

# A Guide to the John A. Sawhill Collection, 1756-1848 SC 0111

John A. Sawhill Collection  
1756-1848



## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

SC 0111

### Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/235

### Unit Date

1756-1848

### Language

English .

### Abstract

The John A. Sawhill Collection, 1756-1848, contains seven miscellaneous documents of American and British origin.

**Creator**

Sawhill, John A., 1892-1976

**source**

Sonner, Ray V., Dr. (Ray Vincent), 1925-2012

**Extent**

0.27 cubic feet 1 oversize folder

**Repository**

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

**Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

**Acquisition Information**

Items were received from the James Madison University Foundation in September 2000 under the authority of Dr. Ray Sonner, the executor of John Sawhill's estate and also a James Madison University administrator.

**Processing Information**

Large documents that had been folded were flattened and transferred into an oversize folder. Large documents that had been folded were flattened and transferred into an oversize flat folder. In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in the spring of 2017. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 1765.**

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of Item], [box #, folder #], John A. Sawhill Collection, 1756-1848, SC 0111, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

## Biographical / Historical

Born in Colorado in 1892, John Alexander Sawhill was educated at Princeton University and later wounded during his military service during World War I. He came to James Madison University (then known as the State Teachers College and later as Madison College) in 1927 and taught Latin, Greek, and German until 1957. An avid traveler and collector, Sawhill journeyed many times to the Middle East. He acquired thousands of items, including books, documents, recordings, coins, and works of art over the years. Though married twice, Sawhill outlived both of his wives and had no children. He passed away in 1976 and bequeathed his extensive collection to the James Madison University Foundation

## Scope and Content

The John A. Sawhill Collection, 1756 to 1848, consists of seven documents housed in one oversized flat folder. It includes two issues of the London newspaper the Whitehall Evening Post from the years 1756 and 1775, which reflect the prevailing British perspective on world events at the time. The 1756 issue includes 'curious' local news (robberies, etc.) and various cure-all advertisements. The 1775 issue includes references to the Spanish armament in Gibraltar and various news from America, including a report of a military engagement with 300 "provincials" at Boston [Bunker Hill?] where 32 Americans were killed. References are also made to General Gage, the British commander and the arrival of British troops in Boston, "the event of which, it is thought, will put an end to the present quarrel by concessions or submission." The American seizure of Fort Ticonderoga is also mentioned. Also included in the collection are two Justice of the Peace commissions for three Franklin County, Virginia residents, a Land Office Treasury Warrant and two land grants pertaining to land in Bath County, Augusta County, and Henry County, Virginia.

## Related Materials

Twenty-two manuscript leaves, dating from the 13th to the 17th centuries, were temporarily loaned by the

JMU Foundation to Special Collections from February 2002 to August 2004. At the end of the loan period the manuscript leaves were permanently transferred to the Madison Art Resource Site (now Madison Art Collection).

## Keywords

Whitehall evening-post  
British newspapers -- 18th century -- Sources  
Land grants -- Virginia -- Bath County -- Sources  
Land grants -- Virginia -- Augusta County -- Sources  
Land grants -- Virginia -- County of Henry -- Sources  
Justices of the peace -- Virginia -- Franklin County -- 18th century  
Advertising, Newspaper -- 18th century  
Fort Ticonderoga (N.Y.) -- Capture, 1775  
Boston (Mass.) -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783  
Massachusetts -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783  
Augusta County (Va.) -- History  
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History -- 18th century  
Virginia -- History -- 18th century  
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- British forces  
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Campaigns  
Gibraltar -- History -- 18th century  
Bunker Hill, Battle of, Boston, Mass., 1775  
Newspapers  
Legal documents  
Land grants  
Gage, Thomas, 1721-1787  
Allison, William  
Dickinson, Robert N.  
Martin, William Peter  
Thompson, Thomas  
Harston, Samuel  
Stead, George  
Sonner, Ray V., Dr. (Ray Vincent), 1925-2012

## Provenance

A portion of the larger John A. Sawhill estate containing coins, music, and other materials were bequeathed to James Madison University in 1976.

## Arrangement

The collection is organized in one oversize folder.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Whitehall Evening Post**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/632

**Unit Date** 1756 September 23

**Mixed Materials [1000898360]** OV 1 (box)

### **Scope and Contents**

With apparent dealer's note and 1936 value

**Whitehall Evening Post**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/633

**Unit Date** 1775 July 15

**Mixed Materials [1000898360]** OV 1 (box)

**Scope and Contents**

With envelope containing apparent dealer's description and 1937 value

**Commission of Robert N. Dickinson to Justice of the Peace; Franklin County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/634

**Unit Date** 1815 September 1

**Mixed Materials [1000898360]** OV 1 (box)

**Commission of William Peter Martin, Thomas Thompson, and Samuel Harston to Justices of the Peace; Franklin County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/635

**Unit Date** 1776 November 29

**Mixed Materials [1000898360]** OV 1 (box)

**Land Grant to George Steard; County of Henry, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/636

**Unit Date** 1779 November 10

**Mixed Materials [1000898360]** OV 1 (box)

**Scope and Contents**

In poor condition; signature torn

**Land Grant of 144 acres to William Allison; Augusta County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/637

**Unit Date** 1798 April 21

**Mixed Materials [1000898360]** OV 1 (box)

**Land Office Treasury Warrant No. 16, 196 to Adam G. Cleek for 86 acres; Bath County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/638

**Unit Date** 1848 February 29

**Mixed Materials [1000898360]** OV 1 (box)