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#1550

JOHN GREIG. PAPERS, 1794-
1870. GUIDE

PROD Archival LON NYCV85-A440 Search NYCV-NIC
EIN ID NYCV85-A440 - 1 record in AMC
+
Greig, John, 1779-1858.
Papers, 1794-1870.
18 reels positive, 18 reels negative microfilm.

Land agent, lawyer. John Greig was a land speculator prominent in the economic development of western New York State.

PROD Archival LON NYCV85-A440 Search NYCV-NIC
Record 1 of 1
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Summary: Correspondence; accounts of purchases, payments, and unsold lands; surveys; tax receipts, contracts, notes, bonds, deeds, powers of attorney; and maps and field notes of the New York Military Tract and city lots of Rochester and Ontario County, New York. Papers relating to Greig's land interests include material on the Chenango Triangle, the Hornby Estate, the New York Military Tract, Cottringer Tract, Ogden Tract, and Pulteney Estate. Documenting his activities as a promoter of internal improvements are materials on the Charlotte to Rochester Railroad, Erie Canal, Rochester and Carthage Railroad, Rochester and Ontario Plank Road, Sodus Canal Association, and the Sodus Land Company. Also included is miscellaneous material on local history, papers concerning the settlement of Greig's estate, and extensive correspondence and other papers of family members and friends in the United States, Scotland and England discussing American political and economic issues and internal British politics. Correspondents include Thomas Morris, John and Eunice Tryon, John and John L. Phelps, Joseph Fellows, Elias Kane, Eliza Greig, Alexander Greig, Alexander Duncan, George W. Kirkland, John Rankine, and William Jeffrey.

Indexes: Microfilm index.

Described in REPORT OF THE CURATOR AND ARCHIVIST, 1954-58.

Cite as: John Greig. Papers, #1550. Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Libraries.

PROD Archival LON NYCV85-A440 Search NYCV-NIC
Record 1 of 1

1. Duncan, Alexander. 2. Fellows, Joseph. 3. Greig, Alexander. 4. Greig, Eliza. 5. Jeffrey, William. 6. Kane, Elias. 7. Kirkland, George. 8. Morris, Thomas. 9. Phelps, John. 10. Phelps, John L. 11. Rankine, John. 12. Tryon, Eunice. 13. Tryon, John. 14. Charlotte to Rochester Railroad. 15. Rochester and Carthage Railroad. 16. Rochester and Ontario Plank Road. 17. Sodus Canal Association. 18. Sodus Land Company. 19. Canals--New York. 20. Railroads--New York. 21. Roads--New York. 22. Land companies. 23. Land use--Economic aspects. 24. Real estate development. 25. Real property, Exchange of. 26. Speculation. 27. England--Politics and government. 28. Scotland--Politics and government. 29. United States--Politics and government. 30. Rochester (N.Y.) 31. Ontario County (N.Y.) 32. Erie Canal. 33. Sodus Canal. 34. Deeds. 35. Maps. 36. Surveys. 37. Military Tract (New York) 38. Chenango Triangle (New York) 39. Cottringer Tract (New York) 40. Hornby Estate (New York) 41. Ogden Tract (New York) 42. Pulteney Estate (New York)

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Reading Room copy - 16mm *Filed copy*

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1550

John Greig Letters, Papers, and Records,
1794-1870

18 rolls microfilm (negative)
and 18 rolls (positive)

Roll # 1-- Folder 1, 1803-1804 through Folder 30, 1826

*1-- Card File Index for papers, Abby - Jane Greig, Inc.

2-- Folder 31, 1826 through Folder 57, 1830

*2-- Card File Index for papers, John Greig - Sy-Sy, Inc.

3-- Folder 58, 1830 through Folder 82, 1835

*3-- Card File Index for papers, Ta-Th - Z

4-- Folder 83, 1835 through Folder 103, 1839

5-- Folder 104, 1839 through Folder 125, 1842

6-- Folder 126, 1842 through Folder 152, 1845

7-- Folder 153, 1845 through Folder 173, 1847

8-- Folder 174, 1847 through Folder 192, 1850

9-- Folder 193, 1850 through Folder 210, 1852

10-- Folder 211, 1852 through Folder 238, 1864

11-- Folder 239, 1865 through Folder 18A, T. Morris, 1825-1826
Pulteney

12-- Folder 19A (1827-1849) through Folder 1G, ~~Estates~~ Estate, 1810, 1820-21
Pulteney

