



Guide to the Philip Turner papers, 1751-1858, 1881 and undated

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Summary

Collection Title:

Philip Turner papers, 1751-1858, 1881 and undated

Creator:

Turner, Philip, 1740-1815

Source:

Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University)

Abstract:

Philip Turner (1740-1815) was a noted surgeon from Norwich, Connecticut and New York, New York. His papers date from 1751 to 1858 and contain correspondence, military hospital returns (1777-1780) describing the Army's sick and wounded, printed material, a prescription and logbook, and ledgers; these materials document Philip Turner's career as a surgeon in private practice in Norwich, Connecticut and New York, New York, in the Continental Army, and in the United States Army up to the War of 1812, during which he was stationed at Fort Columbus, NY. There is correspondence with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, William Eustis, Henry Dearborn, John Morgan, William Shippen, and other prominent Americans. Also includes materials on Turner's family. Acquired as part of the History of Medicine Collections at Duke University.

Extent:

6 Linear Feet (9 boxes)

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.01315

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m10x2b>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Philip Turner papers, History of Medicine Collection, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The papers of Philip Turner date from 1751 to 1858 and contain correspondence, military hospital returns, printed material, a logbook, and ledgers, documenting his career as a surgeon in private practice in Norwich, Connecticut and New York, New York, in the Continental Army, and in the United States Army. Turner served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, during which he was stationed at Fort Columbus, New York. Included are an extensive collection of military hospital returns from the Eastern Department of the Continental Army describing the state of the Army's sick and wounded and spanning the years 1777 to 1780. Also included is correspondence with George Washington, Tench Coxe, and William Eustis about the procurement of medical supplies and the organization of the Army's medical department during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. After the Revolutionary War, Turner felt that he had not received due compensation for his service, and the collection contains extensive correspondence relating to the decades-long effort of Turner and his heirs to receive this compensation from Congress. This correspondence includes letters to and from Thomas Jefferson, Henry Dearborn, John Morgan, William Shippen, and other prominent Americans. Additional correspondence, especially with Daniel Parker, Chief Clerk of the War Department, documents Turner's efforts to secure a commission during the War of 1812.

Also included in the collection are correspondence, financial and legal papers, and poetry relating to Turner's family. The majority of this series is addressed to or stems from John Turner and Nancy Turner, two of Philip Turner's children. Correspondents represented include Judith Sargent Murray, American essayist and advocate for women's rights, and her husband, John Murray. Some of the material is related to the efforts of John Turner and John Turner Wait (Philip Turner's grandson) to receive compensation for Turner's Revolutionary War service. The collection also includes a small hide-covered trunk bearing the initials A.T., possibly belonging to Turner's mother Ann.

Biographical/Historical

Philip Turner (1740-1815) was a noted surgeon from Norwich, Connecticut, where he trained under his foster father, Dr. Elisha Tracy. He served with the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, holding the position of Surgeon General of the Eastern Department. After the Revolutionary War, Turner returned to private practice in Norwich, and moved to New York in 1800. He also served as an army surgeon during the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and the War of 1812, when he was stationed at Fort Columbus on Governor's Island, New York. Turner died in 1815.

Philip and Lucy Turner had seven children, two of whom appear as authors of material in the collection. John Turner (1764-1837) was also a doctor in Norwich, Connecticut. Nancy Turner married Marvin Wait in 1810, and had a son, John Turner Wait (1811-1899), who served as a U.S. Representative from Connecticut and also authored material in the collection.

Chronology List

Date	Description
Feb. 25, 1740	Philip Turner born in Norwich, Connecticut to Captain Philip Turner and Anne Huntington Adgate.
1758	Turner began his military service as a surgeon during the French and Indian War (1754-1763).
April 7, 1763	Turner married Lucy Tracy, daughter of Dr. Elisha Tracy.
1775-1783	Revolutionary War
June 17, 1775	Battle of Bunker Hill. Turner was present as a military surgeon.
July 6, 1775	Turner was commissioned surgeon to the 8th Regiment Connecticut troops.
Dec. 16, 1775	Turner was discharged from the army.
April 1777	Turner received the appointment of Surgeon General of the Hospital, Eastern Department.
1781	Turner retired from military service and returned to Norwich, Connecticut to open a private practice.

