

Edward Dixon Papers

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Washington, D.C.
2005

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009251>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78018580>

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Revised by Patrick Kerwin

Collection Summary

Title: Edward Dixon Papers

Span Dates: 1743-1808

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1750-1775)

ID No.: MSS18580

Creator: Dixon, Edward

Extent: 39 items ; 39 containers ; 6 linear feet ; 11 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Merchant, of Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia. Ledgers, daybooks, journal, waste books, blacksmith accounts, receipts, letters, and a mathematics exercise book, chiefly 1750-1775, relating to Dixon's business and financial transactions in Port Royal, Virginia. Includes information relating to the Virginia tobacco trade, plantations, and trade with Great Britain.

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.

People

Boucher, Jonathan, 1738-1804.

Boutwell, John.

Catlett, John.

Dixon, Edward.

Fitzhugh, William, 1741-1809.

Gilchrist, Robert, of Virginia.

Jameson, James.

Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794.

Micou, John.

Pendleton, Edmund, 1721-1803.

Randolph, Thomas M. (Thomas Mann), 1768-1828.

Taliaferro, William.

Taylor, James, 1769-1848.

Tennant, John, of Virginia.

Turner, Thomas, -approximately 1757.

Younger, John.

Organizations

Friendship (Ship)

Glassford and Company.

Subjects

Blacksmithing--Virginia--18th century

Mathematics--Study and teaching--18th century.

Merchants--Virginia--Caroline County.

Merchants--Virginia--Port Royal.

Plantations--Virginia.

Slavery--Virginia--Caroline County.

Tobacco industry--Virginia.

Places

Great Britain--Commerce--History--18th century.

Great Britain--Commerce--Virginia.

Virginia--Commerce--Great Britain.

Virginia--Commerce.
Virginia--History.

Occupations
Merchants.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Edward Dixon, merchant, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1911.

Processing History

The papers of Edward Dixon were processed and microfilmed in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward Dixon is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edward Dixon are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on eleven reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Edward Dixon Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1750	Came to Port Royal, Va., and became a merchant
1751	Appointed magistrate, Port Royal, Va.
1757	Appointed sheriff, Port Royal, Va.
1777	Appointed port master, Port Royal, Va.
1783	Sons Harry Dixon and Turner Dixon named as executors of his will

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward Dixon span the period 1743-1808, with the heaviest concentration during the years 1750-1775. The collection consists of ledgers, daybooks, rough account books also known as waste books, a journal, blacksmith accounts, a miscellaneous volume containing receipts and two letters, and a mathematics exercise book.

The papers represent the financial transactions of Edward Dixon, prominent citizen and merchant, who operated a store at Port Royal, Virginia. The ledgers include descriptions of goods traded locally and those imported into and exported from the colony and note the prevailing prices of the period. Many of the accounts are maintained in both sterling and Virginia currency and reflect the role of tobacco in the economy. The ledgers also indicate that Dixon acted as agent for a number of foreign trading companies in London, Bristol, and Whitehaven, England, and Glasgow, Scotland. The most extensive account is with John Younger. Factors of other tobacco trading firms, such as Alexander Henderson and Arthur Morson of Glassford and Company, are also cited in the accounts.

The ledgers identify many of Dixon's customers by county of residence and occupation. Some accounts are in the names of single and married women, and a few carry the names of overseers. Among the Virginians listed are Jonathan Boucher, John Boutwell, John Catlett, William Fitzhugh, Robert Gilchrist, James Jameson, Richard Henry Lee, John Micou, Edmund Pendleton, Thomas M. Randolph, William Taliaferro, James Taylor, and John Tennant. Although the volumes contain references to various ships, only the *Friendship* appears with any regularity.

Some of the ledgers contain accounts which relate to Dixon's personal financial affairs and list entries for his household expenses and accounts with his tenants in Fauquier and Loudoun counties. The ledger for 1747-1756 includes an account with the colonial treasury indicating that Dixon served in the Virginia Assembly during 1752 and 1753. A ledger for 1743-1747 contains a list of his "Negro children at home" and at Elks Run with their birth dates and the names of their mothers. A later list of slaves belonging to the estates of Dixon's sons, Harry and Turner, is found in the volume for 1784-1799.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,618

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Ledgers
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BOX 1	1743-1747
REEL 1	
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REEL 1	
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REEL 1	
BOX 4	1749-1775
REEL 1	
BOX 5	1749-1750
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BOX 6	Daybook, 1750-1751
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BOX 7	Ledgers
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BOX 18	1760-1761
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BOX 19	1761-1762
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BOX 20	1762-1763
REEL 7	

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 21	1763-1764
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BOX 22	1764-1765
REEL 8	
BOX 23	1765-1767; 1801, Oct.-Nov.
REEL 8	
BOX 24	1767-1774; 1784, Aug. 25
REEL 8	
BOX 25	1767-1779
REEL 9	
BOX 26	1768-1771
REEL 9	
BOX 27	1771-1775
REEL 9	
BOX 28	1779-1785, blacksmith ledger
REEL 10	
BOX 29	1784-1799
REEL 10	
BOX 30	1761-1763, 1776-1779, 1783, blacksmith ledger
REEL 10	
BOX 31	1771-1775, blacksmith ledger
REEL 10	
BOX 32	Daybook, 1763-1766
REEL 10	
BOX 33	Miscellaneous financial papers (unbound items at back of volume), 1743-1808
REEL 10	
BOX 34	Journal, blacksmith accounts, 1779-1783
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BOX 35	Invoice book, 1767-1774
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BOX 36	Waste books
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BOX 36	1752-1753
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BOX 37	1753-1754
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BOX 38	1754-1756
REEL 11	
BOX 39	Mathematics exercise book, undated
REEL 11	