13-- Folder 1G, ~~Estates~~ Estate, 1810, 1820-1821 through Folder 5N, John
Rankine, 1873

14-- Folder 6C, John Rankine, 1874-75 through Folder 140, 1865

15-- Folder 15-0, 1866 thru Folder 17-0, 1867-1870

* INDEX

Donated by certain Cornell Alumni from Rochester, N.Y. [see correspondence
for details] December 1954

In microfilm cabinet

Card entries ✓
Donor card
Ack. sent

Tracer in corres. file
Des. for report ✓
Mailing list

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Greig (John) Papers (1794-1870)

1550

Microfilm copies (11½ rolls) of the papers of John Greig (b. 1779 - d. 1858), a Canandaigua lawyer, land agent and speculator, prominent in the economic development of western New York, relating to his activities as land agent and land owner, to his other business activities, to his role as an internal improvements promoter, to the settlement of his estate, and to his family affairs; consist of letters from agents, clients, business associates, settlers, friends, and relatives; deeds, bonds, notes, contracts; tax receipts, surveys, powers of attorney; accounts of purchases, payments; unsold lands; and other papers. (Accompanying these papers is an index (3 rolls microfilm). For a detailed description of the contents of the papers and for an explanation of the card index and the layout of the microfilm, please ask to consult notes on file in office of Assistant Curator.

Card entries:

Adams, John C.	Phelps, Oliver
Adams, William	Rees, Charles
Astor, John Jacob	Remsen, Henry
Biddle, William	Richardson, John
Bishop, John	Sanger, Jedediah
Bruce, John	Sibley, Mark H.
Calhoun, John C.	Troup, Robert
Clinton, DeWitt	Tryon, John
Duncan, Alexander	Walsh, James
Dyer, Moses	<u>Wells, Walter</u>
Fellows, Joseph	Associationists (New York) <i>cross ref. to Fourierites</i>
Fisk, John	Attica and Hornellsville Railroad <i>be loco</i>
Fitzsimmons, Thomas	Buffalo, Corning and New York Railroad
Frost, Alonzo	Canandaigua and Corning Railroad
Granger, John Francis, 1792-1868 <i>KJ, 467</i>	Charlotte and Rochester Railroad
Greig, Alexander (Scot.)	Cottringer Tract (New York)
Greig, Alexander (U. S.)	Erie Canal
Greig, Eliza	Fourierites (Wayne County, New York)
Greig, James	<u>German Evangelical Lutheran Church (Albany)</u>
Greig, John (estate of)	Greig Tract (Rochester, New York)
Hallet, Jacob	Hornby Estate
Howland, Humphrey	Jefferson and Elmira Railroad
Hubbell, Levi	Military Tract (New York State)
Jameson, John	Morrisville Estate (Philadelphia)
Jeffrey, William	Ogden Tract (New York)
Johnson, A. B.	Ontario Plank Road (New York)
Johnstone, Sir John (estate of)	Pulteney Estate
Kane, Elisha	Rochester and Carthage Railroad
Kane, John K.	Shaker Tract (Wayne County, New York)
Kennedy, D. S.	Sodus Canal
Little, Norman	Sodus Land Company
McCay, W. W.	Whigs (New York State)
Macdowell, E. C.	Albany County (Albany city lots)
Martin, H. H.	Canada (economic development)
Morris, Thomas	Cayuga County
Ogden, J. E.	Chenango Triangle

Cortland County
England (condition of, 1825-57)
Michigan (lands)
Monroe County (Penfield)
Monroe County (Rochester)
Monroe County (Webster)
Ohio (lands)
Onondaga County
Ontario County (Canandaigua)
Ontario County (Geneva)
Wayne County (New York)
Scotland
Seneca County
Steuben County (Bath)
Agriculture (New York)
Anti-rent Movement
Banking (New York City)
Churches
Education (New York State)
Education (textbooks)
Insurance (New York)
Land (New York State)
Lumber trade
Medicine
Oregon question (1846)
Railroads (New York State)
Religion (New York State, 1840's)
Slavery (1846).

General Notes on the John Greig Papers -
Also Known as the Skivington Collection

The collection consists of fifteen rolls of microfilm, in addition to three rolls which contain a microfilm copy of the original card file index to the Collection.