Date	Description
1800	Turner moved to New York, New York.
1802	Turner re-entered military service as a surgeon's mate.
Nov. 1809	Turner was transferred to Fort Columbus on Governor's Island.
1812-1815	War of 1812
April 20, 1815	Turner died at the age of seventy-five.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in these series: Correspondence; Financial and Legal Papers; Journals; Peace Service in New York; Revolutionary War; Turner Family Papers; and War of 1812.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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 Philip Turner Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2011 and 2018.

Processing Information

Processed by Willeke Sandler, December 2011.

Updated for accession 2018-0135 by Alice Poffinberger, January 2019.

Description updated by Alice Poffinberger, January 2019.

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 2011-0206, 2018-0135.

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Names and Subjects

- Medicine -- Formulae, receipts, prescriptions
- Medicine, Military -- United States -- History -- 18th century
- Military pensions
- Military hospitals -- United States
- Physicians -- United States -- Correspondence
- Surgeons -- United States -- Correspondence
- Fort Columbus (N.Y.) -- History
- New York (N.Y.)
- Norwich, Connecticut
- United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Medical care
- United States -- History -- War of 1812 -- Medical care
- Broad­sides (notices)
- Diaries
- Ledgers (account books)

- Logbooks
- Turner family
- Turner, John, 1764-1837
- Stoddard, Amos, 1762-1813
- Tucker, Thomas Tudor, 1745-1828
- Shippen, William, 1712-1801
- Simmons, William
- Parker, Daniel
- Sherman, Roger, 1721-1793
- Washington, George, 1732-1799
- Wait, John Turner, 1811-1899
- United States. Army
- United States. Continental Army. Eastern Dept
- Turner, Philip, 1740-1815
- Armstrong, John, 1758-1843
- Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824
- Dearborn, Henry, 1751-1829
- Eustis, William, 1753-1825
- Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826
- Morgan, John, 1735-1789
- Murray, Judith Sargent, 1751-1820
- Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University)

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series, 1780-1813

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Contents note

Contains personal and professional correspondence chiefly relating to Turner's private practice. Topics include a trip Turner took to Charleston, South Carolina in 1792, requests for Turner's medical services and advice, and two letters asking Turner to cover a debt owed to his son-in-law. Significant correspondents are many, including Revolutionary War period military officials and physicians; there is also an exchange of two letters between Turner and George Washington on the topic of Turner's plan to reorganize the medical department of the Continental Army (the plan is not included), and eight letters from Turner to Thomas Jefferson (1805-1807) regarding Turner's claim for proper compensation for his military service and Turner's views of Jefferson's political situation. Also included is a letter from Judith Sargent Murray to Turner's wife, Lucy, concerning Turner's daughter Elizabeth's visit to Sargent Murray. Many other pieces of correspondence are also located in the Peace

Service in New York, Revolutionary War, Turner Family Papers, and War of 1812 Series. Arranged in chronological order.

General Correspondence, 1789-1813

Letter, Nov., 1789, from Hannah Abell, Norwich, Conn., to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 30 Nov., 1790, from Judith Sargent Murray, Gloucester, Mass., to Lucy Turner	Box 2
Letter, 7 Sept., 1792, from Philip Turner, Norwich, Conn., to Dr. David Olyphant, Newport	Box 2
Letter, 12 Sept., 1792, from Philip Turner, Norwich, Conn., to Dr. David Olyphant	Box 2
Memorandum, 18 Sept., 1792, from Philip Turner	Box 2
Certificate, 3 Nov., 1800, from Robert Benson, New York	Box 2
Letter, 24 July, 1803, from Malachi Foot, Benjamin Prince, Daniel D. Walters, and Philip D. Keteltas, New York, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 5 Aug., 1803, from Edward Livingston to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 14 Nov., 1803, from unknown to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 14 Nov., 1803, from W. Leffingwell, New Haven, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 7 Jan., 1804, from John Franks to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 19 Jan., 1804, from Colonel Graham to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 11 Feb., 1804, from John Franks, Southhold, to Philip Turner	Box 2

