

Zechariah Johnston papers

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1747-1893

Title Statement

Zechariah Johnston papersZechariah Johnston papers WLU.Coll.0006

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0006

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/411

Unit Date

1747-1893

Language

English .

source

Graham, John Alexander

Extent

2.5 Linear Feet 2 document cases, 1 oversize folder

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Two letters were a gift from John A. Graham.

Preferred Citation

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In some cases the citation format may vary. Please contact Special Collections staff to verify the appropriate format.

Biographical / Historical

"Zachariah Johnston was born in 1742 in Augusta County, Virginia, to William Johnston and Ann Johnston. He attended Liberty Hall Academy and later was a trustee of Washington College. Johnston was a prosperous farmer by the time the American Revolution began. In 1776, he was appointed a captain in the county militia. Johnston's company actively patrolled against Indian uprisings, and, in 1781, participated in the Virginia campaign which led to Lord Cornwallis' surrender. Representing Augusta County in the House of Delegates from 1778 to 1791, Johnston was chair of the House committee on religion and helped pass the "act for establishing religious freedom" in 1786. After he moved to Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1792, he represented that county in the House of Delegates in 1792 and 1797-1798. An opponent of paper money, and a proponent of court reform and payment of British debts, Johnston supported the federal Constitution in 1788. As Augusta County's representative to the ratifying convention, he was influential in having his section of the state unanimously vote for ratification. In the 1790s, Johnston was interested in connecting Virginia's western rivers to the Potomac River. Johnston owned three plantations in Rockbridge County, one in Augusta County, and lands in Kentucky. He married Ann Robertson (d. 1818), and they had eleven children. He died 7 January 1800 in Rockbridge County." - Library of Virginia

Scope and Contents

The Zechariah Johnston papers includes personal, business, political correspondence to and from Zechariah Johnston. Correspondents include family members and notable Virginians of his era. The collection also includes correspondence received by Thomas and James Johnston. In addition to correspondence, the collection includes resolutions, bills, petitions, and notices of or concerning the Virginia Assembly during Johnston's tenure as a delegate from Augusta County (1778-1792) and Rockbridge County (1797-1798). This includes Johnston's copy of an unsigned manuscript draft titled "Memorial and Remonstrance" by James Madison concerning religious freedom and his arguments for separation of church and state. There are also deeds and property descriptions, tax rolls, business and account records, including documents pertaining to enslaved persons owned by Johnston; business and accounting records (1796-1845) of Thomas Johnston, a son of Zechariah Johnston, two letters from William Graham, first rector of Liberty Hall Academy, to Zechariah Johnston, and the will and estate inventory of Ann Johnston. Other highlights include student notes or lectures from Liberty Hall Academy, a poem to reverends William Graham and Samuel Houston, and a petition from Augusta County residents to the Virginia Assembly regarding fishing rights in the South River. There are ephemeral items as well.

Separated Materials

Zechariah Johnston's personal copy of a manuscript draft of James Madison's "Memorial and Remonstrance" has been separated and housed separate from the collection but a printed scan is provided within the collection. Please see a member of staff for assistance.

Keywords

Virginia
Freedom of religion
Johnston, Zechariah
Johnston, Thomas
Virginia. General Assembly
Graham, John Alexander
Graham, William A. (William Alexander)
Liberty Hall Academy (Lexington, Va.)
Madison, James

Conservation

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence, William Graham to Zechariah Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19039

Unit Date 1787-1792

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Legal papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19040

Unit Date circa 1772-1799

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Legal papers, Property Descriptions, and Surveys

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19041

Unit Date 1780-1799

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Miscellaneous Personal and Business Papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19042

Unit Date 1740-1810

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Petitions to and Acts of the Virginia Assembly and Miscellaneous Papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19043

Unit Date 1770-1810

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Printed Petitions, Notices, and Bills related to the Virginia Assembly

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19044

Unit Date 1790-1799

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Material Related to Religious Freedom

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19045

Unit Date 1785-1789

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Separated Materials

Johnston's personal copy of a manuscript draft of James Madison's "Memorial and Remonstrance" was removed from this folder to undergo conservation treatment in 2023. It is housed separately from the collection. A printed scan was put in place of the original. Please see a member of staff for assistance.

Liberty Hall Academy Lecture Notes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19046

Unit Date 1785-1800

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Liberty Hall Academy Lecture Notes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21932

Unit Date 1785-1800

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Tax Rolls

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19048

Unit Date 1786, 1792

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Bills, Receipts, and Accounting Documents of Thomas Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19049

Unit Date 1796-1819

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Bills, Receipts, and Accounting Documents of Thomas Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19050

Unit Date 1820-1830

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Bills, Receipts, and Accounting Documents of Thomas Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19051

Unit Date 1830-1845

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Bills, Receipts, and Accounting Documents of Thomas Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19052

Unit Date 1796-1845

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

"Henry Clay Corresponding Committee" Circular

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19053

Unit Date 1832

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Manuscript Fragments

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19054

Unit Date 1750-1850

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Promissory Notes and Miscellaneous Papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19055

Unit Date 1747-1771

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Correspondence, Promissory Notes, Business Records, Deeds

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19056

Unit Date 1772-1785

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Correspondence to Zechariah Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19057

Unit Date 1786-1789

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Correspondence to Zechariah Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19058

Unit Date 1790

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Correspondence to Zechariah Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19059

Unit Date 1791

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Correspondence to Zechariah Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/19060

Unit Date 1792

Mixed Materials [35101013592790] 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21933

Unit Date 1793-1794

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21934

Unit Date 1795

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21935

Unit Date 1796

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21936

Unit Date 1797-1798

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21937

Unit Date 1799

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21938

Unit Date 1800-1805

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21939

Unit Date 1806-1810

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21964

Unit Date 1809

Mixed Materials [35101013592808] Folder 1 (Oversize)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21940

Unit Date 1816-1817

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21941

Unit Date 1821-1849

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21942

Unit Date 1850-1859

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21943

Unit Date 1860-1869

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21944

Unit Date 1870-1893

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21945

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Ann Johnston Will and Estate Inventory

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21946

Unit Date 1818

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Estate Inventory of T. Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21947

Unit Date 1800

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21948

Unit Date 1800-1809

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21949

Unit Date 1810-1814

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21950

Unit Date 1815-1819

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21951

Unit Date 1820-1825

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21952

Unit Date 1826-1829

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21953

Unit Date 1830-1834

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21954

Unit Date 1835-1837

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21955

Unit Date 1838-1839

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21956

Unit Date 1840-1843

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21957

Unit Date 1844-1849

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21958

Unit Date 1850-1869

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Bills and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21959

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Financial Records

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21965

Unit Date 1806, 1813-1821

Mixed Materials [35101013592808] Folder 1 (Oversize)

Fragments

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21960

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Printed Material

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21961

Unit Date 1854-1874, undated

Mixed Materials [35101013592675] 2 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes 1854 Washington College commencement party program, 1860 Griffin High School brochure, speeches

Broadside about the North River Improvement (Rockbridge County)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21966

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013592808] Folder 1 (Oversize)

Land Indenture

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21962

Unit Date 1785 October 18

Mixed Materials [35101013592808] Folder 1 (Oversize)

South River Petition (Augusta County)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21963

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013592808] Folder 1 (Oversize)

Hand-drawn Floorplan with Description

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21967

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013592808] Folder 1 (Oversize)

State of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Certificate for James Johnston

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/21968

Unit Date 1874 October 21

Mixed Materials [35101013592808] Folder 1 (Oversize)