

**War of 1812 Collection**  
**MSS Coll. 132**  
**1.5 ft**

**History**

The War of 1812 was an inconclusive British-U.S. conflict from June 18<sup>th</sup> 1812 until December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1814 arising chiefly out of U.S. grievances over oppressive maritime practices during the Napoleonic Wars.

While it ended much like it started; in stalemate; it was in fact a war that once and for all confirmed American Independence. The offensive actions of the United States failed in every attempt to capture Canada. On the other hand, the British army was successfully stopped when it attempted to capture Baltimore and New Orleans. There were a number of American naval victories in which American vessels proved to be superior to similarly sized British vessels.

The long struggle between Great Britain and France, fought intermittently between 1793 and 1815, led both belligerents to infringe on the rights and impair the interests of neutrals. Napoleon averted hostilities by agreeing not to interfere with U.S. trade to Britain. Britain, on the other hand, confident in its naval supremacy, continued to enforce its order of 1807, which led to the blockade of all French ports, and insisted that neutral vessels first call at British ports and pay duties. In addition, U.S. sensibilities were offended by the British practice of stopping U.S. ships on the high seas and impressing seamen alleged to be deserters from the Royal Navy.

Tension was also increased by U.S. resentment of British actions along the western Canadian frontier. British authorities were supplying arms and encouragement to the Shawnee leader, Tecumseh, in an effort to check the advance of white settlers into Indian country. After a Shawnee attack led to the pitched Battle of Tippecanoe in the Indiana Territory (Nov. 7, 1811), Westerners raised the cry that the British must be expelled from Canada to ensure frontier security. This theme was espoused vigorously by a group of Expansionist congressmen called War Hawks, who also included Florida in their territorial ambitions.

Despite limited U.S. success, including the recapture of Detroit, by the summer of 1814 the British still controlled access to Lake Michigan and occupied the northern Mississippi River. An amphibious British force ravaged the shores of Chesapeake Bay and, after winning the Battle of Bladensburg, burned public buildings in Washington, D.C., in retaliation for similar U.S. acts in York (Toronto). A predominantly naval battle (Sept. 11, 1814) in Cumberland Bay, near Plattsburgh, resulted in a victory for the American fleet under Commodore Thomas Macdonough, causing the British to abandon the invasion of New York. U.S. Morale was lifted when U.S. ships hindered British commerce, but this action failed to disturb Britain's control of the sea and its blockade of the American coast.

Both sides signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on Dec. 24, 1814, restoring prewar conditions. This settlement forestalled a New England separatist movement, proposed at the Hartford Convention (December 1814-January 1815) in response to the extremely unpopular war. Though the U.S. gained none of its avowed aims, popular legend soon converted defeat into the illusion of victory. The war also marked a decline of U.S. dependence on Europe and stimulated a sense of nationality. --"1812, War of" *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*.

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|--|-------------------|
| Heidler, D. <i>Encyclopedia of the War of 1812</i> . Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1997. Reference. | E354 .H46 1997    |
| Landon, Harry F. <i>Bugles on the Border</i> . Watertown, NY: The Watertown Daily Times, 1954. | F123.L25 B8       |
| Wilder, P. <i>Seaway Trail guide to the war of 1812</i> . Oswego, N.Y: Seaway Trail, 1987.     | F127.N38 W55 1987 |
| Wilkinson, James. <i>Memoirs of My Own Times</i> . Philadelphia, PA: Abraham Small, 1816.      | E353.1.W6         |
| Wilkinson James. <i>Memoirs: Maps</i> . Philadelphia: Abraham Small, 1816.                     | E353.1.W6         |

## Scope & Content

This collection consists primarily of contemporary pamphlets and newspapers published during the War of 1812. Also contained in the collection is an Orderly Book pertaining to the Battle of Plattsburgh.

This collection also contains the components that went into the exhibit "Agent 13 in the North Country" by Matthew Dudley under the guidance of Dr. M. Schrems. These include document descriptions, transcriptions, pamphlets, posters, and maps.

## Provenance

Purchase and gifts over time from various sources.