Letter, 16 Jan., 1805, from Perez Jones, New York, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 4 Feb., 1806, from Cornelius Cooper, New York, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 31 Mar., 1806, from Dr. Sage, Sag Harbor, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 28 Aug., 1808, from Clarissa Turner, Lancaster, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 20 Nov., 1808, from Mr. Weston, New York, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 17 Mar., 1809, from J.E.A. Masters, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 17 Mar., 1809, from Charles Carew, New London, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 8 May, 1809, from R. Chandernette, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 12 May, 1809, from Commanding Officer, Ellis Island, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 15 Feb., 1810, from S. Williams, New York, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 28 May, 1812, from Philip Turner, New York, to Joel Austin Wallingford	Box 2
Letter, 12 Sept., 1812, from W. Sheldon, New York, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 29 Mar., 1813, from J. Thomas, Worcester, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Memorandum, 1813, The Case of Mrs. Vanderverter and the Cause of her Death, from Philip Turner	Box 2

George Washington, 1780

Letter, 3 Feb., 1780, from Philip Turner, Danbury, to George Washington, Morristown	Box 2
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Letter, 24 Feb., 1780, from George Washington, Morristown, to Philip Turner Box 2

Thomas Jefferson, 1805-1807

Letter, 10 Oct., 1805, from Philip Turner, New York, to Thomas Jefferson Box 2

Letter, 18 Oct., 1805, from Thomas Jefferson, Washington, to Philip Turner Box 2

Letter, 18 Nov., 1805, from Philip Turner, New York, to Thomas Jefferson Box 2

Letter, 28 Dec., 1805, from Philip Turner, New York, to Thomas Jefferson Box 2

Letter, 28 Jan., 1806, from Philip Turner, New York, to Thomas Jefferson Box 2

Letter, 28 Feb., 1806, from Philip Turner, to Thomas Jefferson Box 2

Letter, 16 June, 1806, from Philip Turner, New York, to Thomas Jefferson Box 2

Letter, 21 July, 1807, from Philip Turner, to Thomas Jefferson Box 2

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Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1751-1815 and undated

Physical Description: 2 folders and 2 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Drafts and receipts made out to Philip Turner, the majority for his medical care in Norwich, Connecticut and New York, New York. Also included are a draft made out to Capt. Philip Turner (Turner's father) by Benedict Arnold Sr. (father of the notable son of the same name), the Norwich land deed made out to Turner's father, an account ledger for John Morgan kept during the Revolutionary War, and two financial ledgers documenting Turner's private practice.

Drafts, deeds, and receipts, 1751-1810 (2 folders) Box 2

Ledgers, 1784-1815 and undated (1 folder, 2 boxes)

Ledgers, undated Box 2

Financial ledger: private practice, 1784-1801 Box 6

Financial ledger: private practice, 1811-1815 Box 7

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Journals Series, 1774-1803

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Two volumes: "Philip Turner's Day-Book, March 19, 1803" and "Philip Turner's Medical Collections and Experimental Observations" (circa 1774-1801). Originally used to record information on Turner's patients, more than half the pages in the daybook have been pasted over with later newspaper clippings (circa 1830s), presumably by Turner's grandson, John Turner Wait, whose name appears on the inside cover of the volume.

"Philip Turner's Medical Collections and Experimental Observations" (circa 1774-1801) Box 7

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Peace Service in New York Series, 1809-1811 and undated

Physical Description: 1 folder

Scope and Contents note

Chiefly correspondence relating to Turner's assignment as surgeon's mate at Fort Columbus on Governor's Island, New York. Correspondents include William Eustis (then Secretary of War), Henry Dearborn, Thomas Tudor Tucker (Treasurer of the United States), William Simmons (accountant of the War Department), and Tench Coxe (purveyor of public supplies). The majority of the correspondence deals with the ordering and delivery of medical supplies for Fort Columbus, in particular the absence of supplies and complaints about the problems associated with their delivery. Also included are correspondence and several documents detailing Turner's pay for his service.

