

Haverford College Library  
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the WALKING PURCHASE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PAPERS,  
1735-1738

ca. 15 items (.10 linear feet)  
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Gift of the estate of Albert L. Baily, through Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown, June, 1975.

**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions

**RELATED MATERIALS**

There are two photos of the Walking Purchase Stone in coll. 930, R-Z box.

**ABSTRACT**

Primarily requests for payment by walkers involved in the 1737 Walking Purchase of Pennsylvania project, a land purchase treaty made with the Delaware Indians.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

The 1737 Walking Purchase of Pennsylvania refers to the land purchase treaty signed between leaders of Pennsylvania and members of the Delaware Indians for the acquisition of land west of the Delaware River based on a distance which could be traveled by a person in a day and a half. The walk, which took place on September 19, 1737, resulted in the acquisition of 1200 square miles in Pennsylvania from the Delaware Indians. Prior to that time, a secret "trial" walk was made.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS**

[Chapman, John, fl. 1735](#)

[Doan, Joseph, fl. 1735](#)

[Penn, Thomas, 1702-1775](#)

[Smith, Timothy, fl. 1735-1737](#)

[Steel, James, fl. 1735](#)

[Weiser, Conrad, 1696-1760](#)

[Delaware Indians -- Land tenure](#)

[Indian land transfers -- \*\*Pennsylvania\*\*](#)

[Indians of North America -- Delaware](#)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

Included in this collection are accounts submitted by participants -- Joseph Doan, one of the "trial" walkers; John Chapman, deputy surveyor of Bucks County and Timothy Smith, sheriff of Bucks County, who accompanied the walkers on horseback; requests for payment of these accounts by Proprietor of Pennsylvania, Thomas Penn to James Steel, Receiver General of the colony; two accounts submitted by Conrad Weiser, an Indian agent from New York for his journey to Wyoming.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

- Doan, Joseph to [Thomas Penn. s.l., s.n.], 29th of the 3 mon: 1735 [sic]. [requests payment for his part in the "trial walk" preferably in the form of land]
- A.D.S. by Thomas Penn. Pennsylvania, 31 May 1735. (on verso of above letter) [requests James Steel make payment to Timothy Smith and three persons;] also A.D.S. by Timo[thy] Smith, 31st 3 mo. 1735 [sic]. [acknowledges receipt of £10 ]
- A.D.S. by William Smith. Philad[elphi]a, 26 April 1735. [receipt for £30 from James Steel "to buy cattle and sheep for the Indian treaty to be held at Pennsbury" which took place May 5, 1735]
- A.D. "An acct. of Charges accrued in walking the Day & 1/2 Journey." 1735 May 5. [list of goods needed for passage]; also A.D.S. by Timo[thy] Smith. 15th Feb[ruary] 1738 [acknowledges receipt of payment for above.]
- Chapman, John to James Steel. [Philadelphia, Pa.], the 16th 1735. [requests money for accompanying "trial walkers" at 10 shillings per day]
- A.D.S. by John Chapman. Philad[elphi]a, 29th of July 1735. (on verso of above letter). [acknowledges receipt of £4 from James Steel]

- A.D.S. by Tho[mas] Penn. Bristol, [Pa.], July 23, 1735. [requests James Steel to make payment to the "trial walkers" at £5 each;] also A.D.S. by Timo[thy] Smith. September ye 3d: 1735 [acknowledges receipt of £15]
- A.D. "An acct. of Charges accrued in walking ye Day 1/2 Journey" 1737 Septr 19th. [list of goods and services expended, including 6 gallons of rum]
- A.D.S. by William Parsons and Conrad Weiser. "The honorable Prop[rietary] on Acco[un]t of a Journey to Wyoming by William Parsons and Conrad Weiser. 1738 June 6. [lists goods and services expended in the hand of William Parsons (?) and notes receipt of amount requested by William Parsons]
- A.D S. by Conrad Weiser and William Parsons. "An Account of Provision etc.(?) taken on our Journey to Wyoming. Philad[elphi]a, Oct[ober] 5th 1738. [elaboration on above account, probably in the hand of William Parsons]
- T.L.S. by Frederick B. Tolles to Albert L. Baily, Jr. Swarthmore, Pa., April 25, 1949. [thanks Baily for letting him examine "walking purchase] papers.]