

Inventory of the Six Nations Land Research Office

Compiled by the Staff of the Six Nations Land Research Office, February, 1993

The Six Nations Land Research Office investigates all transactions relating to Six Nations with emphasis placed on the 1784 land grant of six miles on either side of the Grand River from its mouth at Lake Erie to its source.

The Research Office has purchased material from various sources such as the Coutts & Co. Bank in London, England; National Archives of Canada, Ottawa; Ontario Archives, Toronto; County Registry Offices; libraries; universities; and museums. This material is available in various forms, such as books, maps, handwritten documents, microfilm reels, and microfiche.

To facilitate access to information, the Research Office has compiled Special Binders. The Special Binders generally contain typed copies of documents in chronological order based on subjects.

The following information will explain more fully the Special Binders and the material in possession of the Research Office.

Special Binders

Accounts Binders

These binders contain typed copies of general ledger statements ranging in dates from 1777 to 1870. Statements from individuals or departments, that are the same type and range in dates, are not separated they are filed together. i.e. Superintendent Statements, Indian Affairs Statements, Bank Coutts & Co., Six Nations Accounts No. 1 to 15, etc. The remaining statements are filed in chronological order. ALL statements are cross-referenced with the Date Binders.

Date Binders

These binders contain typed copies of correspondence and other information ranging in dates from 1570 to 1897 and 1901 to 1990. The documents are filed in chronological order.

These binders also contain the originals and typed originals of material that have been taken from Six Nations Records. See "Other Information" for more details.

Also, these binders contain the typed originals of material extracted from books that are in the possession of the Research Office. See "Other Information" for more details.

No Date Binder

These binders contain typed copies of correspondence and other information that is undated. The documents are filed according to its record group.

Orders-in-Council Binders

These binders contain typed copies of Executive Council Meetings ranging in dates from 1783 to 1908. The documents are filed in chronological order and cross-referenced with the Date Binders.

Royal Instructions Binders

Royal Instructions are orders, commands, and instructions issued by the British Crown to people administering the government of Canada and Indian Affairs ranging in dates from 1688 to 1844.

The originals and its typed originals are filed together in the Royal Instructions Binders.

The documents are filed in chronological order and cross-referenced with the Date Binders.

Statutes and Acts Binders

These binders contain instructions, statutes, and acts ranging in dates from 1700 to 1906. Occasionally, statutes resemble Royal Instructions however, statutes can be identified by specific numbers. i.e. 3 & 4 Vict., CAP XXX.

The originals and its typed originals are filed together in the Statutes and Acts Binders.

The documents are filed in chronological order and cross-referenced with the Date Binders.

General Inventories, Finding Aids and Index Binders

A General Inventory is a list of volumes related in content within a specific record group. Each record group is usually organized into a series, then by Government Official or Department and then by Region in Canada. The General Inventory contains the outside dates of the subject, type of material, corresponding volumes, corresponding microfilm reels and finding aids.

i.e. General Inventory for RG 10

Series A. Administrative Records of the Imperial Govt., 1677-1864

1. Records of Governor General and Lt. Governors, 1787-1850

a. Upper Canada, Civil Control, 1796-1816 (Vols. 1-7; Reels C-10996 to C-10999)

Correspondence received in the Office of Lt. Governor of Upper Canada concerning Indian Affairs.

A calendar is available as finding aid 10-2.

A Finding Aid is a list of documents within a specific record group organized under the Government Official or Department within a specific time period. It usually consists of an abstract of letters received or written by Government Officials or Departments. For letters received, the Finding Aids list alphabetically the names of the people who wrote the letters, the date they were written, the date they were received, how they were disposed of, its subject, and its letter numbers. Most correspondence was assigned numbers probably by office clerks for filing purposes. The Research Office has enhanced these Finding Aids by listing the corresponding volume numbers for the letter numbers.

i.e. Finding Aid for RG 10 Vol. 756

Civil Secretary's Office, Abstract of letters received, Jan. 1859 - Dec. 1861

#12666; Anuance, Neil; 2 March; received 6 March; Answd. 6 March; To know if emancipation is complete, if so, he wants some money.

For copy of letter see RG 10 Vol. 253, pt. 1, #12,601-12,700, Civil Secretary's Office, Correspondence, 1860-1861

An Index contains information on one specific volume in a specific record group. It is usually located at the beginning of a volume, is organized alphabetically by author, and contains the page numbers of the documents within the volume.

The Research Office has also enhanced existing Indices by creating its own in-depth Index. Material is listed first, according to its record group; secondly, by its volume number; thirdly, by its page number or item number.

Under the page number a brief summary is written showing the type of document (Order-in-Council, letter, meeting, petition, etc.), who the material is to and from, its subject, names of people referred to in the material, detailed land descriptions, and the date of the material.

The Indices are updated whenever new material is located and/or corrections are observed on previous summaries.

Microfilm Conversion Binder

To preserve original documents, collections of letters and other material have been copied on microfilm/microfiche and organized by record groups.

Microfilm is similar to an undeveloped roll of film for a camera. A roll of film for a camera may hold 24 negatives whereas a microfilm roll (reel) may hold 1,000 or more negatives. Microfiche is similar to microfilm, the only difference being that microfiche is not on a roll. A Microfilm Reader is required to view this material.

The Microfilm Conversion Binder lists the corresponding microfilm reel numbers to record groups, usually RG and MG material.

When information is taken from microfilm/microfiche, the documents are copied in paper form and then the procedures for cataloguing purchased material is followed.

Claims Bibliography Binders

These binders contain claims bibliographies, which are lists of the places researched on specific claims. The bibliographies are filed alphabetically according to the name of the specific claim.

The bibliographies contain record groups, volume numbers, and page or item numbers. It also shows whether the information was copied, not needed, does not pertain to the claim being researched, or not on the volume as referred to in the General Inventories and Indices.

The General Section of these binders are for material referring to Six Nations in general. The heading at the top of the page will state whether the contents of the material was checked or only the indices.

In instances where only the indices have been checked, the contents of the material will have to be checked and the procedures for cataloguing purchased material followed.

Copies of the Summary Statements of Historical Documentation, which are summaries of documents with references used in submitted claims, are also filed in these binders.

Copies of bibliographies are also filed in the corresponding Claims Research Binders.

Claims Research Binders

These binders contain typed copies of ALL documents relating to specific claims. The documents are filed in chronological order. Also included in these binders are copies of claims bibliographies and Summary Statements of Historical Documentation.

Miscellaneous Claims Research & Bibliography Binders

These binders contain typed copies of documents and bibliographies of special requests received by the Research Office. i.e. Doctors/Nurses Residence, Mohawk Chapel, Queen Anne Silver and Bible, Battleships, etc. The material is filed in alphabetical order by subject.

Other Material

Bookcase

The Bookcase contains books purchased or donated to the Research Office. An Index has been specially compiled for these books and is filed on the book shelf. The books are filed by subjects. i.e. Law, Reports, etc.

When material is extracted from books in the possession of the Research Office, the typed originals are filed in the appropriate Special Binders. Copies of the originals extracted from books are not required as they are accessible from the bookcase.

When material is extracted from books that the Research Office does not possess, a file is made for the originals and typed originals, and a typed copy is filed in the appropriate Special Binders.

When material to be extracted from books have been specifically referenced within the book and the originals can be located, copies are made from the corresponding references instead of the books. For example, in the book, Valley of Six Nations, a letter dated November 17, 1796, is shown and a reference of RG 10 Vol. 9 is given. The Researcher should refer to the reference of RG 10 Vol. 9 and copy the material directly from that volume. This procedure is used to ensure that an original in its entirety has been obtained.