Letter, 7 Feb., 1809, from Henry Dearborn, to Philip Turner Box 2

Ms., "Subsistence Account of Philip Turner, post surgeon's Mate at Ellis's and Bedlows Islands in New York Bay," Apr. 7, 1809	Box 2
Letter, 27 Apr., 1809, from William Eustis, Washington, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Ms., "P. Turner's Account for medical services, subsistence and storage from the 7th of Feb. to the 7th of May 1809"	Box 2
Letter, 6 June, 1809, from William Eustis, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 6 July, 1809, from William Simmons, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 8 July, 1809, from Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 16 July, 1809, from Philip Turner, New York, to Callender Irvine	Box 2
Letter, 19 July, 1809, from Callender Irvine, Philadelphia, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 9 Sept., 1809, from Charles Gardner, Fort Columbus, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 28 Sept., 1809, from William Eustis, Boston, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 30 Sept., 1809, from William Simmons, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Ms., "P. Turner's Account from the 1st of July to the 30th of Sept., 1809"	Box 2
Letter, 4 Nov., 1809, from Philip Turner, New York, to William Eustis	Box 2
Letter, 20 Dec., 1809, from William Eustis, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 2 Jan., 1810, from William Simmons, to Philip Turner	Box 2

Letter, 17 Feb., 1810, from Philip Turner, New York, to William Eustis	Box 2
Letter, 7 May, 1810, from Philip Turner, New York, to Tench Coxe	Box 2
Letter, 18 May, 1810, from Philip Turner, New York, to Richard Reece, London, England	Box 2
Letter, 19 May, 1810, from Tench Coxe, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 28 May, 1810, from Callender Irvine, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 3 Oct., 1810, from Thomas Tudor Tucker, Washington, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 12 Nov., 1810, from William Eustis, to Philip Turner, New York	Box 2
Letter, 29 Nov., 1810, from William Simmons, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, Nov., 1810, from Philip Turner, New York, to William Simmons	Box 2
Letter, 3 June, 1811, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, New York, to Tench Coxe, Philadelphia	Box 2
Letter, 6 June, 1811, from Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, to Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, New York	Box 2
Letter, 10 June, 1811, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, New York, to Tench Coxe, Philadelphia	Box 2
Letter, 11 June, 1811, from Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, to Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, New York	Box 2
Letter, 26 July, 1811, from Philip Turner, New York, to William Simmons	Box 2

Letter, 29 Sept., 1811, from Philip Turner, New York, to William Eustis	Box 2
Letter, 29 Sept., 1811, from Philip Turner, New York, to William Simmons	Box 2
Letter, 12 Oct., 1811, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, to William Simmons	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to Tench Coxe	Box 2

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Revolutionary War Series, 1776-1858 and undated

Physical Description: 13 folders

Scope and Contents note

Arranged into four subseries documenting Philip Turner's service as a surgeon during the Revolutionary War. The **Correspondence Subseries** includes letters to and from John Morgan, William Shippen, Roger Sherman, and Samuel Huntington. Topics in the correspondence include Turner's military orders from John Morgan, as well as orders issued by Turner and others, regulations from William Eustis for the military hospital in Danbury, Connecticut, and discussions about the procurement of supplies.

The **Military Hospital Returns Subseries** documents the medical state of the Continental Army's sick and wounded in the Eastern Department (including New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) during the Revolutionary War. The subseries consists of weekly reports sent to Turner from military hospitals in towns in the Eastern Department listing the number of patients admitted and discharged, and the number of patients with a variety of illnesses, including dysentery, fever, and rheumatism, as well as those wounded in battle. These hospital return forms are for the most part standardized and handwritten, with several using printed forms.

