Henry Simmons letterbooks, 1797-1798
MC.975.02.019
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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April 12, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

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<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Simmons, Henry, 1768-1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Henry Simmons letterbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1797-1798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.06 Linear feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred Citation

Henry Simmons (MC.975.02.019), 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 comprised of the two volumes of the letterbooks of Henry Simmons, and a single folder of related materials. Letterbooks are comprised of business and government correspondence related to Simmons' work with various Indian tribes.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections August 2015

Use Restrictions

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

Processing Information
Processed by Kara Flynn; completed August 2015.

Related Materials

Related Materials
- MC.975.01.072 Henry Simmons journals
- 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 records
- MC.950.101 Halliday Jackson papers
- MC.975.01.069 Joshua Sharpless diaries
- MC.975.01.078 Joel Swayne diary

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)
- Correspondence.

Subject(s)
- Indians of North America
- Quaker missionaries
- Quakers--History
- Seneca Indians
Collection Inventory

Vol. 1 1797

Scope and Content note

Copies of letters to the State Legislature of New York from the Oneida, Tuscarora, and Stockbridge Chiefs.

Copies of treaties between the United States and the Six Nations, and between the United States and the Oneida, Tuscarora, and Stockbridge Indians.

Copies of U.S. Secretary of State Timothy Pickering's letters to: the Chiefs and Warriors of the Oneida, Tuscarora, and Stockbridge Indians (01/22/1795), the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations (02/15/1796).

Copy of an Act of the New York State Legislature for the relief of the Stockbridge Indians passed, 04/12/1792.

Correspondence between the Moheican Indians and the Delaware Indians, and the Friends in Philadelphia.

Vol. 2 1798

Scope and Content note

Correspondence between Simmons/Jackson/Swayne and PYM Indian Committee:

To the committee at Philadelphia from SJS at Genesingutha 07/29/1798 11/13/1798 11/16/1798 01/23/1799 03/24/1799 04/21/1799 06/16/1799 08/22/1799

To SJS from the Committee 11/19/1798 02/19/1799 04/09/1799 04/20/1799 06/22/1799

Correspondence pertaining to the Allegany mission: To Abner & Jesse Barker at Pittsburgh from Thomas Fisher & Peter Barker at Philadelphia, 04/28/1798 To George Stevenson at Pittsburgh
from Thomas Wistar at Brandywine, 04/30/1798 To SJS at Genesingutha from Joshua Sharpless & John Pierce at Buffalo, 06/15/1798 To SJS at Genesingutha from John Pierce on the Genese River, 06/17/1798 To the Allegany Quakers 9SJS) at Genesingutha from the Seneca Indians at Cataraugus, 04/11/1799 To the Seneca Indians at Cataraugus from the members of the Inidan Committee at Philadelphia, undated

Related Materials Undated

Scope and Content note

Related materials includes notes on the collection made by researchers, as well as newspapers clippings.