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FINLAY, Hugh

MG 23, G II 9

Finding Aid No. 1168 / Instrument de recherche no 1168

Prepared in 1979 and revised in
1981 by Patricia Kennedy,
Pre-Confederation Archives

Préparé en 1979 et révisé en 1981 par
Patricia Kennedy,
Archives antérieures à 1867

INTRODUCTION

Hugh Finlay was born in Scotland about 1732 and arrived in Quebec about 1760. His business partnership with Stephen Moore was dissolved in 1765, the year his political career got underway. He was appointed a member of the Governor's Council in September 1765 and also undertook the duties of Postmaster of Quebec. In 1773 as Deputy Postmaster General he undertook an inspection tour of post routes as a result of which he submitted a journal to Sir Frederick Haldimand (see the "Journal from the Last Settlements on the Chaudière to the first Inhabitants on Kennebek River, from the 13th of September... until the 30th that he arrived at Falmouth in Casco Bay... Massachusetts... 1773" in MG 21, Add. MSS 21686; also see the pamphlet, 3402, in the Archives Library).

Throughout his career, Finlay submitted many reports on the state of roads and ferries, in part because of his responsibilities as Superintendent of Post Houses, to which post he was appointed in 1780. He also participated in the development of legislation on militia, food supplies, the administration of justice and land settlement. His appointment to the Executive Council had been confirmed after passage of the Quebec Act in 1774 and again after the Constitutional Act of 1791 established the province of Lower Canada. He was also made a member of the Legislation Council in 1791, Clerk of the Crown in Chancery in 1792, and Auditor or Inspector of Public Accounts in 1795. At his death in 1801 he was the dean of Council members.

This collection of private papers is a very small example of Hugh Finlay's many interests and activities. Further sources of his career are to be found in the series listed below.

RG 1, E 1	State Minute Books of the Executive Council
RG 1, E 15 A	Public Accounts, Quebec and Lower Canada
RG 1, E 17	Records of the Committee on Roads and Bridges, 1765-1838
RG 1, L 1	Land Minute Books of the Executive Council
RG 1, L 3 L	Lower Canada Land Petitions, and other submissions to the Land Committee of the Executive Council

INTRODUCTION (cont'd)

RG 14, A 1 and RG 4, B 6	Submissions to the "Legislative" Council of Quebec and proposals for Ordinances, 1765-1791
RG 4, A 1	"S" Series - records of the Civil and Provincial Secretaries
MG 11, CO 42, etc.	Record of the Colonial Office
MG 21, Add. MSS 21661 etc.	Papers of Sir Frederick Haldimand
MG 23, D1, Vol. 55, pages 230-245	Papers of Ward Chipman

MG 23 FINLAY, Hugh (c.1732-1801). Civil Servant.
G II 9

Originals, 1773-1793. 136 pages. F.A. No. 1168.

Hugh Finlay (ca.1732-1801) was born in Scotland and came to Quebec about 1760. In 1765 he was appointed a Member of the Council. Reappointed in 1774, he frequently served as chairman of the Land Committee after 1787. He served as Surveyor of Post Roads, 1773-1774, and was appointed deputy Postmaster General of British North America in 1774, holding that post until 1799. He took a very active part in political affairs and held several other posts on an acting or deputy basis for short periods.

Finding Aid No. 1168 provides a descriptive list of the items as well as notes on further sources relating to Hugh Finlay.

Correspondence of Finlay with Lord LeDespencer regarding the purchase of seigniorial lands in Quebec, 1773-1774; proposals for legislation for Quebec, 1777-1778; correspondence with Col. Skene, 1777; a report on the Lake Temiscouata road, 1786; a copy of Finlay's report on the post route from Quebec to Halifax, 1787; and Finlay's commentary on the land granting system in Lower Canada, 1792-1793 (pages 1-128). Acquired from the estate of L.R. Masson of Terrebonne, Que. (for which, see also MG 19, C 1).

Fac-similé d'une lettre par Augustin L. Glapion, s.j., à Hugh Finlay, 10 septembre 1788, au sujet des biens des jésuites (pages 129-132). Acquis en 1978.