The **Printed Materials Subseries** contains Congressional resolutions concerning the establishment and running of military hospitals.

The **Revolutionary War Claims Subseries** contains correspondence relating to the efforts of Turner and his heirs from 1779 to 1858 to receive from Congress what Turner considered proper compensation for his military service. The discrepancies resulted from a disagreement as to Turner's exact rank and to the resulting difference in pay. In an effort to receive compensation, Turner wrote numerous letters to Secretary of War Henry Dearborn, and corresponded with a number of prominent individuals, including General Huntington, William

Eustis, and Joseph B. Varnum. Turner also submitted petitions to Congress and to the Connecticut General Assembly. Other correspondence with Thomas Jefferson relating to Turner's Revolutionary War claims can be found in the Correspondence Series.

Correspondence, 1776-1781 and undated (2 folders)

Box 2

Letter, 4 Nov., 1776, from John Morgan, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 10 Nov., 1776, from John Morgan, camp near White Plains, to unknown	Box 2
Letter, Nov., 1776, from John Morgan, to the Regimental Surgeons	Box 2
Letter, 9 May, 1777, from John Morgan, Boston, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 18 Apr., 1778, from John Morgan, New Haven, to Philip Turner, Danbury	Box 2
Letter, 30 Apr., 1778, from Philip Turner, to Isaac Foster	Box 2
Letter, 17 Apr., 1778, from Edwin Bulkley, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 18 Aug., 1778, from Edwin Bulkley, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 17 Sept., 1778, from Philip Turner, Danbury, to Lieutenant Mack	Box 2
Letter, 16 Nov., 1778, from Philip Turner, Danbury, to Doctor Hosmer	Box 2
Letter, 19 Dec., 1778, "Some regulations necessary to be adopted with respect to the General Hospital in Danbury in order to make the patients comfortable and to do them that justice to which they are entitled and which Congress expects they receive," from William Eustis, Danbury, to Philip Turner	Box 2

Letter, 16 Mar., 1779, from Philip Turner, Danbury, to William Shippen	Box 2
Letter, 20 Apr., 1779, from William Shippen, Somerset, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 1 June, 1779, from Thomas Fanning, Norwich, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 9 June, 1779, from Abiel Hyde, Norwich, to John Baryan, Danbury	Box 2
Letter, 4 July, 1779, from Philip Turner, Danbury, to unknown	Box 2
Letter, 4 Aug., 1779, from John Tyler, New London, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 19 Aug., 1779, from John Tyler, New London, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 4 Sept., 1779, from John Tyler, New London, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 2 Nov., 1779, from Roger Sherman, Philadelphia, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 1779, from Philip Turner, to William Eustis	Box 2
Letter, 4 Feb., 1780, from Philip Turner, Danbury, to Samuel Huntington	Box 2
Letter, 8 Feb., 1780, from Roger Sherman, Philadelphia, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 16 Apr., 1780, from Philip Turner, Providence, to Doctor Adams	Box 2
Ms., Resolve of Congress, May 1780	Box 2
Letter, 21 June, 1780, from George Bright, New London, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 5 Aug., 1780, from John De La Mater, Boston, to Philip Turner	Box 2

Letter, 2 Sept., 1780, from Roger Sherman, Philadelphia, to Philip Turner, Danbury	Box 2
Letter, 24 Nov., 1780, Account sent to Congress from Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 19 Dec., 1780, from William Ledyard, New London, to Philip Turner, Norwich	Box 2
Letter, 15 Jan., 1781, from William Ledyard, New London, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 28 June, 1781, from John De La Mater, Danbury, to Philip Turner	Box 2
Letter, 30 June, 1781, from John Cochran, New London, to Philip Turner, Norwich	Box 2
Letter, 1781, from Philip Turner, to Roger Sherman	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to John Trumbull	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to Harry Burton	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, "On Dr. Tilton's errand to the Army, " to unknown	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, "Directions for Doctor Shippen"	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to Mr. Thompson, Hartford	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to William Shippen	Box 2
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to Doctors Adams and Custin	Box 2
Ms., "Account of the Money Paid for the use of the Hospital in North [illegible], Paid by Colonel Prentice," undated	Box 2

Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to the Senior Officer of the Military Hospital at Providence Box 2

Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to the Senior Officer of the Military Hospitals, Eastern District Box 2

Military Hospital Returns, 1777-1780 and undated (5 folders)

Military Hospital Returns, 1777 (1 folder) Box 2

Military Hospital Returns, 1778 (4 folders) Box 3

Oversize Military Hospital Returns, 1778 (1 folder) Oversize-folder 1

Military Hospital Returns, 1779 (2 folders) Box 3

Military Hospital Returns, 1780 and undated (2 folders) Box 4

Printed Material, 1777-1780 (1 folder)

"In Congress Resolved...", April 7, 1777 Box 4

Philip Turner, "Rules and Directions for the Better Regulating the Military Hospital of the United States," Feb. 6, 1778 Box 4

"Plan for Conducting the Hospital Department of the United States," Sept. 30, 1780 Box 4

Revolutionary War Claims, 1779-1858 and undated (5 folders)

Scope and Contents note

Arranged in original order, possibly in groups originally bundled together.

Box 5

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Turner Family Papers Series, 1776-1840, 1881 and undated

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Contents note

Contains correspondence, financial and legal papers, and poetry. The majority of the series is addressed to or stems from John Turner and Nancy Turner, two of Philip Turner's children. Some of the material is related to the efforts of John Turner and John Turner Wait (Philip Turner's grandson) to receive compensation for Turner's Revolutionary War service. Judith Sargent Murray, American essayist and advocate for women's rights, and her husband, John Murray, were friends of the Turners and wrote mainly of family matters as well as one letter from Sargent Murray about the forthcoming publication of her book *The Gleaner*. The Financial and Legal Papers Subseries includes material from the Department of the Interior Pension Office arranged in original order, as well as the 1812 will for Mehitabel Waterman, of which John Turner is one of the executors. The Writings Subseries includes undated and unsigned poetry and eulogies.

Correspondence, 1786-1840, 1881 and undated (1 folder)

Letter, 8 Sept., 1786, from J. Sargent Murray, Gloucester, Mass., to Mrs. (Lucy) Turner	Box 5
Letter, 22 Aug., 1792, from Julia Maria, to Anna Maria Sargent	Box 5
Letter, 3 Nov., 1797, from J. Sargent Murray, Boston, to Nancy Turner, Norwich	Box 5
Letter, 31 July, 1803, from Eliza A. Pinckney, Charleston, to Nancy Turner, New York	Box 5
Letter, 31 June, 1810, from Geo. Turner to John Turner, Norwich	Box 5
Letter, 31 Mar., 1825, from John Turner, Norwich, to Alexander Richards, Waddington, NY	Box 5
Letter, 18 Sept., 1825, from Mary to Abby Maria Lathrop, New York	Box 5
Letter, 22 Feb., 1826, from John Turner to Alexander Richards, Waddington, NY	Box 5
Ms., 1 May, 1839, "Company Orders, 7th Company, 18th Regiment Connecticut Milita"	Box 5

Ms., 29, Aug., 1840, "Company Orders, 7th Company, 18th Regiment Infantry" Box 5

Letter, 1881, from William McCrady, Cobb, Wis., to John Wait Box 5

Letter, undated, from John Murray, Boston, to Nancy Turner, Gloucester, Mass. Box 5

Letter, undated, from Robert Leckie, to Philip Turner Box 5

Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to Mrs. King Box 5

Blank letterhead, Sayles & Welles Cotton Brokers, Norwich, Conn. Box 5

Financial and legal papers, 1776-1838 and undated (1 folder)

Box 5

Writings, undated (1 folder)

Box 5

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War of 1812 Series, 1812-1815, 1830-1831 and undated

Physical Description: 2 folders and 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Series consists mainly of correspondence relating to Turner's work at Ft. Columbus, in particular the acquisition of supplies and matters relating to Turner's pay, and a manuscript physician's prescription and logbook.