Letters Patent

Letters Patent are documents issued by the Government of Canada which show transfers of land. The documents show grantor, grantee, location, price, and reservations. The documents are filed in alphabetical order by Township.

Maps

The Research Office has a collection of maps pertaining to the original Six Nations Tract and surrounding areas ranging in dates from 1833 to 1978. Maps show plans and field notes of townships, tracts, and townplots, roads and highways, flooded lands, drains, canals, G.R.N.Co. lands, hydro lines, telephone lines, railway lines, churches, schools, and surrendered lands. Maps usually have CLSR numbers.

Registered Documents

Registered documents are documents registered with the Department of Indian Affairs in the Indian Land Registry ranging in dates from 1784 to 1981. The documents usually consist of land surrenders and Orders-in-Council accepting the said surrenders. An Index is located at the front of the Registered Documents files. The documents are referenced by number and filed in numerical order.

The originals and typed originals are filed in the Registered Documents files and typed copies are filed in the appropriate Special Binders.

Six Nations Records

As well as material purchased from outside sources, the Research Office is in possession of or has access to material owned by the Six Nations Council. Prior to the recently established program to manage, catalogue, and microfilm the archival records of the Six Nations Council, the Research Office managed and catalogued these records. The Research Office receives Indices compiled by this program on an on-going basis.

The following describes the material in detail.

Land Sales Books:

The Land Sales Books contain transactions of sales of Indian lands ranging in dates from 1831 to 1919. These books show purchasers, locations, payments, and balances and interest owing. The Research Office is compiling a log of each transaction made pertaining to the original Six Nations Tract.

This material is referenced according to its Land Sales Book number, page number and date. i.e. Land Sales Book #1, Pgs. 1-10, February 15, 1867.

The original Land Sales books are stored at the Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford, and are scheduled to be microfilmed.

When material is taken from the Land Sales Books, the originals and typed originals are filed together in the appropriate Special Binders.

Letterbooks:

The Letterbooks contain letters written by Indian Agents. The Research Office has catalogued and compiled summaries for each letter contained in Letter Books No. 2 to No. 24 and No. 30, which range in dates from 1844 to 1892. To date, the summaries for the letters in Letter Books No. 21 to No. 24 are incomplete. The summaries are typed on 3 X 5 cards and filed by subject in the card catalogue.

This material is referenced according to its Letterbook number, page number and date. i.e. Letterbook #1, Pgs. 1-10, February 15, 1867.

The original Letterbooks are stored at the Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford, and are scheduled to be microfilmed.

When material is taken from the Letterbooks, the originals and typed originals are filed together in the appropriate Special Binders.

Loose Letters:

Loose Letters is a name assigned by the Research Office to describe unorganized letters and other information that was originally stored in

boxes by the Six Nations Council. The Research Office has catalogued and summarized this material which range in dates from 1700 to 1974 with emphasis being placed on items prior to 1867. The summaries are typed on 3 X 5 cards and filed by subject in the card catalogue.

This material is referenced according to date and the number of documents written on a specific date. i.e. S.N. Records, Cat. #867-15-2-1.

The originals are stored at the Research Office in protective coverings and filed in chronological order in files.

To facilitate access to these records, an Index was compiled listing each item in chronological order with a brief description of each item.

When material is taken from the Loose Letters, the typed originals are filed with the originals and typed copies are filed in the appropriate Special Binder.

Minute Books:

The Minute Books contain minutes of Six Nations Council Meetings. The Research Office has catalogued and summarized one book entitled, Letter and Minute Book No. 3 which ranges in dates from 1859 to 1861. The summaries are typed on 3 X 5 cards and filed by subject in the card catalogue.

This material is referenced according to its Minute Book number, page number and date. i.e. Minute Book #1, Pgs. 1-10, February 15, 1867.

The original books are stored at the Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford, and are scheduled to be microfilmed.

When material is taken from the Minute Books, the originals and typed originals are filed together in the appropriate Special Binders.