

A1835

Benjamin Clapp (1790-1849) Papers, 1811-1970

4 items

Processed by Dennis Northcott, September 2003

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

P.O. Box 11940

St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

314-746-4510

archives@mohistory.org

DONOR INFORMATION

Papers were donated by John McKittrick in May 1970.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benjamin Clapp was born in New York in 1790. In 1811, he sailed from New York as part of the Astorian expedition. He was involved for many years with John Jacob Astor's China trade, and during the War of 1812 he served as a midshipman in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific. Working for the American Fur Company and at times as an independent fur trader, Clapp traveled extensively, spending time in the West Indies, the Great Lakes region, and New York City. In the late 1830s, he settled in St. Louis where he was connected with the western American Fur Company. He died June 24, 1849, in St. Louis.

For additional biographical information on Benjamin Clapp, see the following articles in the *Washington Historical Quarterly*:

Volume XXI, No. 1 (January 1930), pages 13-17

Volume XXV, No. 2 (April 1934), pages 108-113

Volume XXVI, No. 1 (January 1935), pages 26-29

See also Benjamin Clapp's obituary in the *St. Louis Weekly Reveille*, July 2, 1849.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains the following four items:

Typescript copy of diary of Benjamin Clapp, dated 1811-1821, which contains accounts of his travels as a fur trader in the China trade and his experiences in the U.S. Navy during the War of 1812, including an account of being a victim of a mutiny (40 pages).

Undated mimeographed memorial sketch of Benjamin Clapp (2 pages).

Military pass granting John McKittrick permission to travel from St. Louis to Illinois, dated November 8, 1861.

Typescript genealogical notes on the Clapp and Kennett families, compiled by John McKittrick, March 12, 1970 (3 pages).

This collection was transferred from the Journals and Diaries Collection, September 2003.