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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Johnson and Campbell Family Papers

GEN MSS 980



by Beinecke Staff

2007-05-16

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 980

CREATOR: Johnson, Guy, approximately 1740-1788

TITLE: Johnson and Campbell family papers

DATES: 1757–1918

BULK DATES: 1774–1820

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet (3 boxes) + 3 broadside folders

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers contain correspondence, legal documents, maps, and printed material by or relating to Guy Johnson and his experiences as Superintendent of Indian Affairs during the American Revolution, as well as documentation of his efforts regarding claims on his confiscated property in the United States. Series I holds Johnson's papers, which include correspondence with family members and British military officers Guy Carleton and Thomas Gage. Also present are two printed almanacs and two autograph manuscript journals recording Johnson's activities and voyages between Quebec and England, and New York and Quebec. Documents in the papers include several on parchment recording Johnson's services to the crown and his lands in New York, a list of accounts with Joseph Brant, and a manuscript record titled "Return of Services performed by the Indians of Colonel Guy Johnson's Department" which details "the Killed, wounded, etc. & damages done to the Rebels from the beginning of the Year 1780 to the end of 1781." Series II holds material related to Johnson's family in Ireland and Great Britain, in particular records of his son-in-law Colin Campbell and daughters Mary Johnson Campbell and Julia Johnson, documenting their involvement in the settlement of Guy Johnson's estate and their efforts regarding his confiscated property. Correspondence holds letters from banker Thomas Coutts, and several petitions the family submitted to the commissioners for American claims. Also present are personal letters to Colin Campbell from others, including British general Sir William Howe, concerning his military career.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.johnsonguy>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.johnsonguy>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
 - f. folder
-

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Company (Sotheby's London sale, 2000 July 13, lot 200) on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund and the Chandler White and Philena Pennell Smith Acquisitions Fund, 2002.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Johnson and Campbell Family Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Johnson and Campbell Family Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization.

Descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 263

Guy Johnson (approximately 1740-1788)

Guy Johnson was born in Ireland, and arrived in the Province of New York in 1756 to become a secretary to his uncle, Sir William Johnson, the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the northern colonies. Johnson succeeded his uncle as superintendent in 1774, and also served as a colonel in the Tryon County (New York) militia and a member of the provincial New York Assembly. In 1763 Guy Johnson married

his cousin Mary ("Polly") Johnson (died 1775), the daughter of Sir William Johnson; the couple had five daughters, two of whom, Mary and Julia, lived to adulthood. Johnson resigned his superintendency in 1782 and returned to England to seek restitution of his New York property that had been confiscated by the United States government. He died in London on March 5, 1788.

Scope and Contents

The papers contain correspondence, legal documents, maps, and printed material by or relating to Guy Johnson and his experiences as Superintendent of Indian Affairs during the American Revolution, as well as documentation of his efforts to regain his confiscated property in the United States. Series I holds Johnson's papers, which includes correspondence with family members and British military officers Guy Carleton and Thomas Gage. Also present are two printed almanacs and two autograph manuscript journals recording Johnson's activities and voyages between Quebec and England, and New York and Quebec. A group of documents include several on parchment recording Johnson's services to the crown and his lands in New York, and a manuscript record titled "Return of Services performed by the Indians of Colonel Guy Johnson's Department" which details "the Killed, wounded, etc. & damages done to the Rebels from the beginning of the Year 1780 to the end of 1781." Series II holds material related to Johnson's family in Ireland and Great Britain, in particular records of his son-in-law Colin Campbell and daughters Mary Johnson Campbell and Julia Johnson, documenting their involvement in the settlement of Guy Johnson's estate and their efforts regarding his confiscated property. Correspondence includes letters from banker Thomas Coutts, and several petitions the family submitted to the Commissioners for American Claims. The earliest document in the collection is an autograph manuscript copy of the Patent of Creation awarded to Sir William Johnson (1757) and the latest is a photographic reproduction (1918) of a 1772 manuscript survey of Johnson's lands in New York; the original manuscript map, drawn by William Johnson's surveyor Robert Picken, is also in the collection.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Guy Johnson Papers, 1757-1789. II. Campbell Family Papers, 1780-1918.

Collection Contents

Series I: Guy Johnson Papers, 1757-1789

0.54 linear feet (2 boxes)

The series contains letters between Guy Johnson and his daughter and son-in-law Mary and Colin Campbell, daughter Julia Johnson, brother-in-law Daniel Claus, brother-in-law (and cousin) John Johnson, and uncle (and father-in-law) William Johnson. Also present are four journals and almanacs documenting Johnson's activities, including voyages between Quebec and England, and New York and Quebec, and petitions and other papers related to Johnson's career, remuneration, and claims on his property in the United States. Other Papers holds documents seemingly unrelated to Johnson.

Series I is organized into four subseries: Correspondence, Journals, Documents, and Other Papers.

