which may be considered as a great sacrifice, but which is not one in reality, as it will enable me to reinplace [sic] that track by one adjoining mine which I can have on very good terms, by the particular situation of it with regard to me. I have for that purchase spoken to persons who are to look out for Purchasers in the State of Penn<sup>a</sup> & Maryland, and preserve to you my dear sir the eastern states: Mr. Biddle was to write to your to go there to get settlers, and I presume he has done it. I remind him again of it today.

{ Letter From Le Ray De Clamont to his agency Joseph Kingsbery noble of Penna lands to Mr. Biddle }

[back]

I enclose a letter which you may share if you think proper. If a sale takes place through your sale procurement I will allow you a commission of 5% to be paid you out of the first proceeds of such sale.

Your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> of January was forwarded to me here, You say you are waiting anxiously for an answer to your last . The last one I had of you is that of the 27 november I can not examine fully the accounts contained in both of those till my return which will be soon

I should have a cause of regret in selling my lands in Bradford. That of losing my intercourse with with regard to them but I hope that we might yet find something to do together in procuring settlers from New England for my lands in New York.

Your Obd<sup>t</sup> Sert [sic] [obedient servant]  
Le Ray De Chaumont

[Page 2]

Sentry City & G        }        37  
Of July 17                }

-----  
Joseph Kingsbery Esqr

Athens  
Penn<sup>a</sup>

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## 12.61. Item 21: Testimony by Matthias Hollenback in Suit Against Horace Parker, 1828 December 22. [removed to legal size box #1]

**Type of Material:** Letter

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** This manuscript depicts a testimony by Matthias Hollenback concerning his encounter with Horace Parker, a friend overseeing directions of Hollenback's doctor. In the manuscript, Hollenback notes that he has requested to not be given medicine multiple times, but has been ignored by the doctor. The medicine being administered is digitalis. Hollenback states that he has been bedridden after taking the medicine each time, awakening to hear others speaking with Parker through the walls. He also mentions having visits from his daughter, Mary Ann Lanning, Sally Cist, Eleazar Blackman, and David Collings. In concluding the testimony in his suit against Parker, Hollenback states firmly his refusal to continue the medicine.

The manuscript mentions foxglove and [digitalis](#), interchangeable names for a drug remedy prepared by drying the leaves of the foxglove plant in order to stimulate the heart.

**Dates:** 22 December 1828

**Creator:** [Hollenback, Matthias 1752-1829](#)

**Subjects:** Testimony; Case; Suit

**Locations:** [Luzerne County](#)

**People:** [Hollenback, Matthias 1752-1829](#); [Parker, Horace](#), 1809-1894; (Hollenback) Lanning, Mary Ann, 1783-1854; Hollenback, G[eorge] M[atson], 1791-1866; [Hollenback, John Matthias, 1752-1829]; Cist, Sally [Unknown B-D] ; Blackman, Eleazar [Unknown B-D]; Collings, David [Unknown B-D]

**General Condition:** Good.

**Measurements:** 12 ¾ in. x 8 in.

**Transcript Attempt:**

Luzerne County Ss. [Sheriff Station]

Matthias Hollenback being duly sworn deposeth & saith that on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of Decr [December] 1828 Horace Parker came to me & wanted me to take some medicine and I told him I would not. He told me he had some medicine the Doctor had left, & that I did not know what my case was. I told him I would not. He urged me to take it. Another Doctor had left it. Whether I took that I don't know. — He then brought some more and urged me to take it. — I told him I left my case with God. — After I went to bed he made me take it and it ~~always~~ went through me— split me down one half.-- And then he got another and a larger dose & gave it to me and I never got over it and never shall.-- This was on Monday. — He said he would come again & last evening he came again I got up last evening & got into a chaise & went as far as the paper mill & staid (sic)--- Parker came & asked me how I did I told him not well & wanted to get up. He kept me in the dark & would not let me.--- Who should come in but Sally Cist— & asked me how I did and said I believe you don't know me &c[etcetera] When I came home Parker came again & wanted me to take more medicine & he would insure me it w.d[would] do no more hurt — And I took it & found I was gone. Then came my Daughter Mary Ann Lanning & said she was going home & wanted to do some thing for me and said she w<sup>d</sup> [would] give me some Medicine that would do me good— And they brought me some Fox Glove ^ or digitalis which would cure me. — I heard them talking in the other room. I went out and there