During this period, Turner attempted to secure a commission. Turner was informed of his appointment as surgeon to the 1st Regiment of Artillery in February 1813, but, as the material in this series shows, an administrative error concerning his first name held up the issuing of his commission. In an effort to correct this mistake, Turner corresponded with Amos Stoddard (Major of the Artillery Corps at Fort Columbus), Henry Dearborn, William Simmons, John Armstrong Jr. (Secretary of War, 1813-1814), Daniel Parker (Chief Clerk of the War Department), and Joseph B. Varnum. Turner also wrote six letters to James Madison and two to James Monroe (then Secretary of War) on the issue of his commission. Turner's commission did not arrive before his death in 1815.

The logbooks consists of approximately 45 manuscript pages, with 19 of the pages covered with later newspaper clippings by his son, whose name appears

on the cover. By the time of his War of 1812 service described in this volume, Philip Turner was 74 years old and still making the rounds for the 1st Regiment of Artillery at Fort Columbus on Governor's Island. His logbook entries often list the soldiers under his care and the treatment he prescribed. Venereal disease was a common complaint. Turner also visited officer's wives. Most entries are presumed to be for treatment at Fort Columbus. Turner also treated patients at the United States Arsenal on Bridge Street, at the West Battery (Castle Clinton), and at the regular recruiting rendezvous on Market Street. The newspaper clippings obscure earlier entries which likely begin on 11 June 1814 (the date on the cover of the volume).

Turner did not sign this volume, but it matches his handwriting, and most of the officers mentioned here served in the 1st Artillery during this period, including Colonel Jacob Kingsbury. This volume was inherited by Turner's grandson, John Turner Wait (1811-1899), who later represented Connecticut in Congress. Wait signed the cover, may have added the cover illustration, an engraving titled "The Monkey Preparing to Shave the Cat," and filled half the volume with clippings dated 1830 and 1831.

Letters, 1812-1815 and undated

Letter, 31 Mar., 1812, from Philip Turner, to Amos Stoddard, Fort Columbus	Box 5
Letter, 17 Apr., 1812, from Philip Turner, New York, to Henry Dearborn	Box 5
Letter, 24 June, 1812, from Amos Stoddard, Washington, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 27 June, 1812, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, New York, to Amos Stoddard	Box 5
Letter, 9 July, 1812, from Amos Stoddard, Washington, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 14 July, 1812, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, New York, to Amos Stoddard	Box 5
Letter, 29 Sept., 1812, from William Simmons, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 31 Dec., 1812, from General Armstrong, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 4 Jan., 1813, from Philip Turner, to John Armstrong	Box 5

Letter, 5 Jan., 1813, from Charles Gardner, New York (on behalf of John Armstrong), to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 10 Jan., 1813, from William Eustis, New York, to James Monroe	Box 5
Letter, 11 Jan., 1813, from Philip Turner, New York, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, 5 Feb., 1813, from Philip Turner, New York, to John Armstrong	Box 5
Letter, 12 Feb., 1813, from Daniel Parker, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 11 Mar., 1813, from Philip Turner, New York, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, 24 Mar., 1813, from Philip Turner, New York, to William Simmons	Box 5
Letter, 26 Mar., 1813, from Philip Turner, to John Armstrong	Box 5
Letter, Apr., 1813, from unknown, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 1 Apr., 1813, from Thomas Chrystie, New York, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 3 Apr., 1813, from Philip Turner, to William Simmons	Box 5
Letter, 3 Apr., 1813, from Philip Turner, to George Izard	Box 5
Letter, 5 Apr., 1813, from Philip Turner, New York, to Francis Le Baron	Box 5
Letter, 7 Apr., 1813, from Philip Turner, New York, to Francis Le Baron	Box 5
Letter, 10 Apr., 1813, from Thomas Tudor Tucker, Washington, to Philip Turner	Box 5

