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RECORD OFFICE

A GUIDE

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AMERICAN PAPERS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS
RECORD OFFICE

A GUIDE

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PREFACE

Since 1960 a growing number of collections of documents have been published in the microfilm series in conjunction with the British Association for American Studies, British records relating to America in microform, published by Microform Limited (formerly EP Microform Limited) from both public and private collections. The publication of single collections or groups of documents, particularly where lists were available, was a comparatively simple matter. But the proposal to microfilm the American material in the House of Lords Record Office was a quite different proposition. There were no easily identifiable groups of documents which could be filmed, the available lists dealt with sections of the collection as a whole rather than the American material and the published Guides to material relating to American history in the House of Lords Record Office did not begin until 1702 and excluded certain classes of materials. Moreover, before the documents could be microfilmed they had to be identified and located and where sequences of documents were concerned their proper order had to be established. To prepare the American material for this edition was obviously not a task which the staff of the House of Lords Record Office could properly be expected to do. With the ready assistance of the Clerk of Records, Maurice Bond, a research proposal was submitted to the Social Science Research Council which made a grant to enable the necessary research to be carried out. Mainly financed by the SSRC but in the last weeks by Microform Limited, a research assistant, Peter Harper, was appointed who, with commendable dedication, care and patience, identified and located the documents, listed them and made them ready for filming which was efficiently carried out in the House of Lords Record Office. Regular meetings with the staff of the Record Office, Henry Cobb and David J Johnson, enabled the progress of the project to be monitored. Without their willing and unstinted co-operation, this project could not have been completed. With additional finance from the University of Exeter, the complicated list was efficiently typed and retyped by Elaine Harrison. Some editorial assistance was provided by Celia King. The result is this volume which lists the identifiable documents containing material relating to American history widely defined in the House of Lords Record Office. It both provides a survey of the American holdings in the House of Lords Record Office and an essential key to the 39 reels of microfilm which it accompanies. Since this list makes available for the first time in a single volume a guide to the American material in the House of Lords Record Office, it is undoubtedly a major contribution to historical scholarship.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- A & D Charles M Andrews and Frances G Davenport, Guide to the manuscript materials for the history of the United States to 1783 in the British Museum, in minor London archives and in the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge (Washington DC: Carnegie Institution, 1908)
- CJ Journal of the House of Commons
- DAR Kenneth G Davies ed. Documents of the American revolution (Colonial Office series) (Shannon, Ireland: Irish University Press, 1972-81)
- Folio Edition The Statutes of the Realm (1810-24)
- Hist. coll. Historical collection in the House of Lords Record Office
- HLRO House of Lords Record Office
- HMC Historical Manuscripts Commission report
- HMC B Tenth report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, appendix, part VI, the manuscripts of...Lord Braye ...
- HMC Supplement A companion to the Kraus reprint of reports I to IX of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (Nendeln, Liechtenstein: KTO Press, 1977)
- HMSO His/Her Majesty's Stationery Office
- Journal CTP Journal of the Board of Trade and Plantations
- LJ Journal of the House of Lords
- Nd No date
- NS Manuscripts of the House of Lords, new series
- NS (with date) New style
- OS Old style
- P & P Charles O Paullin and Frederic L Paxson, Guide to the materials in London archives for the history of the United States since 1783 (Washington DC: Carnegie Institution, 1914)
- Raimo John W Raimo, A guide to manuscript materials relating to America in Great Britain and Ireland: a revision of the Guide edited in 1961 by B R Crick and Miriam Alman (Mansell Publishing, 1979)
- 1a, 2a, 3a First reading, second reading, third reading of a bill in the House