

WESTERN ARCHIVES

FINDING AID FOR

John Norton (Teyoninhokarawen) collection

AFC 407

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AFC 407

John Norton collection.

[ca. 1802-1808], 1802-1823 (photocopied/transcribed 19--), 1943-1945, 1956, 1965. 2 volumes of textual records, 14 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch/Administrative History

John Norton: John Norton (ca. 1760 - 1831), also known as Teyoninhokarawen, was an Indian Agent, an advocate for the First Nations in Upper Canada and the adopted nephew and deputy of Joseph Brant, a Mohawk leader of the Six Nations reserve. Norton's ancestry is unclear - he may have been of mixed Cherokee- Scottish descent or of Cherokee descent and raised in Scotland. In the 1780s he came to Upper Canada and in 1796 he was appointed as an Indian Interpreter. He is known for his efforts in rallying the support of the First Nations during the War of 1812. Norton was also the author of a comprehensive manuscript which includes an account of his travels, a history of the First Nations and an account of his participation in the War of 1812. It was not published within Norton's lifetime but it was preserved in the library of Alnwick Castle.

J. McE Murray (d. 1945) was secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Historical Society. In 1942, Murray came into possession of an original journal and several letters of John Norton. At the June 24, 1943 Brantford meeting of the Ontario Historical Society he read a paper about John Norton which he subsequently decided not to have printed. After his death, his daughter supplied the original handwritten text to the OHS for publication. It was published in the Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records in 1945.

Carl F. Klinck was an English professor at the University of Western Ontario with an interest in Canadian literature and criticism. In 1966, Klinck discovered the 1816 journal of John Norton at Alnwick Castle. He and J.J. Talman arranged for the publication of the journal by the Champlain Society, serving as editors and writing an introduction.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of records of John Norton as well as research materials created and acquired by J. McE Murray and Carl F. Klinck in the course of researching the life and work of John Norton. Included is an original diary of John Norton containing an early version of parts of his 1816 journal. Also included are transcriptions of the diary and Norton's letters (transcribed by Murray) as well as photocopies of the manuscript of his 1816 journal (photocopied by Klinck). Fonds also contains research notes, correspondence, and clippings relating to Murray's and Klinck's research.

Series Descriptions

AFC 407-F1 [Diary of John Norton]. -- [ca. 1802-1808]. -- 1 volume of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 407-1/1

AFC 407-F2 [Diary of John Norton - photocopy]. -- [ca. 1802-1808] (photocopied 19--). -- 1 file of textual records . -- Box Number AFC 407-1/2

AFC 407-F3 [Diary of John Norton - transcription]. -- [ca. 1802-1808] (transcribed 194-). -- 1 volume of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 407-1/3

AFC 407-F4 [Correspondence of John Norton - transcriptions]. -- 1807-1823 (transcribed 194-). -- 1 file of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 407-1/4

AFC 407-F5 [Journal of Major John Norton] Journal of a thousand miles down the Ohio, from the Grand River, Upper Canada; - visit to the country of the Cherokees; - through the states of Kentucky and Tennessee; and an account of the Five Nations, etc. from an early period, to the conclusion of the late war between Great Britain and America. -- 1816 (photocopied 1975). -- 5 files of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 407-1/5

AFC 407-F6 [Correspondence, clippings and notes of Mr. J. McE. Murray re: research about John Norton]. -- 1943-1945. -- 1 file of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 407-1/6

AFC 407-F7 Murray, J. McE. (1945). John Norton. Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records. Vol. XXXVII.. -- 1945. -- 1 file of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 407-1/7

AFC 407-F8 [Correspondence and clippings received by Klinck re: research about John Norton]. -- 1956, 1965. -- 1 file of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 407-1/8