Descriptive Summary
Title: James F. Mercer papers
Inclusive Dates: 1735-1872
Bulk Dates: 1735-1763
Collection Number: mssMercer
Creator OR Collector: Mercer, James Francis, -1756
Extent: 3 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: The collection consists of over 120 letters, manuscripts and documents related to James F. Mercer and his death at Fort Oswego, New York, in 1756 and the settling of his estate after his death.

Language of Material: The materials is in English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], James F. Mercer papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information
Purchased by the Library Collectors' Council from William Reese Company, January 20, 2018. The letters were preserved by William Mercer's grandson, son of George Depster Mercer, the Treasurer of Hong Kong, a member of the Asiatic Society, and a minor author. It was then acquired by Eric C. Caren.

Biographical Note
James F. Mercer was Colonel of William Pepperell's 51st Regiment of Royal Americans, commanding Fort Oswego (Oswego, N.Y.). On August 11, 1756, French commander Louis-Joseph de Montcalm besieged the fort with 3,000 men, most of whom were Canadian militiamen and Indigenous people warriors. Mercer was killed on August 14 by a French cannonball, and the garrison quickly surrendered after his death. When the soldiers left the fort, the French-allied Indigenous peoples attacked them. The defeat for England became a subject of inquiry conducted by John Campbell, the 4th Earl of Loudoun, who had arrived just three weeks prior to the battle.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged chronologically. It is housed in three boxes.

Scope and Content
A collection of over 120 letters, manuscripts, and documents (previously bound in three-quarter calf and paper-covered boards by "Seton Bookbinder Edinburgh" (Robert Seton III, 1844-1905)). The collection includes James F. Mercer's letters written during his travels in Europe, Jamaica, and North America (1736-1755). This includes five letters by Mercer from Fort Oswego (1755-1756). The collection also includes approximately 70 letters written in the aftermath of Mercer's death, including correspondence of Mercer's brother, William Mercer, friend James Grahame, and Grahame's 13-page account of the Battle of Oswego. Other authors include: Andrew Douglass, Joseph Austin, Colin Drummond, Charles Craven, Francis Lewis, James Robertson, and Stephen Sayre.

Collection includes several documents regarding James F. Mercer's finances and belongings after his death. Also included is a copy of Papers relating to the first settlement and capture of Fort Oswego, 1727-1756 [Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1849], with Mercer escutcheon pasted on the front inner cover.

Personal Names
Craven, Charles
Grahame, James, -1760
Lewis, Francis, 1713-1802
Mercer, James Francis, -1756
Mercer, William, 1717-1786
Robertson, James, 1717-1788
Sayre, Stephen, 1736-1818
Shirley, William, 1694-1771

Subjects
Families -- Scotland -- History -- 18th century
Girls -- Education -- Great Britain
Scots -- America -- History
Scots -- Great Britain -- Colonies -- History
Seven Years' War, 1756-1763

Geographic Areas
Flanders (Belgium) -- Description and travel
Fort Oswego (Oswego, N.Y.) -- Capture, 1756
France -- Foreign relations -- Great Britain
Great Britain -- History -- George II, 1727-1760 -- Sources
Great Britain -- History, Military -- 18th century
Great Britain -- Colonies -- History -- 18th century
Great Britain -- Foreign relations -- 1727-1760
Great Britain -- Foreign relations -- France
Perth (Scotland) -- History -- 18th century -- Sources
United States -- History -- French and Indian War, 1754-1763

Genre
Accounts -- Great Britain -- 18th century
Letters (correspondence) -- Great Britain -- 18th century
Letters (correspondence) -- Great Britain -- 19th century
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 18th century
Manuscripts -- Great Britain -- 18th century
Manuscripts -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Box 1 1736-1756

Folder 1  Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1736, Sep. 17)
               Bergen, Belgium.

Folder 2  Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to Jean Lindsey Mercer (1742, Mar. 7)
               Kingston, Jamaica.

Folder 3  Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to Jean Lindsey Mercer (1742, Aug 9)
               Kingston, Jamaica.