Correspondence

Blackburn, John

b. 1, f. 1	Letters	1774-1777
b. 1, f. 2	Invoices and accounts	1784-1786
b. 1, f. 3	Account of Guy Johnson's real estate left in Blackburn's hands	1776 May 18
b. 1, f. 4-5	Campbell, Colin	1786-1788
b. 1, f. 6	Campbell, Mary Johnson	1782, 1788
b. 1, f. 7	Carleton, Guy	1775 Jun 25
b. 1, f. 8	Claus, Daniel	1779 Sep 13
b. 1, f. 9	DePeyster, A. S.	1774 Jul 20
b. 1, f. 10	Forsythe, George	1782 Sep 6
b. 1, f. 11	Gage, Thomas	1774 Nov 28
b. 1, f. 12	Johnson, John	1773-1779
b. 1, f. 13	Johnson, William	1773 Dec 4
b. 1, f. 14	Taylor, William	1783 Oct 2

Journals

b. 1, f. 15	<i>The New-York Pocket Almanac for the Year 1773</i> , by Thomas Moore (New York: Hugh Gaine, 1772) Annotated by Johnson with diary entries, including the building of his house, Guy Park	1772
b. 1, f. 16	<i>Mills and Hicks's British and American Register, with an Almanack for the Year 1779</i> (New York: 1778) Annotated by Johnson and others with family births and deaths	1778
b. 1, f. 17	Journal of voyages from New York to Halifax and Halifax to Quebec	1778-1779

Journals (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	Journal of a voyage from Quebec to England	1783
Documents		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 19	Manuscript copy of Patent of Creation to Sir William Johnson...dated 1755 Nov 27 Inscribed: "This Patent came out in the Lynn Man of War Feby 1756 on board of which came GJ"	1757
b. 1, f. 20	Articles of agreement regarding property along the St. John's River, Nova Scotia (printed)	circa 1760
b. 1, f. 21	Newspaper clippings and a two-shilling note (Philadelphia, 1769)	1762-1776
b. 1, f. 22	<i>Description of the Harbour and River of St. John's, in Nova-Scotia...</i>	1768
b. 4 (Broadside), f. 23	"Map of the Part of the Patent of Kayadarosseras..." surveyed by Robert Picken Manuscript map includes Guy Johnson's 2,100 acres and Guy Park on the Mohawk River, New York	1772
b. 1, f. 24	Indenture of Timothy Connolly (servant) from Francis Wade to Guy Johnson	1774
b. 1, f. 25-26	Will of Sir William Johnson (and transcript)	1774, undated
b. 1, f. 27	Agreement regarding Abraham Barclay's debt to Guy Johnson	1774
b. 1, f. 28	Indenture between Guy Johnson and Francis Child	1775
b. 5 (Broadside), f. 29	Land-lease agreements between Guy Johnson, Francis Child, and James Downes Four vellum parchment documents	1775
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 30	Indentures and other legal documents between Guy Johnson and Francis Child, and James Downes	1775-1776
b. 1, f. 31	Record of Joseph Brant's accounts	1775-1779
b. 1, f. 32	Draft of a will of Guy Johnson	1776 May 21
b. 1, f. 33	Certificate for John Montour, chief warrior, attesting to his assistance to the military	1780 Jan 16
b. 6 (Broadside), f. 34	Return of Services performed by the Indians of Colonel Guy Johnson's Department... Detailing "the Killed, wounded, etc. & damages done to the Rebels from the beginning of the Year 1780 to the end of 1781"	1781
b. 1, f. 35	<i>The Case and Claim of the American Loyalists Impartially Stated and Considered</i> (London, 1783)	1783
b. 1, f. 36	<i>The Following Description, with the extracts of letters patent, and proceedings of committees for dividing and settling the townships of Gage, Burton, Conway, Sunbury, and other tracts on St. Johns river...</i> ([Montreal? Fleury Mesplet?, 1783) Two copies, one annotated	1783

Documents (continued)

b. 1, f. 37	Letter to John Parr, governor of Nova Scotia	1783 Jun 26
b. 1, f. 38	Inventory of clothing belonging to Guy Johnson in Montreal	1783 Jul
b. 1, f. 39	Inventory of clothing, bedding, silver, and arms belonging to Guy Johnson	1784 Feb 1
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 40	Petition of Guy Johnson to the commissioners, with draft and copy	1784 Mar 23
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 41	Estimate of the Estate Real and Personal of Guy Johnson...in the Province of New York in 1775 Submitted to the American loyalists claims commissioners March 23, 1784; two copies and a draft	1784
b. 1, f. 42	Copy of testimonial by Thomas Gage on Johnson's behalf	1785 Jun 21
b. 1, f. 43	Record of advertisements of sales of some of Guy Johnson's lands in Montgomery County	1786
b. 1, f. 44	Invoice and receipt of payment from Michael Morris, M.D.	1787 Jul 3
b. 1, f. 45	Case of Guy Johnson as Superintendent of the Indian Nations	1788
b. 1, f. 46	Roll of Foreign Accounts Record of salaries, contingencies and other incidental expenses paid by the government to Johnson in his service as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Northern District of North America	1788
b. 1, f. 47	Court summons, Montreal	undated
b. 1, f. 48	Miscellaneous notes	undated
Other Papers		
Contains documents not identified with Guy Johnson.		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 49	Passport and safe conduct issued by Louis XV allowing Mr. Friend and household to travel from France to England	1772
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 50	Commission appointing Louis Perrault as surveyor of lands for the province of Quebec	1789
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 51	Newspaper clipping	1781
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 52	Invitation to the funeral of John, Count O'Rourke, in London	undated

