



# Guide to the John Francis Hamtramck Papers, 1757-1862

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## Table of Contents

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<a href="#">Summary</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Background</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Administrative Information</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Names and Subjects</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Collection Inventory</a> .....	6

## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

John Francis Hamtramck papers, 1757-1862

**Creator:**

Hamtramck, John Francis, 1798-1858

**Abstract:**

U.S. Indian agent, Army officer during the Mexican War; from Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Correspondence and other papers, relating to Hamtramck's activities as agent to the Osage Indians, to troop movements, army discipline, supplies, and other matters during the Mexican War, and to the Hamtramck family. Includes letters of Hamtramck's father, John Francis Hamtramck, and of Shepherdstown merchant Walter Selby, Hamtramck's father-in-law. Correspondents include Elias Boudinot, William Clark, George Clinton, Pierre Couteau, Caleb Cushing, John H. Eaton, John Hancock, R. M. T. Hunter, George Izard, John Jay, Elias Kent Kane, Henry Knox, Arthur St. Clair, and Jesse Burgess Thomas.

**Extent:**

2 Linear Feet  
2,630 Items

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.00501

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1x045>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], John Francis Hamtramck papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Background

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### Scope and Content

Correspondence and other papers, relating to Hamtramck's activities as agent to the Osage Indians, to troop movements, army discipline, supplies, and other matters during the Mexican War, and to the Hamtramck family. Includes letters of Hamtramck's father, John Francis Hamtramck, and of Shepherdstown, West Virginia merchant Walter Selby, Hamtramck's father-in-law. Correspondents include Elias Boudinot, William Clark, George Clinton, Pierre Couteau, Caleb Cushing, John H. Eaton, John Hancock, R. M. T. Hunter, George Izard, John Jay, Elias Kent Kane, Henry Knox, Arthur St. Clair, and Jesse Burgess Thomas.

### Biographical/Historical

John Francis Hamtramck (1798-1858) was a U.S. Indian agent, Army officer during the Mexican War; from Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

## Acquisition Information

The John Francis Hamtramck Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 1948, 1956, 1963, 1968, 1971, and 1972.

## Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff

Encoded by Elizabeth Dunn and Carrie Mills, May 2011

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 48-1903, 56-612, 63-55, 68-362, 71-126, and 7-24-72.

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Names and Subjects

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- Mexican War, 1846-1848
- Osage Indians
- Merchants -- West Virginia -- Shepherdstown
- Indians of North America -- Government relations
- Kane, Elias Kent, 1794-1835
- Jay, John, 1745-1829
- Izard, George, 1777-1828
- Hunter, R. M. T. (Robert Mercer Taliaferro), 1809-1887
- United States. Army -- Officers
- Thomas, Jesse Burgess, 1777-1853
- St. Clair, Arthur, 1734-1818
- Knox, Henry, 1750-1806
- Boudinot, Elias, 1740-1821
- Clark, William
- Clinton, George, 1739-1812
- Couteau, Pierre
- Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879
- Eaton, John Henry, 1790-1856
- Hancock, John, 1737-1793

## Collection Inventory

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Correspondence and papers, 1757-1799	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1757?, approximately 1803-1826	Oversize-folder 1
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**Physical Description:** oversize

Correspondence and papers, 1800-1806	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1807-1809	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1810-1820	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1821-1824	Box 1
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### Scope and Contents

Includes a bill of sale for Lucy, an enslaved girl, April 18, 1822, William Walton (St. Louis County, Missouri) to Mary A. Hamtramck; and bill of sale for Joe, an enslaved man, April 22, 1822, William H. Ashley (St. Louis, Missouri) to Mary A. Hamtramck. A letter (November 9, 1824) from James Pindall to Walter B. Selby (Shepherdstown, Virginia), discusses the status of three enslaved children (unnamed) in whom Selby had some kind of legal and/or financial interest. The children in question had been enslaved by Jacob Israel and deeded to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Turner. Pindall discusses the possibility of selling the children, noting the market was weak in his location and "sending them down the river" might bring a better price.

