

2015

# William Dunbar Papers

Archivists  
*Ouachita Baptist University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/finding\\_aids](http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/finding_aids)

 Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Cataloging and Metadata Commons](#), and the [Collection Development and Management Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

William Dunbar Papers. Ouachita Baptist University Collection. Riley-Hickingbotham Special Collections. Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Guides and Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

# William Dunbar papers

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 07, 2017

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Ouachita Baptist University Library

410 Ouachita Street

Box 3742

Arkadelphia, Arkansas, 71998

870.245.5332

[richterw@obu.edu](mailto:richterw@obu.edu)

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical Note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	6
<u>Journal</u> .....	6
<u>Correspondence</u> .....	6
<u>Legal</u> .....	9
<u>Family history documents</u> .....	9
<u>Miscellaneous</u> .....	10
<u>Photograph</u> .....	10
<u>Artifacts</u> .....	10
<u>Printed material</u> .....	10
<u>Exhibit material</u> .....	10

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Ouachita Baptist University Library
<b>Title</b>	William Dunbar papers
<b>Date</b>	1775-1919
<b>Extent</b>	2.0 Cubic feet 2 archive boxes, 2 flat archive boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

William Dunbar Papers. Riley-Hickingbotham Library Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

## **Biographical/Historical Note**

---

Most Americans have heard the story of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery sent by Thomas Jefferson to explore the new Louisiana Purchase area from 1804 to 1806. What most people do not realize is that Jefferson also commissioned a second expedition to explore the southern areas of that new frontier. The president asked William Dunbar, a Mississippi planter/scientist/surveyor, and George Hunter, a Philadelphia chemist/apothecary, to lead that expedition on the Red, Black, and Ouachita Rivers up to the hot springs. The two men and their crew mapped, described flora and fauna, tested the waters of the Hot Springs area, and sent Thomas Jefferson the first report on the huge territory that had just been purchased from France.

---

## **Scope and Contents**

---

The journal in this collection was digitally reproduced from the one carried by Dunbar on the Dunbar-Hunter exploration of the Ouachita River. Also included are copies of family correspondence, and other materials related to the Dunbar family and their Natchez, Mississippi, plantation, "The Forest."

---

## **Administrative Information**

---

### **Publication Information**

Ouachita Baptist University Library

### **Conditions Governing Access**

These materials are available for research.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish. Any publication of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. Requests for permission to publish should be addressed in writing to the Head of Special Collections, Riley-Hickingbotham Library, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3742, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001. When permission

to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the Riley-Hickingbotham Library Special Collections.

## Collection Inventory

Journal	
	Box
1. William Dunbar, 1804-1805	1
Correspondence	
2. 1775 November 19: Margaret Dunbar (Elgin) to William Dunbar, "My Dear Brother" ("Planter in Richmond Settlement on the Mississippi") [copy]	
3. 1776 July 24: Anne Dunbar (Elgin) to William Dunbar (Richmond Settlement on the Mississippi)	
4. 1777 April 2: Anne Dunbar (Elgin) to William Dunbar (Richmond Settlement on the Mississippi)	
5. 1779: Anne Dunbar to William Dunbar	
6. 1782 September 10: Thomas Dunbar (New York) to William Dunbar "Brother"	
7. 1797 April: Margaret Dunbar to William Dunbar (New Orleans, America)	
8. Undated: Margaret Dunbar (London) to William Dunbar "My Dearest Brother" (New Orleans)	
9. 1799 February 2: Margaret Dunbar (London) to William Dunbar "Dearest Brother" (Natchez)	

Correspondence

---

10. 1808 May 14: [William] Dunbar Jr. (New Orleans) to William Dunbar "Dear Parents" (Natchez)

11. 1810 June 15: Robert R. Livingston (Clermont) to William Dunbar (Natchez)

12. 1810 September 18: W. Alex Wilson (Philadelphia) to William Dunbar (near Natchez)