## Series

- |    |                            |    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Correspondence & Documents | 2. | Orderly Book of Alexander Macomb |
| 3. | Pamphlets, 1806-1877       | 4. | Newspapers, 1813-1815            |

## Selected Chronology of the War of 1812

- 1811 November. The Battle of Tippecanoe (Prophetstown)
- 1812 June 12. US declares war  
July 4. The Lachine Riot.
- 1813 February 22. Battle of Ogdensburg  
April 27. Battle of York.  
May 28. Invasion of Sacket's Harbor  
October 26. The Battle of Chateauguay  
November 10. The Battle of Chrysler's Farm
- 1814 March 30. The Battle of Lacolle Mill  
July. Niagara Campaign.  
August. 24-25. British burn Washington. (George Cockburn & *National Intelligencer*)  
September 11. The Battle of Plattsburgh Bay (aka Battle of Lake Champlain)  
December 24. The Treaty of Ghent.  
January 8. The Battle of New Orleans

## BOX LIST

### Box 1

#### Series 1 Correspondence and Documents

1. Wilkenson, General James Correspondence (1799-1815) 3 Letters

1. Camp Lofus (?) Heights January 25, 1799
2. May 15, 1815 From Wilkenson to Col. Solomon "Van Renseleare" – Letter concerning disgraced Officers.
3. "Near Hamilton on the St. Lawrence November 8<sup>th</sup> 1813" Contemporary transcript of a war Council of generals concerning troop strength and readiness for advance on Montreal.

## **2. Whitman John. Letters and Charges (1818 – 1819)**

1. Ogdensburg, NY May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1818, John Whitman to Major Austin commanding recruiting service, Boston. Discussing Whitman's recruiting assignment and request for training. Also requests to be assigned to Burlington, Vt.
2. Ogdensburg, NY May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1818, John Whitman to Lieut. Col. Lawrence, Boston Reporting for service in recruiting and the forwarding of a letter to Major Austin.
3. Ogdensburg, NY July 21, 1818 Additional letter reporting to Major Austin
4. Ogdensburg, NY July 21, 1818 to Lieut. Col. Lawrence Reporting to the Headquarters of Regiment also forwarding of additional letter to Major Austin or proper officer. Requests not to travel to Boston and to be located in Burlington, Vt.
5. Charges and Speculation against Lieutenant John Whitman of 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry March 4, 1819. Conduct unbecoming to an officer and a gentleman.
  1. Boston, December 15 and 16 1818. Drinking and becoming intoxicated with noncommissioned officers and privates.
  2. March 2, 1819 extremely drunk requesting pay and was sent away.
  3. Intoxicated and sleeping on the benches at a rendezvous point. [n.d.]

## **3. Documents Concerning Purchase and Payment of Supplies and Financial Accounts (1814 – 1815)**

1. 25 Documents containing receipts, contracts, balance sheets, and other financial information pertaining to rations, lodging, ammunition and such. Correspondence and documents from primarily Sackets Harbor and Albany.

## **4. Student Research Materials**

1. Miscellaneous papers and pamphlets
2. Document Transcriptions
3. Document Descriptions
4. Posters and Maps

## **Series 2 *Orderly Book of U.S. Army officer, Alexander Macomb (1814)***

Alexander Macomb (1782 – 1841) began his military career as a New York Ranger, progressing to Lieutenant in the US Army. Prior to the War of 1812 Macomb was responsible for the supervision of the construction of frontier fortifications on the Canadian Border. As the war progressed Macomb established himself as one of the up and coming young generals replacing the older generation who had commanded during the first two years of the war. After being promoted to brigadier general in January 1814 Macomb witnessed the last battle of one of the older generation, James Wilkinson, at La Colle Mill, Lower Canada. Following the forced retirement of Wilkinson, Macomb was stationed at Plattsburg on Lake Champlain under the command of Maj. Gen. George Izard. Izard's departure to the defense of Sackets Harbor left Macomb to command troops in the defense of Plattsburg. Successfully deterring an invasion of British General Sir George Prevost, Macomb was promoted to Major General and received a gold medal from congress.

This particular orderly book of Malcomb contains 66 leaves. Dates included in the collection are February 6, 1814 to September 22, 1814. The contents of the book primarily deal with the fortification of Plattsburg and the preparation of defenses against the British attack. In what was recognized as "the most decisive engagement of the war" by Winston Churchill Macomb's troops with the aid of the naval support of Lt. Thomas Macdonough fought off the advancement of the British troops on Plattsburg. The orderly book is divided into two parts.

1. Orderly Book of Consolidated 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> regiments of infantry. March 14, 1814 (fragment dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 1814) to July 14, 1814 from Plattsburg, Chazy, and Champlain.
2. General Orders Book, Headquarters Northern Army. February 6, 1814 to May 31, 1814 and September 5, 1814 to September 23, 1814 from French Mills, Plattsburg, Burlington, and Mount Covington.

Duncan Clark (1785-1862) was a Lieutenant in the Volunteer Incorporated Militia Battalion of the Eastern and Johnston Districts in Canada, serving in the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837, and was later associated with the Northwest Company and the Hudson Bay Company in the fur trade.

