

Capt. William Sommerville (1756-1826) Papers A&M 1750

Capt. William Sommerville (1756-1826) Papers
1799-1888



Title Statement

Capt. William Sommerville (1756-1826) Papers A&M 1750

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 1750

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/5306

Unit Date

1799-1888

Language

English

Creator

Sommerville, William.

Extent

1.3 Linear Feet 1 ft. 3 1/2 in. (1 document case, 5 in.); (1 index card box, 10 1/2 in.)

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Capt. William Sommerville (1756-1826) Papers, A&M 1750, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and genealogical materials related to the William B. Edwards family of King George County, Virginia, and the Capt. William Sommerville family of Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia) from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These families were joined when Elizabeth Sommerville (1812-1886), daughter of the Revolutionary War veteran, married William B. Edwards (1810-1888), a Methodist clergyman from a planter family, in 1833.

Collection includes: correspondence between William and Elizabeth Edwards from 1832 to 1888 (chiefly from the 1830s and 1840s about their relationship, family, and his work with the Baltimore Conference); genealogical notes and narrative family histories of the Sommerville, Edwards, and the related William Brown, Laurence Balthrop, and John Sommerville families; and miscellaneous materials related to Captain William Sommerville.

The latter include: an original calendar of letter abstracts for the correspondence of William Sommerville, 1810-1811; an original copy of the diary of William Sommerville, 1810-1812; a typescript of his 1794 diary;

and a family register that contains a handwritten copy of Sommerville's brief account of his Revolutionary War service with the Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment and his life after the war, as well as copied extracts of his diary from 1810 to 1812.

Topics of the diary include politics and relations between Britain and the United States; weather; news of family and friends; and the War of 1812.

Separated Materials

Photo of U.S. Army sergeant (1944) separated to Photograph Collection

Keywords

Martinsburg.
Church buildings
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Diaries and journals.
Elections
Genealogy
General stores
Politics and government.
Postal service
Revolutionary War.
Slaves and slavery.
United States -- History -- War of 1812
Women's history -- 1800-1849
Women's history -- 1850-1899
Women's history -- Pre-1800
Sommerville, Robert.
Sommerville, William.
Spencer, Dr. Joseph.
Sommerville family - Genealogy

Description of Subordinate Components

Calendar of Correspondence (box 1, folders 1a-1b)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172187

Unit Date 1810-1811

Scope and Contents

The calendar of correspondence, titled "minute of letters" by its creator William Sommerville, consists of letter abstracts in seven sections.

1. "minute of letters received"; march 9 to december 28, 1811; pages 4-28
2. "minute of letters wrote"; february 3 to december 14, 1811; pages 1-24
3. "minute of letters wrote"; january 10 to december 29, 1810; pages 1-16
4. "minute of letters wrote"; january 5 to february 2, 1811; pages 1-3

5. "minute of letters received"; january 3 to september 19, 1810; pages 1-12
6. "minute of letters [received]"; september 29 to december 29, 1810; pages 13-18
7. "minute of letters received"; january 12-26, 1811; page 19

Correspondents and persons recorded in the calendar of correspondence include:

men in public office on the national and local levels,

local residents,

members of the Sommerville family,

Revolutionary War veterans,

newspaper editors,

and Post Office clients and officials.

See the name index in box 3 for an alphabetical listing.

Subjects of the correspondence include:

estates,

lottery - Susquehanna Canal,

lottery - Union College,

lottery - Wilmington College,

lottery - smallpox vaccine institute,

politics,

deaths,

mail schedules,

business affairs,

elections,

apprentice,

and vaccine legislation.

calendar of correspondence: letters received, March 9 to December 28, 1811 (pages 4-28)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172180

Unit Date 1811

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1a (Folder)

calendar of correspondence: letters written, February 3 to December 14, 1811 (pages 1-24)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172181

Unit Date 1811

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1a (Folder)

calendar of correspondence: letters written, January 10 to December 29, 1810 (pages 1-16)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172182

Unit Date 1810

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1b (Folder)

calendar of correspondence: letters written, January 5 to February 2, 1811 (pages 1-3)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172183

Unit Date 1811

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1b (Folder)

calendar of correspondence: letters received, January 3 to September 19, 1810 (pages 1-12)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172184

Unit Date 1810

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1b (Folder)

calendar of correspondence: letters received, September 29 to December 29, 1810 (pages 13-18)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172185

Unit Date 1810

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1b (Folder)

calendar of correspondence: letters received, January 12 to January 26, 1811 (page 19)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172186

Unit Date 1811

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1b (Folder)

Diary of William Sommersville (box 1, folders 1b-1h)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172188

Unit Date 1810-1812

Scope and Contents

The diary of William Sommersville is in three parts, each representing a calendar year.

1. January 1 to December 24, 1810; pages 1-209

missing pages: 23-30, 55-76, 83-84, (page 84 occurs twice, numbered second time), 92-93, 96-97, (page 107 occurs twice), 110-115, 120-125, 127-130, 140-143, 158-161, 164-173, 180-187, 190-200, 207-208)

2. January 1 to December 31, 1811; pages 1-205

missing pages: 7-8, 11-14, 31-36, 47-48, 51-54, 61-62, 67-68, (page 70 not numbered), 108-119, 124-129, 136-137, 142-143, 160-161, 164-173, 180-181, 190-199, 202-203

3. January 1 to December 26, 1812; pages 1-195

missing pages: 34-39, 58-59, 74-79, 88-89, 133-134, 140-145, 154-155, 164-167, 176-179

People mentioned or commented on in the Diary include:

persons in politics and government on the national and local levels;

local residents;

members of the Sommersville family;

post office clients and officials;

military personnel;

Revolutionary War veterans;

New York, Baltimore, and local newspaper editors;

local doctors and doctors associated with the smallpox Vaccine Institution;

ministers of various church denominations;

and government officials in France and England.

Subjects mentioned or commented on in the Diary include:

post office business;

family affairs;

births;

marriages;

deaths;

apprentice[s];

slaves;

agricultural products;

methods, prices, and labor;

elections;

general store;

weather (daily);

Martinsburg and its residents (frequently);

mills;

taverns;

european affairs;

patriotism and Americanism;

churches;

schools;

reminiscences about the Revolutionary War;

opinions on ministers and religion;

lotteries -- Vaccine;

lotteries -- Delaware;

lotteries -- Susquehanna Canal;

lotteries -- Washington Monument;

lotteries -- Union College;

lotteries -- Wilmington College;

travel;

militia muster and draft;

War of 1812 -- cause;

War of 1812 -- local and national reaction;

War of 1812 -- battles;

and government policy.

Diary

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172189

Unit Date 1810

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1b (Folder)

Diary

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172190

Unit Date 1810-1811

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1c (Folder)

Diary (1 leaf)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172191

Unit Date 1811

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1d (Folder)

Diary

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172192

Unit Date 1811-1812

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1e (Folder)

Diary (3 leaves)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172193

Unit Date 1812

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1f (Folder)

Diary

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172194

Unit Date 1812

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1g (Folder)

Diary

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172195

Unit Date 1812

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1h (Folder)

Correspondence (box 1, folders 2a-2c)**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/172582**Unit Date** 1799-1888**Unit Date** 1832-1888**Scope and Contents**

Includes letter (1799) from Sarah Brown to William Sommerville;

and letters (1832-1888) between William Sommerville's daughter Elizabeth Sommerville (Edwards) and William B. Edwards, including their daughter and others. William B. Edwards was a Methodist circuit rider.

Subjects include personal and family affairs, churches and the ministry, Martinsburg, and slavery, among other topics.

Correspondence (9 items)**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/172583**Unit Date** 1799-1836**Unit Date** 1832-1836**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 2a (Folder)**Correspondence (7 items)****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/172584**Unit Date** 1837-1845**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 2b (Folder)**Correspondence (5 items)****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/172585**Unit Date** 1865-1888**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 2c (Folder)

Miscellaneous Material (boxes 1-2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172586

Unit Date ca. 1870-1990

Miscellaneous Manuscripts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172587

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes transcribed extract from William Sommerville's diary dated March 1811 (undated); genealogy notes regarding members of the Sommerville family from the 17th century (undated); and Civil War poetry in manuscript, including "Stonewall Jackson's Way" (undated).

Family Register

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172588

Unit Date ca. 1870-1900

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Manuscript compilation of facts and clippings regarding the Brown, Sommerville, and other families. Family documented include predominantly Brown, Edwards (from Virginia), and Somerville (from Ireland). This compilation seems to have been created in the late 19th century.

pages a-j: estates, including Merida Edwards (1812), William Edwards (1755), and George Edwards (1780).

pages 1-20: family register, including James Edwards (ca.1750-1851), John Arnold Edwards (1777-1855), William Ballthrop Edwards (1809-1888), John Sommerville (1710-?), and William Sommerville (1756-1826). The section on William Sommerville includes extensive biographical information, including a narrative about his Revolutionary War service, and four pages of extracts from his journal (diary) (1794, 1810-1812); the entry for 15 July 1811 mentions Lawrence A. Washington, who was to settle for some time near Charleston, (West) Virginia on the Kanawha River. The family register also includes entries for William Brown (1765-1806), Reverend John McClelland (?-1798), and for later Sommerville family members.

page 21: "Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, Minute of Service in the Revolutionary War" (brief narrative by William Sommerville)

pages 22-23: marriage certificates for William Brown and William Sommerville

pages 23-40: miscellaneous genealogical information, including manuscript signatures, Scottish ancestry, and family crests (coat of arms)

page 41: Confederate service by family members

pages 42-43: obituaries for William Edwards (1809-1888)

pages 45, 47: obituary for Elizabeth Edwards (1812-?)

Genealogy Notes (Small notebook (photocopy) of 185 pages of genealogy notes regarding primarily the Clayton, Edwards, Ridgely, Sommerville, and Alexander families in period ca. 1700-1900.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172589

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Addendum of 1991/04/08, Family and Personal Memorandum (Transcription of "Family and Personal Memoranda" (1852) by Robert A. Sommerville, son of William A. Sommerville. Pages 1-5 include a brief family history, and pages 6-22 include extracts from his father's diary dating from 1794.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172590

Unit Date 1990

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Alphabetical Name Index (Two boxes of 3 in. by 5 in. index cards of names and their locations on documents in this collection.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/172591

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)