The great bulk of the collection consists of the letters, papers, and records of John Greig which occupy eleven and-a-half rolls. The remaining three and-a-half rolls (rolls twelve through fifteen) consist of the letters, papers and records of the following persons:

1. Letters, papers and records of Thomas Morris, 1790-1848.
2. Letters, papers and records of John and Eunice Tryon, 1790-1819.
3. Letters, papers and records of John Phelps and John L. Phelps, 1790-1838.
4. Letters, papers and records of Joseph Fellows, 1828-1868.
5. Letters, papers and records of Elias Kane, 1791-1817.
6. Papers relating to the Pulteney Estate, 1810-1821.
7. Letters of Eliza Greig to John Greig.
8. Letters, papers, and records of Alexander Greig, 1825-1866.
9. Letters, papers, and records of Alexander Duncan, 1830-1877.
10. Letters, papers, and records of Chapins, 1791-1862.
11. Letters, papers, and records of George W. Kirkland, 1784-1797.
12. Letters, papers, and records of John Rankine, 1867-1879.
13. Letters, papers, and records of William Jeffrey, 1841-1870.

Reel 13

In addition to the letters, papers, and records noted above, the collection contains: *Reel 13*

1. Maps and Field Notes: Military Tract, City Lots, Ontario County, and Rochester.
2. Pioneer History of Sodus Point by Isabella Cook (1915).
3. Arthur C. Parker, "Charles Williamson, Builder of the Genesee Country," Rochester Municipal Museum, Vol. VI, 1927.
4. History of the Greig House: Papers relating.
5. Albert Granger, A History of Early Canadaigua.
6. M. H. Hamilton. A Leaf From the Past: Some Memoirs of Greig Hall, (1896.)
7. Booklets on the Greig House and Miscellaneous Clippings.

All of the above appear on rolls ^{TWELVE} ~~thirteen~~ through ^{FIFTEEN} ~~sixteen~~.

The card index, which occupies three rolls, not including the fifteen which contain the Skivington Collection, is actually a fairly elaborate calendar to the papers, containing references to subjects, persons, places, firms, etc. The index is, of course, alphabetically arranged, but within a particular subject, for instance, the cards are arranged chronologically.

Each card contains the date of the item, a brief precis of its contents, if it is important, and the file number. The collection was microfilmed just as it appeared in the original collection. That is, it is arranged on the basis of a numbered filing system. Thus, a card reference to a file number can be readily located by referring to the appropriate roll which contains that file. The roll can be determined by referring to the boxes which contain the rolls, each indicating which folders are contained on the roll inside the box. The card index also indicates whether the particular item is a letter or an account, etc.

The papers occasionally are not arranged in precise order, so that pages of a letter may not be all together, but are separated by a frame or two containing some other document. This occurs infrequently, however, and by doing a little searching among the adjacent frames, the continuity can be regained.

The letters, papers, and records of the persons listed above are actually subsidiary to and related to the larger collection of the Greig papers. All of the persons listed above were connected with Greig either as a member of the family or a business associate or employee.

John Greig Papers - Skivington Collection (1794-1870)

Microfilm: 11½ Rolls

The papers of John Greig (b. 1779-d. 1858), a highly successful Canandaigua lawyer, land agent and speculator, prominent in the economic development of western New York, consists of deeds, receipts, agreements, letters, and accounts relating to Greig's activities as land agent and land owner, as well as papers concerning Greig's estate, his other varied business interests in New York, and correspondence (of a personal nature) with family and friends. Born in Scotland, Greig came to America, settling in Canandaigua in 1800, studying law under Nathaniel Howell whose partner he became and remained until 1820. Though he served in Congress one term and was politically a Whig, Greig was primarily concerned with his various business interests, leaving an estate of considerable size when he died. The bulk of the Greig papers relate to his activities as land owner and land agent, and most of the material covers the period 1830-1858.

Greig's land interests were scattered throughout New York but centered chiefly in Wayne, Monroe, Livingston, Schuyler, Genesee, and Ontario counties, as well as in Albany, Rochester, and Philadelphia. Materials pertaining to Greig's activities as a land agent and owner include contracts, notes, bonds and deeds; accounts of purchases, payments, unsold lands; tax receipts; surveys; powers of attorney; letters from settlers; letters from Greig's agents; letters from Greig's clients and business associates.

