

MS 6 Mayor Joshua Vansant Memoirs (1880)

History

Joshua Vansant was born on December 31, 1803 in Millington, Kent County, Maryland. After living in Wilmington and Philadelphia, Vansant's family moved to Baltimore in 1818. Shortly after this move, Vansant began a successful business career as a hat maker. He first entered public life in 1836 when he was chosen by the Reform Party as an elector for the state senate. From that time until 1871, Vansant held many influential posts: 1839, port master; 1846, commissioner of finance; 1852, commissioner of public schools; 1853, congress of the United States; director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; and United States postmaster at Baltimore. From 1871 until 1875, Vansant served as mayor. Even after Vansant left the office of the mayor, he continued to be active in Baltimore politics. From 1876 until his death in 1884, he served as city comptroller.

Manuscript Summary

This short (51 page) autobiography offers an abbreviated account of Joshua Vansant's life, including a history of his family and of Vansant's early life, and a record of the offices he held.

Series

1. Memoirs. 1880. 1 lin. in. (1 vol.).

MS 7 Whetstone Point Land Sale Correspondence (1794-95)

History

The federal government purchased Whetstone Point in the 1780s to build Fort McHenry. Prior to this time, the land had been used for a variety of purposes, including a marine quarantine station and hospital.

Manuscript Summary

These five letters concern the acquisition of Whetstone Point by the United States government. Those involved are Oliver Wolcott from the federal treasury department, Robert Purviance, the city collector, and Alexander Furnival, the owner of the land. The transaction was done with bank drafts through the municipal government. Also contained on this reel of microfilm are two different copies of the "Star-Spangled Banner" released by different publishers (no dates).

Series

1. Correspondence. (1794-95). 1 reel of microfilm.  
No arrangement.