Folder 5  Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1751, Apr. 16)
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<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1755, Sep. 10) Oswego, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Kotson (?), M (?) Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1755, Sep. 22)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Description</td>
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| 41      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1755, Dec. 20)  
| 42      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [James Francis Mercer, -1756] (1756, Jan. 13)  
| 43      | Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, Jan. 24)  
Oswego, N.Y. |
| 44      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1756, Feb. 14)  
| 45      | Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to James Grahame, -1760 (1756, Feb. 24)  
Oswego, N.Y. |
| 46      | Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, Mar. 14)  
Oswego, N.Y. Damaged. |
| 47      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1756, Mar. 16)  
| 48      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, Apr. 29)  
| 49      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, May 13)  
| 50      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1756, May 26)  
| 51      | Mercer, James Francis, -1756. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, July 8)  
[Oswego, N.Y.] Damaged. |
| 52      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1756, Sep. 7)  
| 53      | [Unknown author]. Document re: James Francis Mercer's leaving all of his effects to  
James Robinson, his servant (1756, Sep. 27).  
Québec, Québec. Signed by five witnesses. |
| 54      | Robertson, James, 1717-1788. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1756, Sep. 30)  
Albany, N.Y. |
| 55      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1756, Nov. 9)  
| 56      | Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1756, Nov. 13)  
| 57      | Austin, Joseph. Letter to Colin Drummond (1756, Nov. 17)  
Plymouth, England. |
| 58      | Drummond, Colin. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, Nov. 19)  
Megginch Castle, Perthshire, England. |
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<td>59</td>
<td>Robertson, James, 1717-1788. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, Nov. 26)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Totnes, England.</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>Drummond, Colin. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 [1756, Nov.]</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1756, Dec. 14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>[Austin, Joseph]. Letter to Colin Drummond [1756]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damaged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>[Austin, Joseph]. Document re: effects left at New York by James Francis Mercer [1756]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With stub. On verso: note.</td>
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<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Account of the Capture of Oswego, 14 August 1756: manuscript [after 1756]</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>1757-1872 and undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1757, Jan. 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lewis, Francis, 1713-1802. Letter to G. Graham (1757, Feb. 22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1757, Feb. 26)</td>
</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1757, Apr. 9)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1757, July 9)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1757, Dec. 20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1758, Mar. 18)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1758, May 23)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1758, July 27)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1758, Aug. 15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1758, Sep. 5)</td>
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</table>
Folder 13  
Grahame, James, -1760. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1759, Jan. 2)  

Folder 14  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1760, June 3)  

Folder 15  
Shyne (?), Robert. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1760, June 12)  

Folder 16  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1760, June 17)  

Folder 17  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1760, June 18)  

Folder 18  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1760, June 28)  

Folder 19  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1760, July 10)  

Folder 20  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1760, July 17)  

Folder 21  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1760, Dec. 20)  

Folder 22  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] [1760]

Folder 23  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1761, Aug. 27)  

Folder 24  

Folder 25  
Craven, Charles. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1762, Nov. 2)  

Folder 26  
Craven, Charles. Letter to Andrew Douglass (1762, Nov. 16)  

Folder 27  
Douglass, Andrew. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1762, Nov. 23)  

Folder 28  
Sayre, Stephen, 1736-1818. Letter to Andrew Douglass (1762, Dec. 14)  

Folder 29  
Sayre, Stephen, 1736-1818. Letter to Andrew Douglass [approximately 1762]  
Damaged.
Folder 30  [Unknown author]. Document re: James Francis Mercer, -1756 and Charles Craven [1762]

Folder 31  Sayre, Stephen, 1736-1818. Letter to Andrew Douglass (1763, July 12)
            Damaged.

Folder 32  Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1763, July 26)

Folder 33  Douglass, Andrew. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1763, July 28)

Folder 34  Douglass, Andrew. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1763, Aug.)
            Attached: letter to Andrew Douglass, 1763, Aug. 13)

Folder 35  Harrison, Humphrey. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1763, Oct. 26)
            Dunkeld, Scotland.

Folder 36  Murray, John. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1763, Oct. 29)
            Edinburgh, Scotland.

Folder 37  Douglass, Andrew. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1763, Nov. 5)

Folder 38  Murray, John. Letter to [William Mercer, 1717-1786] (1763, Nov. 10)

Folder 39  Murray, John. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1763, Nov. 22)


            Dunkeld, Scotland.

Folder 42  [Unknown author]. Accounts of James Francis Mercer, -1756 [after 1763]

Folder 43  Powell, Matt. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1766, Jan. 7)

Folder 44  Douglass, Andrew. Letter to William Mercer, 1717-1786 (1766, June 20)
            Damaged.

Folder 45  Gheene (?), John Canni. Letter to Graeme Mercer (1867, Nov. 1)
            Crieff, Scotland.

Folder 46  [Unknown author]. Notes on Mercer family [approximately 1872]
            On verso: printed item: "Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," 1872, Apr.

Folder 47  [Unknown author]. Index of Letters [undated]
            Not a complete list of letters.

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James F. Mercer papers  mssMercer  9
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<td>[Unknown author]. Notes on Mercer family [undated]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Front flyleaves [undated]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Back flyleaves, supports, threads and endbands [undated]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Papers relating to the first settlement and capture of Fort Oswego, 1727-1756&lt;br&gt;Albany: Weed, Parsons &amp; Co., 1849. Bound volume with Mercer escutcheon pasted on the front inner cover.</td>
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