3. Orderly Book of Lieutenant Duncan Clark (1785-1862) dated March 28, 1814 to March 29, 1815.

4. Orderly Book of various participants in the War of 1812 dated August 23, 1814 to May 23, 1815.

## Box 2

### Series 3 Pamphlets

<b>Pamphlet Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
An Address to the People of New England	Granger, G.	--	--	--
British Sympathizers in St. Lawrence County	Landon, Harry	NYS Historical Assoc.	New York	--
The New Embargo Law and Hon. Mr. Giles'	--	Adams, Rhoades & Co.	--	--
An Answer to War in Disguise Or, Remarks	--	Hopkins and Seymour	New York	1806
War in Disguise, or the Frauds of Neutral Flags	--	Hopkins and Seymour	New York	1806
Observations on the Speech of Hon. John	Stephen, James	S. Gould	New York	1806
War in Disguise or, the Frauds of the Neutral	Stephen, James	--	America	1806
War Without Disguise or, the Frauds of Neutral	--	--	America	1807
Oil Without Vinegar and Dignity Without	Medford, Macall	W.J. and J. Richardson	London	1807
Peace Without Dishonour – War Without Hope	Yankee Farmer	Greenough & Stebbins	Boston	1807
Letter to the Hon. Harrison Grey Otis	Adams, John Q.	Oliver and Monroe	Boston	1808
Examination of the Conduct of Great Britain	--	Oliver and Munroe	Boston	1808
Reply of the Majority of the Representatives	--	A & G Way	Washington	1808
Reasons in Justification of the Embargo ...	--	Reynolds, John P.	Salem, NY	1808
An Inquiry into the Causes and Consequences	Baring, Alexander	Hopkins and Bayard	New York	1808
Mr. Gardinier's Speech in the House of Reps	Gardinier	Russel and Cutler	Washington	1808
Thoughts upon the Conduct of Administration	Lowell, John	Repertory Office	Boston	1808
Sermon The Question of War with Great Britain	McKean, Joseph	Snelling and Simons	Boston	1808
Letter From the Hon. Timothy Pickering	Pickering, Tim	Greenough and Stebbin	Boston	1808
Britain Independent of Commerce or Proofs	Spence, William	W. Savage	London	1808
A Free Enquiry into the Causes Both Real and	Vermont Citizen	Charles Spear	Windsor, Vt.	1808
Analysis of the Late Correspondence Between	Lowell, John	Russel and Cutler	Boston	1809
Supplement to the Late Analysis of the Public	Lowell, John	Shaw & Shoemaker	Boston	1809
Speech of His Excellency Gov. Langdon	Gov. Langdon	--	NH	1811
An Address of Members of the House of Reps	--	Walter and Steele	New Haven	1812
Report of the Committee of the Senate. Mass.	--	Adams, Rhoades & Co.	Boston	1812
Declaration of the County of Essex, Mass	--	Thomas C. Cushing	Salem	1812
Proceedings of the Convention of New York	--	Websters and Skinners	Albany	1812
Sermon Preached in Worcester Mass.	Austin, Samuel	Isaac Sturtevant	Worcester	1812
The Diplomatick policy of Madison Unveiled	A Bostonian	--	Boston	1812
Sermon Preached in Boston July 23, 1812	Channing, W.	Greenough & Stebbins	Boston	1812
Two Discourses Delivered to the Second	Giles, Rev. John	W. & J. Gilman	Newburyport	1812
Mr. Madison's War: A Dispassionate Inquiry	Lowell, John	Russel & Cutler	Boston	1812
Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the House	Mass. Gen Court	--	--	1812
A Solemn Protest Against The Late Declaration	Osgood, David	Hillard and Metcalf	Cambridge	1812
Letter to a Member of Congress	Carter, John	--	Providence	1812
Address to the Republican Citizens of the State	H. C. Southwick	--	Albany	1813
Report of the Committee to whom was Referred	--	A. & G. Way Printers	Washington	1813
Speech of the Hon. James Emott in the House	Emott, James	J. Seymour	New York	1813
Report of the Committee of the House of Rep	H.O.R. Mass.	Russel and Cutler	Boston	1813
The New States or, A Comparison of the Wealth	Morse, Sidney	J. Belcher	Boston	1813
Mr. Taggart's Address to his Constituents	Taggart, Samuel	--	Washington	1813
Report of the Committee to whom was Referred	--	--	--	1814
Two Sermons Delivered at Morris-Town, NJ	Fisher, Rev. S.	Henry P. Russel	Morris-Town	1814
Message from the President of the United States	Madison, James	Websters and Skinners	Albany	1814
A Plea for Friendship and Patriotism in Two	McKean, Joseph	Munroe & Francis	Boston	1814
A Discourse Delivered at ByField on the Public	Parish, Elijah	W. B. Allen and Co.	Newburyport	1814