Correspondence and papers, 1825-1826	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1827	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1828	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1829	Box 1
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Correspondence and papers, 1829-1848	Oversize-folder 2
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**Physical Description:** oversize

Correspondence and papers, 1830 January-April	Box 2
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Correspondence and papers, 1830 May-December	Box 2
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Correspondence and papers, 1831	Box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Letter inviting son to visit and recommending him to leave enslaved nurse elsewhere (March 30th, 1831)	
Correspondence and papers, 1832-1833	Box 2
Correspondence and papers, 1834-1835	Box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes a tax bill from 1835 noting the number of enslaved people Hamtramck possesses	
Correspondence and papers, 1836	Box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes a tax bill from 1836 noting the number of enslaved people Hamtramck possesses	
Correspondence and papers, 1837-1838	Box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes tax bills from Jefferson County for 1837 and 1838 noting the number of enslaved people (3) that Hamtramck possesses.	
Correspondence and papers, 1839	Box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes 2 letters from the sheriff of Jefferson County (February 26, 26) requesting that Hamtramck take his militia company to Charles Town to prevent the lynching of a Black man being held in jail there. Also includes a tax bill from Jefferson County for 1839 noting the number of enslaved people (3) Hamtramck possesses.	
Correspondence and papers, 1840-1843	Box 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes tax bills from Jefferson County for 1840 and 1841 noting the number of enslaved people (3) that Hamtramck possesses	
Correspondence and papers, 1844-1846	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 January	Box 3

Correspondence and papers, 1847 February	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 March-May	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 June	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 July	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 August	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 September <b>Physical Description:</b> folder 1 of 2	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 September <b>Physical Description:</b> folder 2 of 2	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 October	Box 3
Correspondence and papers, 1847 November	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1847 December	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1848 January <b>Physical Description:</b> folder 1 of 2	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1848 January <b>Physical Description:</b> folder 2 of 2	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1848 February	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1848 March	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1848 April	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1848 May	Box 4
Correspondence and papers, 1848 June, 1849-1862	Box 5
Correspondence and papers, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> folder 1 of 3	Box 5
Correspondence and papers, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> folder 2 of 3	Box 5

Correspondence and papers, undated	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> folder 3 of 3	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Mention of Republican committee members rejecting the right to own enslaved persons and a mention of the division between the slave holding and non-slave holding states in a news article (1861, January 26?)	
Correspondence and papers, 1825-1829	Oversize-folder 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> oversize	
Bound manuscript volume, 1833-1837	Volume F:6762
Commonplace book, 1822-1835, undated	Box 5
Financial journal, 1833-1835	Volume F:6761
Financial memoranda, 1827-1830	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 1 Volumes	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Bound blotter notebook with a few pages of financial memoranda.	
Inventory and expenses, approximately 1830-1831	Box 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Bound volume containing a shipping inventory, catalog of books owned, and expenses related to the Hamtramcks' relocation from St. Louis, Missouri to Shepherdstown, [West] Virginia.	
Lane & Webb (Shepherdstown) book of sales, 1838	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 1 Volumes	
Sarah E. Selby (Hamtramck) autograph album, approximately 1831-1835	Box 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Autograph book includes poems and drawings inscribed by various individuals. Folder also includes a loose poem titled "Origin of Evil".	

Military: muster rolls and returns of the First  
Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, 1847 January-  
April

Oversize-folder 4

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Military: muster rolls and returns of the First  
Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, 1847 April-  
December

Oversize-folder 5

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Military: muster rolls and returns of the First  
Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, 1848 January-  
May

Oversize-folder 6

**Physical Description:** oversize

**Scope and Contents**

Includes undated blank forms.

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Military: Special orders book, 1847  
November-1848 June

Volume F:5354