

Guide to the Guy Johnson Papers

GEN MSS 494



by Diana Smith

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 494

CREATOR: Johnson, Guy, approximately 1740-1788

TITLE: Guy Johnson papers

DATES: 1773-1831

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.77 linear feet (3 boxes) + 1 broadside folder

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, journals, documents, and maps by or about Guy Johnson. The early correspondence (1773-1774) includes letters from and to Guy's uncle William Johnson, and concern his illness and desire for Guy Johnson to succeed him as Indian Affairs Superintendant. William's correspondents include the Earl of Dartmouth, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and General Thomas Gage. Letters from 1775 concern the loyalty of the Six Nations to the British, and includes an intercepted letter from Ethan Allen, written after his advance on Canada. Guy's correspondents include the Earl of Dartmouth, Daniel Claus, Peter Van Brugh Livingston, and Allan Maclean. Two journals kept by Guy Johnson date from 1775-1776, and 1781. The first journal records his visit to London and return to America on July 29, 1776, and includes an account of Howe's operations on Long Island and the capture of Fort Washington by General Knyphausen. The second journal contains daily reports of Indian raids, news and messages received, and information from prisoners. There are a number of references to Joseph Brant. Johnson's memorandum and account book is dated 1776-1782 and contains his official accounts. Penned at the back are extensive notes about Indian movements. The other journal, written by an unidentified officer posted at Kadaragoras, a settlement built for the Senecas, contains reports on enemy movements. The Other Papers contain formal proclamations by the magistrates of Schenectady and Albany, and by the Mohawks, dated May 1775, stating their mutual wishes for neutrality in the war. A manuscript by Colonel John Butler records the proceedings of 18 councils with the Six Nations and the Canadian Indians, from October, 1775 to June 1776. A manuscript plat map drawn by Guy Johnson of the Townships of Gage and Burton in Nova Scotia is undated. The rest of the papers relate to attempts by Johnson's family to obtain compensation for Johnson's expenses during the war.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.guy>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.guy>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased by Paul Mellon from Lionel and Philip Robinson, Ltd., 1962. Bequest of Paul Mellon (Yale 1929), 2000.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Guy Johnson Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Guy Johnson Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

GUY JOHNSON (CA. 1740-1788)

Guy Johnson, nephew of Sir William Johnson, served as Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the northeastern American colonies and became Superintendent in 1774 when his uncle died. In 1775, at the outbreak of the American Revolution, Johnson fled to Canada and sailed to England. He returned to America in 1776, where he directed British raids on settlements in the Mohawk Valley through the end of the Revolutionary War.

Scope and Contents

The Guy Johnson Papers consists of correspondence, journals, documents, and maps by or about Guy Johnson. The collection, spanning the dates 1773-1831, is housed in 3 boxes and comprises 1.77 linear feet. There are three series: Series I, *Correspondence*, Series II, *Journals and Memorandum Books*, Series III, *Other Papers*. Box 3 contains Oversize material.

[Series I, Correspondence](#) spans the dates 1773-1831. The early correspondence (1773-1774) includes letters from and to Guy's uncle William Johnson, and concern his illness and desire for his nephew Guy Johnson to succeed him as Indian Affairs Superintendent. William's correspondents include the Earl of Dartmouth,

Secretary of State for the Colonies, and General Thomas Gage. Letters from 1775 concern the loyalty of the Six Nations to the British, and includes an intercepted letter from Ethan Allen, written after his advance on Canada. Guy's correspondents include the Earl of Dartmouth, Daniel Claus, Peter Van Brugh Livingston, and Allan Maclean. Two later letters are from Johnson family members and concern compensation sought for Johnson's expenses during the war.

[*Series II, Journals and Memorandum Books*](#), 1775-1782, is organized into two subseries: Guy Johnson and Others. Two journals kept by Guy Johnson date from 1775-1776, and 1781. The first journal records his visit to London and return to America on July 29, 1776, and includes an account of Howe's operations on Long Island and the capture of Fort Washington by General Knyphausen. The second journal contains daily reports of Indian raids, news and messages received, and information from prisoners. There are a number of references to Joseph Brant, Mohawk Indian chief, who led four of the six Iroquois Indians on the British side in the war. Johnson's memorandum and account book is dated 1776-1782 and contains his official accounts. Penned at the back are extensive notes about Indian movements. The other journal, written by an unidentified officer posted at Kadaragoras, a settlement built for the Senecas, contains reports on enemy movements.

[*Series III, Other Papers*](#), 1775-1825, is organized into three subseries: Documents, Maps and Illustrations, and Other Papers. Documents contain formal proclamations by the magistrates of Schenectady and Albany, and by the Mohawks, dated May 1775, stating their mutual wishes for neutrality in the war. A manuscript by Colonel John Butler records the proceedings of 18 councils with the Six Nations and the Canadian Indians, from October, 1775 to June 1776. A manuscript plat map drawn by Guy Johnson of the Townships of Gage and Burton in Nova Scotia is undated. The rest of the papers relate to attempts by Johnson's family to obtain compensation for Johnson's expenses during the war.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1773-1831

0.21 linear feet (.5 box)

Series I, *Correspondence*, is arranged chronologically.