The collection contains loose accounts of Greig's business venture, running largely from 1834-1879 (these appear most regularly for the 1850's), covering "Lists of Bonds, Mortgages, and Notes," "Unsold Lands," "Statements of Property Belonging to John Greig," "Lists of Personal Property," "Lists of

Contracts and Debts Due;" papers relating to Greig's Albany lots, including their acquisition from Thomas Morris, correspondence with H. H. Martin (1845-1858), Greig's Albany agent, land taxes, and other correspondence relating to the sale of the Albany lots; papers relating to the Greig Tract in Rochester, his lands at the mouth of the Genesee River, and his Salt Farm and Ridge Farm, his correspondence with his Rochester agent, Alonzo Frost (1839-1877), founder of the Genesee Valley Nursery; correspondence with Walter Wells, Greig's agent at Webster and Penfield, containing material on farming, agricultural conditions, land sales, and payments, (1834-1852); accounts and letters concerning Greig's five-sixteenth interest in the Morrisville Estate, Philadelphia, including his correspondence with William I. Biddle (1838-1853), and Judge John K. Kane (1844-1857), his Philadelphia agents; correspondence with Charles Rees (1840-1850), Greig's agent for the Shaker Tract in Wayne county; correspondence with William Jeffrey (1844-1857) whom Greig employed at his office in Canandaigua, and who kept Greig informed of details of the business, payments, and every-day affairs when Greig was away from Canandaigua; papers relating to the Sodus Land Company (see below, the Sodus Canal), the Sodus Canal Association, including correspondence with Alexander Duncan, a Providence, R.I., lawyer who held an interest in the Sodus lands, William Adams, of Lyons, who was involved in the Sodus Land Company and later sought to purchase the lands from Greig, Duncan, and Joseph Fellows, who also held an interest; papers relating to the Shaker tract, including correspondence with Duncan, Fellows, Adams, and William Hunter, relating to the sale of the tract to the Fourierites; papers relating to the Pulteney Purchase, including correspondence with Joseph Fellows, the Pulteney Agent (1817-1869), at Geneva, particularly with reference to payments, agricultural conditions, and the anti-rent movement; a memorandum of agreement with John Jacob Astor, Joseph Fellows, Robert Troup and Greig for the negotiation by Greig of the purchase of the Pulteney estate from the trustees of the estate of Sir John Johnstone (April 10, 1817); papers relating to the Hornby Estate and the Chenango Triangle, including correspondence with Greig's agent, W. W. McCay of Bath (1832-1852); papers relating to the Cottringer Tract and the Ogden Tract; papers relating to the lands of Thomas Morris, whose agent Greig was from 1800-1826, including accounts, deeds, and records pertaining to the New York Military Tract where Morris owned over ten thousand acres in Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, and Cortland counties; correspondence with John Richardson of Scipio, another of Morris' agents in the tract itself, and other correspondence with Morris relating to the policy to be pursued in the tract, correspondence relating to title disputes and sales of land; Morris' release to Greig of his lands in Albany and central and western New York (March 2, 1827); correspondence with Henry Remsen, President of the Manhattan Bank (1805-1816) concerning land Remsen obtained from Oliver Phelps upon the latter's default on a loan, and the subsequent discovery that the lands were encumbered by the state of Connecticut; correspondence concerning the Ohio lands of the Estate of John Tryon, located in Fayette, Warren, Clermont, Franklin, Logan, Champaign and Clinton counties, with John Tryon, Eunice Taylor, August Griswold, all of Boyle, John Jameson of Richmond, Virginia, and John Armstrong of England, relating to the settling of the properties, their division and sale, (1808-1832); correspondence with Thomas Fitzimmons relating to the collection of rents and the payment of taxes on his Mount Morris lands (1806-1807).

In addition to the general accounts of Greig's business ventures listed above, are letters of Administration and accounts of the Estate of John Greig, kept by William Jeffrey (1858-1868), and by John G. Johnson in account with John Rankine, executor of Greig's estate following Jeffrey's death (1868-1879).

Closely related to his land papers are materials reflecting Greig's interest in various enterprises connected with the development of western New York. Chief of these are the papers relating to the construction of the Sodus Canal, the Sodus Land Association, and the Sodus Canal Company of which Greig was President and Alexander Duncan, Treasurer. These include correspondence with Alexander Duncan, William Adams, Joseph Fellows, Humphrey Howland, Mark Sibley, and Levi Hubbel, covering the financing of the Canal, its construction, the minutes of the Board of Canal Commissioners (1837), the progress of the Canal, the accounts of the enterprise, minutes of a meeting of the Sodus Land Association (January 3, 1849), an agreement eliminating the interests of Humphrey Howland and Levi Hubbel (October 21, 1841). These papers cover the period from 1831-1841 after which a gap appears, until 1850 when correspondence is resumed with William Adams, Joseph Fellows and Alexander Duncan. Adams attempted to gain a renewal of the Sodus Canal charter from the state and to negotiate the purchase of the Sodus lands from the other persons holding interests.

