

Hudson's Bay Company fonds

1823-1971

6 cm of textual records

Administrative history

Fort William was constructed as a post of the North West Company in the years between 1800 and 1804 and was originally named New Fort. In 1807 it was renamed Fort William in honour of William MacGillivray, a prominent member of the company. In 1821 the North West and Hudson's Bay Companies were amalgamated and Fort William became a Hudson's Bay fort. Trade at Fort William began rapidly to decline until the post was finally closed in 1881.

Persons prominent in the records below include:

Thomas Richards, who was a steward of the company and responsible for turning the key in the buildings when the fort was closed. (See B 4/2/3).

John McIntyre, an important figure at Fort William. He was born in Scotland and by 1841 was an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company at Lachine. He was in charge of the post at New Brunswick (Missanabie) until 1855 when he was transferred to Fort William. He remained a clerk in the company until he became a factor in 1872 and after his retirement he became Indian Agent for the Savanne District in 1880. He was also a companion to Governor Simpson on his around the world tour. (See B 4/4/1- 41).

John MacKenzie, born in Scotland and an apprentice clerk after 1830. He had become a Chief Trader by the time he took control of Fort William in the mid 1840s. He later moved to Michipicoten where he became a Chief Factor in 1854 just before he moved to Moose Factory. He retired to Lennoxville, Lower Canada in 1866. (See B 4/5/1-19).

P.W. Bell, a Chief Factor by the late 1870s, called the "great man" of the Lake Superior fur trade. He was transferred to Esquimaux in 1879, but there are references to him at Michipicoten as late as 1882. (See B 4/6/1-3).

George Keith, a Nor'wester who had become a Chief Factor in the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. He was in charge of Michipicoten from 1830- 35, and was the ranking official in the Lake Superior District. He retired in 1846 and returned to his native Scotland and died there in 1859. (See B 4/6/4).

William Aitken, a Hudson's Bay Company agent in Montizambert, Ontario. (See B 4/1/1).

Scope and Content

Letterbooks, journals, invoices, inventories, daybooks, letters and papers that refer to the daily events, affairs, business, and correspondence of the Hudson's Bay Company and Fort William.

Series B 4/1/1. - Letterbook, 1897-1898

A bound letterbook of outgoing correspondence of William Aitken concerning the trade and affairs of the fur trading post at Montizambert. It begins 23 Jan. 1897 and ends 8 Nov. 1898. There are 180 folios, handwritten on copying paper. Folio one is missing and several folios are torn from the back of the volume. Transcripts have been made.

Series B 4/2/1-3. - Journals, 1823-1876

Three journals recording daily events at Fort William post.

1) Journal recording the daily events at Fort William from 18 Oct. 1823 to 15 Sept. 1824.

2) Journal recording the daily events at Fort William from 6 Sept. 1835 to 29 May 1837.

Photocopies may be found in the research file.

3) Journal of Fort William kept by Thomas Richards from Feb. 1875 to 27 May 1876, recording events at the fort and the accounts of the Indian traders. 248 fol. (previously numbered B 4/7/1)

and is listed as such on the microfilm copy).

Series B 4/3/1-8. - Invoices, inventories, daybooks, 12 fol (B4/3/8 has 169 p.), 1827-1836.

There are eight documents in this series dealing with the business aspects of the Fort William post of the Hudson's Bay Company.

- 1) Framed statement of goods to be forwarded to three posts from Fort William, 3 Aug. 1827.
- 2) Invoice of goods supplied from Fort William to Michipicoten, 1828.
- 3) Packing account of sundry orders from Michipicoten to Fort William and sundries for the outfit, July 1828.
- 4) List of goods required from Fort William for Moose Factory, 1828.
- 5) A list of sales to commissioned gentlemen and servants at Fort William. It is a list of articles and quantities, listed under each man's name. Six men, no date.
- 6) A statement of servants accounts belonging to Fort William post, 1834. It includes debits and credits of 1 June 1834, wages, debts owed to Moose Factory and Michipicoten and expenses at auctions for each man, as well as personal notes on certain men.
- 7) An inventory of articles in use at Fort William 1 June 1836. It includes the number of each article and what kind of condition they were in (ie. good, half worn, much used, etc.).
- 8) Daybook number 2 which the Red River settlement soldiers kept at Fort William in 1816-17, when these troops under Lord Selkirk occupied the Fort.

Series B 4/4/1-41. - Letters and papers of J.McIntyre, 92 fol, 1855-1943. (#34, 35, 39, 40, and 41 are originals, the rest are photocopies).

