



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Fort Ontario ledger

1759-1761, 1763

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Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

Summary

Title: Fort Ontario ledger

Date: 1759-1761, 1763

Size: .21 linear feet (1 volume)

Source: Donated by Mrs. Charles S. Fairchild, 1927

Abstract: Fort Ontario, a British Army garrison located at Oswego in New York, was constructed in late 1759 and commanded by Colonel Frederick Haldimand of the 4th Battalion Royal Americans (60th Regiment of Foot). The Fort Ontario ledger, 1759-1761, 1763, with a name index, contains entries of purchases and payments by British and colonial officers and others at the Fort, 1759 November-1761 May. The bulk of the entries are dated 1760 May-August, reflecting the buildup and departure of forces supporting Major General Jeffery Amherst's successful campaign to capture Montreal during the French and Indian War.

Preferred citation: Fort Ontario ledger, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

Scope and Content Note

The Fort Ontario ledger, 1759-1761, 1763, with a name index, contains entries of purchases and payments by British and colonial officers and others at the Fort, 1759 November-1761 May. The bulk of the entries are dated 1760 May-August, reflecting the buildup and departure of forces supporting Major General Jeffery Amherst's successful campaign to capture Montreal during the French and Indian War.

Accounts usually appear under individual names, citing military unit or occupation, and are in no particular order. Notable persons include Colonel Frederick Haldimand; General Thomas Gage; Captain Joshua Loring of the Royal Navy; John Lottridge, Captain of Indians, and his brother, trader Thomas Lottridge; Colonel John Bradstreet; Captain Thomas Sowers, engineer; draftsman William Brasier; and Reverend John Ogilvie. Haldimand and his regiment are predominant among the entries for British and colonial units. Although the location of the garrison is not specified, the placement of

regiments and officers at that time associate the manuscript with Fort Ontario. Accounts also include the Fort hospital, doctors and a nurse, an interpreter, the commissary, and sutlers, traders, and merchants. There is an extensive account for Isaac Mendes. Typical purchases include alcohol, meat and livestock, blankets, cloth and other haberdashery items, and candles. A few transactions show connections to Fort Niagara, Fort Stanwix and Fort William Augustus. The ledger also contains a loose account of pelts purchased and sold at Albany, 1763. The volume, identified as "Ledger A, 1760," is bound in vellum; the name Smith is just visible on the front cover.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Fort Ontario (N.Y.)

New York (State) -- History -- French and Indian War, 1754-1763

United States -- History -- French and Indian War, 1754-1763

United States -- History -- French and Indian War, 1754-1763 -- Hospitals

Subjects

Fur trade -- New York (State) -- Albany

Indian traders -- North America

Indians of North America -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Ledgers (account books)

Occupations

Merchants

Nurses

Physicians

Soldiers

Sutlers

Names

Haldimand, Frederick, 1718-1791 -- Sir

Great Britain. Army -- Colonial forces -- America

Great Britain. Army -- Officers

Great Britain. Army -- Supplies and stores

Great Britain. Army. Regiment of Foot, 60th