FINDING AID TO THE MORAVIAN MATERIAL

IN THE LESLIE ROBB GRAY PAPERS AT

THE REGIONAL COLLECTION (UWO)

In order to improve access to more of the existing holdings of Western Archives copies of a number of preliminary finding aids are being made available. These preliminary finding aids, some of which were prepared many years ago, vary in degrees of completeness, detail and accuracy. Some provide only basic box listings of the contents of a fonds or a collection, while others provide additional background material. All are intended to be the starting point for access to the records and they should not be considered a definitive source of information on the full nature and contents of the fonds or collection. Questions about the information provided in the preliminary finding aids should be directed to archives.services@uwo.ca

August, 1988
Leslie Robb Gray

Born in 1904 in London, Ontario, Leslie Robb Gray contributed much over the years to his hometown, his region, and beyond. He excelled in business affairs, genealogical research, historical research and writing, and promoting heritage preservation.

Mr. Gray received a Bachelor of Arts in Honours Commercial Economics from The University of Western Ontario in 1925. Through correspondence courses he received diplomas in accountancy and office management in the 1930s. He was designated as a Certified General Accountant in 1940; as a Certified Accountant in 1949; and as a Chartered Accountant (C.A.) in 1962.

The great majority of his working life was connected with Silverwoods Dairies (1931-1969). Beginning as a salesman, he advanced into accountancy in 1936; into auditing in 1939; and was Assistant Secretary-Treasurer by 1946. At the time of his retirement, he served in the dual capacities of Vice-Treasurer, Finance, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Gray had a wide range of interests in the area of history, notably that pertaining to southern Ontario as well as Pennsylvanian German emigration to Ontario.

Overall, his single greatest achievement was arranging to have Ontario's land and municipal records microfilmed (and some parish and surrogate court records and wills) through the involvement of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormons).

Over the years, Mr. Gray belonged to at least a dozen historical and genealogical organizations. Moreover, he served on various public advisory boards, councils and committees. A very talented genealogist - who acted as consultant at times - he was also an authority on the folklore artform of Pennsylvania German Fraktur, especially as practised in Ontario.

The author of eight historical articles published in journals or historical dictionaries, Mr. Gray also wrote one book and did much research on another. His book, published in 1983, was a history of London's New St. James Presbyterian Church, of which he was a lifetime member. It was titled "Proudfoot to Pepperbox to Posterity, 1833-1983." The other was "Wilderness Christians," mentioned below.

Over the years, Mr. Gray donated his (and his deceased wife, Elma's) papers and books used in their writings to the Regional Collection. There are eighteen boxes of Gray Papers now, likely the full extent of material previously held by Elma and Leslie Gray. There is a distinct need for more finding aids to this important collection (perhaps SLIS students in Course 595 could undertake this work).
Background: The Moravian Material

In 1956, a book was released written primarily or wholly by Elma Gray, though Leslie contributed much in terms of research and was given some credit on the title page. Titled "Wilderness Christians: The Moravian Mission to the Delaware Indians," it was published in Canada by Macmillan; in the United States by Cornell University Press; in Great Britain by Oxford University Press.

The Moravian Church was founded in the latter half of the fifteenth century by followers of John Huss, the Bohemian reformer martyred in 1415. In time, the church became known as the 'Unitas Fratrum' (Unity of Brethren) and still uses these terms, as well as 'Moravian', a term dating to the early 1700s when the church was reorganized by Moravians. The Moravian Church has long promoted missionary endeavours and has established many missions throughout the world.

In the United States, beginning in the mid-eighteenth century, important Moravian missionary work was conducted among the Delaware Indians. (The Delawares preferred to call themselves 'Lenni Lenape' or the 'Original People'). Many Delawares were converted to Christianity, but they and unconverted Delawares fled from advancing white civilization. Many Delawares migrated from New Jersey into Pennsylvania, the Ohio region and beyond.

