

The Henry Livingston Papers

Repository

Dutchess County Historical Society
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Access Number

DC.0301 – DC.0319

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Finding Aid Author: Gregory Wiedeman, 2013
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Date Completed

2013 May 1

Creators

W. Arthur Saltford

Extent

.1 linear feet, or 15 files

Dates

Inclusive: 1761 – 1920

Bulk: 1880 – 1920

Conditions Governing Access

No Restrictions

Languages

English

Scope and Content

The collection consists of two court summons written by Henry Livingston while he was Dutchess County Clerk under the British Colony of New York. Also included are a number of secondary materials and reproductions concerning Henry Livingston likely gathered by W.

Arthur Saltford, judging from an envelope in the collection, and the original correspondence surrounding the popularization of the Livingston claim to “A Visit from St. Nicholas.”

Historical Note

Henry Livingston, Jr. was born in Poughkeepsie on October 13, 1748 and lived in the region until he died in February of 1828. He was a poet, whose work was signed “R.” in many local publications, including the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. His family has claimed, with some evidence, that Livingston wrote the famous poem, “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” better known as, “The Night Before Christmas,” that was originally attributed to Clement Moore. The Livingston claim was first popularized by William Sturgis Thomas in the 1919 Dutchess County Historical Society yearbook.

Provenance

The Collection was donated to the Dutchess County Historical Society by Mrs. W. Arthur Saltford at an unknown date.

Subject Headings

Christmas; DCHS administrative history; Literature; Poetry

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Container List

File	Contents	Date
File 3 DC.0301	Summons signed by Henry Livingston (clerk) for the arrest of Richard West	1781 October 1
File 4 DC.0302	Summons signed by Henry Livingston (clerk) for the arrest of Samuel Hodge	1761 October 23
File 5 DC.0303	Print of drawing of West Point and an article from New York Magazine	1791 (undated reproduction)
File 6 DC.0304	Print of drawing of Livingston homestead, Poughkeepsie and an article from New York Magazine	1791 (undated reproduction)
File 7 DC.0305	Sheet of references to Henry Livingston	undated
File 8 DC.0306	Print of a drawing of a saw mill and an article of Henry Livingston from New York Magazine	1792 August (undated reproduction)
File 9 DC.0307	Letter from Benson Lossing to Cornelia Goodrich regarding Henry Livingston and “A Visit from St. Nicholas”	1886 November 25 and December 8

File 10 DC.0308	Journal of Henry Livingston, reprinted in Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography	1898 and 1917 March 2
File 11 DC.0309	Typewritten copy of verses by Henry Livingston	1917 March 2
File 12 DC.0310	Correspondence of William S Thomas with Frank Hasbrouck concerning Henry Livingston (7 items)	1920 May 11 – July 23
File 13 DC.0312	“’Twas the Night Before Christmas” in <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , article concerns the authorship controversy	1920
File 14 DC.0313	Clippings from <i>New York Times Magazine and Book Review</i> , “Lost Camps of the Hudson Highlands”	1920 September 5
File 15 DC.0314	Printed circular of Martlaer’s Rock Association for the preservation of Warner House, opposite West Point	undated
File 16 DC.0315	Typewritten sheet of Livingston family from “Rambles in Colonial By-ways,” by Rufus Wilson	undated
File 17 DC.0316	Typed article by Henry Livingston (excerpt) and two poems	undated
File 18 DC.0317	Typewritten copies of poems by Henry Livingston (50 sheets)	undated
DC.0318	Memo re picture of Livingston residence	undated