JK June 1981
P. Kennedy

7-1307
Pre-Confederation

Hugh Finlay

MG 23, G II 9

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Correspondence</u>	<u>Pages</u>
May 1773	Note regarding an account of the baronnie de Longueuil	1
5 July 1773	Draft of a letter from Hugh Finlay to Lord LeDespencer, regarding the possibility of purchasing estates from James Murray	2-3
5 July 1773	Description of the baronnie de Longueuil and seigneurie de Beloeil, prepared for Lord LeDespencer	4-5-6-7
10 August 1773	Draft of a letter from Hugh Finlay to Lord LeDespencer regarding the baronnie de Longueuil	8-9-10
29 August 1773	Letter of Lord LeDespencer to Hugh Finlay, regarding the purchase of estates in Quebec	11-12-13-14
n.d. (1773)	"Mr. Grants answers to Questions proposed in Lord LeDespencers letter..." regarding the baronnie de Longueuil	15-16
31 August 1773	Copy of a letter from (Hugh Finlay) to Lord LeDespencer, regarding the value of estates offered for sale by Mme de LaCorne: the seigneuries de Terrebonne, de Mascouche, de la Plaine and de LaCorne	17-17a-18
25 November 1773	Copy of a letter from (Hugh Finlay) to Lord LeDespencer, regarding climate, crops, currency and other aspects of life in Quebec, and the productivity of estates being offered for sale	19-20-21-22
23 August 1773	Letter of Edward William Gray to Hugh Finlay, regarding delays in the postal system and means of improving the New York mails	23-24-25-26-27-28
4 February 1774	Letter of Lord LeDespencer to Hugh Finlay, regarding purchase of the Longueuil and Beloeil estates	29-30

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Correspondence</u> (cont'd)	<u>Pages</u>
12 April 1774	Draft letter (Hugh Finlay) to Lord LeDespencer, regarding the Longueuil and LaCorne estates	31-32
(August 1774)	"Account of the produce of the Barony of Longueuil and the Seigneurie of Beloeil", <u>in French</u> with a note that a copy was sent to Lord LeDespencer	33-34-34a
18 February 1777	Proposals of Hugh Finlay for an amendment to the 7th article of the Ordinance for the regulation of the judicature of Quebec, giving his reasons for the amendment and willingness to vote on the matter in Council.	35-36-37
(1777)	Note entitled "Account of Bennington Affair", covering letters from Colonel Skene	38
26 August 1777	"Extract of a Letter dated at Montreal....", reporting on Colonel Skene's engagement near Bennington, with notes identifying the various persons mentioned (in another hand)	39-40-40a
7 September 1777	Letter of Col. Philip Skene to Hugh Finlay, regarding postal services, the political and military aspects of the war	41-42-43
9 September 1777	Letter of Colonel Skene to Hugh Finlay, regarding activities of General John Burgoyne and military affairs near the New York border	44-45-46
23 March- 25 April 1778	"Proceedings in the Legislative Council of Quebec..." regarding ordinances governing the militia, billeting of troops and martial law, with Hugh Finlay's representations on the matters and on regulation of the postal service (by establishing "maitres de poste"); including a petition (in French) from postmasters and the text of a letter from Finlay to Governor Sir Guy Carleton, 29 May 1778 (internally paginated 1-10)	47-48-49-50-51- 52-53-54-55-56-56a
20 December 1786	Draft of Hugh Finlay's representation to the Committee (of the Executive Council) appointed to consider roads and communications, recommending the Lake Temiscouata route	57-58-59-60

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Correspondence</u> (cont'd)	<u>Pages</u>
30 August 1787	Copy of a "Report made to His Excellency... Lord Dorchester... by Mr. Finlay Deputy Postmaster General of the Province of Quebec, on his return from examining the Post route from Quebec to Halifax...." showing extensive corrections with "Extracts" from letters addressed by Hugh Finlay to A. Todd, Secretary of the General Post Office, 1 December 1783, 5 January and 12 February 1784; and from Montreal merchants to Hugh Finlay, 26 May 1784, and from Hugh Finlay to Governor Thomas Carleton of New Brunswick, 24 January 1784; and to A. Todd, 11 December 1786; with endorsations of the copies submitted to Dorchester through his Secretary, Henry Motz	61-62-63-64 - 65-66-67-68 69-70 70 70 71 72
1792-1793	This copy may be compared with that found in MG 21, King's Maps CXIX, 59-2-a, which includes two tables of distances and several extracts from letters quoted in the report. "Notes taken down by Mr. Finlay, to aid his Memory in matters relative to the land Granting department, as Chairman of the Land Committee. Begun February 1792." (bearing internal pagination 1-49) with an Index	73-122 123-128
	The text begins with observations on the Royal Instructions of 7 August 1783 (erroneously noted here as 2 August); duties of the Chairman of the Land Committee; remarks on the Royal Instructions of 16 September 1791 (erroneously noted here as 1792; see also the observations on the same Instructions found in MG 40, B 8 - 8 pages); operations of the Land Committee and considerations of navigable rivers, roads, Crown and clergy reserves; plans of townships and comments on surveys; and fees on grants. (Both inks and colors have faded, and some ink has bled through, limiting the legibility of the document.)	

Dates

Correspondence (cont'd)

10 septembre 1788 Fac-simile d'une lettre par Augustin Louis de Glapion, s.j., à Hugh Finlay au sujet des biens des jésuites. [fac-simile fait par méthode de photo-lithographie]