Because of severe white-Indian hostility, persecution and periodic bloodshed, Moravian missionaries led about 140 converted Delawares into Upper Canada in 1792. A settlement named Fairfield was established on the banks of the Thames River, about sixty miles below the main confluence of this stream at London. Fairfield was razed by the Americans in 1813 during the War of 1812. It was rebuilt in 1815 and called New Fairfield.

Gradually, in ensuing decades, the Moravians lost influence among the inhabitants of the rebuilt settlement. Moreover, during the latter part of the nineteenth century, Moravian funds for Indian missions largely dried up. In 1902 Moravian stewardship of the Delawares ended. The Methodist Church purchased the Moravians' property at New Fairfield and many Delawares joined the new church.

"Wilderness Christians" traces the westward course of the Moravians and Delawares and concentrates on the (New) Fairfield settlement. The book was generally very well-received. For example: "This competent, well-written study...will satisfy the lover of literature as much as the most technically fastidious historian. 'Wilderness Christians' is a work in the finest tradition of good literature and scientific scholarship." Queen's Quarterly, 1956, p. 624.
The Moravian Archival Boxes

From the large body of Gray papers, material concerning the Moravians and Delawares has been sorted, assembled, and placed in specific archival boxes. These boxes have the following designations: 4978; 4979; 5602; 5603; 5604; 5609; 5610.

Box 4979

Index to vols. I - VIII, Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society, (photocopy of handwritten index, 5 p.).

Fragments from Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society.

Box 5602

Index to Elma Gray's notebooks numbered 1 through 36 (3 p., typed).

32 original notebooks of Elma Gray used in preparing the book "Wilderness Christians"; numbered on the front cover 1 through 36; notebooks 22, 27, 28 and 31, however, are missing as of this writing.


Notebook designated "Deep Run" on the front cover; contents relate to place names and genealogy.

Notebook designated "1951" on the front cover; one entry concerns Moravians.


"'My People, The Delaware Indians','' by Big White Owl, (8 p., typed).

27 printed maps of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio; most are topographical; most concern Pennsylvania.

Box 5603

A group of 55 research files; includes translations from the Moravian Archives, notes by Elma Gray, and select files of biographical data on Moravian missionaries.
Newspaper clippings; most concern the Moravians and Pennsylvania.

Material regarding the 1955 200th anniversary celebration of laying the cornerstone of 'Old Main' of the Nazareth Hall Military Academy, Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Pamphlets concerning Moravians and faith.

Promotional material concerning the theme park, 'Colonial Williamsburg', in Virginia.

Notes about Fairfield; extracts from correspondence of Moravians (1793-1817).

Photographs; a few.

Research correspondence for "Wilderness Christians"; separate files for 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1956; two files for 1955; one file for 1957-1959; one file for 1959-1983; these files contain research inquiries, primarily to the Moravian Church, and correspondence regarding publication of "Wilderness Christians."

Material regarding the 1972 reprint of "Wilderness Christians."

Maps of Fairfield.

Postcards.

The Schnall family's diary of a trip from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to Fairfield in 1801.

"C.F. Denke." A brief biography by Leslie R. Gray.

Miscellaneous printed Moravian material.

Boxes 5609 and 5610

These boxes solely contain books used by the Grays in their Moravian research. Ed Phelps hopes to have the titles run through the library's computer to see if the books should be added to the library's collection.

Boxes 4978 and 5604

Files in these boxes remain to be assessed and their contents added to this finding aid.
Moravian Material in Non-Moravian Boxes

During the process of locating and setting aside Moravian material, the following items were located. In accordance with the principle of 'respect des fonds', these items were kept intact and left where they were.

"Murray (Delaware Indians)." This file in Box 5600 concerns an inquiry dated 1972 to Mr. Gray about a family mentioned in "Wilderness Christians."

