

Getting the Facts

(Printed Nov. 2000)

The George Rogers Clark National Historical Park is about its namesake and the soldiers whom he led to military success. Some of the best sources of information pertaining to the Clark story are the various first person accounts. (While first person accounts often contain discrepancies, they still provide the most accurate details.) These accounts can be located in diaries, letters, journals, official government documents, depositions, military orders, and even vouchers.

The following are several essential resource materials which are available in the park's library. (Note: Many of these publications and microfilm reels are out of print and it would be difficult to replace them. Therefore, they may not be removed from park grounds.)

Books and Publications

1. *Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio 1778-1783 and Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark* by William Hayden English. Reprinted 1991 by Heritage Books, Inc., 1540 Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD, 20716. – This publication contains numerous sketches of men who served with Clark and a full list of those soldiers allotted lands in Clark's Grant for service in the campaigns against the British posts (showing exact land given to each individual). It also contains Clark's memoir, Clark's diary, and Capt. Joseph Bowman's journal.
2. *George Rogers Clark Papers 1771-1781* edited by James Alton James. Printed 1912 by the Illinois Printing Company, Danville, IL. – This volume contains all the available Clark papers written before Nov. 1781.
3. *George Rogers Clark Papers 1781-1784* edited by James Alton James. Printed 1924 by Schnepf & Barnes, printers, Springfield, IL. – This volume continues the publication of documents relating to Clark's activities throughout the Northwest from 1781 through 1784.
4. *Kaskaskia Records 1778-1790* edited by Clarence Walworth Alvord. Printed 1909 by the Lakeside Press, R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company, Chicago, IL. – One of the major items included in this book is the Pierre Menard Collection.
5. *The Life of George Rogers Clark* by James Alton James. Printed 1928 by the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. – Various topics are covered including Clark's years of preparation for the American capture of the Illinois country.
6. *George Rogers Clark and His Men -- Military Records, 1778-1784* compiled by Margery Heberling Harding. Printed 1981 by the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY. – Included here are pay rolls, muster rolls, and pay abstracts.
7. *Henry Hamilton and George Rogers Clark in the American Revolution with the Unpublished Journal of Lieut. Gov. Henry Hamilton* edited by John D. Barnhart. Printed 1951 by R. E. Banta, Crawfordsville, IN. – This book presents Hamilton's account of events before, during, and after the siege of Fort Sackville.

8. *George Rogers Clark and the Winning of the West* by Hugh F. Rankin. Printed 1976 by the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission, Richmond, VA. – This 84-page book is an informative short biography of Clark.
 9. *The George Rogers Clark Adventure in the Illinois and Selected Documents of the American Revolution at the Frontier Posts* by Kathrine Wagner Seineke. Printed 1981 by Polyanthos, Inc., P.O. Drawer 51359, New Orleans, LA, 70151. – This work contains documents from 1757 through 1784. The Vincennes oath of July 20, 1778 is included, as are the 185 names of those who took the oath.
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Microfilm Items

The park's microfilm library includes 13 reels of Clark's papers and 15 reels of the Draper Manuscripts. A microfilm reader is available for public use from 9 a.m., through 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone (812) 882-1776 ext. 105 or ext. 106 to schedule a time for research work.

1. *The George Rogers Clark Papers* – These 13 microfilmed reels contain documents dating from Jan. 1778 through Sept. 1784. Additionally, the 13th reel has the records from the Illinois Regiment claim filed by Sidney Breese during Nov. 1834.
2. *The Draper Manuscripts* – The 15 reels of the park's collection include volumes one through 64 of the George Rogers Clark Papers. (The complete Draper Collection consists of 123 reels.)

Printed Guides to Microfilm Collections

1. *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts* by Josephine L. Harper. Printed 1983 by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St., Madison, WI, 53706. – Lyman C. Draper had a collection of manuscripts and notes concerning the western frontier before 1830. Besides arranging his collection into a bound volume, this book also contains Revolutionary War pension applications and a list of the subjects which are included in each of the 123 microfilmed reels.
2. *Index to the George Rogers Clark Papers of the Virginia State Library and Archives* compiled by Richard Eugene Willson. Published 1998 by the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Illinois and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Illinois, Chicago, IL. The index to the papers can be accessed on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.execpc.com/~sril/clark>. – This index has 97,579 entries for 20,110 documents filmed on 13 microfilm reels. The index entries are references to a name or to a word. The numerals following each entry indicate the microfilm reel number, then a dash, and the frame number for the document containing the name or the word. This information, then, is used to search the abstract.
3. *Abstract to the George Rogers Clark Papers – The Illinois Regiment* compiled by Richard Eugene Willson. Published 1998 by the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Illinois and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Illinois, Chicago, IL. – This abstract is based upon the microfilmed George Rogers Clark Papers at the Virginia State Library and Archives. Abstract entries give brief descriptions of each document.