New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

JOHN McNEIL PAPERS

Register

Compiled by
Thomas E. Camden
November 1982
March 25, born in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, the son of John and Lucy (Andrews) McNeil

attended local public schools

enlisted in the Army at Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Appointed as Ensign of the First Army, Twenty-Sixth New Hampshire Regiment

Appointed as Lieutenant of the First Army, Twenty-Sixth New Hampshire Regiment

Appointed as Captain of a Company of Grenadiers in the Twenty-Sixth New Hampshire Regiment

Appointed by Governor Dinsmoor as Captain of the Eleventh Regiment

Appointed Major of the Fifth Infantry and served upon the Western Frontier

married Elizabeth A. Pierce, daughter of Benjamin Pierce of Hillsborough, New Hampshire

promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the First Regiment of Infantry

promoted to the rank of Brigadier General

promoted to the rank of Colonel

appointed a Commissioner to negotiate treaties with the Winnebagoes and other Indians on the Western Frontier

Served as Surveyor for the District and Inspector of the Revenue for the Port of Boston

Appointed as Justice of the Peace

Appointed as Major General of the Third Division, New Hampshire Militia

February 23, died while on a business trip to Washington
Children of John and Elizabeth Pierce McNeil:

John W.S. McNeil (killed September 10, 1837 during Seminole War in Florida)

Elizabeth A.P. McNeil (married H.W. Benham)

Frances McNeil

Benjamin P. McNeil
Acquisition records for the John McNeil Papers are nonexistent. The papers are thought to be related to the Franklin Pierce and Benjamin Pierce Collections and may have been acquired when these collections were acquired, however this, too, has not been documented.

The McNeil Papers consist of three document boxes and one oversize folder. Composed largely of correspondence, both official and personal, the papers are arranged chronologically and span the period 1810-1854. Also included in the collection (Box 3) are legal and financial documents spanning the years 1816-1858. These documents are largely wills, deeds, articles of agreement, bills and receipts. Completing the collection are miscellaneous military reports, talks concerning Indian treaties and a diary kept by Elizabeth Pierce McNeil. The oversize documents are largely military appointments covering the period 1807-1846 but do include two federal appointments as Surveyor for and Inspector of Revenue for the District of Boston and Charlestown. The 1838 appointment is signed by President Martin Van Buren and the 1846 document is signed by President James K. Polk.

John McNeil, son of John and Lucy Andrews McNeil, was born on March 25, 1784. His educational opportunities were limited due to the family's financial situation, so at the age of thirteen years, being of remarkable size and strength, he enlisted in a company at Hillsborough, New Hampshire and commenced the duty of a soldier, a full five years earlier than the law required. McNeil's reputation as a soldier grew quickly and soon he was progressing through the ranks. Because of his reputation as a brave soldier and an accomplished officer, after the War of 1812, he was retained in the army and was asked to serve on the Western Frontier at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. This experience led him to an appointment in 1829 as a commissioner to negotiate treaties with various Indian tribes on the Western Frontier. When his duties as a commissioner were completed, he resigned his commission in the army and in 1830, accepted a position from President Jackson as Surveyor of the port of Boston. McNeil held this position until his death. During this time, with a desire to escape the rigors of public life, he purchased the homestead of his father-in-law, the late Governor Benjamin Pierce, in Hillsborough, New Hampshire. It was there he planned to eventually retire but while on a business trip to Washington, McNeil succumbed to a respiratory ailment and died there on the 23rd of February, at the age of sixty-six.

Sources Consulted:


New Hampshire Historical Society  
Manuscripts Division  

**JOHN McNEIL PAPERS**  
Inventory  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1   | 1      | Correspondence, John McNeil.  
1810-1813  
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1815-1816  
1817-1818  
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1820-1821  
1822-1823  
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<th>Box</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Correspondence. John McNeil. February-July 1842</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>August-December 1842</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>January-March 1843</td>
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<td>April-June 1843</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>August-December 1843</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>1851-1854</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Legal Documents. Deeds, Wills, Articles of Agreement, etc. 1816-1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Financial Documents. Bills, Receipts, Accounts, etc. 1815-1829</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>1830-1858</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Military Reports 1814</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Military Charges. McNeil vs. Webb. 1826</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>&quot;Disposition of Officers Serving Under McNeil.&quot; 1826</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Charges Brought Against Maj. John Bliss. 1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Talks concerning Indian Treaties. Green Bay, Wisconsin. 1828-1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Diary (including miscellaneous accounts) kept by Elizabeth Pierce McNeil. ca 1815-1825</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Miscellaneous. Undated</td>
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The following items have been removed from the collection:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Disposition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Appointment of John McNeil as Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum throughout the state. June 14, 1842. Signed by Governor Henry Hubbard. Condition - good</td>
<td>Transferred to oversize storage</td>
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</table>
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</thead>
</table>
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Manuscripts Division

