

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Gurney, Francis (1738-1815)** **MC 2001.6**

Material: Papers (1773-1812)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Gift of Charles Coleman Sellers, in memory of Katharine Febiger Spahr, 1966

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Francis Gurney was born in 1738 in Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was educated in local schools until the age of eighteen, when he enlisted in the Provincial Army. He served during the French and Indian War and participated in the Canadian campaign, in action against the French West India islands, and in the capture of Guadaloupe.

After the war, Gurney returned to Philadelphia where he began his career as a merchant. As America moved towards Independence, he donated heavily to the cause both monetarily and in military service. Gurney served as a captain with the Grenadier Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Philadelphia Militia and was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. However, when Gurney failed to receive another expected promotion, he resigned his commission on October 22, 1777. Until the end of the Revolutionary War, Gurney served in civilian capacities within the city of Philadelphia. His civic service included terms as Warden of the Port of Philadelphia, as a city Alderman, and terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the State Senate.

Gurney returned to the Philadelphia militia in March of 1786. His military services were again called upon during the Whiskey Rebellion. In 1794, Colonel Gurney was placed in charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Philadelphia Brigade. For three months, he led 600 men against rebelling farmers on the Western Frontier. Gurney received a promotion to Brigadier General on March 29, 1799.

In addition to his other civic and military duties Francis Gurney was a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Cincinnati, and he served on the Board of Trustees of Dickinson College from 1798 until his death. During his service on the Board, Gurney was often entrusted with Dickinson College financial business in Philadelphia and Washington (reflected in his correspondence with John Montgomery). Francis Gurney died on May 25, 1815.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Francis Gurney collection is housed in one document box and is composed of three series: Correspondence, Financial, Miscellaneous.

The Correspondence section is organized alphabetically by author, and thereafter chronologically. The majority of the letters are between Francis Gurney and John Montgomery, treasurer of Dickinson College, regarding business which Gurney conducted in Philadelphia and Washington on behalf of the college's Board of Trustees.

The Financial section consists entirely of Dickinson College business carried out by Francis Gurney. Most of the papers are receipts for stock and bank transactions, but there is also a list of certificates owned by the College in 1807. These items are arranged chronologically.

The Miscellaneous section contains one legal agreement between Gurney and Peter Biggs and one payment authorization list from Grenadier Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Philadelphia Militia for the wives and families of his men. Also among the Miscellaneous papers is one oversized item, designated OC 2001.6; a legal agreement between Gurney and John Steele for a trading post in North Carolina.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### **BOX 1 - MC 2001.6**

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Davidson, John

Folder 01) Letter to Francis Gurney - Nov. 15, 1806

Gurney, Francis

Folder 02) Letter John Davidson - Nov. 4, 1806

Letter to John Montgomery and the Board of Trustees - Oct. 14, 1800

McCoskry, Samuel, John Creigh, and Samuel Laird

Folder 03) Letter to Francis Gurney - May 12, 1801

Milnor, James

Folder 04) Letter to Reeve Lewis - Oct. 7, 1812

Montgomery, John

Folder 05) Letter to Francis Gurney - July 9, 1799

Letter to Francis Gurney - Aug. 23, 1799

Letter to Francis Gurney - Oct. 1, 1799

Letter to Francis Gurney - Dec. 26, 1799

Letter to Francis Gurney - Dec. 31, 1799

Folder 06) Letter to Francis Gurney - Jan. 7, 1800

Letter to Francis Gurney - Jan. 28, 1800

Letter to Francis Gurney - Feb. 4, 1800

Letter to Francis Gurney - Apr. 1, 1800

Letter to Francis Gurney - Aug.-Oct. 1800

Letter to Francis Gurney, drafted by David Harris - Oct. 29, 1800

Letter to Francis Gurney, drafted by David Harris - Nov. 22, 1800

**BOX 1 - MC 2001.6 (cont.)**

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Montgomery, John (cont.)

- Folder 07) Letter to Francis Gurney - Jan. 12, 1801  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Feb. 2, 1801  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Feb. 5, 1801  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Feb. 6, 1801  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Mar. 17, 1801
- Folder 08) Letter to Francis Gurney - Mar. 24, 1801  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Apr. 1, 1801  
Letter to Francis Gurney - July 1, 1801  
(with order and receipt)  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Aug. 3, 1801  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Dec. 9, 1801  
(with letter from Samuel Miles to Christian Febiger)
- Folder 09) Letter to Francis Gurney - Mar. 11, 1802  
Letter to Francis Gurney - May 24, 1802  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Dec. 24, 1802  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Oct. 1, 1806  
Letter to Francis Gurney - Mar. 13, 1808

Nisbet, Charles

- Folder 10) Letter to Francis Gurney - Feb. 11, 1797

Nolan, Thomas and Company

- Folder 11) Letter to Francis Gurney - Jan. 23, 1800

Smith, John

- Folder 12) Letter to Francis Gurney - July 26, 1788

Wood, Henry

- Folder 13) Letter to John Montgomery - Feb. 26, 1801  
(copied by James Duncan and sent to Gurney, Mar. 7, 1801)

FINANCIAL

- Folder 14) Receipt for stock interest - June 8, 1795  
Order with receipt written on back - June 14, 1799  
Order with receipt written on back - Oct. 2 and Nov. 4, 1799
- Folder 15) Order to pay stock interest to John Douglass - Apr. 22, 1800  
Worksheet, linked to Gurney letter of Oct. 14, 1800 - undated  
Order with receipt written on back - Oct. 16, 1800  
(see Montgomery letter of Aug. 22, 1800)  
Receipt from Charles Nisbet - May 22, 1801  
(see Montgomery letter of May 12, 1801)  
Receipt - May 23, 1801  
(see Montgomery letter of May 12, 1801)

**BOX 1 - MC 2001.6 (cont.)**

FINANCIAL (cont.)

Folder 16) Receipt from Thomas Duncan for certificates belonging to  
Dickinson College - Jan. 7, 1803  
List of certificates owned by Dickinson College - Dec. 16, 1807  
Receipt for three certificates - Mar. 23, 1808  
(see Montgomery letter of Mar. 13, 1808)

MISCELLANEOUS

Gurney, Francis

Folder 17) Agreement with Peter Biggs to construct a marble fireplace in  
Gurney's home - Feb. 12, 1774  
Payment authorization of Grenadier Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment,  
Philadelphia Militia - Sep. 29, 1794

**OVERSIZED - OC 2001.6**

MISCELLANEOUS

Gurney, Francis

Folder 01) Agreement with John Steele to conduct a trading post in North  
Carolina - May 18, 1773