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MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPT FILE

Fithian, Philip Vickers, Journal Excerpts
Collection Number: 2000 WFCHS MMF

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Initially processed in 1987. Updated by Doug Gleason, December 2, 2023.

ACCESSION NUMBER(S): 1987.001 WFCHS

EXTENT: 1 folder

CREATOR: Fithian, Philip Vickers (1747-1776)

DATE: 1775

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Miscellaneous Manuscript Files (MMF) are small collections typically containing only a folder or two of materials. This folder contains an excerpt from Presbyterian minister Philip Vickers Fithian's diary written during his missionary sojourn in Winchester, VA in the spring of 1775. The diary contains rich descriptions of both local personalities and the townscape of Winchester and surrounding communities. It also contains valuable historical insights into the religious sensibilities and politics of the community. It notably reveals a pervasive enthusiasm for the cause of American independence among the local populace.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Philip Vickers Fithian was born into a landowning family in New Jersey in 1747. After experiencing a religious conversion in 1766, he began studies for the Presbyterian ministry which included a degree from Princeton where he studied under John Witherspoon. He is best known as a diarist, most especially for the journal he kept while employed as a tutor for the children of Robert Carter III in Virginia prior to his ordination. His account of plantation life in late colonial Virginia has become an important primary source for historians. He was appointed a chaplain for a New Jersey infantry battalion in June 1776 and died a few months later after contracting dysentery.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Received from Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society.

CONTAINER LIST:

Folder 1

Typescript of diary excerpt, 16 pages.

Photocopy of original manuscript diary excerpt, 23 pages.