Henry Simmons commonplace book, 1791-1796
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Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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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 single volume commonplace book of Henry Simmons, and includes: "A Memorable instance of Divine guidance and protection," prayers, speech made by the King of England to the Quakers, “A Testimony concerning Elisha Kirk, a memorial for his wife, Priscilla Yarnal, and a memorial for Robert Jordan.

Administrative Information

Publication Information
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Use Restrictions
Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).
Collection Inventory

| Commonplace book 1791-1796 |