

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA  
MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES DU CANADA  
DIVISION DES MANUSCRITS

MASSON COLLECTION

MG 19, C 1

Finding Aid 797 / Instrument de recherche 797

Prepared by Patricia Kennedy of  
the Pre-Confederation Section  
in September 1972.

Préparé par Patricia Kennedy de la  
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FINDING AID No. 797

MASSON COLLECTION

MG 19, C 1

The Masson collection originated with Roderick McKenzie (d. 1844) who retired from the fur trade in 1801 but maintained an interest in the Indians and the trade of the Northwest and actively sought out information on the subject. His collections and his interests were carried on by Louis-François-Rodrique Masson (1833-1903), who in 1889 and 1890 published two volumes of fur trade papers under the title Les Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest. On Masson's death, the collection was divided between the Public Archives of Canada and McGill University. Between 1915 and 1916 photostat and transcript copies of some items were acquired by the Archives from McGill.

The following descriptive list presents the items in the order in which they appear on the shelves. The fur traders' journals appear first (volumes 1-15), then the meteorological records (volumes 16-31), correspondence (volumes 32-36), and miscellaneous papers (volumes 37-49), all of which are originals; the transcripts and photostat copies appear last (volumes 50-59).

For other papers of many of the individuals who appear in this collection, the researcher should see the inventory of MG 19 and relevant portions of MGs 23 and 24, in particular.

A list of the Masson Collection at McGill University has been appended to this finding aid.

JOURNALS

- "Journal for the Year 1797" by Charles Chaboillez, kept while en route to the Pembina and Winnipeg rivers, 4 August 1797-21 June 1798 (faded) - volume 1, 63 pages
- "Journal, Folle Avoine, Rivierre Jaune, Pour 1803 & 1804 Par Michel Gurot" kept while en route, 28 juillet 1803-16 juin 1804 - volume 2, 53 pages
- "Missouri Journal, Winter 1804-5" kept by Francois-Antoine Larocque, 11 November 1804-28 February 1805 volume 3, 26 pages
- "Rat River Fort near Riviere Malique ...", a journal kept by William McGillivray, 9 Sept. 1789-13 June 1790 (the journal is badly damaged; a transcript is available) volume 4, 26 pages
- Trade of the posts on the English River by William McGillivray, 22 January-14 June, n.d. (the title page is missing) volume 5, 50 pages
- Journal kept by James Porter at Slave Lake, 18 February 1800-14 February 1801 (the first and last pages are missing) volume 6, 80 pages
- "A Journal kept at Grand Marris on Riviere Rouge, 1798", by John Thomson, covering 4 October 1798-30 April 1799 volume 7, 58 pages
- "A N. W. Journal kept at the Grand River, Winter 1804 & 1805" by W. Ferdinand Wentzel, covering 9 October 1804-26 March 1805 volume 8, 57 pages
- "Journal for 1805 & 6, Cross Lake", kept by an unidentified wintering partner, 13 September 1805-4 June 1806 volume 9, 47 pages
- "Journal - Commencé le 7e octobre 1803, continué par J. Dufaut", hivernant à Fort des Epinettes près de Fort Dauphin, 7 octobre 1803 à 17 mai 1804 volume 10, 74 pages
- "Journal Commencing July 29th 1804", attributed to Hugh Faries, covering 29 July 1804-19 May 1805 volume 11, 79 pages
- "Journal or Daily Occurrences - Comencing 15th Sept. 1804", kept by a wintering partner in the vicinity of Lake St. Croix, 15 September 1804-27 April 1805 (65 pages), with some accounts of 1791-1793 (52 pages) (After a thorough examination this journal has been attributed to John Sayer). volume 12, 117 pages

"Journal kept at the Red River (ou Grand Marris) ",  
 apparently by John Thomson (see volume 7),  
 4-12 October 1798 volume 13, 4 pages

"Journal of the Hocky Mountain Fort, Fall 1799", covering  
 5 October 1799-21 April 1800 volume 14, 25 pages

Fragment of a journal, attributed to W. F. Wentzel,  
 kept during an expedition 13 June-20 August (1800?)  
 volume 15, 28 pages

METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS

"Meteorological Journal - kept at Musquawegan, 1804, & 5"  
 by David Thompson, 24 October 1804-26 May 1805  
 volume 16, 21 pages

Extracts from John Sayer's journal, 7 December 1804-18  
 April 1805 and Montreal, 26 October 1805,  
 containing weather observations volume 17, 2 pages

"Thermometre Journal: Thermomete Remarque Du Tens", 1  
 juillet 1804 à 31 janvier 1805 volume 18, 5 pages

Temperature readings extracted from the Leech Lake  
 Journal of Hugh Gillis 26 October 1805, covering  
 10 November 1804-22 March 1805 volume 19, 4 pages

Meteorological journal kept at Pic, 19 July 1805-25 June  
 1806, with observations on visitors volume 20, 9 pages

"Thermometrical Journal for June, July & Augt. 1808-  
 Fort Monontague", covering 25 June-31 August 1808  
 volume 21, 4 pages

"Account of the state of the weather, of the wind, of the  
 degrees of heat and cold: Also number of fish taken,  
 number of nets set, and quantity of provisions  
 consumed, with the number of Consumers 1806-7-8",  
 apparently at Leech Lake volume 22, 14 pages

Meteorological journal at Lac Ia (Miccan?), attributed to  
 a Mr. McCræe, 1 October 1806-29 May 1807  
 volume 23, 17 pages

Meteorological Journal kept by James Taitt,  
 18 November 1806-18 July 1807, and signed at  
 Fort William, 18 August 1807  
 volume 24, 11 pages

"Journal of the weather by Mr. A. Henry junr.",  
 kept at Pembina Hiver, 1 September 1807-1 June 1808  
 volume 25, 4 pages

"Fort William 1st November 1807 - Journal of the Thermometer ...",  
 covering 1 November 1807-20 August 1808  
 volume 26, 8 pages

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"Meteorological Observations made at Charlton House, Red River ...", 15 December 1807-14 March 1808 by John Macdonell

Volume 27, 14 pages

"Thermometrical Journal for Lac St. Charles, 1808", covering 1 October 1808-24 April 1809

Volume 28, 8 pages

"Diary of the Weather at Fort Chepewean since fall 1808 to Spring 1809", kept by a wintering partner for Roderick McKenzie and despatched to him from Fort William; the journal covers 1 October 1808-25 May 1809

Volume 29, 5 pages

"Meteorological Table kept at Fort Wm. 1809/10", signed H. McK. on 20 August 1810; the journal covers 11 September 1809-13 May 1810 and is attributed to Henry McKenzie

Volume 30, 11 pages

"State of Thermometer during the Mo. of Jany. 1810 at Fort Normand McKenzies River ...", covering 1-31 January 1810

Volume 31, 1 page

CORRESPONDENCE

Contemporary copies of correspondence between Alexander Mackenzie and Roderick McKenzie, 1786-1816; the copies appear to have been made partly by A. Mackenzie and partly by Masson; the letters form the basis for the section of 'Reminiscences' in Masson's *Les Bourgeois* ...;

Volume 32, 1½ inches

a second copy, entitled 'Memoirs' of Roderick McKenzie, is also available, covering 1785-1820

Volume 32A, 1 inch

Four Letters of Charles McKenzie to Roderick McKenzie, 1809, 1810, 1814 and 1840, concerning a journal of events and notes on local Indians, and family affairs

Volume 33, 16 pages

Four letters of Joseph McMillivray to John McKenzie, 1813, concerning his plans and business, and reporting on his travels

Volume 34, 14 pages

Letter of Roderick McKenzie senior to the Hon. Roderick McKenzie, 1843, concerning retirement and family affairs

Volume 35, 4 pages

Letter of William Henry Draper to (Masson ?), 1857, concerning the proposed acquisition of the Hudson's Bay Company territories by Canada

Volume 36, 6 pages

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His volume contains several pages relating to Greenland which appear to be in Masson's hand  
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MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

"Letters Addressed to the Editor of the Canadian Courant by a Creditor of the Agents of the North West Company", 1830 (contemporary copies), including two indexes of names and subjects  
volume 37, 72 pages

"Conseils au Voyageur intelligent et instruit ...", advice on a miscellany of subjects, apparently written as a start for R. McKenzie's proposed history of the fur trade  
volume 38, 29 pages

"Recit des difficultes du M. Ovest apres la prise du Fort William", n.d., a draft, with marginal notes  
volume 39, 52 pages

"Arrangements of the Proprietors, Clerks, Interpreters &c. of the North West Company in the Indian Departments, 1799", with records of salaries and other remarks  
volume 40, 5 pages

Engagement de François Mabrian, hivernant, 23 février 1802, pour trois ans (copie)  
volume 41, 2 pages

"Agreement between McTavish, McGillivrays & Company and Joseph Frobisher, Esq.", 16 December 1807, for the settlement of claims against the late firm of McTavish, Frobisher & Company  
volume 42, 5 pages

"Livre terrier ... Monsieur de Repentigny ... La Chenaye et la massouche ...", 175-?; papier terrier for the seigneuries of La Chenaye and Mascouche, prepared by Jean ... Chevretils Belisle, arpenteur royal (the document is damaged and portions of the title are missing)  
volume 43, 46 pages

Notes by Roderick McKenzie on books read by him, dealing extensively with aborigines; part 2 bears the cover title "R. McK. Memorandum" and part 3 the internal title "Some account of the North West Company, containing Analogy of Nations ancient & Modern; by Roderick Mackenzie Esq., A Director ..."  
volume 44, 4 inches

Contemporary copy of a letter from residents of Quebec to residents of Montreal and the address of the latter to Governor Carleton, 1787, concerning the conservation of French law  
volume 45, 5 pages

Note of J. Horn, 20 Nov. 1891, quoting the inscription from the tombstone of Benjamin Frobisher, 1787  
volume 46, 1 page

Contemporary copy of the Will of Kenneth McKenzie, with notation of probate, 1816  
volume 47, 8 pages

Resolutions passed at the British American Hotel, Montreal, 3 November 1833, opposing changes to the constitution (print); with a note requesting John McKenzie to obtain signatures at Terrebonne

Volume 48, 4 pages

"List of manuscripts forwarded to Wm. Kinnelly Esq. of New York, Prof. Entitled Gleanings, consisting of voyages, Reports, Extracts &c. regarding the North West, or Indian Territories, by Roderick Mackenzie", 1840

Volume 49, 2 pages

COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY

"An Account of Lake Superior" by John Johnston, 1809, with letters of 1807 and 1809 addressed to Roderick McKenzie, concerning the keeping of a journal en route from St. Mary's to Fond du Lac (transcript)

Volume 50, 68 pages

"An Account of Mackenzie's River Department" by George Keith, 1807-1817, in the form of letters addressed to Roderick McKenzie; included are Indian tales and vocabularies (transcript)

Volume 51, 104 pages

"Lake Athabasca: An Account of the Chipewan Indians and a Journey to the Red River in 1793", attributed to John McDonnell, who appears to have compiled it from writings of Alexander Mackenzie (transcript)

Volume 52, 116 pages

Two Letters of Aeneas McDonnell to Roderick McKenzie, 1807-1808, giving an account of the Indians and local geography, written from Lac Seul (transcript)

Volume 53, 12 pages

Journal of John McDonnell at Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle, 11 October 1793-6 June 1795 (photostats, 36 pages); and "Some Account of the Red River", c. 1797 (transcript, 24 pages); included in the volume are an incomplete transcript of the journal (23 pages), a typescript of the journal (85 pages) and a typescript of "The Red River by John McDonnell" from Les Bourgeois ... (vol. 1, pp 267 ff; 23 pages)

Volume 54, 1 inch

"An Account of the Athabasca Indians By A Partner of the North West Company", 1795 (47 pages);

"Journal of a passage in a Canoe from Pais Plat in Lake Superior to Portage de l'Isle in Rivière Quinipique ...", 1784, by Edward Umfreville (56 pages); and a listing of the North West Company staff at its posts, 1805, with notations of financial standing and other remarks (16 pages) (transcripts)

Volume 55, 119 pages

"Some Account of the Department of Fond du Lac, or Mississippi", 1807, by George Henry Monk, in the form of a letter to Roderick McKenzie (Transcript - typescript is also available)

Volume 56, 12 pages

"Remarks on board the Schooner NANCY. Transport at anchor in the river Miamia in the month of July 1813", including some notes by the transcriber (transcript)

Volume 57, 33 pages

Report on Indians between Fort William and Lake of the Woods, c. 1821, by Dr. John McLoughlin (photostats)

Volume 58, 14 pages

"Some account of the Mississouri Indians in the years 1804, 5, 6 & 7. By Charles Mackenzie", addressed to Roderick McKenzie, 1809 (photostats - a typescript is also available)

Volume 59, 82 pages



## NOTE

These are the items which the Library was able to identify; the collection was divided before the Rare Book Department was established.

LIST OF MASSON MANUSCRIPTS IN THE RARE BOOK DEPARTMENT  
OF THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

*MACKENZIE, R. Printed circular to Indian traders...	Montreal, 21 April 1806.	CH171.S153
CAMERON, DUNCAN. Extracts from Journal in Nipigon...	45 leaves.	CH187.S167a
A Journal commenced 31 July 1804 and concluded 1 May 1805. 31 leaves.		
		CH188. S168
COCHRAN, ANDREW WILLIAM. A.L.S. to Roderick Mackenzie. Quebec, 1823-1837.	19 leaves.	CH27.S63
	(see Mackenzie, Roderick)	
*FORT DU LAC DE FLAMBEAU. Liste des effets donnees...	1804. 24 leaves.	CH28.S64
HENRY, ALEXANDER. Travels in Red River Department. 1806.	42 leaves.	CH186.S167
JOHNSTON, JOHN. Description of the country...	c.1799. 30 leaves.	CH181.S163
JONES, JOHN. Letter to the Hon. Adam Mabane... Quebec, 10 Nov. 1787. 10 leaves.		CH29.S65
	(see Mabane, Adam)	
MACKENZIE, SIR ALEXANDER. Journal of Great Bear Lake. 1805-1806.	15 leaves.	CH180.S162
Lac Athabasca. [c. 1828?]	54 leaves.	CH22.S58
	(see Lac Athabasca)	
MACKENZIE, CHARLES. 4th Expedition Missouri. June 1806.	18 leaves.	CH24.S60
An account of the Missouri Indians. Spring 1809. Nipigon.	49 leaves	CH19.S55
MACKENZIE, JAMES. Journal. Oct. 1799-1800.	36 leaves.	CH173.S155
Some accounts of the Kings Posts...	39 leaves.	CH177.S159
MACKENZIE, RODERICK. Gleanings...	1784-1837.	CH21.S57
Some accounts of the North West Company...		CH23.S59
MACDONELL, JOHN Some accounts of the Red River (about 1797)		CH183.S164
MCLAUGHLIN, [JOHN?]. The Indians from Fort William to Lake of the Woods. c.1808. 8 leaves.		CH170.S152

\* Means not on Mason List

✓ MCLEOD, NORMAN. Journal kept at Alexandria. 1800-1801.		20 leaves.	CH184.S165
✓ MALHIOT, FRANCOIS VICTOIRE. Journal du Fort Kamanaitiquoya ... 1804.		21 leaves.	CH178.S160
✓ MOUNIER, HENRI. Journal... 1778-1779.		9 leaves.	CH30.S66
✓ NANCY.SCHOONER. Remarks on board... 1813.		34 leaves.	CH172.S154
NORTH-WEST COMPANY. Articles of agreement... 1790.		1 leaf.	CH147.S17
✓ THOMSON, JOHN. Journal. Mackenzies River... 1800.		14 leaves.	CH174.S156
WENTZEL, WILLIAM FERDINAND. Journal kept at Slave Lake. 1802.		8 leaves.	CH25.S61
✓ Letters written at Forks,... 1807-1824.			CH175.S157
✓ A continuation of the Journal at Forks..			CH176.S158
✓ WILCOCKE, SAMUEL HULL. Mort de B. Frobisher... 37 leaves.			CH185.S166
ADDENDUM:			
✓ MACDONELL, JOHN. Journal 1793-1795...			CH179.S161