A number of letters regarding Moravian research in file, "Letters Outward" (c. 1950-1953), Box 5601.
Leslie and Emma Gray Papers

November 1980 and August 1981 additional

Box 5597
Leslie R. Gray Papers
Zavitz Geneology

United States Families Box 1

Box 5598
Leslie R. Gray Papers

Zavitz Geneology Canadian Families Box 2

Box 5599 - Box 5607 Leslie R. Gray Papers

General Historical Files and Books

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LESLEY ROBB AND ELMA E. GRAY PAPERS

Box 4977: Ontario Historical Society and miscellaneous research notes, etc.

Files:
miscellaneous publications
 correspondence with the American Philosophical Society
miscellaneous- Elma Gray
 articles: "The Pennsylvania Dutch"
 article: "Advice to Travellers"
 article: "A Journey from Sandwich to York, Canada"
 article: "The Halverd"
 article: on the history of Pennsylvania
 article: "The Griffiths"
 notes: Wrightstown and Chapman history
 notes: "To read for research"
 article: "Zavitz reunion, 1948"
 notes: Wm. Kern
 souvenir map of London, Ontario
 notes" streets of London
 correspondence: E. H. Darling
 notes: Zavitz family and Lobo
 article: History of Selborne
 correspondence: Royal Ontario Museum
 miscellaneous
 notes: Pennsylvania Dutch
 notes: London and District
 article: "Kitchi-Askenuw"
 articles: from London Free Press
 articles: "Notes on the Geology of Middlesex
 notes: Colonel J. A. Sutter and Mr. Bowman
 articles: Stratford; Moravians
 notes: Pennsylvania history
 O.H.S.: Museum Bulletins and publications, c. 1956-1969
 O.H.S.: Newsletters, 1954-1973
 O.H.S.: two briefs and one annual address
draft of "Letters of John Talbot"
 O.H.S.: Papers re. honours and awards
 O.H.S.: Ontario Hydro, 1952-1955
 O.H.S.: Correspondence re. Museums Section, c.1953-1967
 O.H.S.: "Proposal for a museum for Perth County"

Box 4978: Moravians and the history of Fairfield

Books:
Milner, Joseph
 History of the Church of Christ (in German), c. 1806. belonged to the
 mission at Fairfield.

De Schweinitz, Edmund
 The Life and Times of David Zesiberger, Philadelphia, 1870

Loskiel, George Henry
 History of the Mission of the United Brethren Among the Indians
 In North America, London, 1794.
LESLIE ROBB AND ELMA E. GRAY PAPERS

Box 4978 cont'd

Heckewelder, Reb. John

History, Manners and Customs of the Indian Nations, Philadelphia, 1876.

Wallace, Paul A.

Conrad Weiser, Philadelphia, 1945. signed by the author

Wallace, Anthony F. C.


Files:

Moravians: clippings from 1950's
Moravians: pictures from Moravian Archives
Moravians: fragment of Moravian Life and Character
Moravians: Pamphlets and other published materials
Moravians: "Periodical Accounts relating to the Missions of the Church of the United Brethren...", two pamphlets, both with reports from Fairfield, c.1796-1798
Moravians: notes on the Vogler family at Fairfield
Fairfield Diaries: beginning 1900
Moravians: miscellaneous re. Fairfield
Moravians: miscellaneous
Fairfield Diaries, May 1805-Sept. 1806
Moravians: letters from Indian Department re. Fairfield
Fairfield Diaries: 1799, 1800
Fairfield Diaries: Sept. 1797-May 1798
Moravians: Excerpts from the Memoir of John Heckewelder, translated from the German
Moravians: translations of notes on Detroit, Fairfield
Moravians: translation of "Extempore on a Wagon"
Fairfield Diaries: 31 May-13 August, 1798
Moravians: translation of Ettwein letter, 1798
Moravians: papers re. Fairfield and Department of Indian Affairs
Moravians: notes on Fairfield
Moravians: notes on Fairfield

Box 4979

Miscellaneous oversize pictures- Moravians, Fairfield
Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, 1927, 1928.
Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society- miscellaneous issues, 1869-1975, also index.

X1496- Proudfoot diploma, Doctor of Theology, 1871- hand-lettered on parchment.

