

# Guide to the Washington Hood Papers

WA MSS S-2687



by Lisa Conathan

2011

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Washington Hood, 1808-1840 .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Journals, 1834-1840 .....	6
Series II: Correspondence, 1828-1840 .....	7
Series III: John Hood and Hood Family Papers, 1787-1861 .....	8
Series IV: Maps, 1829-1835 .....	9
Series V: Architectural and Engineering Plans, 1772-1836 .....	10
Selected Search Terms .....	11

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2687

**CREATOR:** Hood, Washington

**TITLE:** Washington Hood papers

**DATES:** 1772-1861

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.46 linear feet (4 boxes) + 2 broadside folders

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of journals, correspondence, drawings, maps, architectural plans, family papers and business papers relating to Washington Hood, his father John McClellan Hood, and the Hood family. Journals document Hood's surveys of the Ohio and Michigan border in 1835 and of northeastern Oklahoma in 1839, and also include notes on painting and engineering. Family papers consist chiefly of correspondence and include letters to and from family members that describe Hood's expeditions. John Hood's business papers consist of correspondence, legal papers, and financial papers that document John Hood's personal finances and the business partnership of Hamilton and Hood in Philadelphia. One daguerreotype by photographer James M'Clees is included in the family papers, likely depicting John Hood circa 1850. Architectural plans include drawings that formed the basis of the Hood country home Bessie Bell in Limerick Township, Pennsylvania (built in 1834), and an 1834 proposal for a U.S. Government building designed to centralize executive staff. Maps include an early manuscript draft of Hood's 1835 map of Indian tribes west of Arkansas and Missouri. Printed maps depict charts and waterways in eastern North America.

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

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hoodw>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana and the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2000.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The Washington Hood Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

### Preferred Citation

Washington Hood Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

---

### Processing Information

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing in 2011, including rehousing and minimal organization. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

---

## Washington Hood, 1808-1840

Washington Hood (1808-1840), a cartographer and surveyor, was the son of John and Elizabeth Hood of Philadelphia. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1827 and served in the Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Topographical Engineers from 1829 until he became ill on an expedition in 1839. He died in 1840 at the age of 31. Among Hood's most frequently-cited surveys and maps are those of Indian territories west of the Mississippi, and of the border region between Ohio and Michigan.

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of journals, correspondence, drawings, maps, architectural plans, family papers and business papers relating to Washington Hood, his father John McClellan Hood, and the Hood

family. Journals document Hood's surveys of the Ohio and Michigan border in 1835 and of northeastern Oklahoma in 1839, and also include notes on painting and engineering. Family papers consist chiefly of correspondence and include letters to and from family members that describe Hood's expeditions. John Hood's business papers consist of correspondence, legal papers, and financial papers that document John Hood's personal finances and the business partnership of Hamilton and Hood in Philadelphia. One daguerreotype by photographer James M'Clees is included in the family papers, likely depicting John Hood circa 1850. Architectural plans include drawings that formed the basis of the Hood country home Bessie Bell in Limerick Township, Pennsylvania (built in 1834), and an 1834 proposal for a U.S. Government building designed to centralize executive staff. Maps include an early manuscript draft of Hood's 1835 map of Indian tribes west of Arkansas and Missouri. Printed maps depict charts and waterways in eastern North America.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Journals, 1834-1840. II. Correspondence, 1828-1840. III. John Hood and Hood Family Papers, 1787-1861. IV. Maps, 1829-1835. Series V. Architectural and Engineering Plans, 1772-1836.

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Journals, 1834-1840

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Journals document Washington Hood's studies of engineering and painting, and his expeditions to Ohio, Michigan, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Arranged by subject matter.

b. 1, f. 1-2	Journals containing notes on painting and engineering	1834-1840, undated
b. 1, f. 3-5	Journals containing notes on the Ohio and Michigan borders, including commentary on Robert E. Lee	1835-1840
b. 1, f. 6	Journal containing "Field notes of the Eastern Boundaries of Indian lands" Documents surveys in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas.  Accompanied by a manuscript map of northeastern Oklahoma by General Matthew Arbuckle.	1839

**Series II: Correspondence, 1828-1840***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Washington Hood correspondence consists of incoming letters from friends (chiefly fellow military officers) and family members, and copies of third-party letters relating to Hood's service in the Corps of Engineers. Correspondents include Robert Anderson, Thomas Barker, and John Bell.

Organized into folders by type of correspondent.

b. 2, f. 7	Correspondence from friends	1828-1840
b. 2, f. 8	Correspondence from family members	1824-1837
b. 2, f. 9	Correspondence relating to Hood's service in the Corps of Engineers	1830-1839

**Series III: John Hood and Hood Family Papers, 1787-1861***0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series III consists of business and family papers. John Hood business papers include financial records and correspondence related to the management of John Hood's merchant business Hamilton and Hood. Legal documents consist of deeds and contracts. Family correspondence consists of letters among Hood family members.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 3, f. 10	Hood family copy of <i>Jenkins's Vest-Pocket Lexicon</i>	1861
b. 3, f. 11	Hood family correspondence	1828-1843
b. 3, f. 12	John Hood correspondence	1815-1836
b. 3, f. 13-16	John Hood business papers	1795-1856
b. 4, f. 17	Legal documents	1787-1843
b. 4, f. 18	Seal stamp	undated
b. 4, f. 19	Woodblock image of John Hood by V. Grottenthaler, Philadelphia	circa 1850
b. 4, f. 20	Daguerreotype of John Hood by James M'Clees, Philadelphia	circa 1850
b. 4, f. 21	Unsorted family papers	1821-1839, undated



**Series IV: Maps, 1829-1835***(1 portfolio)*

Series IV consists of a manuscript map of Nebraska and Iowa focusing on the territory of local Indian tribes, and of charts and maps of waterways depicting New York State, Ontario, Rhode Island, Florida, and Louisiana. While some maps are undated, all material dates from the mid-nineteenth century.

Organized by geographical area.

b. 5 Broadside	<a href="#">Manuscript map of Nebraska and Iowa</a>	before 1835
b. 5 Broadside	Survey for a canal in the vicinity of Niagara Falls, New York	undated
b. 5 Broadside	Profiles of the Niagara River at Lewiston, New York	1835
b. 5 Broadside	Map of the Breach at the head of Presqu'île Bay	1835
b. 5 Broadside	Chart of Newport and Conanicut Island, Rhode Island	undated
b. 5 Broadside	Chart of Tampa Bay, Florida	undated
b. 5 Broadside	Chart of St George Island, Florida	1829
b. 5 Broadside	Chart of the mouth of the Mississippi River	undated

**Series V: Architectural and Engineering Plans, 1772-1836***(1 portfolio)*

Series V consists of unattributed hydraulic engineering plans, and of architectural plans drawn by Washington Hood.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 6 Broadside	Hydraulic engineering plans French	1772
b. 6 Broadside	Plan for U.S. Executive offices <i>(3 drawings)</i>	1834
b. 6 Broadside	<a href="#">Plan for Bessie Belle</a>	1834
b. 6 Broadside	Papers concerning the plan for U.S. Executive offices	1834
b. 6 Broadside	Lighthouse proposed for the Brandywine Shoal	1836

## **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**

Businessmen -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia  
Cartographers -- West (U.S.)  
Indians of North America -- Maps  
Maps -- West (U.S.)  
Surveyors -- West (U.S.)

### **Geographic Names**

Limerick (Pa.)  
Michigan -- Boundaries  
Michigan -- Surveys  
Ohio -- Boundaries  
Ohio -- Surveys  
Oklahoma -- Surveys  
Philadelphia (Pa.)  
West (U.S.) -- Surveys

### **Genres / Formats**

Architectural drawings (visual works)  
Daguerreotypes (photographs)  
Maps -- West (U.S.) -- 19th century

### **Occupations**

Businessmen -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia  
Cartographers -- West (U.S.) -- 19th century  
Surveyors -- West (U.S.) -- 19th century

### **Names**

Hood, John M., 1778-1848  
Hood, Washington  
M'Clees, Jas. E. (James E.)

### **Corporate Bodies**

United States. Army. Corps of Topographical  
Engineers  
United States. War Department. Corps of  
Engineers