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HENLEY, DAVID
PAPERS
1794-1808

Processed by:

Harriet Chappell Owsley
Archival Technical Services

Date Completed: October 15, 1958

Accession Number: 140

Microfilm Accession Number: 625

Location: I-B-4

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INTRODUCTION

Fifty letters and documents of David Henley (1749-1823), Revolutionary soldier 1775-1782; agent for the War Department in charge of Indian affairs based in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1793-1801, were purchased from A.D. Barter, Plainfield, New Jersey.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Literary rights in these papers and other collections of papers in the custody of the Manuscript Section of the Tennessee State Archives have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the David Henley Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection of 50 items was purchased from A. D. Barter, Plainfield, New Jersey. These items are listed as 50 Autograph Letters and Documents Pertaining to Indians in the Territory South of the River Ohio. They are almost all letters and documents addressed to or written by Col. David Henley. He was the Agent for the War Department in charge of Indian affairs based in Knoxville, Tennessee. The Correspondents include the following names: James Alden, Joseph Anderson, Martin Ashburn, Robert Blair, James Bolls, John Bright, David Campbell, Edward Carrington, John Chisholm, William Charles Cole Claiborne, Benjamin Hawkins, Robert Hays, Samuel Hogdon, John Hopkins, Seth Lewis, William L. Lovely, John McKee, Opi Minog, John Overton, Thomas Porter, John Rhea, William Rickard, James Robertson, Jonathan Swift, George Rutledge, and Sampson Williams. In addition to the above mentioned correspondence, there are nine documents dealing with the Indians in the Territory South of the River Ohio. This collection contains the names of the Indian chiefs and an account of their expenses when they made the trip to Philadelphia to see President Washington. One letter contains instructions to John Chisholm who was to accompany the Indians. The dates of these letters and documents are from 1794 to 1808.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

David Henley

- 1748, Feb.12 Born at Charlestown, Massachusetts
- 1775, Aug.15 Appointed Brigade Major to Gen. Heath
- 1776, Jan. 8 Set fire to Charlestown which was occupied by British
- 1776, Sept.6 Deputy Adjutant General
- 1777, Jan. 1 Colonel of Massachusetts Regiment
- 1793-1801 Agent for the War Department in charge of Indian affairs based
in Knoxville, Tennessee
- 1823, Jan. 1 Died in Washington

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. March 2, 1795 – John Overton to David Henley
2. March 13, 1795 – James Robertson to David Henley
3. March 13, 1795 – John Overton to David Henley
4. April 30, 1795 – Capt. Robert Blair to David Henley
5. May 5, 1795 – Seth Lewis
6. May 20, 1795 – Robt. Hayes
7. July 11, 1795 – Thomas Porter
8. Sept. 2, (circa 1795) – Benjamin Hawkins to Judge Souliman
9. Sept. 20, 1795 – William Rickard
10. Sept. 21, 1795 – Col. John McKee to Gov. Blount
11. Sept. 29, 1795 – Opi Mingo to Gen. Robertson
12. Oct. 2, 1795 – Capt. Wm. Rickard to David Henley
13. Oct. 8, 1795 – Wm. Rickard
14. Oct. 17, 1795 – Jonathan Swift
15. Oct. 24, 1795 – James Robertson
16. Nov. 9, 1795 – Capt. John Chisholm
17. Nov. 17, 1795 – Samson Williams
18. Nov. 24, 1795 – John Overton
19. Dec. 10, 1795 – Judge John Overton
20. Dec. 23, 1795 – Joseph Anderson
21. Jan. 21, 1796 – W. C. C. Claiborne, John Rhea, and George Rutledge to David Henley
22. March 31, 1796 – Thomas Porter
23. April 10, 1796 – Col. John McKee
24. April 25, 1796 – Col. John McKee
25. May 8, 1796 – Capt. David Campbell
26. Aug. 20, 1796 – Martin Ashburn
27. Sept. 19, 1796 – Capt. John Chisholm
28. Oct. 3, 1796 – Col. John McKee
29. Oct. 29, 1796 – David Henley to Capt. John Chisholm
30. Nov. 21, 1796 – Lt. Col. Edward Carrington
31. May 30, 1797 – John Bright
32. Jan. 31, 1798 – John Hopkins to David Henley
33. Feb. 28, 1798 – Samuel Hodgdon to David Henley
34. Feb. 5, 1800 – W. C. C. Claiborne to David Henley
35. March 14, 1800 – W. C. C. Claiborne to David Henley
36. April 10, 1800 – James Alden to David Henley
37. May 7, 1800 – David Henley to William Simmons