Greig was involved in a number of other internal improvement ventures, his papers containing correspondence with John Fisk, concerning the Rochester and Ontario Plank Road (April, 1852); a circular soliciting subscriptions for the Canandaigua and Elmira railroad; an anonymous address to the "capitalists of Canandaigua" respecting the proposed construction of the Jefferson and Elmira, Canandaigua and Corning, and Attica and Hornellsville railroads, (August 14, 1845); correspondence with J. Eaton, John Thompson, and Alonzo Frost concerning the Charlotte to Rochester Railroad; accounts and correspondence concerning the Rochester and Carthage railroad; a right of way granted to the Buffalo, Corning, and New York Railroad (1852); a letter from De Witt Clinton (December 17, 1813) soliciting a donation of land from the Hornby Estate for the construction of the Erie Canal, and Greig's reply (January 15, 1814). Greig was also involved in the lumber business and his papers contain his correspondence with Moses Dyer of Rochester (1828-1841), and accounts, bills, and receipts for the business.

Miscellaneous materials relating to Greig's varied business interests include a letter from Norman Little, New York (December 8, 1848) attempting to induce Greig to loan him \$20,000 to purchase 50,000 acres of Michigan land; a power of attorney from John Mills, an Edinburg merchant, authorizing Greig to collect a debt from Alexander Scott of New York (April 28, 1829); correspondence with Lawrence Lewis of Philadelphia, concerning settlement of the Higbee estate (February 13, 1830); correspondence with D. S. Kennedy of New York concerning banking conditions and opportunities for investing in mortgages (November 2, 1843 and passim).

In addition to materials relating to Greig's activities as land agent, land owner, lawyer and internal improvements promoter, there is an extensive personal correspondence between Greig and various members of his family residing in England and Scotland, which he revisited many times, and with his relations and friends in Europe and America. His family correspondence includes letters from Eliza Greig, Greig's mother, Eliza Greig, his sister, (1833-1850); Alexander Greig of Edinburgh, his brother (1825-1857); Alexander Greig of New York and New Orleans (1837-1866). This family correspondence is largely of a personal nature, relating mostly to the health and welfare of the family and their friends, their day-to-day doings though there are passing references to political and economic conditions in Britain, the Reform bill, and immigration. The correspondence of Alexander Greig, New York and New Orleans, relates partly to his experience as a medical student in New York, and later to his practice in New Orleans and the old northwest.

Thomas Morris, whose agent Greig was for many years, maintained an extensive correspondence with Greig, even after they no longer retained important business connections. This correspondence, (1826-1846) beginning in 1826 when Morris was unable to repay a loan Greig made to him, follows Morris through innumerable requests for additional funds, Morris' varied personal financial difficulties, his position at the New York Customs House; his suit against Thomas Nixon, with a long and detailed account of its progress over the years until the case reaches the Supreme Court, Occasionally the correspondence touches on political and economic matters. There is a smaller correspondence between Greig and Morris' wife, Sally.

A less extensive series of letters includes correspondence with Robert Troup (1826-1831) relating to political events, including the tariff, the National Bank, Indians*, anti-masonry, and President Jackson, and others; a series of letters from John Granger, a Congressman, relating to petty life in Washington, the size of the army, and the Oregon question (1842-1846); a letter from Levi Hubbel supporting Greig's candidacy for Congress; a number of letters from William Adams soliciting support for his candidacy to the legislature (1841-1842); correspondence with Alexander Duncan of Providence including an account of Dorr's rebellion, (1842), as well as discussions of political and economic activity in general, a description of Duncan's trip to Geneseo, Avon, and the Wadsworth estate (1842-1855); a series of letters from European associates including John Bruce, London, on internal British politics (1825-1857); Charles Stewart, Hillside, England, discussing business affairs, crops in England and American grain (1847); E. G. MacDowell relating to the Crimean war, domestic strikes, and emigration (1853-1857); J. E. Ogden, of Canada discussing the lack of economic development of Canada, (February 2, 1848); a series of undated letters from William Jeffrey, Alexander Duncan, and Greig's foreign correspondents.

* Georgia and the Cherokee Indians - see Troup card in file KJ "174