Henry Simmons journals, 1796-1800  
MC.975.01.072  
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit  
April 21, 2016  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Simmons, Henry, 1768-1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Henry Simmons journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1796-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.1 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred Citation

Henry Simmons journal (MC.975.01.072), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

Henry Simmons (1768-1807) was born on September 15, 1768 to Henry Simmons Sr. and Mary Paxson, the youngest of the five children of Henry and Mary. Before he was a year old, Simmons's mother died, and his father married Sarah Dun. Simmons's father and step mother went on to have eight more children. Despite Simmons's relative lack of formal education in his youth, as a result of being among the elder of the eleven children in the family, he went on to be a school teacher on the Oneida reservation from 1796-1797, and at Cornplanter's village from 1798-1799.

Henry Simmons belonged to the Middletown Monthly Meeting, where he first expressed his desire to help the Indians. After Middletown Monthly Meeting found Simmons suitable for missionary work, he was given a certificate from that meeting, recommending him for missionary service to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Indian Committee. Along with Halliday Jackson and Joel Swayne, Simmons spent a year with the Seneca near Cornplanter's village, where the group of missionaries set up a school and model farm.

Henry Simmons married Rachel Preston in 1800, and the couple had four children; Deborah (b. 1804), John (b. 1803), Hannah (b. 1806), Henryetta (b. 1808). Simmons died in Pennsylvania in 1807.

Scope and Content note

This collection is composed of four volumes of Henry Simmons's journals, the majority of which are related to time Simmons spent with the Oneida and Seneca tribes. In addition to the four handwritten journals, the collection includes two photocopies of Simmons's 1796-1797 journal (vol 1), and a single typed transcript of Simmons's 1799 journal (vol 2).

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections July 2015

Use Restrictions
Related Materials

Related Materials
- MC 950.101 Halliday Jackson papers
- MC 950.135 Native Americans speeches
- MC 950.302 Correspondence
- MC 975.01.069 Joshua Sharpless diaries
- MC 975.01.078 Joel Swayne diary
- MC 975.02.019 Henry Simmons letterbooks
- MC 975.03.054 Henry Simmons commonplace book
- MC 975.07.132 "Account of a visit paid to the Indians in New York State"
- MC 1003 Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)
- Diaries.
- Quakers -- Diaries
- Travel Writing

Personal Name(s)
• Cornplanter, Seneca chief, 1732?-1836
• Swayne, Joel

Subject(s)

• Indians of North America -- Missions
• Quaker missionaries
• Quakers -- Travel
• Quakers--History
• Seneca Indians
**Collection Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vol. 1 1796-1797</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This volume includes a copy of Simmons's removal certificate and records of the names and ages of girls from Oneida Country placed in Friends families in Chester County. Entries describe Simmons's travels from Philadelphia to Oneida Country on a mission to the &quot;Stockbridge Indians,&quot; a band of Mahicans living with the Oneida tribe in Oneida Country. Simmons describes how he encourages the Indians to form a school, learn European-American style agriculture, and his encouragement of sobriety among the tribe members. Simmons also provides accounts of meetings between Friends and the Stockbridge Indians.</td>
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</table>

Vol. 1 photocopy 1796-1797

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope and Content note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two photocopies of volume 1 of Simmons's diary.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vol. 2 1799</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This volume describes Simmons's visit to Cornplanter, a Seneca chief, in 1799. During Simmons's stay with the Seneca, he teaches school to both children and occasionally, to adults. In addition to descriptions of his duties as a teacher, Simmons describes interactions between himself and the Senecas outside of school, particularly as concern discussions of Christianity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vol. 2 transcript 1799
**Scope and Content note**

This volume is a typed transcript of volume 2, Simmons's journal describing his time with Seneca chief, Cornplanter. The transcript was prepared by Dr. Frederic C. Sharpless in 1964.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vol. 3 1800</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and Content note**

This volume describes Simmons's visit to Friends in Western Pennsylvania from 5th month-8th month, 1800, on a trip to survey the quality of a tract of land in that area. Entries include descriptions of occasional interactions with native tribes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vol. 4 1800</strong></td>
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</table>

**Scope and Content note**

This volume is a handwritten partial copy of volume 3 in the collection. This partial copy includes entries from 5th month-7th month, 1800.