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New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

JOHN McNEIL PAPERS

Register

Compiled by
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New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

JOHN McNEIL PAPERS

Biographical Sketch

- 1784 March 25, born in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, the son of John and Lucy (Andrews) McNeil
attended local public schools
- 1797 enlisted in the Army at Hillsborough, New Hampshire
- 1807 Appointed as Ensign of the First Army, Twenty-Sixth New Hampshire Regiment
- 1809 Appointed as Lieutenant of the First Army, Twenty-Sixth New Hampshire Regiment
- 1810 Appointed as Captain of a Company of Grenadiers in the Twenty-Sixth New Hampshire Regiment
- 1812 Appointed by Governor Dinsmoor as Captain of the Eleventh Regiment
- 1813 Appointed Major of the Fifth Infantry and served upon the Western Frontier
- 1814 married Elizabeth A. Pierce, daughter of Benjamin Pierce of Hillsborough, New Hampshire
- 1818 promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the First Regiment of Infantry
- 1824 promoted to the rank of Brigadier General
- 1826 promoted to the rank of Colonel
- 1829 appointed a Commissioner to negotiate treaties with the Winnebagoes and other Indians on the Western Frontier
- 1830-1850 Served as Surveyor for the District and Inspector of the Revenue for the Port of Boston
- 1842 Appointed as Justice of the Peace
- 1843 Appointed as Major General of the Third Division, New Hampshire Militia
- 1850 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

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Scope and Content Note

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:

Biography of Gen. John McNeil (unpublished - no bibliographic information available).

Browne, George Waldo. The History of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, 1735-1921. (Manchester, N.H.: John B. Clarke Co.), Vol. 2, 1922, pp. 393-394.

New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

JOHN McNEIL PAPERS

Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Correspondence. John McNeil. 1810-1813
	2	1814
	3	1815-1816
	4	1817-1818
	5	1819
	6	1820-1821
	7	1822-1823
	8	1824
	9	1825
	10	1826
	11	1827
	12	1828
	13	January-March 1829
	14	April-May 1829
	15	June 1829
	16	July 1829
	17	August-September 1829
	18	October-December 1829
	19	1830
	20	January-June 1831
	21	July-Dec 1831
2	1	Correspondence. John McNeil. January-March 1832
	2	April 1832
	3	May-June 1832
	4	July-October 1832
	5	November 1832
	6	December 1832
	7	January-May 1833
	8	June-December 1833
	9	1834
	10	January-March 1835
	11	April-May 1835
	12	1836
	13	January-June 1837
	14	July-December 1837
	15	January-June 1838
	16	July-December 1838
	17	January-July 1839
	18	August-December 1839
	19	January-April 1840
	20	May-November 1840
	21	1841

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	1	Correspondence. John McNeil. February-July 1842
	2	August-December 1842
	3	January-March 1843
	4	April-June 1843
	5	August-December 1843
	6	1844
	7	1845
	8	1846
	9	1847
	10	1848
	11	1850
	12	1851-1854
	13	Correspondence. John McNeil. Undated.
	14	Legal Documents. Deeds, Wills, Articles of Agreement, etc. 1816-1847
	15	Financial Documents. Bills, Receipts, Accounts, etc. 1815-1829
	16	1830-1858
	17	Military Reports 1814
	18	Military Charges. McNeil vs. Webb. 1826
	19	"Disposition of Officers Serving Under McNeil." 1826
	20	McNeil's Military Defense. Green Bay, Wisconsin. 1826
	21	Charges Brought Against Maj. John Bliss. 1827
	22	Talks concerning Indian Treaties. Green Bay, Wisconsin. 1828-1829
	23	Diary (including miscellaneous accounts) kept by Elizabeth Pierce McNeil. ca 1815-1825
	24	Miscellaneous. Undated

NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Manuscripts Section

SEPARATION RECORD

Acc. Number 1982-72 (0)

The following items have been removed from the collection: JOHN McNEIL PAPERS

Item	Disposition
1. Appointment of John McNeil as Ensign of the First Army, Twenty-Sixth N.H. Regiment. June 12, 1807. Signed by Governor John Langdon. Condition - poor	Transferred to oversize storage
2. Appointment of John McNeil as Lieutenant of the First Company in the Twenty Sixth N.H. Regiment. May 16, 1809. Signed by Governor John Langdon. Condition - good	Transferred to oversize storage
3. Appointment of John McNeil as Captain of a Company of Grenadiers in the Twenty-Sixth N.H. Regiment. June 11, 1810. Signed by Governor John Langdon. Condition - poor	Transferred to oversize storage
4. Appointment of John McNeil as Surveyor for the District of Boston and Charlestown and Inspector of the Revenue for the Port of Boston. Feb. 22, 1838. Signed by President Martin Van Buren. Condition - poor	Transferred to oversize storage
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	Transferred to oversize storage
6. Appointment of John McNeil as Major General of the Third Division, N.H. Militia. July 1, 1843. Signed by Governor Henry Hubbard. Condition - good	Transferred to oversize storage
7. Appointment of Benjamin P. McNeil as Division Inspector of the Third Division, N.H. Militia with the rank of Colonel. Aug. 26, 1845. Signed by Governor John H. Steele. Condition - fair	Transferred to oversize storage

NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Manuscripts Section

SEPARATION RECORD

Acc. Number 1982-72 (O)

The following items have been removed from the collection:

JOHN McNEIL PAPERS (contd.)

Item	Disposition
8. Appointment of John McNeil as Surveyor for the District and Inspector of the Revenue for the Port of Boston. February 26, 1846. Signed by President James K. Polk. Condition - fair	Transferred to oversize storage

New Hampshire Historical Society
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
Dalrymple, J.
Davis, David
Dean, J.
Dexter, Theodore
Eastburn, John H.
Eaton, J.A.
Eustis, 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.
Wolcott, 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