Speech of the Honorable Artemas Ward	Ward, Artemas	C. Stebbins	Boston	1814
Public Documents Containing Proceedings	--	Mass Senate	Boston	1815
The Proceedings of a Convention of Delegates	--	Wells and Lilly	Boston	1815
A Solemn Review of the Custom of War	--	P. B. Gleason & Co.	Hartford	1815
The Olive Branch or Faults on Both Sides	Carey, Matthew	Rowe & Hooper	Boston	1815
An Answer to Certain Parts of a Work	A Federalist	by Author	Philadelphia	1816
Speech of the Hon. Silas Wright at a Mass Mtg.	--	Youngs & Hunt	New York	1840
Discourse Delivered in the First Congregational	Channing, W.	J. Crissy, Printer	Philadelphia	1841
Fragments of the War of 1812	Dr. Canniff	Belford Mo. Magazine	Toronto	1877

### **Bound Collections**

Letter From the Secretary of State to Mr Monroe	--	A. & G. Way Printers	Washington	1808
Letters from the Secretary of State, Part II	--	A. & G. Way Printers	Washington	1808
Letters from the Secretary of State, Part III	--	A. & G. Way Printers	Washington	1808
Letters from the Secretary of State, Part IV	--	A. & G. Way Printers	Washington	1808
Papers Relative to French Affairs	Gen Armstrong	A. & G. Way Printers	Washington	1808
The British Treaty With Appendix of State	--	John J. Stockdale	London	1808
Appendix, &c. Treaty of Amity, Commerce	--	--	London	1794
Cobbett against Himself Suo sibi gladio hunc	Cobbett, Wm	T. Gillet, Wild-court	London	1800

### **Box 3 (Oversize)**

#### **Series 4. Newspapers**

The Rhode Island American	1813	May 14, 28
	1813	June 4, 8, 11
	1813	July 2, 9
	1813	September 10
	1813	October 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 29
	1813	November 9, 16, 19, 23, 26
	1813	December 7, 10, 14
	1814	May 17, 20, 27, 31
	1814	June 3, 14
	1814	July 21, 5, 8, 15, 22
	1814	August 9, 12, 16, 26
	1814	September 16, 20, 27
	1814	October 5, 27
	1814	December 2, 27
The War	New York, NY	March 22, 1814
The Repertory & General	Boston, MA	August 21, 1812
The Weekly Messenger	Boston, MA	December 3, 1813
Pennsylvania Republican	Harrisburg, PA	August 1, 1815

War of 1812  
 Selected books in Special Collections  
 Chronological order of publication

- Address of the House of Representatives to the people of Massachusetts.* Boston, 1812 E357.6 .M4
- The War. Being a faithful record of the transactions of the war...* NY: Woodworth, 1813. 2 vol. E351 .W25
- Smith, M. A *Geographical View of the Province of Upper Canada...* NY: Pelsue & Gould, 1813  
 F1057 .S64 1813
- Bulletins of the Campaign.* [S.l. : s.n.], 1813-1815 (London : A. Strahan) DA535 .B85
- President Madison. *Message from the President of the [U.S.]...* DC: A&G Way, 1814 E357 .M47 1814
- Sketches of the war, between the United States and the British isles...* Rutland, Vt. Fay and Davison, 1815 E354  
 .S62 1815
- Wilkinson, James.  
*Memoirs of my own times.* Philadelphia: Abraham Small. 1816 3 vol. E353.1.W6 W6 1816
- Diagrams and plans, illustrative of the...Memoir.* Phila: Abraham Small, 1816 E353.1.W6 W6 1816,
- Collection of the official accounts, in detail, of all the battles fought by sea and land...*  
 NY: Printed by E. Conrad, 1817 E355 .C65 1817
- Perkins, S. A *History of the Political and military Events of the late War...* New Haven: S. Converse, 1825 E354  
 .P45 1825
- Dwight, T. *History of the Hartford Convention: with a review of the policy...* NY: N & J White, 1833 E357.7 .D99
- Skinner, St. J. *The Battle of Plattsburgh: an address...* Plattsburgh : [s.n.] 1835 E356.P7 S6 1835
- Van Rensselaer, S. *A Narrative of the affair of Queenstown; in the war of 1812.* NY: Leavitt, Lord & Co., 1836  
 E356.Q3 V2 1836
- Brackenridge, H. M. *History of the late war between the United States and Great Britain.* Philadelphia : J. Kay, jun. &  
 brother, 1839 E354 .B804 1839
- Leech, Samuel. *Thirty Years from home, or, A voice from the main deck...* Boston: Tappan, Whittemore & Mason, (1843)  
 15th edition, 1847 G549 .L48 1847x
- Peterson, C.L. *The Military Heroes of the War of 1812: with a Narrative of the War.*  
 Philadelphia : W. A. Leary, 1850. 6th ed E353 .P42 1850