1773		
b. 1, f. 1	Johnson, John to GJ	1773 Jun 22
1774		
b. 1, f. 2	Johnson, William to GJ	1774 Feb 13
b. 1, f. 3	Johnson, William to Lord Adam Gordon Copy in GJ's hand	1774 Apr 6
b. 1, f. 4	Johnson, William to GJ	1774 Apr 10
b. 1, f. 5	Johnson, William to William Legge, Earl of Dartmouth Copy in GJ's hand	1774 Apr 17
b. 1, f. 6	Johnson, William to Thomas Gage Copy in GJ's hand	1774 Apr 20
b. 1, f. 7	Penn, John to William Johnson	1774 Jun 28
b. 1, f. 8	Dakayensere, Isaack to GJ	1774 Jul 22
b. 1, f. 9	Colden, Cadwallader to GJ	1774 Aug
b. 1, f. 10	Dartmouth, William Legge, Earl of, to GJ	
b. 1, f. 11	Johnson, Guy to John Blackburn. Draft	1774 Sep 12
b. 1, f. 12	Johnson, S. J., Daniel Claus, and Guy Johnson to Samuel Baker. Draft	1774 Dec 27
1775		
b. 1, f. 13	Dartmouth, William Legge, Earl of, to GJ	
b. 1, f. 14	Allen, Ethan to James Morrison	1775 May 18
b. 1, f. 15	Livingston, Peter Van Brugh to GJ Accompanied by draft of letter by GJ in response, dated 1775 Jul 8	1775 Jun 3
b. 1, f. 16	Dorchester, Guy Carleton to GJ	1775 Jun 19
b. 1, f. 17	Maclean, Allan to GJ	1775 Jul 8
b. 1, f. 18	Dartmouth, William Legge, Earl of, to GJ	
b. 1, f. 19	Dartmouth, William Legge, Earl of, to Thomas Gage Copy	1775 Aug 2
b. 1, f. 20	Le Maistre, F[---?] to GJ	1775 Sep 13

	1776	
b. 1, f. 21	Unidentified to GJ Copy. Accompanied by a letter from John Blackburn to GJ, 1777 Apr 7	1776 Jan 7
	1777	
b. 1, f. 22	Johnson, Guy to [John] Blackburn Copies	1777 Apr, Nov
	1782	
b. 1, f. 23	Lansdowne, William Petty, Marquis of, to GJ	1782 Mar 30
	1783	
b. 1, f. 24	Claus, Daniel to unidentified	1783 Jun 5
b. 1, f. 25	Holland, Samuel to GJ	1783 Aug 23
	1786	
b. 1, f. 25A	GJ to Evan Nepean	1786 December 28
	1789	
b. 1, f. 26	Chew, Joseph to Colin Campbell	1789 Jun 22
	1831	
b. 1, f. 27	Johnson, Charles C. to Mrs. Campbell	1831 Jan 12

Series II: Journals and Memorandum Books, 1775-1782*0.1 linear feet (.25 box)*Series II, *Journals and Memorandum Books*, is organized into two subseries: Guy Johnson and Others.

GUY JOHNSON

b. 1, f. 28	Journal written in Goldsmith's Almanac for 1776. Dec 27 1775 - Nov 16 1776 Memoranda written on blank pages at front and back as well	1775-76
b. 1, f. 29	"Memorandum & Accot. Book with Government, Officers &c. Commencing in 1776" Includes notes on Indian movements at the back	1776-82
b. 1, f. 30	Journal Begins with a brief outline of his experiences in 1778-1780. Map of a fort at the junction of the St. Joseph River and Miami River drawn on inside back cover	1781

OTHERS

b. 1, f. 31	Unidentified. "Book, 1779." Journal of an official at Kadaragoras, New York	1779-80
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Series III: Other Papers, 1775-1825*0.32 linear feet (1.25 boxes)*

Series III, *Other Papers*, is organized into three subseries: Documents, Maps and Illustrations, and Other Papers.

