

Title:	Correspondence of Isaac D. Barnard, 1813-1836, n.d.		
Creator:	Isaac D. Barnard		
Dates of Material:	1813-1836, n.d.	Record Group Number:	RG 878
Summary of Contents:	<p>The collection consists mostly of correspondence written by or to Isaac D. Barnard. There are 57 letters, 10 manuscript receipts and promissory notes, and two printed circulars. Barnard was an American lawyer, soldier, politician and Senator from West Chester, Pennsylvania. The letters provide information on his service during the War of 1812, legal career, his terms in the State Senate of Pennsylvania, and as a United States Senator. His service during the War of 1812 included Fort George, Plattsburg, and Lyon's Creek [Cook's Mills].</p> <p>There are two letters in the collection dated during the War of 1812, including a letter dated at a camp near Fort Niagara on May 23, 1813 stating that Barnard is owed money by William Mills. The other letter is dated at French Mills in Constable, Franklin Co., State of New York, December 7, 1813. Barnard writes that <i>"I have been confined to my bed for the last 3 or 4 weeks. I am now in a very low and reduced state—I was taken ill on my passage down the St. Lawrence. I was confined to my bed in a boat during the engagement at Williamsburg—judge what my sensations were my dear fellow on that day to be confined & hear the roaring of the Field Pieces and the rattling of musquetry during the engagement and not being able to be on the field mortified me in the extreme—more so as I should have commanded the Regt. Lt. Colonel Dix being also very ill—he died on the passage a few days after the Battle...I can give no particulars of the action on the 11 ult but what I recd from others—you will probably have the newspapers filled with accts of it as a great number of officers have gone home. I wrote you from Grenadier Island...whether before or after recg your polite letter I have entirely forgotten I recd your letter at Grenadier Island. Our passage down the St. Lawrence was very unpleasant—in fact the campaign this autumn has been very severe upon both officers and Soldiers. It was discovered to the unspeakable astonishment of the whole army—immediately after the Battle Genl. Hampton who was to have cooperated with us in the attack on Montreal had retired to winter quarters. Our army was obliged to make this place immediately build huts for the winter. They are nearly finished—some regts are already in them. The night before last the army expected to be attacked by the Enemy, every preparation was made to receive them. If the army is attacked I shall be a prisoner. I was carried in a cot on the shoulders of some of my men to what they here call a House about or upwards of mile from Camp on the road leading to the Enemy—it was the only place I could get into and was preferable to a hut—whether I shall ever get out of it alive is very questionable but I will not despond. I am reduced to a perfect skeleton and am barely able to sit up while I write you..."</i></p>		

In 1820 he was elected to the Senate of Pennsylvania for the district composed of the counties of Chester and Delaware. He describes some of his experience in this role in a letter dated December 6, 1820, writing that *“I got here [Harrisburg] on Friday and have got comfortable quarters for the winter—On Tuesday last both houses met at 3 o’clock p.m.—95 members of the H. of Representatives & 30 of the Senate being present—3 only being absent and they detained by sickness it shows the interest felt throughout the State. The Senate elected Mr. Marks their speaker by a Majority of 2 votes only—he having 16 and Mr. Davidson the opposing candidate 14 votes—3 Democrats who have hitherto acted with us uniting with the Federalists in opposing Marks—they will still unite with us if we pursue a proper policy. In the Lower House great difficulty arose in the choice of speaker...The petition for contesting the Governors Election have been sent up to this place but I doubt very much whether they will be presented—the measure is very much disapproved of by the Democratic members of the Legislature—for my part I expressed my opinion very freely on the subject as soon as I got here and as I knew a decided expression of opinion at such a moment might determine others I declared openly and freely that I thought the plan fraught with ruinous consequences, and ought to be at once discouraged...”*

A letter to Barnard from Erskine Hazard dated February 17, 1822 asks for his assistance. Hazards writes *“I take the liberty of requesting your patronage for a Bill supplementary to the Act incorporating a Coy. for making a bridge over part of the Delaware opposite to Philadelphia. As I feel confident that no injury can result to the public from its erection, and some of my friends are stockholders in it, I should be much pleased if the restrictions which now prevent subscriptions to the stock could be removed...”*

