

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Indians of North America, Miscellaneous Papers,
1620-1895

Location:

Manuscript boxes "I"
Folio volumes "I"

Size of collection:

1 manuscript box, 1 folio volume

N.U.C.M.C. #:

RLIN id: MAAR93-A5

Sources of information on collection:

For information on Wilkins Tannehill, see *Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography*, vol. 6, p. 31

Publications of material in this collection:

Daniel K. Richter, "Rediscovered Links in the Covenant Chain ..." *AAS Proceedings*, vol. 92, part 1, April 1982, p. 45-85.

Source of collection:

Copy of Report on Dudley Indians, gift of P. Emory Aldrich, 1890; folio volume, gift of Thomas Jefferson, 1814; 1680 Indian deed, gift of J. Wingate Thornton, 1860; 1895 South Dakota letters in folder one, gift of Mrs. Charles J. Penney

Collection description:

This collection of miscellaneous papers concerning Indians of North America covers the period 1620 to 1895 and contains a folio volume of historical notes on the English and French settlement of North America, and the "state" of the Indian tribes of North America from 1620 to 1691. The manuscript was apparently written by a Mr. Burnet, who gave it to Thomas Jefferson in 1763, and includes chronological paragraph descriptions of historical events in three parallel columns. In 1982 Daniel Richter, a Daniels fellow at AAS, wrote the following about this folio volume: "The volume, in its broad outlines, presents an unexceptional chronicle of Euro-Indian relations in northeastern North America during the 17th century, which the anonymous author compiled largely from commonplace French and English published works and arranged--not very consistently--in three columns entitled 'English Discoveries & Settlements ...'; 'French Discoveries & Settlements ...'; and 'State of the Indian Tribes in North America.' The bulk of the work is devoted to the period from 1677 to 1691, and it is here that its scholarly value is hidden. Much of the material the author presents for these years is based on the first volume of the records

of the Albany Commissioners for Indian Affairs--a book that disappeared in the early 19th century. Minutes of various treaty sessions between the English and the Iroquois and Mahican appear in paraphrases and, in a few cases, full transcriptions. Many of these minutes are either missing entirely or only briefly discussed in the published works that scholars have used to replace the lost Albany records (Colden's History of the Five Indian Nations, Wraxall's Abridgement of the New York Indian Records, the two O'Callaghan documentary collections, and Leder, ed., The Livingston Indian Records). The accounts of treaty sessions from the late 1670s and early 1680s are particularly enlightening

(cont.)

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Collection description (continued):

on the early evolution of the 'Covenant Chain' relationship between the Iroquois and the colonies of New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Maryland. The volume seems to have been compiled between 1703 and 1727--there are several references in the text to Lahontan's New Voyages to North America, which appeared in English in 1703, but none to the very relevant Coldin, History of the Five Indian Nations, which was published in New York in 1727."

Also included in this collection are seven folders of miscellaneous papers including the following: a folder of miscellaneous documents from 1652 to 1895, such as deeds, a petition for settlement of a boundary line for the Penobscot Tribe in Mass., correspondence from South Dakota Indians to agent Charles G. Penney requesting aid, a few accounts, and miscellaneous historical notes; a folder of extracts from Indian speeches, delivered from 1700 to 1810 by various Indian chiefs at various places, sometimes pledging loyalty, sometimes expressing disdain (also included is a 1777 speech by Burgoyne asking for Indian loyalty to the King); a folder of accounts of Jasper Parrish (1767-1836), an agent to the Six Nations of Indians, covering the period 1817 to 1828, and including receipts and acknowledgements of government payments to Indians; a folder of papers on Indian languages, from 1818 to 1891, including English-Indian dictionaries of dialects of many Indian tribes; a folder of 1825 papers of Wilkins Tannehill (1787-1858) concerning Indian monuments of Tennessee and Alabama; a folder of papers on land claims in Alaska, from 1887 to 1889, including settlement of Annette Island at Metlakahtla by Indians removed from Nova Scotia; and a folder containing a typescript copy of an 1889 report of the Associate Justices of the Superior Court of Massachusetts concerning money owed to Indians in Dudley, Mass.

See Contents List.

27 April 1976

revised 8 March 1982

contents list added 26 February 2010

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Contents List

Box

Folder 1: Miscellaneous papers, 1652-1895

Folder 2: Extracts from speeches, 1700-1810

Folder 3: Jasper Parrish accounts as agent to the Six Nations, 1817-1828

Folder 4: Indian languages, 1818-1891

Folder 5: Wilkins Tannehill papers on Indian monuments, 1825

Folder 6: Papers, re: land claims in Meglakahtla, Alaska, 1887-1889

Folder 7: Report on Dudley Indians, 1889