Letter, 18 Apr., 1813, from Philip Turner, to John Armstrong	Box 5
Letter, 18 Apr., 1813, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, 29 May, 1813, from Samuel Ackerly to unknown	Box 5
Letter, 4 June, 1813, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, 14 June, 1813, from Philip Turner, to George Izard	Box 5
Letter, 10 June, 1813, from Philip Turner, to George Izard	Box 5
Letter, 24 July, 1813, from Philip Turner, to George Izard	Box 5
Letter, 28 July, 1813, from Philip Turner, Fort Columbus, to James Madison	Box 5
Letter, 5 Aug., 1813, from Samuel Ackerly, New York, to Philip Turner, Fort Columbus	Box 5
Letter, 7 Aug., 1813, from Philip Turner, to Captain Hanham	Box 5
Letter, 11 Aug., 1813, from Philip Turner, to Samuel Ackerly	Box 5
Letter, 13 Aug., 1813, from Philip Turner, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, 13 Aug., 1813, from Samuel Ackerly, New York, to Philip Turner, Fort Columbus	Box 5
Letter, 20 Aug., 1813, from Philip Turner, to Samuel Ackerly	Box 5
Letter, 26 Aug., 1813, from Samuel Ackerly, New York, to Philip Turner, Fort Columbus	Box 5
Letter, 29 Aug., 1813, from Philip Turner, to Samuel Ackerly	Box 5

Letter, 30 Aug., 1813, from Philip Turner, to Richard Cutts	Box 5
Letter, 11 Sept., 1813, from unknown, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 13 Sept., 1813, from Thomas Chrystie, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 24 Sept., 1813, from John R. Fenwick, New York, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 1 Oct., 1813, from Colonel House, Fort Columbus, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 27 Dec., 1813, from Philip Turner, New York, to Joseph B. Varnum	Box 5
Letter, 1 Jan., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to Mr. Bledsoe	Box 5
Letter, 18 Jan., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to James Madison	Box 5
Letter, 31 Jan., 1814, from Philip Turner, to John Armstrong	Box 5
Letter, 1 Feb., 1814, from Philip Turner, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, 5 Feb., 1814, from Philip Turner, to Joseph B. Varnum	Box 5
Letter, 2 Mar., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to John Armstrong	Box 5
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Letter, 10 Apr., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to John Armstrong	Box 5
Letter, 27 June, 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to James Madison	Box 5
Letter, 27 June, 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to James Madison	Box 5

Letter, 2 July, 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, 20 July, 1814, from Philip Turner, to the editor of the National Advocate	Box 5
Letter, 29 July, 1814, from Philip Turner, to Francis Le Baron	Box 5
Letter, 18 Aug., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to James Madison	Box 5
Letter, 24 Aug., 1814, from Francis Le Baron, New York, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 5 Sept., 1814, from unknown, to Philip Turner	Box 5
Letter, 18 Oct., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to James Monroe	Box 5
Letter, 21 Oct., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to James Monroe	Box 5
Letter, 18 Nov., 1814, from Philip Turner, New York, to George M. Troup	Box 5
Letter, 2 Feb., 1815, from Philip Turner, New York, to Daniel Parker	Box 5
Letter, undated, from unknown, to Joseph B. Varnum	Box 5
Letter, undated, from Philip Turner, to John Armstrong	Box 5

Other Papers and Logbook, 1814-1815, 1830-1831

"Medicine & Store as per the Class Book of Mr. Cutts"	Box 5
"Copies of the Orders drawn by Doctor Le Baron, apothecary to Mr. Leefe, druggist, Messrs. Talman and Torry and Major Baron, assistant Quarter-master, 29 July 1814"	Box 5
Logbook, 1814-1815, 1830-1831	Box 9

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Artifacts: small trunk, probably 18th c.

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Small hide-covered trunk decorated with round nailheads that form the initials A.T. The trunk may have belonged to Turner's mother, whose maiden name was Anne Huntington Adgate. The hide still has animal hair on it, possibly deerskin.

Small hide-covered trunk, circa 18th century

Box 1

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