Box 4980: Proudfoot Papers

correspondence with Christopher Waugh, c.1839
correspondence re. Gaelic congregation, c.1837
letter from Thomas Parke re. established church in U.C., January 14, 1837
LESLIE ROBB AND ELMA E. GRAY PAPERS

Box 4980 cont'd

letter from William Alves to his parents, written from Newgate prison, England, 4 February, 1839
letters and papers pre 1850
letters from John Talbot, 1837-1842
letters and papers post 1850
draft of biography of William Proudfoot, c.1852
newspapers and clippings, 1883-1897
undated letters
satirical handbill on city government, n.d.
Poster: Horticultural and Mechanical Association, 1857
typescript of Proudfoot diaries
article: "Sketches of Pastors of the English settlement and Presbyterian church", 1939
document: "Statement of the Procedure of the Elders and Session in Reference to the quarrel between Messrs. Gilman and Tend", c.1878
miscellaneous Presbyterian pamphlets, 1835-1938
pamphlet on role of the elders, annotated, 1873
De Officinis, M.T. Ciceroonis, 1828
miscellaneous reports by Presbyterian church organisations, 1844-1890
miscellaneous Presbyterian periodicals 1846-1890
minutes of the United Associate Synod, May 1843-October 1846
"The United Presbyterian Magazine", six issues, 1849
"The United Session Magazine", eight issues, Sept. 1842-Feb. 1845
"The Presbyterian Record", seven issues, May 1883-May 1885
"Minutes of the Missionary synod of Canada", 1845-1848
"Minutes of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada...", 1849-1859
"Minutes of the Synod of Hamilton and London of the Presbyterian Church in Canada"
"Report on the Home and foreign missions of the United Associate Synod", 1844, 1845
"Presbyterian Magazine", April, May, 1843, and "United Presbyterian Magazine", May, November, 1849
miscellaneous Synod minutes, 1850, 1861, 1863
synod minutes, Presbyterian church in Upper Canada, 1836, 37, 39.

Other Books

for Main Catalogue:
Schwarze, Rev. Edmund
History of the Moravian Missions Among Southern Indian Tribes of the U.S., Bethlehem, P.A., 1923.

Eller, E. M.
Bethania in Marchovia, North Carolina, 1959.

The Moravian Indian Mission on White River, ed. L. H. Gipson, Indianapolis, 1938

Other Books cont'd


Smith, DeCost

already held by library:
Thompson, Augustus C.
Moravian Missions, New York, 1883

Pries, A. L., ed.

transferred to Special Collections:
Clare, Maurice
A Day With Walt Whitman, London, 1917

Flora MacDonald, ed.

Also in case file:
Certificate of Transfer from Scottish church for Alexander Melville
and wife, June 17, 1842
Letter from Officer of Royal Regiment, objecting to marriage of one of
his soldiers
typescript of petition, "From the Presbyterians of the Church of
Scotland in London, Upper Canada, September 5, 1840
The Canadian Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Distinguished
and Self-Made Men, Ontario Volume, Toronto, 1880
Records of Williams Presbyterian Church, Williams Township, Ontario, ed.
by L. R. Gray, 1954
Items in the Archives of the United Church of Canada, London Conference,
Archives, prepared by L. R. Gray, June 1955.
LESLIE AND ELMA GRAY COLLECTION
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS       DEPOSITED AUGUST 1981

Box 1.
(1) Notebooks #1 - #20.
(2) Notebooks #21 - #36
(3) Miscellaneous Moravian materials, including pamphlets.

Box 2.
(1) Moravian Research files, miscellaneous
(2) Moravian Denke translations
(3) Correspondence and Notes re: the above Denke translations

Box 3.
(1) U.S. topographical maps, etc., used by Leslie and Elma Gray in their research and travels.
(2) Fairfield Notes, clippings and various London, Ont. items
(3) Exhibit of printing based on Wilderness Christians.

Re-arranged as two files of material including galley proofs.

Box 4.
A collection of Pennsylvania local historical publications, and various travel and special events pamphlets, Canadian and U.S.