A letter by Barnard dated January 2, 1823 discusses his work in politics. He writes that *“We have nothing very new the absent members are returning to their seats and we shall in a few days have full houses again, when I trust we shall get to business in earnest...We continue to have considerable talk among the members about the next Demo Candidate for Governor. The Candidates are not so numerous as they are represented in the public newspapers—those most spoken of are I.D. Ingham, Mr. Schulze, Dr. Darlington, Geo. Bryan, Mr. Clark, Genl. Marks & Mr. Holgate...My belief is that the contest will eventually be between Bryan and Shulze and if it is I think Shulze will be the man...”*

In 1827 Barnard was elected a United States Senator for Pennsylvania. A letter to Barnard dated April 15, 1828 refers to the opening of the Susquehanna Canal. The writer notes that *“your remarks relative to the improvement of the public ground find a ready response in the bosom of every Harrisburger and should do so in that of every Pennsylvanian. I am happy to be able to inform you that the matter was somehow or other through the kindness of Genl Ogle, Mr. Duncan & some others got up in the Senate after it had been defeated in the House (by way of amendment) and has become a*

	<p><i>law. It appropriates \$10 000 and is worded in such a way as to make that sum complete the improvement. I think however that if the commissioners are well disposed the affair can be so managed as to leave room for a little more amendment by a future Legislature...The water has been occasionally let into the canal from Mr. Allisters dam within a week or two past—slight defects incident to all new canals have as yet prevented the free navigation between this & Middletown—they were all promptly repaired, and the canal is now in a fair way of being boated between the two points alluded to...</i></p> <p><i>A letter dated April 17, 1828 to Barnard discusses the iron industry: “I shall give you what information I have been able to collect on the subject of the manufactory of iron—you will see I have no estimate of the quantity made in Pittsburg. The members of that district would not undertake to permit an estimate that could be relied on—neither have I any estimate from Huntingdon & Centre Counties in which there is a very large quantity of iron made. There is a statement in the report of the proceedings of the convention that met at this place last summer of the quantity of iron made in Centre County to which I would refer. There is at least an equal quantity made in Huntingdon...”</i></p> <p><i>A letter written January 15, 1831 to Barnard discusses more politics of the time: “In consequence of the election of Judge Wilkins to the Senate, several persons have been put in nomination for his situation on the bench. Among the number is my brother, John B. Alexander of Greensburg...He thinks he has some causes of claim to consideration in the present instance...As he is much of a military man, it might be expected that he would be among the friends of “The Military Chieftan”. But he claims a greater merit than that & I have no doubt truly, for he was perhaps the <u>very first</u> man who proposed General Jackson for president; and as certainly go up the <u>first meeting in the United States</u>, at which the nomination was formally made...”</i></p>
<p>Physical Description / Condition:</p>	<p>3 cm of textual records</p>
<p>Administrative/ Biographical Sketch:</p>	<p>Isaac D. Barnard (1791-1834) was an American soldier, politician, and Senator from West Chester, Pennsylvania. He was admitted to the bar at West Chester in 1816 but his legal studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the War of 1812. Barnard served under Col. Winder during the War and was present at the Battle of Fort George, the fight at La Cole’s Mill, with Izard’s army at Plattsburg, and the Battle of Lyon’s Creek [Cook’s Mills]. He resumed his legal studies after the war and established a practice in West Chester. Soon after Barnard was appointed sheriff’s counsel and deputy</p>

	<p>attorney general for Chester County, a position he held for the next four years. In 1820 he was elected to the Senate of Pennsylvania for the district composed of the counties of Chester and Delaware, and in 1826 was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth. Shortly after this the Legislature of Pennsylvania elected him to the Senate of the United States. He remained in this position until 1831, when his declining health forced him to resign.</p>		
Location:	Brock University Archives		
Source Information:	Acquired from Michael Brown Rare Books in 2023-24.		
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