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GEORGE WASHINGTON CAMPBELL
(1769-1848)
CORRESPONDENCE
1793-1833

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INTRODUCTION

This collection of papers (Photostats primarily) of George Washington Campbell (1769-1833), lawyer, Tennessee member of Congress, 1803-1809, U.S. Senator from Tennessee, 1811-1818, Secretary of the Treasury (briefly), Minister to Russia, 1818-1820, and, U.S. Claims Commissioner, 1831, were given to the State by his descendants. Five original letters written by nephews of G.W. Campbell were also deposited by descendants.

The materials in this finding aid measures .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the George Washington Campbell Correspondence may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection is composed of correspondence (Photostats and five original letters) of George Washington Campbell for the dates 1793-1833. The bulk of the material falls in the period 1813-1822 when Campbell was United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury, and Minister to Russia. The letters are especially concerned with national and diplomatic problems involving the purchase of East Florida from Spain, diplomatic relations with Great Britain during the period of Jackson's execution of Ambrister and Arbuthnot, conditions in France after the Revolution, treaties with European Countries, and subjects of national concern. His correspondents included four presidents – Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and James Madison. Others were Joseph Anderson, W.P. Anderson, John Jacob Astor, William H. Crawford, H.A.S. Dearborn, J.H. Eaton, Edmund P. Gaines, Albert Gallatin, George Graham, David Hubbard, Thomas McCrory, William Pinkney, Richard Rush, J. Whiteside, and others. Five original letters were written by Donald Mackay, Duncan and James Matheson, nephews of George Washington Campbell, living in Scotland.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George Washington Campbell

- 1769 February 8, born in Sutherland, Scotland, son of Dr. Archibald Campbell and Elizabeth Mackay Campbell, widow of Duncan Matheson.
- 1772 His family moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. His father died afterward and George spent his early life working on his mother's farm and teaching school.
- 1793-1794 Entered Princeton College in Junior Class and completed two years work in one and graduated with high honors in class of 1794.
- 1795 Studied law and soon moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he took First rank among his colleagues.
- 1803-1809 Elected to House of Representatives from Tennessee and served three terms.
- 1809 Moved to Nashville and served briefly as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals.
- 1811 Elected to the U.S. Senate.
- 1812 Married Harriet Stoddert, daughter of Benjamin Stoddert.
- 1815-1818 Returned to Senate and served as Chairman of the Committee of Finance.
- 1818-1820 Minister to Russia. In one week three of his four children died of typhus fever after which he was allowed to resign.
- 1831 Commissioner of U.S. for claims convention signed with France.
- 1848 February 17, died in Nashville.

CONTAINER LIST

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