Guide to the Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers

MS 844

compiled by Ruth Gay

January 1979

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New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Sterling Memorial Library
128 Wall Street
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
Web: http://web.library.yale.edu/mssa
Email: mssa.assist@yale.edu
Phone: (203) 432-1735
Fax: (203) 432-7441

CALL NUMBER: MS 844

CREATOR: Crawford, Thomas Hartley, 1786-1863

TITLE: Thomas Hartley Crawford papers

DATES: 1827–1862

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE(S): The materials are in English.

SUMMARY: The most important part of the Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers relate to Crawford's work on a presidential commission investigating land fraud in connection with the 1832 treaty with the Creek Indians. There are also legal opinions, reports, financial records and correspondence with members of Congress which reflect his work as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1836-1845, and as a judge in Washington, D.C., 1845-1861. Among his correspondents are Dixon H. Lewis, C. C. Clay, William Mitchell and J. C. Ten Eyck.

FINDING AID LINK: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0844.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Information about Access

The materials are open for research.

Ownership & Copyright

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Cite As

Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Thomas Hartley Crawford, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, served as representative to Congress from 1829-1833. He then served as a member of the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1833-1834. In 1836, he was appointed to investigate suspected fraud in the sale of Creek lands in Alabama. From 1838 to 1845 he served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and subsequently as judge of the criminal court in the District of Columbia, 1845-1861. He died in 1863.

Description of the Collection

Thomas Hartley Crawford, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, served as representative to Congress from 1829-1833. In 1836 he was appointed to investigate suspected fraud in the sale of Creek lands in Alabama. From 1838 to 1845 he served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and subsequently as judge of the criminal court in the District of Columbia, 1845-1861. He died in 1863.

Thomas Hartley Crawford's papers, spanning the years 1827 to 1862, concern both his personal and official affairs, although in both cases they are largely financial and legal in character. The personal papers include a voluminous financial correspondence (1827-1862) with Anna Maria Inglis, the head of a boarding school attended by Crawford's sisters and daughters. There is also a brief autobiographical sketch written in 1858.

The major portion of the papers stems from Crawford's investigative work on the 1832 treaty with the Creek Indians and contains testimony, documents and legal opinions in the case against General James C. Watson. Other papers are connected with Crawford's work as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, including his legal opinions on cases concerning Indian lands (1838), miscellaneous legal documents, correspondence, accounts and memoranda relating to the Miami Indians (1839-1842). The Shawnee and the Cherokee tribes are also mentioned in several cases. There are a few items concerning local ordinances in Washington (1837-1855).
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Personal financial and legal papers</td>
<td>1831–1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
<td>Financial correspondence with Anna Maria Inglis</td>
<td>1827–1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Eulogy on Alexander H. Lawrence</td>
<td>1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Autobiographical sketch</td>
<td>1858</td>
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**Personal papers**

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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Washington, D.C. - local ordinances and correspondence</td>
<td>1837–1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 - 7</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1832–1862</td>
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**Professional papers**

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Legal opinions on cases relating to Indian lands</td>
<td>1838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Memoranda, reports, notes and miscellaneous financial and legal documents on Indian affairs</td>
<td>1840-1842, undated</td>
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**Indian affairs**

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Names of towns and Indian chiefs in district of R. W. McHenry</td>
<td>1836 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Legal and financial documents</td>
<td>1826-1836, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Abstract and notes on testimony of J. C. Watson</td>
<td>1836 August 26, November 16-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Opinion of T. Hartley Crawford on the contract of 1836 Aug 28 between certain Creek chiefs and J. C. Watson, et. al.</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Copy of the contract approved by the President between certain Creek chiefs and J. C. Watson</td>
<td>1837 February 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Miami Indians: memoranda, correspondence and other papers on the Miami Indians</td>
<td>1839–1842</td>
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</table>
Access Terms

Creek Indians
Education
Indians of North America
Law
Miami Indians
Southern States
Washington (D.C.)
Lawyers.
Legislators.
Politicians.
Clay, Clement Comer, 1789-1866
Crawford, Thomas Hartley, 1786-1863
Lewis, Dixon Hall, 1802-1848
Lewis, Ellis, 1798-1871
Livingston, John
Mitchell, William, 1807-1865
Poinsett, Joel Roberts, 1779-1851
Ten Eyck, John C. (John Conover), 1814-1879
United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs