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NAIRNE, John and Thomas

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Finding Aid No. 573 / Instrument de recherche no. 573

Prepared about 1962 in the Pre-  
Confederation Section and  
amended in 1979 and 1988 by  
Patricia Kennedy

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des archives antérieures à 1867  
et révisé en 1979 et 1988 par  
Patricia Kennedy

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Originals, 1758-1865. 51 cm. Photocopies, [1988]. 3 cm. Finding Aid 573.

John Nairne (1731-1802) began his military career in 1746 and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on leaving active service in 1783. He served with the 78th Regiment (Fraser's Highlanders) during the Louisbourg and Quebec campaigns, then with the 84th Regiment (Royal Highland Emigrants) and the 53rd Regiment during the American Revolutionary War. After acquiring the seigniorship of Murray Bay in 1761, he became active in local affairs, often working with his neighbor Malcolm Fraser.

John Nairne's youngest son, Thomas Nairne (1787-1813) served with the 10th Regiment in Europe during the Napoleonic Wars, achieving the rank of Captain in 1806. He transferred in 1810 to the Royal Newfoundland Fencible Infantry, and subsequently to the 49th Regiment, serving in North America. He was killed at the battle of Crysler's Farm.

Volumes 1-5 were presented in 1962 by Mrs. J. A. Gray of Montreal, Quebec and the land grant was presented in 1974 by Mr. Duggan Gray and family (heirs of Mrs. J. A. Gray) of Montreal. Volume 6 was copied in 1988 from the text prepared by Malcolm Nairne of the Old Farm, High Ham, Langport, Somerset, England.

Finding Aid 573 provides a summary list of the volumes, an index to the correspondence and the first entrybook, and a descriptive list for volume 5.

Correspondence, 1762-1865. (volumes 1-2)

Correspondence of John Nairne, his wife Christiana, son Thomas and daughters Magdalen (Mrs. Peter McNicol), Christina and Mary (Polly), 1762-1865.

Entrybooks, 1765-1813. (volume 3)

Entrybooks of correspondence and of documents relating to both estate matters and militia affairs, 1765-1814. Fragments of verse (poems or songs) are found scattered through the volumes.

Entrybooks and Order books, 1758-1807. (volume 4)

Fragments of an order book, 1759; order books kept by John Nairne while with the 78th Regiment at Quebec, 1762; and while with the 84th Regiment at Isle aux Noix and Montreal, 1777-1779 and 1782; and by Thomas Nairne while with the 10th Regiment at Gibraltar, 1806-1807. Entrybook of accounts, correspondence, verse, and documents relating to estate and militia affairs of Murray Bay, 1769-1806, with a few military orders, 1758-1759.

Military and estate records, 1762-1832. (volume 5)

Records of courts martial, 1776-1780; documents relating to the seigniorship of Murray Bay, local affairs and the Nairne family, 1762-1832.

Land grant, 1764. (horizontal storage; 2 pages)

Letters patent confirming the grant of the seigniority of La Malbaie (Murray Bay) to John Nairne, 5 November 1764 (parchment, with seal).

"Drumkilbo & Malbay, 1705-1830", [1988] (photocopies, volume 6; 312 pages)

Notes on the history of the Nairne family in Scotland and at La Malbaie, 1705-1830, with transcriptions of many documents from the Nairne papers (see volumes 1-5 above), prepared by Malcolm Neaum Nairne.

P. Kennedy  
Pre-Confederation

November 1988  
7-996

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