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**EDWARD WALSH**

**MG 19, F 10**

**Finding Aid No. 779 / Instrument de recherche no 779**

Revised version, prepared in 1984 by B.  
McCardle for the Pre-Confederation  
Archives Section

Version révisée préparée en 1984 par B.  
McCardle pour les Archives antérieures  
à la Confédération

**Canada**

MG 19  
F 10

WALSH, Edward (d. 1834). Military physician.

Originals, n.d, 1776-1807. 5 cm. Finding Aid No. 779.

Edward Walsh, M.D., served as assistant surgeon to the 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment in England from 1797 to 1800, and as Surgeon to the 49th (Hertfordshire) Regiment from 1800 to c.1806-1807, the 62d (Wiltshire) Regiment from c.1806-1807 to 1809, and finally the 6th Regiment of Dragoon Guards from 1809 to 1814. He was accorded the title of Physician in August 1813. In August 1803 he came to Canada with the 49th, and during his service here collected information on natural science and native people for a "Natural History" of Canada, never completed. He returned to Europe in 1806 or 1807, served in the Napoleonic Wars, and was placed on half-pay in the Army Medical Department at the reduction of the forces in 1814. He is said later to have returned to Canada and to have served in a civilian capacity with the Indian Department; this remains unconfirmed.

MG 19, F 10 is the Canadian portion of a larger collection of family papers; its contents were presented in 1951 by Col. R.H. Walsh of Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Finding Aid No. 779 is a descriptive list of the collection.

Correspondence, journals, memoranda, and notes on North American topics accumulated by Edward Walsh during and after his years of service in Canada. Included are letters to his brother (the Rev. Robert Walsh, a former diplomatic chaplain settled in Dublin, Ireland) and to fellow officers giving his impressions of Fort George, St. Joseph and other Canadian settlements; a natural history journal of his voyage from England to Fort George, 1803-1804; personal observations on the cities of Quebec and Montreal and the islands of Anticosti and Prince Edward Island; several documents on and by Joseph Brant and on Indian land controversies at the Grand River, 1805; notes on Canadian natural history; and numerous ethnological notes on the Indians of eastern North America, including some first-hand descriptions of Shawnee and Six Nations religious rites and vocabularies of the Osage, Dakota Sioux, Cree, Ojibway, and Ioway languages.

November 1984  
B. McCardle

7-3765  
Pre-Confederation

Edward Walsh

MG 19, F 10

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1	n.d.	Pencil sketch of a man's head and shoulders, untitled.	1
	n.d.	Fragment of a letter, possibly to Edward Walsh from his brother Rev. Robert Walsh, on church matters, smallpox among Indians, English politics, and personal news.	2-5
	n.d. <u>1803-</u> <u>1807</u>	Fragment of a letter to Walsh commenting on his plans "to ascend the Ottawa & Botanise", describing the scenery of the Niagara region, and referring to "your friend" Capt. Sinclair and his garden.	6-7
	n.d.	Draft of a letter to a magazine correcting mistakes published concerning the native population of eastern Canada, the current state of Wolfe's Cove at Quebec, and the appearance, population and exports of Quebec City, Montreal, and the Canadas generally.	8-10
	8 Nov. 1804	Letter from Edward Walsh to the Rev. Robert Walsh describing his sea journey from England, Prince Edward Island, the St. Lawrence, Quebec City, and Fort George (Niagara District).	11-14
	3 May 1805	Letter from Joseph Brant to Edward Walsh complaining that remarks reflecting on Brant's character had been made at a Council at Niagara and enclosing in rebuttal proceedings of another Council at the Grand River.	15-16

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1	1 May 1805	"Capt. Brant's answer": copy of a speech by Brant to a council at the Grand River reporting on land sales, justifying his conduct and expenditure of moneys on travel, referring to sales of land by the Iroquois Nations in the United States, and referring to letters on Indian affairs taken to England by Mr. Norton.	17-19
	1 May 1805	Proceedings of a Six Nations Council (speech by first Sachem Henry Tegarighoken): reviews the loyalist activities of the Six Nations, the Haldimand Grant, and circumstances of later land sales; rejects charges against Brant and others as to mal-administration of assets; condemns breakaway council with the American Iroquois at Buffalo Creek.	20-23
	17 Mar. 1807	Letter from Robert Nichol (at Fort George) to Edward Walsh (at Quebec) promising information on Canada for his projected work and describing politics and the Thorpe case in Upper Canada.	24-27
	16 Apr. 1807	Letter from David Mitchell ("Indian Agent" for the North West Company at Michilimackinac) to Edward Walsh commenting on Indian inhabitants and languages of the Great Lakes area and on the accuracy of previous writers on the subject, notably one Connor(?).	28-29
	11 May 1807	Letter from [S. or F. Blanchet?] to Edward Walsh, in French, on the geography and geology of the Quebec city area and its probable formation by ancient submersion.	30-41
	n.d.	"Articles sent to Chelsea Museum": list of Canadian animal pelts, Indian regalia, pipes, minerals and "a live and beautiful Racoon".	42-43