Series II: Campbell Family Papers, 1780-1918*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series II holds material related to Johnson's family in Ireland and Great Britain, in particular records of his son-in-law Colin Campbell and daughters Mary Johnson Campbell and Julia Johnson, documenting their involvement in the settlement of Guy Johnson's estate and their claims against his confiscated property. Correspondence includes letters from banker Thomas Coutts, and several petitions the family submitted to the Commissioners for American Claims. Also present are personal letters to Colin Campbell from others, including the British general Sir William Howe, concerning his military career.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 3, f. 53	Letter from William Howe to Colin Campbell	1780 Jul 6
b. 3, f. 54	Letters from Joseph Chew to Colin Campbell	1788-1792
b. 3, f. 55	State of the late Col. Johnson's account with Phin & Ellice	1788 Mar 27
b. 3, f. 56	Letter from Colin Campbell to John Johnson	1788 Apr 3
b. 3, f. 57	Power of attorney for Mary Campbell to her husband Colin Campbell	1788 Jun 21
b. 3, f. 58	Letter from Colin Campbell to John Campbell	1788 Jun 17
b. 3, f. 59	Correspondence, general	1791-1857, undated
b. 3, f. 60	Petition of Colin Campbell to the Lords of the Treasury	1792 Oct 23
b. 3, f. 61	Letters from Thomas Coutts to Colin Campbell Regarding Mary Campbell's attempt to retrieve papers written by her father	1794
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 62	Letters from John Campbell, one with extract of letter from Patrick Langan, Montreal	1794, 1801
b. 3, f. 63	Invoice from Mr. Ainslie to Colin Campbell	1795 Aug 24
b. 3, f. 64	Letter from John Johnson to Colin Campbell	1803 Feb 21
b. 3, f. 65	Letter from Robert Mackenzie to Colin Campbell	undated
b. 3, f. 66	Copy of Lord Rawdon's certificate relative to the accounts of the late Guy Johnson	undated
b. 3, f. 67	Notes regarding grants of land in Canada to Guy Johnson's heirs and American claims	undated
b. 3, f. 68	Military survey of Captain Egerton's Company	undated
b. 3, f. 69	Estimate on the estate of Colonel Guy Johnson	1817
b. 3, f. 70	Petitions of Mary Johnson Campbell to the Lords of the Treasury	1815, 1820, undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 71	Maps of North America Index map of North America and sheet VI from an SDUK atlas	1832
b. 3, f. 72	Petitions of Julia Johnson to the Lords of the Treasury	1837, undated

b. 3, f. 73	Johnson family genealogy notes	undated
b. 3, f. 74	Diary and almanac	1844
b. 3, f. 75	Miscellaneous notes and wax seal	1876, undated
b. 3, f. 76	David Ross McCord letter to Guy Campbell	1916 Oct 23
	Photographic facsimile "Map of the Part of the Patent of Kayadarosseras..." surveyed by Robert Picken; photograph by Jones & Sons, mounted on canvas Stored in: 4 (Broadside), folder 23	1918 Sep

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Colonial administrators -- Great Britain
Indians of North America -- Government relations -- To 1789
Mohawk Indians -- Government relations -- To 1789
Mohawk Indians -- History -- Sources

Contributors

Johnson, Guy, approximately 1740-1788
Campbell family
Johnson family

Genres / Formats

Legal documents -- England -- 18th century
Legal documents -- United States -- 18th century
Maps (documents) -- United States -- 18th century
Vellum (parchment) -- England -- 18th century

Names

Brant, Joseph, 1742-1807
Campbell, Colin, 1754-1814
Campbell, Mary Johnson, 1764-1832
Claus, Daniel, 1727-1787
Coutts, Thomas, 1735-1822
Dorchester, Guy Carleton, Baron, 1724-1808
Gage, Thomas, 1721-1787
Howe, William Howe, Viscount, 1729-1814
Johnson, Guy, approximately 1740-1788
Johnson, William, 1715-1774
Picken, Robert, (Surveyor)

Families

Campbell family
Johnson family

Corporate Bodies

Great Britain. Commission Appointed to Enquire into the Losses of American Loyalists, 1783-1789
Six Nations