JOHN McNEIL PAPERS

Correspondents

Box 1

Abercrombie, J.J.
Anderson, Joseph
Armstrong, J.
Arndt, John P.
Atkinson, H.
Atwater, Caleb
Beaumont, William
Belknap, W.G.
Bell, Samuel
Breese, Sidney
Campbell, W.
Clark, William
Cobbs, W.V.
Cotton, J.W.
Crawford, David
Dalyrymple, J.
Davis, David
Dean, J.
Dexter, Theodore
Eastburn, John H.
Eaton, J.A.
Hustis, W.
Folsom, J.D.
Fox, Charles
Gaines, Edmund P.
Gleason, Julia Maria
Gooch, James
Green, Andrew
Green, G.L.
Grenville, Thomas H.
Harris, William L.
Hatch, R.
Healy, Joseph
Hill, Isaac
Howes, William
Hyatt, Alpheus
Kearney, J.W.
Kenney, John W.
Kingsbury, J.W.
Leavenworth, H.
Lewis, W.B.
Loring, William
Lowe, John
McFarland, John
McHan, D.D.
McNeil, Elizabeth
McNeil, John
Menard, Pierre
Miller, James
Moulton, John
Noah, M.M.
Paige, S.
Parker, D.
Pierce, Benjamin
Pierce, Benjamin Kendrick
Pierce, Harriet B.
Pierce, John L.
Pierce, Josette
Prince, Joseph
Ripley, E.W.
Roberts, John
Rockwell, James
Rolette, Joseph
Russell, J.B.
Smith, Joseph L.
Stanton, Henry
Stark, Henry
Taylor, Othniel
Thompson, Alexander R.
Wainwright, R.D.
Watson, P.
Webb, James W.
Whistler, W.
Williams, Eleazer
Williams, John R.
Wolgott, Alexander

Box 2

Anderson, Joseph
Baker, Albert
Baker, Martha S.
Bancroft, George
Barstow, George
Bowers, Jesse
Butler, Charles
Chandler, John
Chasseaud, J.
Box 2, contd.

Cobbs, W.V.
Conant, S.
Cox, William
Craig, H.
Cummings, S.
Daley, John B.
Dean, John
Decatur, Maria
Dexter, Theodore
Duncan, William
Estabrook, James
Fiske, John M.
French, Daniel
Harrison, Thomas
Henshaw, David
Hubbard, Henry
James, J.W.
Jessup, Thomas J.
Jordan, Thomas
Kelley, J.
Kendall, Amos
Lamb, J.
Lane, J.L.
Lane, Louis M.
Lewis, William J.
Loring, Joseph
Luce, Bartlett A.
McIntire, Rufus
McNeil, John
McNeil, John W.S.
McNeil, William Gibbs
Monroe, Thomas J.C.
Moose, Tatham
Parker, William
Pierce, Benjamin K.
Rice, Justin
Sansbury, Sarah
Sawyer, D.
Scott, Winfield
Silsbee, Nathaniel
Tracy, Nathaniel
Vinson, Thomas M.
Ward, A.H.
Whitehurst, D.W.
Woodbury, Levi

Benton, Thomas H.
Boyd, Sims
Briggs, D.D.
Crawford, D.
Dickens, Asbury
Dorr, Thomas W.
Ehninger, George
Gaines, Myra Clarke
Hibbard, Harry
Hubbard, Henry
Ingersoll, Colin M.
Jessup, Thomas
King, William R.
Lincoln, L.
Lyon, Lucius
McCulloch, James W.
McNeil, D.B.
McNeil, Elizabeth A.
McNeil, John
Morton, Marcus
Pierce, Benjamin K.
Reed, E.
Rix, James M.
Steele, John H.
Walker, R.J.
Wells, J.
Woodbury, Levi
Young, M.C.

Box 3

Anderson, H.J.
Barstow, George