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1	n.d.	List of the Six Nations and their allies indicating their places in the traditional kinship hierarchy.	44
	8 Jan. 1776	"Return of Rebels killed wounded and taken prisoners 31 decem 1775" and "Monthly return of the Garrison of Quebec 1 January 1776" signed by Francis Le Maistre, brigade major to Sir Guy Carleton (contemporary copies).	45-47
	n.d.	List of names of the twelve Shawanoe (Shawnee) tribes; translation of a Persian poem "On the Birth of a Child", by Jami; epitaph on Sir Isaac Newton.	48
	n.d.	"Return of Indians who visited the Post of Amherstburg between 30th April, 1803 & 24th February 1804"(names of nations and totals for men, women and children).	49
	n.d.	List of names of the lunar months in Shawnee, with English translations.	50
	n.d.	"Return of Indians who have visited the Post of Amherstburg for the year ending 30th April 1803" (as p. 49, above).	51
	n.d.	"Return of the Indians who have visited the Post of Amherstburg, with the supposed number of their nations etc. for the year ending the 30th April 1803" (names of nations; totals of men, women, and children visiting from each; and attached tickets giving "names of the Chiefs or Warriors who have most Weight in ther Nations").	52-67
	n.d.	List of North West Company settlements (from approximately Sault Ste. Marie westwards) and of major Hudson's Bay Company posts, with the latitude and longitude of each.	68-71

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>
		<u>Notebook of notes, essay fragments, drafts and a journal</u>	
2	n.d.	Observations on politics and military events in Europe, with special reference to England under George I and to prospects of war with the French.	72-79
	n.d.	Poem, "On the new Constitution of Hayti."	80
	n.d.	Draft of a letter to the editor of the <u>Repository</u> passionately praising their illustrations of female costume and commenting upon male and female fashions.	81-85
	n.d.	Chronology of the history of certain families in Jutland and Denmark, 500-832 A.D.	86
	n.d.	Notes on consciousness and identity.	87
		<u>Tumble Format: back of volume (some pages reversed:)</u>	
	22 Aug. 1807	Draft letter to "Mr. Lindsay" discussing Walsh's claims to military back pay and expenses.	88
	n.d.	"Winter Canadian": description of the Canadian climate.	89
	n.d.	Lyrical poem.	90-92
	n.d.	"Anticosta": description of Anticosti Island and its natural history.	93-95
	Aug. 1803-Jan. 1804	"Journal of a Voyage from Portsmouth to Quebec [and thence via Montreal to Kingston], with observations on travelling companions, geography, natural history (fish, birds, celestial phenomena), and detailed descriptions of Prince Edward Island (including history and native and white peoples) and Quebec City. Followed by a hank of unidentified pressed vegetable material.	96-130

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>
		<u>Notes on Indians</u>	
3	n.d.	"Indians". Fragment of a general essay, including an account of Walsh's visit to a Six Nations assembly to vaccinate its members; description of a young man's "initiation" ritual into a secret society; and notes on diseases among Indians.	131-136
	n.d.	"Notices of the Canadian Indians." Unfinished essay on Indian history, origins, "mythology", language, and recent political relations with the British.	137-145d
	n.d.	List of published sources relating to Canadian history.	146
	n.d.	Notes on the etymology of "Canada" and jottings listing items relating to the Six Nations.	147
	n.d., [1803- 1805]	Unfinished letter from Edward Walsh to unidentified person at St. Joseph's, remarking on friends' marital situations; Indians; state of the countryside around Dublin, Ireland. Asks for information on projected "Natural History of the Country" (Great Lakes region); lists queries as to geography, geology, flora and fauna, Indian population (with comments on existing authorities), and non-Indian settlement. Gives instructions for preservation of animal specimens.	148-154
	n.d.	Fragment of essay on Indian religion, family relations and traditions; gives firsthand description of the Shawnee town near Buffalo Creek and a dog feast there [1803-1806].	155-158
	n.d.	Fragment describing the soil, vegetation, water and climate at the British fort of St. Joseph's in 1802-1805.	159-160

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>
<u>Notes on Indians (cont'd)</u>			
3 (cont'd)	n.d.	Jottings on Indian history, including remarks on the Osages and Otoes; a short Osage glossary; religion; views on whites and slavery; and miscellaneous ethnological scraps.	161-174
	n.d. [after 1806]	Unfinished letter from Edward Walsh to "My dear Friend" on Indian history and toponymy and non-Indian explorations in North America.	175-178
4	n.d.	"Notes on Canada." Jottings on Indian tribal names and locations, toponymy, music, religion, and miscellaneous ethnology; a creation myth; Indian converts to Christianity; Puritan witch trials; William Penn's relations with Indians; and a biographical sketch of Joseph Brant, with copies of a letter (see originals at pp. 15-16) from him to Walsh.	179-203
<u>Tumble format, back of volume:</u>			
	1803	"Natural History of Upper and Lower Canada". List of 24 classes of plants, with Latin and English names, ranges and remarks.	204-225
5	n.d.	Notebook (inscribed "Captain Thomas McKee" and "James McKee Musick Book") containing an English/Ojibway dictionary and short Dakota Sioux and Cree vocabularies (227-266), musical notations (267, 270, 272), texts of two Indian chants (271, 273) and sketches of Indian dancers (268-272).	226-273
	n.d.	English-Ayovais [Ioway]- Dakota Sioux vocabulary.	274-284