

**The Osler Library of the History of Medicine
McGill University, Montreal Canada**

Osler Library Archive Collections

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JOHN MACKELLAR

FINDING AID AND INVENTORY LIST

This is a guide to one of the collections held by the [Osler Library of the History of Medicine](#),
McGill University.

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P199: John MacKellar Fonds

DATES: 1807

EXTENT: 0.3 cm textual records

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH/ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

John MacKellar (d. 1854) was a British Admiral who succeeded Robert Murray as prison agent at the Office for Prisoners of War located in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He held the post from 1804 until approximately 1810. He was the eldest son of General MacKellar, who was employed as chief engineer under General Wolfe.

The manuscript document contained in this fonds is written by John Mackellar and addressed to the Hon. George Cranfield Berkeley (1753-1818), dated 16th June 1807. MacKellar explains his strong reservations about establishing a prison hospital for sick prisoners of war. He warns of high expenses and inconvenience, using the Dartmouth, Nova Scotia hospital as an example of the expenses required.

Melville Island, including Halifax, Nova Scotia, was formerly known as Kavanagh's Island and used to house French prisoners of war after 1793. The Chesapeake Affair happened six days after this letter was written in 1807 under the command of Admiral G. C. Berkeley.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of a single 3-page manuscript letter document, as well as an accompanying description written by the seller. Original laid paper watermarked '1805'.

CUSTODIAL HISTORY: Purchased from John Drury Rare Books, Strandlands, Wrabness, Manningtree, Essex CO11 2TX United Kingdom, by the Osler Library in November, 2014.

SOURCE OF SUPPLIED TITLE PROPER: Title based on content of fonds.

LANGUAGE: The documents are in English.

FINDING AIDS: Inventory list is available.

GENERAL NOTE: n/a

RETRIEVAL NUMBER: P199

SUBJECTS:

Military Medicine

Folder 1: Letter from John MacKellar to Hon. George Cranfield Berkeley, dated 16 June 1807.

- Typed description written by the seller of this document in accompaniment.