McA MSS 016

WILLIAM TRENT PAPERS

1763-1789

.21 linear feet, 1 box

March 2006
Descriptive Summary

Repository
Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

Call Number
McA MSS 016

Creator
Trent, William, 1715-1787?

Title
William Trent Papers

Inclusive Dates
1763-1789

Quantity
.21 linear feet (1 box)

Language of Materials
Materials are in English.

Abstract
The William Trent Papers describe some of Trent’s land holdings and business dealings in Pennsylvania, upstate New York, Maryland, and the Ohio Valley, with several investors including John Swift, Joseph Morris, George Campbell, George Croghan, Joseph Simon, David Franks, and Thomas Smallman, among others.

Administrative Information

Restrictions to Access
The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society’s reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, http://www.hsp.org/, for reading room hours.

Acquisition Information
Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

Processing Information
The William Trent Papers were formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The papers were reunited, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2005, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Preferred Citation
This collection should be cited as: [indicate specific item or series here] William Trent Papers (McA MSS 016), McAllister Collection, The Library Company of Philadelphia. For permission to publish materials or images in this collection, contact the

Online Catalog Headings

Subject Names
Croghan, George, d. 1782

Subject Topics
Land settlement--Pennsylvania
Land settlement--New Jersey
Land settlement--New York
Real estate investment--Middle Atlantic States
Land speculation--Middle Atlantic States
Ohio River Valley--History
Pennsylvania--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Sources

Document Types
Bonds (legal records)
Deeds
Indentures
Inventories
Powers of attorney
Legal documents

Related Collections
Many other William Trent letters and documents are held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (in Collections 310, 669, 840, and 1454), including his important Fort Pitt journal from 1763 (in Collection 1107).

Biographical/Historical Notes
William Trent (1715-1787), soldier, Indian trader, and land speculator, was a prominent figure in the development of Western Pennsylvania during the second half of the eighteenth century.

Collection Overview
The Trent Papers in the McAllister Collection describe some of William Trent’s land holdings and business dealings with several investors including John Swift, Joseph Morris, George Campbell, George Croghan, Joseph Simon, David Franks, and Thomas Smallman, among others. The papers are arranged in chronological order.

Among the documents is an undated “List of Books, Papers, &c being the contents of a Black Trunk, belonging to the estate of William Trent deceased” describing fifteen
items and bundles of papers (none of which are contained in the McAllister Collection). Another undated document is Trent’s copy of a list of twenty-eight parcels sold to Campbell, Mitchell, and Davis, which includes six tracts along Jennings Run in Maryland.
CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS 1763-1789

Arranged in chronological order.

1  1  Agreement with John Bayton and Samuel Wharton for land  1763 Dec 22
2  2  Agreement with William George and Thomas Ferguson for land  1765 Mar 6
3  3  Letter from John Fraser, Bedford, re: skins  1765 Jul 1
4  4  Agreement with Henry Cunningham and receipt  1765 Oct 16
5  5  Deed with William Sells for land  1766 Sep 4
6  6  Receipt from Jeremiah Warder for Reuben Haines’s note  1766 Sep 9
7  7  Deed with William George for land  1766 Oct 29
8  8  Accounts with Richard Tea  1767 Aug 7
9  9  Surveys of lands belonging to Trent and John Swift  1767 Aug 17
10 10 George Croghan request for payment  1768 Jan 1
11 11 Deed with John Fraser for land  1768 Apr 16
12 12 Mortgage with Joseph Morris for land  1769 Mar 22
13 13 Invoice from Joseph Morris for bond and interest  1769 Mar 22
14 14 Indenture with Joseph Morris for land in Albany Co., NY  1769 Apr 3
15 15 Letter to Burlington investors, with Joseph Morris receipt  1769 Apr 7
16 16 Accounts with George Croghan  1772 Dec 26
17 17 Agreement with Thomas Smallman for lands on the Ohio  1775 Nov 30
18 18 Agreement with Thomas Smallman for lands on the Ohio  1776 Jul 20
19 19 Agreement with George Campbell for land in Cumberland Co.  1777 Jun 4
20 20 Deeds from William Coxe for lands in Northumberland Co.  1779 Jan 1
21 21 Receipt from William Coxe for lands  1779 Feb 15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indenture with John Davis, John Mitchell, and George Campbell</td>
<td>1779 Mar 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Letter to Richard Tea, re: surveys</td>
<td>1779 Mar 6</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bond with John Davis, John Mitchell, and George Campbell</td>
<td>1779 Mar 17</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>Petition to New Jersey state assembly, for law re: low lands</td>
<td>1780 Jun 8</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>Accounts with Mitchell, Campbell &amp; Davis</td>
<td>1781</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Agreement with James Hayes for land in Delaware Water Gap</td>
<td>1781 Aug 23</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Letters from George Campbell and Hillegas</td>
<td>1781, 1784</td>
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<td>Power of attorney, to Samuel Wharton</td>
<td>1784 Jan 29</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trent estate accounts with John Glen</td>
<td>1789 Mar 10</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Inventory of books, papers, etc. in the Trent estate</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>List of lands sold to Mitchell, Campbell &amp; Davis</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>Situation of lands owned with John Swift</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>Notes of lands surveyed</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>Notes on land agreement with David Franks and Joseph Simon</td>
<td>undated</td>
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