

Guide to the Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers

MS 844



compiled by Ruth Gay

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 844

CREATOR: Crawford, Thomas Hartley, 1786-1863

TITLE: Thomas Hartley Crawford papers

DATES: 1827-1862

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The most important part of the Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers relate to Crawford's work on a presidential commission investigating land fraud in connection with the 1832 treaty with the Creek Indians. There are also legal opinions, reports, financial records and correspondence with members of Congress which reflect his work as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1836-1845, and as a judge in Washington, D.C., 1845-1861. Among his correspondents are Dixon H. Lewis, C. C. Clay, William Mitchell and J. C. Ten Eyck.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0844>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0844>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Charles and Lindley Eberstadt, 1971.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Thomas Hartley Crawford, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, served as representative to Congress from 1829-1833. He then served as a member of the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1833-1834. In 1836, he was appointed to investigate suspected fraud in the sale of Creek lands in Alabama. From 1838 to 1845 he served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and subsequently as judge of the criminal court in the District of Columbia, 1845-1861. He died in 1863.

Scope and Contents

Thomas Hartley Crawford, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, served as representative to Congress from 1829-1833. In 1836 he was appointed to investigate suspected fraud in the sale of Creek lands in Alabama. From 1838 to 1845 he served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and subsequently as judge of the criminal court in the District of Columbia, 1845-1861. He died in 1863.

Thomas Hartley Crawford's papers, spanning the years 1827 to 1862, concern both his personal and official affairs, although in both cases they are largely financial and legal in character. The personal papers include a voluminous financial correspondence (1827-1862) with Anna Maria Inglis, the head of a boarding school attended by Crawford's sisters and daughters. There is also a brief autobiographical sketch written in 1858.

The major portion of the papers stems from Crawford's investigative work on the 1832 treaty with the Creek Indians and contains testimony, documents and legal opinions in the case against General James C. Watson. Other papers are connected with Crawford's work as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, including his legal opinions on cases concerning Indian lands (1838), miscellaneous legal documents, correspondence, accounts and memoranda relating to the Miami Indians (1839-1842). The Shawnee and the Cherokee tribes are also mentioned in several cases. There are a few items concerning local ordinances in Washington (1837-1855).

Collection Contents

Personal papers		
b. 1, f. 1	Personal financial and legal papers	1831-1851
b. 1, f. 2 - 3	Financial correspondence with Anna Maria Inglis	1827-1862
b. 1, f. 4	Eulogy on Alexander H. Lawrence	1857
b. 1, f. 4	Autobiographical sketch	1858
Professional papers		
b. 1, f. 5	Washington, D.C. - local ordinances and correspondence	1837-1855
b. 1, f. 6 - 7	Correspondence	1832-1862
Indian affairs		
b. 1, f. 8	Legal opinions on cases relating to Indian lands	1838
b. 1, f. 9	Memoranda, reports, notes and miscellaneous financial and legal documents on Indian affairs	1840-1842, undated
Creek Indians		
b. 1, f. 10	Names of towns and Indian chiefs in district of R. W. McHenry	1836 November
b. 1, f. 11	Legal and financial documents	1826-1836, undated
b. 1, f. 12	Abstract and notes on testimony of J. C. Watson	1836 August 26, November 16-17
b. 1, f. 13	Opinion of T. Hartley Crawford on the contract of 1836 Aug 28 between certain Creek chiefs and J. C. Watson, et. al.	undated
b. 1, f. 14	Copy of the contract approved by the President between certain Creek chiefs and J. C. Watson	1837 February 17
b. 1, f. 15	Miami Indians: memoranda, correspondence and other papers on the Miami Indians	1839-1842

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Creek Indians
Education
Indians of North America
Law
Lawyers
Miami Indians

Geographic Names

Southern States
Washington (D.C.)

Occupations

Legislators
Politicians

Names

Clay, Clement Comer, 1789-1866
Crawford, Thomas Hartley, 1786-1863
Lewis, Dixon Hall, 1802-1848
Lewis, Ellis, 1798-1871
Livingston, John
Mitchell, William, 1807-1865
Poinsett, Joel Roberts, 1779-1851
Ten Eyck, John C. (John Conover), 1814-1879

Corporate Body

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs