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**WILLIAM PATERSON COLLEGE**

**WILLIAM PATERSON PAPERS**

**FINDING AID**

This collection of William Paterson papers was purchased by the William Paterson College Alumni Association and donated to the College. Part of the estate of Edward J. Grassman of Elizabeth, New Jersey, the collection was obtained at auction in October 1978 at the Sotheby Parke Bernet Galleries in New York.

### Chronology

- 1745 Born in County Antrim, Ireland
- 1746 Family emigrates to America
- 1763 Graduates from the College of New Jersey (Princeton)
- 1764 Begins study of the law in the office of Richard Stockton
- 1766 Receives M. A. from college of New Jersey
- 1768 Admitted to the Bar
- 1769 Begins practice of law at New Bromley in Hunterdon County
- 1772 Moves to Princeton
- 1775 Attends New Jersey Provincial Congress
- 1776 Appointed Attorney General for New Jersey.
- 1779 Purchases farm near Raritan River – West of New Brunswick  
Marries Cornelia Bell
- 1783 Resigns as Attorney General. Resumes practice of law  
First wife dies.
- 1785 Marries Euphemia White
- 1787 Delegate to Federal Convention at Philadelphia. Urges adoption of plan for  
Equal representation of states in a unicameral legislature. Results in  
compromise bicameral plan.
- 1789. Attends first session of U.S. Senate as representative for New Jersey.
- 1791. Chosen governor of New Jersey upon death of William Livingston.

- 1792. Signs charter for the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures
- 1793. Appointed associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.  
Work involves “riding the circuits.”
- 1795. Presides over the trials of several individuals involved in the Whiskey Rebellion.
- 1799. Publishes Laws of New Jersey.
- 1806. Presides over trial of Samuel Ogden and William Smith.
- 1806. Dies at Albany and is buried there.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The William Paterson Papers, 1689-1841, primarily reflect the legal career of William Paterson (1745-1806), a prominent New Jersey attorney, senator, and governor who became an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. More than half of the collection is taken up with files of court cases with which Paterson was involved. The remainder contains some documentation of the Paterson family, materials relating to East/West Jersey proprietors, a broad miscellaneous section, and a number of New Jersey court docket books.

The bulk of the papers focus on the cases in which Paterson was involved, from the time of his appointment as the first attorney general for New Jersey (1776) through his tenure as an associate justice of the Supreme Court (1806). The State and County Court Cases, 1765-1791, include cases which were tried before the New Jersey Supreme Court as well as the courts of Oyer and Terminer, Assizes, Pleas, and Chancery in the countries of Essex, Somerset, Morris, Monmouth, Middlesex, and Hunterdon. Federal Court Cases, 1793-1803, include those in which Paterson was involved while on the United States Supreme Court, as well as cases brought before the circuit courts of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Georgia, New York, and Rhode Island. The latter cover a wide variety of issues from simple debt or trespass to grand larceny, high treason, and murder.

This collection contains none of Paterson's personal papers. However, some of his business correspondence together with various fragmentary legal notes for the years 1780-1805 may be found in the Paterson Family series. Also included are miscellaneous documents pertaining to other family members: Andrew Bell, William's brother-in-law from his first marriage to Cornelia; Richard Paterson, William's father; Euphemia, William's second wife; and William Bell Paterson, William's son by his first marriage.

The East/West Jersey Proprietors and Miscellaneous materials do not pertain as directly to the Paterson family as the first two series. The former includes surveys' certificates and legal documents of various land transactions. The latter includes a variety of materials dating from 1756-1805 which deal with the City of Perth Amboy, maritime trade and law. There are also a number of case files and personal papers which cannot be readily attributed to any member of the Paterson family during this period. By contrast, the Court Docket books for the counties of Somerset, Middlesex and Hunterdon (1782-1787) and the New Jersey Supreme Court (1781-1807) contain comprehensive record of many cases which were tried during the most active period in Paterson's career.

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

### 1. COURT CASES, 1765-1803

These files are arranged chronologically by date. Case notes, by far the most common type of document, precede all other papers in each case.

#### 1A. State and County Court Cases

June 4, 1765 – December 9, 1791

Years Missing: 1766 – 1773, 1775

Folders #1 – 115

In addition to case notes, these documents include pleas, extracts, indictments, bonds, petitions, warrants, opinions, receipts, correspondence, and other papers relative to specific cases. With only one case for the years 1765 and 1774 respectively, these records are concentrated between 1776 and 1791

#### 1B. Federal Court Cases

October Term 1793 – February Term 1803

Years Missing: 1794, 1801 – 1082

Folders #116 – 136

In addition to case notes, includes occasional statements, legal opinions and writs. This series also contains two cases which stemmed from the 1794 Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania.

### 2. PATERSON FAMILY, 1760-1841

These materials are arranged by family member and chronologically thereunder.

William Paterson

c. 1780 – January 17, 1805

Folders # 137 – 173

Includes business correspondence, bonds, a deed, an official commission signed by Paterson as Governor, and a large number of undated, fragmentary legal notes.

3. COURT DOCKET BOOKS, 1781 - 1807

6 volumes

Folders #241 – 246

County Court Dockets

October Term 1782 – February Term 1787

New Jersey Supreme Court Dockets

April Term 1781 – September Term 1807

Arranged chronologically by date. All include names of litigants, case notes, dates of trial and, occasionally, the names of attorneys and disposition of case. All are indexed by name with the exception of the first of the Supreme Court Docket books on the inside of the front cover (folder #244) The latter also lists the places where the Court met for the years 1778 - 1780.

## 1. COURT CASES, 1765 – 1802

### 1A. State and County Court Cases

1. McEowen et al. vs. Goff, June 4, 1765.
2. Denn vs. Salmon, October 6, 1774.
3. Supreme Court Extracts, November Term 1776.
4. State vs. Skinner, May 31, 1777.
5. Sussex Pleas and Sessions, August Term 1777.
6. Supreme Court Extracts, September Term 1777.
7. State vs. Willis and Keepers, October 31, 1777.
8. State vs. Smith, November 8, 1777.
9. Supreme Court Extracts, November Term 1777.
10. State vs. Wells, April 23, 1778.
11. Linn vs. Straight, January 1779.
12. State vs. Nicholson, April 5, 1779 and  
State vs. Hawkins, April 6, 1779.
13. Clawson vs. Winds, June 1779.
14. State vs. Cook, July 1779.
15. State vs. Curtis. July 1779
16. State vs. Fisher, July 1779
17. State. vs. Googet, July 1779.
18. State vs. White, July 1779.
19. State vs. DeCamp, August 18, 1779
20. State vs. Bewers, November 1779.
21. Bray vs. Clark et al, (c.1779).
22. State vs. Hooker, (c.1779).

23. State vs. VanHorn and Eddy, April Term 1780.
24. Supreme Court Extracts, April term 1780.
25. Supreme Court Extracts, May term 1780.
26. Jackson vs. Johnson, July 18, 1780.
27. Dennis vs. Covenhoven, September 1780.
28. State vs. Stephens, September 1780.
29. Supreme Court Extracts, September Term 1780.
30. Scott vs. Guest, 1780.
31. Clark vs. Brant, March 1781.
32. McEowen vs. Goff, April Term 1781.
33. Sussex Sessions Extracts, May term 1781.
34. Woodruff vs. Craig, June term 1781.
35. State vs. Campbell, July 1781.
36. State vs. Young et al, February 1782.
37. Neil vs. McMichael, June 1782.
38. Russell vs. Mount, July Term 1782 and  
Journey vs. Hooper, July Term 1782.
39. Bethlehem vs. Alexandria, August 1782.
40. Luydam, Luydam and Abrahams vs. Perrine, December 20, 1782.
41. State vs. Hay, December 1782.
42. Etten vs. Hornbeck and Aken, (c.1782).
43. Finley vs. Broadwell, January 28, 1783.
44. Middlesex Extracts, January term 1783.
45. Kelsey vs. McComb, March 23, 1783.
46. Middlesex Extracts, April term 1783.

47. Buckaleu vs. Anderson, July Term 1783.
48. Clarkson vs. French, August 21, 1783.
49. Hillwell and Taylor vs. Taylor, October Term 1783.
50. Taylor vs. Kennedy and McCollough, November Term 1783.
51. Mead vs. DeKlyn, 1783.
52. Caywood vs. Bennet, January 1784.
53. Skillman vs. Schenck, April Term 1784.
54. Bowlsky vs. Gooley, May Term 1784.
55. Covenhoven vs. VanderHoof et ux, July term 1784.
56. Maxwell vs. Beatty, (c.1784).
57. Middlesex Extracts, (c.1784)
58. Middlesex Extracts, January Term 1785.
59. Sebring vs. Lewis and Lewis, January 1785
60. Beatty vs. Appleton, February Term 1785
61. Ludlum vs. Liddel, April Term 1785.
62. Logan, Beach and Stiles vs. Bright and Woodruff, June 12, 1785.
63. Nielson vs. Symmes, July 27, 1785.
64. Tone vs. Brown, July Term 1785.
65. Woodward and Woodward vs. Corlers, July 1785.
66. Thompson vs. Potts and Downing, September Term 1785.
67. Lutson vs. Phoenix, October Term 1785.
68. Gram vs. Hale and Carter, (c.1785).
69. Duychinick and Parker vs. Heirs of Beckman, January 1786.
70. Perrine vs. Thomas, April Term 1786.

71. Major vs. Denn, July 18, 1786.
72. Middlesex Extracts, July Term 1786.
73. Cooper vs. Brewer, July 1786.
74. Middlesex Extracts, October Term 1786.
75. Alvey vs. Burton, October 1786.
76. Bright and Woodruff vs. Logan, Beach and Stiles, 1786.
77. Lyel vs. Tingley, 1786.
78. Hendrickson vs. Grover, (c. 1786).
79. Schenk vs. Abeel, (c.1786).
80. Rhea vs. Mott, January 12, 1787.
81. Wieser vs. Wieser, January Term 1787.
82. Brown vs. Throckmorton, January 1787.
83. Morris and Morris vs. Oliver, (March 28, 1787).
84. DeMott vs. Voorheese, October Term 1787.
85. McEvers vs. Thompson, November 20, 1787.
86. Hendry et ux vs. Tucker, November Term 1787.
87. Middlesex Extracts, (c.1787).
88. Gillam vs. Schuyler, February 1788.
89. Halsted vs. Hedley, February 1788.
90. Smally vs. Lasey, February 1788.
91. Wade vs. Smith, February 1788.
92. Supreme Court Extracts, April Term 1788.
93. Middlesex Extracts, July Term 1788.
94. Lewen vs. Heirs of Hyler, September 12, 1788.

95. Hunt, Anson vs. Assignees of Leonard, November Term 1788.
96. Hummel vs. State, November 1788.
97. Taylor, Taylor, and Negro Tom vs. State, January 31, 1789.
98. Middlesex Extracts, January Term 1789.
99. Middlesex Extracts, April Term 1789.
100. Denn vs. Warden, July 1789.
101. Pickle et al., vs. Kuntz et ux, August 1790.
102. Wallis and Bartlett vs. Executors of Taylor, (c.1790).
103. Pidgeon vs. Neweld and Coxe, December 9, 1791.
104. Comb and Heirs vs. Livingston, n.d.
105. Dunn vs. Patterson, n.d.
106. Embree vs. Pitman, n.d.
107. Hoops vs. Quick, n.d.
108. Penier vs. Ely, n.d.
109. Smock vs. Luydan, n.d.
110. State vs. Brown et al, n.d.
111. State vs. Pomeroy, n.d.
112. Titen vs. Cupman, n.d.
113. Van Winkle et al. vs. Van Dyke et al, n.d.
114. Wilson vs. (Lennon or Lennox) and Maitland, n.d.
115. Miscellaneous Case Extracts.

