SOURCES FOR PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY
IN THE WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS LIBRARY

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The William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan is a major repository of source material on the history of America. Its extensive collections of manuscripts contain a great deal pertaining to Pennsylvania history. This is to be expected of any large collection of Americana, for the Keystone State—as its nickname indicates—had an integral part in the development of American life and institutions.

A brief survey of part of the documentary material relating to Pennsylvania was made at the Clements Library, in the course of the search for letters and documents to complete the Papers of Colonel Henry Bouquet.¹ The resolution of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission which authorized research and microfilming work at Ann Arbor, however, broadened the scope of the investigation to include not merely material on Colonel Henry Bouquet but any material relating to Pennsylvania history.

Time was the only limiting factor, for the preliminary arrangements as to hotel reservations and permission for out-of-state travel allowed only three days at Ann Arbor. This was enough to cover thoroughly the letters and documents of the period of Colonel Bouquet, but permitted only a hasty examination of material relating to other periods. This analysis of the Pennsylvania material in the Clements Library is based upon a complete survey for the Bouquet period, but only a general, casual survey for earlier and later times. It will serve to indicate what documentary

¹ The Papers of Colonel Henry Bouquet. Edited by S. K. Stevens and D. H. Kent (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1940-1943). Nineteen volumes were issued in mimeographed form until the close of the W. P. A. Pennsylvania Historical Survey halted publication for the time being. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, however, has continued the research and editorial work to prepare the remaining volumes for eventual publication.
material from that library is now available on microfilm in Pennsylvania.

The Gage Papers

This vast collection of about 21,000 letters and documents was purchased in 1930 from the sixth Viscount Gage. It contains the correspondence of Lieutenant General Thomas Gage, the commander-in-chief in British North America from 1763 to 1775. There are numerous letters to and from officers serving in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania governors, and other important Pennsylvania figures. Bouquet and Gage had no occasion to correspond before 1763, and the volumes for earlier years were therefore not examined. Thirty-eight volumes for the years 1763, 1764, 1765, and 1766 were carefully reviewed, in order to list every item on Pennsylvania and every item on Bouquet for microfilming. About 400 letters and documents were microfilmed for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission from the Gage Papers.

This material includes fifty-one letters from Bouquet to Gage, forty-eight letters from Gage to Bouquet, nine letters from Bouquet to various persons, sixteen letters from various persons to Bouquet, and twenty-seven miscellaneous documents relating to Bouquet. Several letters to Gage from officers in Pensacola, Florida, shed light on the circumstances of Bouquet’s illness and his untimely death on September 2, 1765; while Gage’s replies bear witness to his high regard for the Swiss soldier.

The letters and documents relating to Pennsylvania in general are more numerous and more difficult to classify. There are eighty-one letters from General Gage to various persons, and eighty-three letters from various persons to Gage. Most of these persons were officers serving in Pennsylvania, or were Pennsylvania officials, but not all. Some letters were selected because they


3 The figures given as to the number of letters in various categories are at best approximations. They are based on the list prepared for the microfilm operator. In this list enclosures were usually specified as such, without mention of the writers and recipients.
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dealt with events in Pennsylvania; Sir William Johnson, Governor Horatio Sharpe of Maryland, and Governor Francis Farquier of Virginia are represented in this group. Gage's correspondence with the various commanders at Fort Pitt, Fort Ligonier, and Fort Loudoun was fairly extensive. There are eleven letters and documents written to or by William Trent, relating to the payment of the militia serving in the various Pennsylvania posts during Pontiac's War, as well as several lists of the men to whom pay was due.

Eighteen letters from Governor John Penn to General Gage, and twenty-one letters from Gage to Penn, have particular interest. They show how the governor and the general co-operated in efforts to protect the "Christian" Indians from the wrath of the frontiersmen, and give officialdom's view of the uprising of James Smith and his "Black Boys."

*The Amherst Papers*  

At the time when command was changed in British North America, Sir Jeffery Amherst turned over a number of letters and documents to his successor, General Gage. This group of Amherst Papers came to the Clements Library with the Gage Papers. In this smaller collection there were fifteen items pertaining to Bouquet or to Pennsylvania, which have been microfilmed for the Commission.

Here it may be noted that the Library of Congress has microfilm copies of most of the main collection of Amherst Papers, from the Public Record Office in England. The Clements Library has a typewritten calendar of these papers, compiled by J. C. Ling, Amherst's biographer. From this calendar it appears that the following volumes contain Pennsylvania material: 8, 21, 22, 23,

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^Public Letters, W. O. 34, loaned by the Amherst family.