**Back:**

sat Eleazar Blackman & David Collings and they wanted me to take more medicine & I told them I would not

**[written in another hand and in pencil]**

Matthias Hollenback order on G. M Hollenback & other Papers

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**12.62. Item 22: Notice by Archibald McCall and James Gibson, 1841  
February 26. [Removed to Legal Box #1]**

**Type of Material:** Notice

**Title:** N/A

**Description:** This manuscript is a notice written by Archibald McCall, stating that he is appointing Secku Meylert to be the attorney for both himself and James Gibson. In 1823, a catalog published that the Asylum company's land and stock were up for sale. However it highlighted the considerable amount of land tracts that were not being bought which shows the immense amount of debt the Asylum Company was in and why it ultimately failed. Once the Asylum Company dissolved the purchasers of the company's land and stock agreed to form the Contingent Fund of the Asylum Company in order to manage any claims against the Asylum Company that remained after the company's dissolution. The managers of this new arrangement included both Archibald McCall and James Gibson. James Gibson had previously been a manager, acting president, and legal advisor for the Pennsylvania Population Company, as well as a manager and legal advisor for the Asylum Company. Secku Meylert moved from Germany to Pennsylvania at the age of 33 and resided in Susquehanna County where he took up an occupation in legal affairs. Due to the information found above it can be concluded that Meylert was helping Gibson and McCall in claims against the Asylum Company they needed to be disputed.

**Dates:** 26 February 1841

**Creator:** [McCall, Archibald \(1734-1814\)](#) [signatory], James Gibson (1769-1856) [signatory]

**Subjects:** Legal document

**Locations:** N/A//Philadelphia

**People:** Meylert, Secku 1784-1849;R

**General Condition:** Fair.

**Measurements:** 12 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. x 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. {closed}; 15 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. x 12 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. {open}

**Transcript Attempt:**

[front]

[Annotation] Asylum

Know all men by these presents that we Archibald McCall and James Gibson, surviving trustees and managers of the Asylum company, do make constitute & appoint Secku Meylert of the county of susquehanna in the state of Pennsylvania to be our true and lawful attorney ? to ask, demand, see for,

recover, and receive all debts and demands due to the said Asylum Company or to the trustees therefor- and also - and manage as our agent and attorney, all and every part of the lands to the said Asylum Company , or to us and trustees of the said company, in the state of pennsylvania, with power to recover and take possession thereof and to sell the same or any part thereof and to grant and convey the same in fee simple, to such person or persons for such price or prices and upon such terms and conditions as to him may seem best, and meet for our interest, and to compromise & settles all disputes concerning the same in such manner as may to him appear most for our interest- hereby granting to our said attorney full power in the premiere to do all acts necessary concerning the same and rectifying and confirming all and every the acts which our said attorney may lawfully do herein by virtue. Hereof In Witness whereof we have here unto person hands & seals, the 26th day of February. A.D 1841 sealed and delivered in the presence of Wm Barlow Jankwicz Arch<sup>d</sup> McCall {seal}

James Gibson {seal}

Philadelphia Sir

On the 24th day of February A.D 1841 before the subscribers & Alderman of the city of Philadelphia personally approved Archibald McCall and James Gibson the constituents in the forgoing power of attorney named and acknowledged the same to be their and each of their – deed for the purpose here in named- In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

Wm Barlow Jankwicz  
Alderman of the East Ward {seal}

[back from top to bottom]

Purchased Feb 1949  
Michigan #20

1841 Feb 26th No 1838  
Power of att. Archibald McCall & James Gibson surviving trustees and managers of the Asylum to by S. Meylert

Filed March 23./41  
Filed May 10. 1841  
Tax fees 1.34 Tax fees .50  
.84  
\$ 1.34

Received the above fees in full –

Bradford County Fs

Recorded May 10 1841 in the office for recording of deeds in & for said county in deed book Vol 18 page. 407 & 5 - Witness my hand & official seal the date aforesaid

E.W Baird

Recorder

Luzerne County fs

Recorded in the office for recording deeds in and for said county in power of attorney  
book No. 1. Page 23. Ac. Witness my hand and seal of Office and Wilkes Barre the 23 day of March A.D  
1841

Issac Bowman

Rec.r

Per James Bowman

Deputy

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