

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the JOURNALS OF HENRY SIMMONS,
1796-1797

Collection no. 975 B
1 box (.50 linear feet)
©April, 2001

INFORMATION FOR USERS

Notes on content of the journals, provided by researcher, David Swatzler in 1996, are kept with the collection.

This description covers only the original manuscript materials laid in 975B; the box also contains other Simmons materials, including a typed transcript of Henry Simmons Jr., Book 2, a photocopy of Book 2, two photocopies of "To the Committee of the Yearly Meeting on Indian Affairs (no original) and a book containing the published Code of Handsome Lake.

RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

ABSTRACT

Five journals describe Henry Simmons' (1768-1807) journey to the Indian reservation at Oneida, 1796-97, with John Pierce, James Cooper, Joseph Sansom, Isaiah Rowlen [i.e. Rowland] and Enoch Walker; a sojourn among the Indians, 1799; and a Western journey of exploration, 1800. There is also one journal with fair copies of his letters and his commonplace book.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Henry Simmons (1768-1807) was a Quaker missionary and teacher whose work brought him among the Oneida Indians of New York state. In 1800, he married Rachel Preston at

West Grove Meeting in PA to which he moved his membership in 1801 from Middletown Monthly Meeting (PA).

(Information from *A Friend Among the Senecas* / by David Swatzler)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Cooper, James

[Pierce, John, fl. 1798-99](#)

Rowland, Isaiah

[Sansom, Joseph, 1765 or 6-1826](#)

Simmons, Henry, 1768-1807

Walker, Enoch

Indians of North America – History

Oneida Indians

[Society of Friends -- Indian affairs](#)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Five journals written by Henry Simmons (1768-1807), a Quaker missionary and teacher who was led to work among the Oneida Indians of New York state. describe a journey to the Indian reservation at Oneida, 1796-97, with John Pierce, James Cooper, Joseph Sansom, Isaiah Rowlen [i.e. Rowland] and Enoch Walker; a sojourn among the Indians, 1799; and a Western journey of exploration, 1800. There is also one journal with fair copies of his letters and his commonplace book.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1. [Henry Simmons Jr. His Book, 05/29/1796 - 10/16/1797](#)

Journal, manuscript book that has come unbound and is now in a folder labeled v. 1

Simmons' journal of his mission to the Stockbridge Indians (who were a band of Mohicans domiciled with the Oneida Indians in the Oneida country)

Also laid in the folder labeled v. 1 is a paper that appears

- On the front side, to be Simmons' original certificate of approval sent to the PYM Indian Commission by his Monthly Meeting at Middletown in Bucks County, dated 05/05/1796

- On the reverse side, appears to be an original minute releasing Simmons from his missionary work sent to his Middletown Monthly Meeting by the PYM Indian Committee, dated 12/21/1799

2. Henry Simmons Jr. His Book for 1797

Manuscript book

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
- 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)
- To 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 (copies) between the Muheconnuh (Mohican?) Indians and the

- Delaware Indians
- The Friends in Philadelphia

Miscellaneous correspondence. including one letter addressed to Henry Simmons Sr.

3. Henry Simmons Jr. Book, 1798-1799

Manuscript letter book, letters hand copied into a book

Correspondence between Simmons/Jackson/Swayne (SJS) 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 (or from Thomas Wistar, clerk)
- one letter, probably the first, undated

-11/19/1798
-02/19/1799
-04/09/1799
-04/20/1799
-06/22/1799

Additional 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 Peirce at Buffalo
06/15/1798

-To SJS at Genesingutha
From John Peirce on the Genesee River
06/17/1798

-To the Allegany Quakers (SJS) at Genesingutha
From the Seneca Indians at Cattaraugus
04/11/1799

-To the Seneca Indians at Cattaraugus
From members of the Indian Committee at Philadelphia undated

Also, a list of Indian tribes east of the Mississippi River but west of Detroit, between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes, with numbers of warriors

4. Henry Simmons Jr. Book No. 2

Journal, manuscript book

Simmons' journal at Conishcotago (aka Jenuchshadago, Burnt House, Cornplanter's Town, or the lower village), 02/1799 - 10/1799

Also his diary of his trip back home, 10/1799- 11/1799

5. Henry Simmons Jr. Book, 05/08/1800 - 07/18/1800

Original notes from his "western journey of exploration"

Journal, manuscript book

6. Manuscript copy of "western journey of exploration" diary/journal, somewhat edited and with more legible penmanship

Journal, manuscript book, 12 pp., all of the pages after page 12 are missing

First paragraph: "As I am now about to take a Western Journey, particularly for the purpose of exploring abundance of Land belonging to Gilpins and Fishers it may be proper and of some utility to preserve notes from my travel."

7. Commonplace Book, large manuscript book with entries from 1782- 1812