13. 1810 October 14: W. Dunbar and J. Dunlop to S. Postlethwaite ("Relative to the last hours" of William Dunbar) [copy]

14. 1810 December 16: William Dunbar "Son" (Philadelphia) to Mrs. William Dunbar "Mother" (Forest, near Natchez)

15. 1811 November 20: William Dunbar "Son" (Princeton) to Mrs. William Dunbar (Natchez)

16. 1812 September 12: William Dunbar "Son" (Princeton) to "My Dear Mother"

17. 1817 January 7: Archibald Dunbar (Cambridge) to Dinah Dunbar (Natchez)

18. 1817 February 12: [William Dunbar, Jr.] (Philadelphia) to Mrs. William Dunbar "Dear Mother" (Forest, Natchez)

19. 1817 May 8: William Dunbar "Son" to Mrs. William Dunbar "Dearest Mother (Forest, Natchez)

20. 1818 September 1: William Dunbar "Son" (Princeton) to Mrs. William Dunbar "Dearest Mother" (Forest, Natchez)

21. 18-- March 19: [William Dunbar, Jr.] to Mrs. William Dunbar "My Beloved Mother"



Correspondence

---

22. 1820 July 5: William Dunbar (Philadelphia) to William Dunbar "Esteemed Parents" (Forest near Natchez)

23. 1823 January 2: Robert Dunbar (Cambridge) to Mrs. Margaret Dunlop "Dear Sister" (Natchez)

24. 1827 November 5: R.T. Dunbar (Paris) to Mary Dunbar "Dear Sister" (Forest near Natchez)

25. 1827 November 5: R.T. Dunbar to William Dunbar, Jr. "Brother" (Natchez)

26. 1828 May 13: R.T. Dunbar (Florence) to William Dunbar, Jr. (Natchez)

27. 1845 March 7: M.F. Dunbar (Forest) to Mrs. G.T. Olmstead "Dearest Sister" (Princeton, New Jersey)

28. 1857 June 14: [Allie] to Julie

29. 1857 November 13: Allie (Philadelphia) to Julie

30. 1857 December 28: [Allie] to Julie

31. 1858 January 15: Allie to Julie

32. 1858 May 1: Allie to Julie

33. 1858 May 6: C.A. Page [?] (Philadelphia) to "My Darling Nephew"

34. 1899 December 22: A. Field "Mother" (Princeton) to Mrs. William (Mary) Dunbar (Forest near Natchez)

## Legal

---

### Legal

35. Justice of the Peace appointment, 1792: Manuel Gayoso do Lemos to William Dunbar

36. 1794: Manuel Gayoso de Lemos/William Dunbar

37. 1794: Manuel Gayoso de Lemos/Melling Woolley

38. Dunbar estate documents (hand-copied), 1822-1835

39. Marriage certificate, 1869: Alfred Davis and Mary Dunbar

40. Marriage record, 1919: James M. Ogden and Marian Dunbar Davis

### Family history documents

41. Coat-of Arms (Field and Stockton)

42. Miscellaneous

### Maps/Drawings

43. "Forest Plantation" plat

44. "Original plan of my beloved Mother's flower garden" by M.F. Dunbar, 1840

## Miscellaneous

**Miscellaneous**

45. Catechism "composed and written" by William Dunbar, 1760s

47. Currency

**Photograph****Box**

William Dunbar

2

**Artifacts**

Brick from "The Forest"

**Printed material**

"Life, Letters and Papers of William Dunbar of Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland, and Natchez, Mississippi: Pioneer Scientist of the Southern United States" by Mrs. Dunbar (Eron) Rowland, published by Press of the Mississippi Historical Society, 1930 [photocopy]

"The Western Journals of Dr. George Hunter, 1796-1805," edited by John Francis McDermott, published by the American Philosophical Society, 1963 [photocopy]

**Exhibit material****Box**

3-4