## 2.B. Federal Court Cases

116. Harvey vs. Harvey, October Term 1793.
117. Oswald vs. State of New York, February 5, 1795.

118. Penhallow et al. vs. Doane, February 1795.
119. United States vs. Miller, June 1, 1795.
120. United States vs. Philson and Husbands, June 3, 1795.
121. Lessee of Matthias Bordly bs. Houghy et al, June 1795.
122. Pintado vs. Ship “San Joseph,” (c.1795).
123. Olney vs. Arnold and Dexter, March 2 and 11, 1796.
124. Ship “Elizabeth”, Hills, May and Woodbridge vs. Ross, August 5, 1796.
125. Cotton vs. Wallace, August 1796.
126. Leize vs. Banteille and Theric, October 1796.
127. Delcol et al. vs. Arnold, 1796.
128. Hammond vs. Harris, (c. 1797).
129. Jones vs. Letombe, February 1798.
130. deCaro Enville vs. Turner, August term 1799.
131. Little et al. vs. Brigantine “Flying Fish,” (c. 1799).
132. Abercrombie vs. DePuis, April term 1800.
133. Bray vs. West, (c. 1800).
134. Jameson vs. Thompson, February 1803.
135. Hollingsworth vs. Sheftelb, n.d.
136. McDonald vs. United States, n.d.

## 2. PATERSON FAMILY, 1760 – 1841

### William Paterson

137. (c.1780), (notes).
138. June 1781 – January Term 1782, Court Financial Records.

139. February 3, 1787, Correspondence Rec'd.
140. March 26, 1787, Bond.
141. March 29, 1787, Mortgage.
142. (April 24, 1787), Correspondence Rec'd.
143. November 23, 1787, Correspondence Rec'd.
144. June 26, 1788, Correspondence and Bond Rec'd.
145. June 27, 1788, Correspondence Rec'd.
146. June 28, 1788, Bond.
147. June 28, 1788, Correspondence Rec'd.
148. June 29, 1788, Correspondence Rec'd.
149. July 1, 1788, Deed.
150. July 1, (July 25) 1788, Correspondence Sent.
151. July 15, 1788, Correspondence Rec'd.
152. July 15 1788, Correspondence Rec'd.
153. July 15, 1788, Correspondence Rec'd.
154. July 16, 1788, Correspondence Rec'd.
155. July 30, 1788, Correspondence Rec'd,
156. November 24, 1791, Commission.
157. December 1, 1792, Bond.
158. July 15 and 16, 1794, (Notes).
159. (c. 1794), (Notes).
160. January 27, 1802, (Note)
161. January 17, 1805, Correspondence Sent.
- 162 – 173. n.d. (Notes).

## Andrew Bell

- 174. April 19, 1791, Subscription List.
- 175. March 15, 1797, Conditions of Sale.
- 176. April 4, 1800, (Oath of Office).
- 177. November 3, 1801, Land Survey.
- 178. February 2, 1802, Land Survey.
- 179. February 26, 1810, Articles of Agreement
- 180. March 13, 1823, Subscription List.
- 181. November 12, 1828, (Certificate).
- 182. March 11, 1840, Correspondence Rec'd.

## Other Family Members

### Richard Paterson

- 183. January 19, 1760, Bill of Approval.
- 184. 1760-1761, (Accounts).
- 185. 1765-1766, (Accounts).

### Euphemia Paterson

- 186. April 1, 1811, Deed.
- 187. November 1820, Memorandum Rec'd.

### Edward Paterson

- 188. N.d. (Name Index).

### William Bell Paterson

- 189. (c. 1808), Essay.
- 190. December 15, 1841, Correspondence Sent.