38. Sept. 18, 1800 – Samuel Hodgdon to David Henley
39. March 4, 1801 – Wm. L. Lovely to David Henley
40. June 18, 1801 – James Bolls to David Henley
41. March 3, 1808 – David Henley to Gabriel

DOCUMENTS

1. Oct. 31, 1794 Proposals for furnishing rations
2. April 1795 David Henley's Estimates to Secretary of War
3. July 7, 1795 Deposition of Samson Williams
4. Nov. 4, 1795 Security Bond
5. Nov. 11-27,1795 List of people killed in Mero District
6. July 2, 1796 Receipted bill
7. Sept. 27, 1796 Bill presented to U.S.
8. March 20, 1797 Bill presented to U.S.
9. Memorandum of W. L. Lovely
10. February 20, 1797 – Published letters ... relative to the expenditures in the Military Department ... 1796

LETTERS

1. March 2, 1795 – John Overton, Nashville to Col. D. Henley – re: Raise in pay for the infantry by Congress. Delivered by Andrew Jackson
2. March 13, 1795 – James Robertson, Nashville to Col. D. Henley, re: break between Creeks and Chickasaws and assistance on the part of the Chickasaws by the United States is solicited
3. March 13, 1795 – John Overton, Nashville to Col. David Henley. re: raise in pay for the infantry and also about the war between the Creeks and Chickasaws and the request by the latter for aid from the United States
4. April 30, 1795 – Capt. Robert Blair, German Creek to Col. David Henley. re: Correction in the name of a soldier who made the Tour
5. May 5, 1795 – Seth Lewis, Nashville to Col. David Henley, re: Desire to furnish supplies for the Indians. Seth Lewis was a merchant and to set up business.
6. May 20, 1795 – Robert Hays, Cedar Hall to Col. David Henley. re: Payment of troops in the country where they were then stationed and other military matters.
7. July 11, 1795 – Thomas Porter to Col. David Henley. re: Selling real estate and other business matters

8. Sept. 2, (circa 1795) Benjamin Hawkins, Creek Agency to Judge Souliman. re: Indian disturbances. Seminoles have murdered certainly two people of East Florida and probably five or six.
9. Sept. 20, 1795 – William Rickard, Knoxville. re: Wm. Rickard wrote Gov. Blount that he was not empowered to act in Col. Henley's place in regard to a contract for certain supplies
10. Sept. 21, 1795 – Col. John McKee, Tellico Block House, to Gov. Blount. re: Recovery from the Cherokees of some stolen horses, and the rewarding of Willice with a rifle for his services
11. Sept. 29, 1795 – Opi Mingo, Chief of Chickasaws, Chickasaw Nation, to General Robertson. re: Describes the battle between the Creeks and the Chickasaws. The Creeks were driven back and Opi Mingo requests aid from the United States
12. Oct. 2, 1795 – Capt. Wm. Rickard, Knoxville to Col. David Henley. re: Supplies and building operations. "The militia are called out again to protect the frontiers of Washington and Hamilton Counties." He is out of cash and cannot pay off the men who were to be discharged this month.
13. Oct. 8, 1795 – Wm. Rickard, Knoxville to David Henley. re: Will go to Tellico there to remain during the treaty. Has arranged his business so as not to cause complaint. "I have left as many men as will do the duty required in my absence."
14. Oct. 17, 1795 – Jonathan Swift, Alexandria to Col. David Henley. re: Wishes to purchase house and lot if a price can be agreed upon.
15. Oct. 24, 1795 – James Robertson, Nashville, to Col. David Henley. re: War between the Creeks and the Chickasaws. Also wrote that he would sell him one or two 640 acre tracts for his son at half a dollar per acre.
16. Nov. 9, 1795 – Capt. John Chisholm, Knoxville to Col. David Henley. re: Expendure of moneys in his hands. Cannot render accounts as the vouchers are in one of the wagons.
17. Nov. 17, 1795 – Samson Williams, Nashville Genl. Winchester's to Col. David Henley. re: Building of a road from Nashville to Knoxville. Also getting pay for some officers under General Winchester. Complains of way census has been taken in this territory y.
18. Nov. 24, 1795 – John Overton, Nashville to Col. David Henley. re: Mr. Searcy, the contractor, mentions Andrew Jackson as one of Searcy's secretaries. Wishes to know when Henley is to go Northward.
19. Dec. 10, 1795 – Judge John Overton, Nashville to Col. David Henley. re: A confidential friendly letter in which he mentions that Allison and John B. Evans are broke and the hard time Tail had in getting some goods to settle his account. Gov. Blount was involved in the transaction. "Such a set of --- the world can scarcely produce. All I can wish (and God forgives me) to complete the scene is that Blount, the primum Mobile may break too..."

