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Online Catalog Headings

Subject Names

Barker, James Nelson, 1784-1858
Barker, John, 1745 or 6-1818
Delaplaine, Joseph, 1777-1824
Keppele, Michael

Subject Topics

Pennsylvania--Philadelphia--Politics and government

Document Types

Letters
Receipts (financial records)

Related Collections

The Arthur C. Bining Collection (Coll. 1811) at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania holds James Nelson Barker letters related to military matters.

Biographical/Historical Notes

John Barker (1746-1818), was distinguished by a life in public service. He served in the Revolutionary War and remained active in the military through 1808, retiring as Major General of the First Brigade, First Division. He was twice sheriff of Philadelphia, serving from 1794-1797 and 1803-1807, and twice elected as mayor (1808-1810 and 1812-1813). He was, by trade, a tailor.

James Nelson Barker (1784-1858) was respected for his accomplishments in the military, literature, and public service. The son of General John Barker, he rose to the rank of major in the War of 1812 and became adjutant general of the local militia, was a Philadelphia alderman and a one-term mayor (1820-1821), and collector of customs for the port of Philadelphia (1829-1838). For the last two decades of his life, Barker was comptroller at the Department of the Treasury in Washington, an appointment he received from Martin Van Buren. In addition, he was a published playwright whose work centered on themes from American history.

Collection Overview

The Barker Family Papers are arranged in two series: John Barker Papers, and James Nelson Barker Papers.

Series I, John Barker Papers consist of a small group of documents dating between 1785 and 1810. There are just two letters: one from Pierce Butler defending himself against charges of non-payment brought by an African American man, and one from Philadelphia mayor Michael