- 1) Letter from D. Smith, 1870 (4 fol).
- 2) Letter from D. Smith, 1870 (2 fol).
- 3) Letter from D. Smith, 1870 (3 fol).
- 4) Letter from D. Smith, 1872 (1 fol).
- 5) Letter from D. Smith, 1874 (2 fol).
- 6) Letter from D. Smith, 1876 (2 fol).
- 7) Letter from D. Smith, 1877 (2 fol).
- 8) Letter from D. Smith, 1877 (2 fol).
- 9) Letter from D. Smith, 1877 (2 fol).
- 10) Letter from D. Smith, 1874 (3 fol).
- 11) Letter from D. Smith, 1890 (1 fol).
- 12) Letter from D. Smith, 1891 (1 fol).
- 13) Letter from G. Wolseley, 1870 (2 fol).
- 14) Letter to Wolseley, 1870 (2 fol).
- 15) Letter from Wolseley, nd.(1 fol).
- 16) Letter from Wolseley, nd.(2 fol).
- 17) Letter from Wolseley to war office, 1870 (1 fol); Letter from Military secretary to the Governor General, 1870 (1 fol).
- 18) Letter from E.M. Hopkins, 1869 (2 fol).
- 19) Letter from E.M. Hopkins, 1869 (3 fol).
- 20) Letter from E.M. Hopkins, 1870 (2 fol).
- 21) Letter from J. Bissett, 1874 (2 fol).
- 22) Letter from J. Bissett, 1876 (3 fol).
- 23) Letter from Sir Sanford Fleming, 1884 (2 fol).
- 24) Letter from the Earl of Dunraven, 1872 (2 fol).
- 25) Letter from R. Burnett, 1873 (2 fol).
- 26) Letter from Cumberland, 1874 (1 fol).
- 27) Letter from Sir Alex Cambell regarding appointment as Indian Agent, 1880 (2 fol).
- 28) Letter from O'Brien, 1881 (2 fol).
- 29) Telegram from S.J. Dawson, first to be sent from Prince Arthur's Landing to Fort William,

- 1876 (1 fol).
- 30) Letter from(?), in Lachine, 1855 (4 fol).
- 31) Commission to J.M. McIntyre appointing him Preventive Officer, 1857 (2 fol).
- 32) Commission to J.M. McIntyre and P.W. Bell, appointing the Commissioners of the Peace, 1866 (2 fol).
- 33) Commission to J.M. McIntyre appointing him as a Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1873 (1 fol).
- 34) Letter from N. MacDougall, F. Kirkpatrick, A. Armik, E. Deacon, 1878 (2 fol).
- 35) Letter to Nell? From J. McIntyre, 1876 (2 fol).
- 36) Minutes of a meeting called by the Chief Commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company. 1875 (10 fol).
- 37) List of commissioned Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1874 (2 fol).
- 38) Transcript of the Narrative of the Canadian Red River Exploring Expedition of 1875, Chapter II, (6 fol).
- 39) Letter from D.E. McIntyre to Carson Piper of the Thunder Bay Historical Society regarding photocopies of J. McIntyre's letters and papers. 1943, (1 fol).
- 40) Letter from Carson Piper to D.E. McIntyre regarding letters and papers of J. McIntyre, 1943, (1 fol).
- 41) Letter from ? to J. McIntyre, 1859, (2 fol).
- Series B 4/5/1-19.** - Letters, 24 fol. - 1846-47 (originals).
- 1-3) Letters to J. MacKenzie from Thomas C. Child, 1846 (3 fol).
- 4-12) Letters to J. MacKenzie from Thomas C. Child, 1847 (11 fol).
- 13-17) Letters to J. MacKenzie from Forrest Sheppard, 1846 (2 fol).
- 18) Letter to J. MacKenzie from M.N. Macleod, 1846 (2 fol).
- 19) Letter to J. MacKenzie from H.P. Edwards, 1847 (2 fol).
- Series B 4/6/1-5.** - Letters, 8 fol. - 1834-1882.
- 1) Letter to P.W. Bell from E.M. Hopkins, 1869 (1 fol).
- 2) Letter to P.W. Bell from E. Deacon, 1881, (2 fol). T.S. in research file.
- 3) Letter to P.W. Bell from Henry de LaRonde?, 1882, (2 fol).
- 4) Letter to George Keith from?, 1834. (1 fol).
- 5) Letter to E. Estandson?, I. Anderson and H. MacKenzie from John Swanston, 1844 (2 fol).
- Series B 4/7/3-6.** - Miscellaneous, 25 fol. - 1828-1971. (B 4/7/1-2 have been renumbered B 4/2/3 and A 50/1/1 respectively).
- 3) One commission appointing John Edward Harrisson, a Chief Trader in the Hudson's Bay Company, February 18, 1829. (1 fol)
- 4) Minutes of a Council Meeting held at Michipicoten, May 14, 1828 (13 fol).
- 5) Two booklets produced by the Hudson's Bay Company concerning the history of the voyage of the Nonsuch and the rebuilding of it in 1969. 1971 (11 fol).
- 6) Agreement for employment (contract) between Patrick Small and George Simpson, agent for the Hudson's Bay Company, 1826.

Notes

Custodial History

B 4/7/6 was donated by Adelaide Taylor. Formerly catalogued into the museum collection, 983.63.1; 972.129.24-28, 30-39,40,42; 972.122.200- 201, 1a, 2, 125, 6, 5, 208, 203, 204, 245-279, 4a+b, 202; 972.270.1; 972.85.13; 972.2.425; 973.53.1; 972.102.111; 976.1.19a+b; 973.111.5; 972.224.8a; 975.91.6,4,3;

Copy/Repository

The originals to B 4/3/8 were destroyed by fire in 1941. The photocopy of this transcription is located at National Archives of Canada, Mg 19 E 1 [1] Volume 33 [Selkirk Papers]. B 4/4/1-33,

and B 4/4/36-38 are photocopies, the originals to which are located at National Archives of Canada. B 4/7/4 is a photocopy, the location of the original is unknown.

Restrictions

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