20. Dec. 23, 1795 – Joseph Anderson, Territorial Judge south of the Ohio, to Col. David Henley or in his absence Mr. McClellon. re: shipment of between thirty or forty hogs.
21. Jan. 21, 1796 – W. C. C. Claiborne, John Rhea, and George Rutledge to Col. David Henley. re: An urgent appeal on behalf of the citizens of Sullivan County for pay for the discharged soldiers who enlisted to protect the frontier
22. March 31, 1796 – Thomas Porter, Alexandria to Col. David Henley. re: Sale of property in Alexandria
23. April 10, 1796 – Col. John McKee, Tellico Block-house to Col. David Henley. re: Received a letter from Gov. Blount regarding contingent expenses. One of the principal expenses will be provisions and whiskey for the chiefs and other Indians. Necessary that some person should be there to furnish them to Col. McKee's order
24. April 25, 1796 – Col. John McKee, Tellico Block-house to Col. David Henley. re: has received no reply to his previous letter. The Indians are accustomed to receiving certain supplies and if they are not forthcoming the Indians might feel that the recent change in Government is connected with the change toward them
25. May 8, 1796 – Capt. David Campbell, Fort Krainger to Col. David Henley. re: setting forth the condition of eight soldiers who had enlisted with Sam'l McClellan for six months and under orders are staying at Fort Grainger, without provisions are there are none at the Fort to spare. In the interest of duty and humanity is it not required that good and faithful soldiers ought to be supplied whilst acting under orders of superior officers
26. Aug. 20, 1796 – Martin Ashburn, South West Point to Col. David Henley. re: Purchase of supplies for Fort Grainger which is out of provisions. He has no horse so it is out of his power to procure beef. Hurry the canoe with the meal. He can swap a cow with calf for a dry cow suitable for beef.
27. Sept. 19, 1796 – Capt. John Chisholm Creek Nation to David Henley. re: Dog Warrior the great chief of the whole Creek Nation has decided to make peace with the Chickasaws and also for the first time to make peace with the United States. He intends to go to Washington to see the President and to see Congress in session and “ confirm a peace that shall put a final period to bloodshedding and stealing.”
28. Oct. 3, 1796 – Col. John McKee, Tellico Block-house. re: Thanks Col. Henley for the opportunity to go to Philadelphia. Also about a visit from the Indian chiefs, including Little Turkey
29. Oct. 29, 1796 – David Henley to Capt. John Chisholm. re: Provisions for escorting Dog Warrior and other Indian chiefs of the Chickasaws, Creeks, and other nations to Philadelphia to meet President Washington.