^Lord Jeffery Amherst: A Soldier of the King. By J. C. Long (New York: Macmillan, 1933). The Introduction and Notes, pages 327-329, have a general analysis of the nature and availability of the Amherst correspondence. The Library of Amherst College has photostatic copies of part of the Public Letters. The Archives of the Dominion of Canada have transcripts of about 60% of the Private Letters. The typewritten calendar is also available, in the United States, at the Library of Amherst College, at the Library of Congress, and at the New York Public Library.
These papers and correspondence relate to the beginnings of the Moravian community at Bethlehem, and were "listed in the catalogue of Georges Andrieux, Paris, June 18-19, 1934, item 49." It is interesting to speculate on the circumstances and adventures which carried these distinctively Pennsylvania sources beyond the seas, and brought them at last to Michigan. They include a copy of Reverend George Whitefield's deed to George Stonehouse of July 18, 1741, various bills and receipts, several letters, and a minute book of 1745-1747. Arrangements were made to microfilm the entire collection.

The Harmar Papers

The public and private correspondence of Brigadier General Josiah Harmar was purchased by the Clements Library in 1936 from Josiah Harmar IV, of Trenton, New Jersey. It contains about 4,000 items, as well as eight letter books. General Harmar commanded the United States Army in Ohio and western Pennsylvania from 1785 to 1791, until he was superseded by General Arthur St. Clair. His papers are rich in Pennsylvania material, and it is regrettable that time did not permit a thorough examination of them. Eleven letters from Ebenezer Denny, five letters from William Irvine, forty-one letters from Jonathan Heart, and seventeen miscellaneous items were microfilmed. This is a mere sampling of the material, made by selecting a few names from the Library's card index.

The letters of Captain Jonathan Heart, commander at Fort Franklin, are especially significant for the building and garrisoning of the first American post on the upper Allegheny. They also contain information on the Indians of the area, and on the early surveys.

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7 University Microfilms, Inc., estimated that duplicates of these microfilm copies may be purchased at $6.00 per hundred-foot roll.
8 Guide, 25. Listed as Collection number 18, 1 vol.
9 Guide, 129-135. Listed as Collection number 64. The list of writers and authors of documents fills five and one-half double-columned pages.
This collection contains the papers of a New England family of nineteenth century engineers. The second Loammi Baldwin (1780-1838) built the Union Canal from Reading to Middletown, Pennsylvania. Among the 2,000 items in the correspondence and 500 maps at the Clements Library, and among the 500 engineering maps and plans in the University of Michigan Transportation Library, there must be significant material on the early development of internal improvements in Pennsylvania. However, there was no time to examine and select material for microfilming.

Maps and Plans

The Map Division of the Clements Library contains 800 manuscript maps, many of which were originally purchased with the manuscript collections. Related to the Gage Papers were Guy Johnson's "Sketch of the Several Indian Roads leading from Fort Pitt to Siento, Lake Erie, etc.,” taken from a draft made by Thomas Hutchins in 1762; and a “Sketch of the Country from Fort Du Quesne to Niagara as described by an intelligent Indian who had resided there for a Considerable time,” dated about 1760. The Harmar papers yielded five views, profiles, and maps of Fort Franklin and vicinity, together with a memorandum of Jonathan Heart explaining them. More important than this was a large-scale map of northwestern Pennsylvania by Jonathan Heart, with insets showing Fort Franklin and its location. The Harmar Papers also had a “Plan of the Works erecting at Pittsburg, 1792.” In all, eleven maps and plans were photostated for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The co-operation of the Clements Library, and especially of Colton B. Storm, Curator of Manuscripts, made it possible to accomplish a great deal even in three days. Mr. Storm not only helped in locating manuscripts for examination, but also handled the details of arranging them for microfilming. His care and attention during the two months when the microfilming was being done was largely responsible for the successful completion of that undertaking.


The private company which did the actual photographic work was University Microfilms, Inc., 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan. This company had earlier obtained for the Commission excellent microfilm copies of Series 21,660 of the Additional Manuscripts in the British Museum, a Bouquet series not included in the photostatic collection of the Library of Congress. The work of microfilming the Pennsylvania material in the Clements Library was equally satisfactory, and by the end of July two hundred-foot rolls of microfilm reproducing the material selected from the Amherst Papers, the Gage Papers, and the Harmar Papers were delivered to the Commission. The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania microfilms are to be made in the near future.

At the present time, the Bouquet letters and documents are being transcribed from the microfilm copies, and edited for inclusion in _The Papers of Colonel Henry Bouquet_. When this work is completed, the microfilms will be available in Harrisburg for reference use. Permission to reproduce will have to be obtained in the usual manner from the Clements Library.

The investigation and microfilming of Pennsylvania material in the Clements Library suggests and demonstrates the practicability of a general program of this nature. Modern photographic techniques now make it possible at relatively small cost to copy and make available the wealth of Pennsylvania history which is deposited in libraries and archives outside our state. The Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Archives of Canada, the New York Historical Society, the Provincial Archives of Quebec—to mention but a few possibilities—would each be likely to have as much Pennsylvania material as the Clements Library.