DOCUMENTS

	Report of a suit of James Downes against Guy Johnson relating to land in Schenectady Stored in: Oversize, box 3, folder 49	1775 Apr 29
b. 1, f. 32	Agreement of freeholders and inhabitants of the Mohawk District in Tryon County to defend themselves against invaders	1775 May 11
b. 1, f. 33	"The Answer of the Magistrates of the Town of Schenectady in the County Albany, to a Speech Made by Little Abraham in Behalf of the Mohawk Indians"	1775 May 24
b. 1, f. 34	"The Answer of the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Albany, to a Speech of the Mohawks delivered by one of their Chiefs called little Abraham." Copy	[1775 May]
b. 1, f. 35	"Answer of the Mohawks to the Speech of the Magistrates &c. of Albany & Schenectady at Guy Park May the 25th 1775"	1775 May 25
b. 1, f. 36	Butler, John. "Indian Recoards begun at Montreal the 12th October 1775"	1775-76
b. 1, f. 37	List of articles in payment to Piankashaw Indians for land on the Wabash	1775
b. 2, f. 38	"A Treaty of Alliance and Friendship Entered into and concluded by, and between the Governors of the State of Massachusetts Bay, and the Delegates of the St. Johns, and Micmack Tribes of Indians" Endorsed on back: "Surrendered up to Mr. Francklin in 1778 & delivered by Order to Col. Johnson Supt. at Halifax"	1776 Jul 19
b. 2, f. 39	"Invoice of Indian Stores belonging to Coll. Guy Johnson Sole Agent & Superintendant of the Six Nations that was forwarded at different times to Niagara"	1779 Nov 20
	"Roll of Officers &c. of the Indian Department, commanded by Colonel Guy Johnson Superintendant" Stored in: Oversize, box 3, folder 50	1782 Oct 16
	"Estimate of the Estate Real & Personal of Colo. Guy Johnson, in the Counties of Albany & Tryon, and Province of New York" Stored in: Oversize, box 3, folder 51	1783 Sep 10
	Memorial of Guy Johnson to the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for inquiring into the losses and services of the American loyalists. Two copies Stored in: Oversize, box 3, folder 52	1784 Mar 23
b. 2, f. 40	Deposition of Joseph Chew regarding Guy Johnson's expenditures as Indian agent. Copy	1788 May 19
b. 2, f. 41	Memorial of Mary Campbell, daughter of Guy Johnson, seeking compensation which was due her father at his death. Two copies	1825 Mar

DOCUMENTS (continued)

b. 2, f. 42	Power of attorney from Mary Campbell to Charles Johnson to sell lands in Canada	1825 Apr
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	"Case of the Family of the Late Colonel Guy Johnson Superintendant of the Indian Nations in North America." Incomplete Stored in: Oversize, box 3, folder 53	n.d.
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MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

b. 2, f. 43	Hulett, J. "A North View of Fort Johnson drawn on the spot by Capt. Guy Johnson Sir Wm. Johnson's Son in Law." Engraving	n.d.
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	Johnson, Guy. "Map of the Townships of Gage & Burton in Nova Scotia from the original surveys of Majr. Holland & Mr. Chs. Morris." Manuscript map in pen-and-ink and watercolor Stored in: Oversize, broadside folder 55	n.d.
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b. 2, f. 44	"Map of Hudson's River, with the adjacent Country." Printed map	[1778]
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OTHER PAPERS

b. 2, f. 45	"Account of Cash Left by Sir Wm. Johnson Baronet at the Time of his Death"	1774 Jul
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b. 2, f. 46	Bond of Abraham Dutchess and James Wells	1779 Jun 27
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b. 2, f. 47	Guy Johnson's bills and receipts Stored also in: Oversize, box 3, folder 54	1778, 1788
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b. 2, f. 48	Johnstone family genealogy notes	n.d.
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Oversize*1.14 linear feet (1 box)*

Oversize contains material from Series II and III, and is arranged in box order.

b. 3, f. 49	Report of a suit of James Downes against Guy Johnson relating to land in Schenectady	1775 Apr 29
b. 3, f. 50	"Roll of Officers &c. of the Indian Department, commanded by Colonel Guy Johnson Superintendant"	1782 Oct 16
b. 3, f. 51	"Estimate of the Estate Real & Personal of Colo. Guy Johnson, in the Counties of Albany & Tryon, and Province of New York"	1783 Sep 10
b. 3, f. 52	Memorial of Guy Johnson to the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for inquiring into the losses and services of the American loyalists. Two copies	1784 Mar 23
b. 3, f. 53	"Case of the Family of the Late Colonel Guy Johnson Superintendant of the Indian Nations in North America." Incomplete	n.d.
b. 3, f. 54	Guy Johnson's bills and receipts	1778, 1788
b. bsd, folder 55	Johnson, Guy. "Map of the Townships of Gage & Burton in Nova Scotia from the original surveys of Majr. Holland & Mr. Chs. Morris." Manuscript map in pen-and-ink and watercolor	n.d.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783 -- British forces
United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783 -- Claims
United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783 -- Participation, Indian
United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783 -- Personal narratives, British

Genres / Formats

Maps (documents)

Names

Allen, Ethan, 1738-1789
Brant, Joseph, 1742-1807
Butler, John, 1728-1796
Claus, Daniel, 1727-1787
Dartmouth, William Legge, Earl of, 1731-1801
Johnson, Guy, approximately 1740-1788
Johnson, William, 1715-1774
Livingston, Peter Van Brugh, 1710-1792
Maclean, Allan, 1725-1797

Corporate Body

Six Nations