30. Nov. 21, 1796 – Lieutenant Colonel Edward Carrington, Richmond Supt's Office. Carrington was a Revolutionary soldier, a delegate to the Continental Congress 1785 and foreman of the jury at Col. Burr's trial. This letter concerns the transportation of supplies to Knoxville
31. May 30, 1797 – John Bright, Rockingham County, Va. To Col. David Henley. re: On the journey of Capt. Chisholm, from the Territory south of the river Ohio to Philadelphia, while conducting the Indian chiefs to visit the President left a horse with John Bright who had eaten more than he was worth and had also bought a hoarse for one of the Indians. Bright had not been paid and he was concerned about his pay.
32. Jan. 31, 1798 – John Hopkins, Richmond to Col. David Henley. re: Introducing William Hodgson and asks for aid in his mission to Tennessee
33. Feb. 28, 1798 – Samuel Hodgdon, Philadelphia to Col. David Henley. re: Waggoners Wolfe and Beard who were taking wagon-loads of articles for the intended treaty with the Cherokee Indians. He had advanced them \$225 each
34. Feb. 5, 1800 – W. C. C. Claiborne, Philadelphia to Col. David Henley. re: Payment of Maj. Johnson's claim for himself and command against the U.S. Also the pay for Col. Davidson's men
35. March 14, 1800 – W. C. C. Claiborne, Philadelphia to Col. David Henley. re: Reducing the army in Tennessee, improving the militia, manning the forts on the frontier and seaboard. He believed the unanimity of the National Council should be encouraged ... to resist aggression from any quarter..." For myself, I dread not the power of France or even all Europe combined."
36. April 10, 1800 – James Alden, Philadelphia to David Henley. re: Monies due to come to him have not been received and he wants information concerning the matter
37. May 7, 1800 – David Henley to William Simmons, Accountant of the War Dept. re: Col. Butler's account
38. Sept. 18, 1800 – Samuel Hogdon to Col. David Henley. re: Letter to be delivered to Col. Daugher. Also comments on the health and joy everywhere visible and peace is likely to continue.
39. March 4, 1801 – Wm. L. Lovely, Tellico Block-house to Col. David Henley. re: Indian applications for Cottoncards, ploughs, hoes, etc. Also asks advice about transporting millstones
40. June 18, 1801 – James Bolls, Natchez to Col. David Henley. re: Property due to the writer as heir of William Scott killed by the Indians.

41. June 18, 1801 – David Henley, Georgetown to Gabriel Duboll, Comptroller of the currency. This letter is a defense of his administration of the Indian affairs in the Territory south of the river Ohio, now the state of Tennessee showing that after twenty-five years of service for the United States both as officer in the Revolution and as agent for the department of War, he is now worse off financially than at the beginning. He refers to Gov. Blount's Conspiracy and the politics of Tennessee 1793-98.

DOCUMENTS

1. Oct. 31, 1794 – Proposals made by Capt. John Chisholm for furnishing rations for the soldiers a cost of from 2 cents to 12 cents per ration according to the place to which they were to be delivered
2. April, 1795 – David Henley's Estimates sent to the Secretary of War showing Indian contingencies for the year 1795 and Governor Blount's estimate of the amounts due certain persons connected with Indian Affairs for salaries in 1794. One of the contingencies is an estimate of \$3,500 to provide for the Choctaws expenses for their contemptible visit to Philadelphia to meet President Washington
3. July 7, 1795 – A deposition of Samson Williams. Williams had a contract to furnish supplies to the Indians which Jas. Robertson had told him would eventually lead to the entire Indian business. Robertson was given a discount. Mr. Searcy refused to allow Williams to get all of the Indian trade. Searcy told Williams, "The business of supplying the Indians in future, would be divided amongst all the merchants in Nashville, that they were all to share alike or have an equal chance of supplying, but that Gen'l Robertson the agent of the Nation had always taken upon himself to get the supplies himself."
4. Nov. 4, 1795 – A security bond for military powers given to David Henley by Robert Finley and Edw. Galligher.
5. Nov. 11-27, 1795 – List of people killed by Indians in Mero district
6. July 3, 1796 – Receipted bill to United States by Robert Wear for riding express from Sevier County to Knoxville to Gov. Blount with the information of the killing of Thomas Black by an Indian
7. Sept. 27, 1796 – Bill presented to the United States by Dr. N. H. S. Fournier for attending sick Indians. Attested by Stephen Hillis Paymaster
8. March 20, 1797 – Bill of Robert Houston to United States for house rent for Opi Mingo from Aug. 26, 1796 to Nov. 26, 1796 \$7.50. Certified by Stephen Hillis
9. Memorandum of W. L. Loverly, agent for the Cherokees for Col. Henley. re: Agreement to board Indians