

Certificates
Invoices
Receipts (financial records)
Bills of lading
Merchants--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia--Archives

Biographical/Historical Notes

John A. McAllister (1822-1896) was an antiquarian collector in Philadelphia. During his lifetime, he acquired all sorts of Americana, ranging from printed books and pamphlets to ephemera and manuscripts. The latter material includes substantial records groups such as family papers and business records, as well as the smaller groups of papers as found here: they are each not extensive enough to stand alone as a collection, yet are too cohesive in content to remain filed within the McAllister Miscellaneous Manuscripts. Biographical and historical notes for each section appear below.

Collection Overview

The collection is arranged in sixteen sections and filed alphabetically: Joshua Barney Papers (1782-1817); Benjamin Harris Brewster Papers (1842, 1847); Carey & Hart Papers (1832-1852); Comly & Tevis Papers (1825); Committee for the Distribution of Water Records (1801-1810); Johann Frederick Ernst Papers (1781-1799, 1842); John Frost Papers (1843-1853); Abel Humphreys Papers (1799-1807); Jackson Club of Philadelphia Records (1827-1828); Amand Lafore Papers (1842-1857); Miller & Earl Insurance Certificates (1833); R. F. Allen & Company Papers (1831-1832); John Sefton Papers (1853-1857); John Sergeant Papers (1804-1844); Philip and Peter Wager Papers (1795-1820); and William Folwell Jr. & Company Papers (1834-1836). Biographical, historical, and scope and contents notes for each section appear below.

JOSHUA BARNEY, a Maryland native and commodore in the US Navy, saw action in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The material in the collection, concerning naval matters and procedures, consists of six letters to Barney (1759-1818), one draft letter written by him, and one vellum document. There is a single letter from Navy secretary Benjamin Crowninshield (1772-1851) requesting Barney's immediate appearance in Washington, one from Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) regarding Barney's suggestions for Navy Yard regulation, and one from Commodore Thomas Tingey (1750-1829) that documents two wagons of provisions sent from the Washington Navy Yard to Barney's flotilla near Patuxent, MD. The Scott folder holds an exchange of letters between Barney and Gen. Winfield Scott (1786-1866) both written on November 18, 1814, about procedure during a naval encounter in Baltimore harbor; Scott's letter reprimands Barney, and Barney's reply defends himself. Mentioned in Barney's text is Lt. Solomon Rutter (1761-1821), a sea captain-turned-navy man who was second in charge of the defense of Baltimore. The letter from John Mitchell was written from Paris and mentions the recently revealed plot to assassinate Napoleon. The remaining letter in the collection is from a