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### Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Joel Swayne diary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1798-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.0625 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred Citation

Joel Swayne diary (MC.975.01.078), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
**Historical note**

The Indian Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting began in 1795 and continues at the present time. Previous to this, Philadelphia area Friends formed the Friendly Association for Regaining and Preserving Peace with the Indians by Pacific Measures. The "Friendly Association" grew out of the violence of the French-Indian War of the mid-1700s and was active as a formal organization from ca. 1755-1764 (Parrish "Friendly Association History").

Work of the Indian Committee included teaching Indians and their children, monitoring legislation affecting Native Americans and helping them combat frauds and abuses. The Committee worked primarily with the Seneca on the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations in New York.

In 1798, five Quaker missionaries traveled to the Seneca Nation to instruct the members in husbandry and to establish a school. These men were three young men; Henry Simmons, Halliday Jackson, and Joel Swayne, as well as two Quaker elders, John Pierce and Joshua Sharpless. At the mission established by the Quakers, the men built a model farm, and a school was established and run by Henry Simmons beginning in the fall of 1798.

Sources: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Indian Committee finding aid

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**Biographical note**

Joel Swayne (1774/75-1850) was born circa 1774-1775, the son of Francis Swayne (1722-1791) and Betty Baily (1728-1789). He was a member of London Grove Monthly Meeting, and was later a member of Woodstown Monthly Meeting in New Jersey. In 1798, Swyane, with four other Quaker missionaries, traveled to the Seneca Nation to instruct the members in husbandry and to establish a school. Swayne died on October 5, 1850 in New Jersey, at the age of 75.

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**Scope and Content note**

This collection is composed of the single volume diary of Joel Swayne entitled, “Some account of my journey to the Seneca Nation of Indians and Residence Amongst that People.” Entries describe Swayne’s journey to the Seneca nation, and the two years he spent there. Swayne provides detailed descriptions of the chief, “Complanter,” the chief’s family, the village and villagers, cultural differences between
the Quakers and the Senecas, the difficulty of the language barrier, and discussions between Quaker missionaries and Seneca members.

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**Administrative Information**

**Publication Information**

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections July 2015

**Use Restrictions**

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

**Acquisition**

The Joel Swayne diary was purchased by Special Collections, Haverford College in 2015.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Kara Flynn, completed July 2015.

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**Related Materials**

**Related Materials**

- MC 950.101 Halliday Jackson papers
- MC 950.135 Native American speeches
- MC 975.01.069 Joshua Sharpless diaries
- MC 975.01.072 Henry Simmons journals
- MC 975.02.019 Henry Simmons letterbooks
- MC 975.03.054 Henry Simmons commonplace book
- MC 975.07.085 "The Code of Handsome Lake, the Seneca Prophet"
- MS 1003 Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs records, 1758-1929
Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Diaries.
- Quakers -- Diaries

Personal Name(s)

- Cornplanter, Seneca chief, 1732?-1836
- Jackson, Halliday, 1771-1835
- Sharpless, Joshua, 1747-1826
- Simmons, Henry, 1768-1807

Subject(s)

- Indians of North America -- Missions
- Native Americans.
- Quakers--History
- Seneca Indians
- Society of Friends -- Missions
Collection Inventory

| Diary 1798-1800 |