### 3. EAST /WEST JERSEY PROPRIETORS, 1689 –ca . 1804

191. Record Book of Daniel Coxe, 1689-1717.
192. Legal Briefs for Sir Robert Barker and Israel Pemberton
193. Land Survey Records, January-September 1790.
194. Land Survey List, February 17 – April 12, 1790.
195. Memorandum to Joseph Taylor, August 12, 1791.
196. Land Survey for Mr. Richard Stevens, August 15, 1791.
197. Land Survey for the Heirs of James Lawrence, September 1791.
198. Land Survey for David Cobb, (c. 1791).
199. Land Survey for Delancy and Cuyler, (c. 1791).
200. Land Survey for the Earl of Perth, (c. 1791)
201. Land Survey for William Gibson, (c. 1791)
202. Land Survey for Heatshorne, (c. 1791).
203. Land Survey for Pierson and Nutman, (c. 1791).
204. Land Survey for Jos. Sharp, (c. 1791).
205. Land Survey for the Heirs of M. Kearney, April 1795.
206. Proprietary Rights of Reverend Kearny, (c. 1795).
207. Correspondence, Joseph Taylor to Samuel Ogden, May 10, 1799.
208. Land Survey, (c. 1804).
209. Land Survey, n.d.
210. Land Survey, n.d.

### 4. MISCELLANEOUS, 1756 – 1805

211. Will of Benjamin Gibbins, April 1, 1756,
212. Bond, Goff to McEowen, June 1761.

213. Receipt Book of Court Fees, Miscellaneous Collected Legal Fees, Chancery Fees, 1763-1792.
214. Accounts of John Halsted, 1768-1771
215. Accounts of Colin Drummond, 1768-1785.
216. Power of Attorney, Burke et al to Burke, July 17, 1770.
217. Articles of Agreement with Joseph Sharp, November 26, 1770.
218. Will of Jonathan Gibbins, January 8, 1774-March 6, 1775.
219. Accounts of John Cooshin, April 12, 1777.
220. Loan, Beaty and Maxwell, 1779-1801.
221. Depositions for will of Dr. William Sandford Van Imburgh, October 31, 1779
222. Correspondence, deClonard to De La Villibrune, February 5, 1782.
223. List, Drowned Passengers of the “Ann Transport”, September 16, 1785.
224. Announcement from Thomas James, August 28, 1786.
225. Ordinance, City of Perth Amboy, May 1790.
226. Voucher, Letombe to Swan, October 11, 1796.
227. Rules of Practice in Federal Circuit Court, November 4, 1796.
228. Statement, Collector’s Office, Perth Amboy to Oliver Wolcott, January 24, 1798.
229. Surrender of License, Sloop “New Jersey”, March 13, 1798.
230. Receipts and Statement, Van Winkle vs. Parker, May 1798 – 1799.
231. Rich. Poe Notes, Porter vs. Joy, (c. 1798).
232. Certification of Joseph Wright, April 25, 1800.
233. Case Notes Peyton vs. Brooke, February 27, 1805.
234. List of Accounts, n.d.
235. Court of Admiralty Fees, n.d.

- 236. Estate Inventory, n.d.
- 237. Household Inventory, n.d.
- 238. Draft, n.d.
- 239. Ordinance, Perth Amboy, n.d.
- 240. Ordinance, Perth Amboy, n.d.

#### 4. COURT DOCKET BOOKS, 1781-1807

##### County Court Dockets

- 241. October Term 1782 – January term 1786, Somerset, Docket No. 3.
- 242. April term 1783 – January Term 1790, Middlesex, Docket No. 3.
- 243. October term 1783 - February term 1787, Hunterdon, Docket No. 4.

##### New Jersey Supreme Court Dockets

- 244. April Term 1781 – April Term 1783, Docket No, 3.
- 245. May Term 1783 – September Term 1785, Docket No. 4
- 246. May Term 1789 – September Term 1807.
- 247. Unidentified Medical Record Book, 1757-1765.

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1765 – 1803

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