

Biographical Information and General Description

Smith, David William, 1764 - 1837.

Papers : 1780 - 1805.

DAVID WILLIAM SMITH, 7th Oct. 1772-1805.

Papers, 1772-1805. 24v.

Lieutenant David Smith, surveyor-general of Upper Canada, was the son of a lieutenant-colonel (John Smith) of the 5th regiment of foot, killed at Detroit, 1760-1762, and a Mrs. O'Hara, daughter of a captain of an embryo commission in the same regiment. He was a long paymaster in 1780, an adjutant in 1781, and a lieutenant-general at Niagara in 1792. In 1792 he was appointed surveyor-general.

In September, 1792, Lieutenant-governor Simcoe appointed Smith surveyor-general of Upper Canada. He became a member of the House of Assembly in 1792, 1796, and 1800; he was elected a member of the House of Commons of which he was chosen Speaker in 1797 and again in 1801. On June 27, 1796, he was sworn a member extraordinary of the Executive Council. He was appointed a trustee of the Six Nations Indians in 1797. Smith held commissions as colonel in the Lincoln and York militia units. In 1798 he was appointed lieutenant of the County of York. He visited England in 1799 and in 1802 and although he did not retire from the office of surveyor-general until 1804 he apparently did not return to Canada after his second journey to England. He became manager of the Duke of Northumberland's estates at Alnwick castle and in 1821 was created a baronet. In 1805 Smith was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Percy tenantry volunteer riflemen.

The *D. W. Smith papers* include military accounts, pay-lists, correspondence, etc. relating to the 5th regiment, 1774-1803; An orderly book of John Smith while commander at Niagara, 1793-1795; Upper Canada militia papers, 1796-1802; Orderly book of the Percy tenantry volunteer riflemen, Northumberland, England, 1805-1812. 6v.

Land papers consist of correspondence concerning claims to locations, chiefly letters from the Executive Council and the lieutenant-governor's office, 1792-1802; Reports on locations applied for in the surveyor-general's office, 1800-1802; Return of lands granted by the Executive Council up to 1797; Reports of claims brought before commissioners in the various districts under the acts [37 Geo. III. c. 7 and 39 Geo. III. c. 2] 1802; Instructions to William Chewett and Thomas Riddell in 1799 and a description of the surveyor-general's office in 1802; Accounts of the surveyor-general's office, 1792-1802; Correspondence with Joseph Brant and Peter Russell concerning Indian lands, 1796-1802; Miscellaneous documents, orders in council, memoranda of meetings of the Executive Council, etc. 1792-1800; Maps and descriptions of property owned by the Smith family in Canada, 1802. 14v.

General correspondence includes letters from Henry Alcock, Sir Aured Clarke, Henry Darling, John Emsley, James Givins, George Hill, Sir John Johnson, John King, E. B. Littlehales, William Maitland, Robert Mathews, John Norton, William Osgoode, Robert Pilkington, Comte de Puisaye, Peter Russell, Thomas Scott, Chas. Stevenson, C. B. Wyatt. Most of these letters were written in England to Smith in England, 1780-1805. 2v.

Miscellaneous papers include letters to Mrs. John Smith from the Countess of Abira, Lord Rawdon (North Carolina, 1776), other members of the Rawdon family, and Lord Percy, 1772-1789; D. W. Smith's accounts with Auldjo, Maitland and company, John McGill and James Wilson, 1796-1804; Election expenses in Upper Canada, 1792-1800. 2v.

A selection of the *D. W. Smith papers* was edited by E. A. Cruikshank for the Ontario Historical Society in *The Correspondence of the Honourable David Smith*, Toronto, 1922-1935. 3v.

These volumes underlined have been

microfilmed and the original in the possession of the Ontario Historical Society, Central Library, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1973.

D. W. Smith papers.

**Originals in the possession of the
Metropolitan Toronto Central Library,
Canada.**

D. W. Smith papers.

**Miscellaneous documents, orders in
council, memoranda of meetings of the
Executive council, etc., 1792-1800.
(B9)**

This reel contains

**Orderly book of John Smith while commander at
Niagara, 1793-1795.**

(Part of the Sir David William Smith papers)

**Original manuscript in the possession of the
Metropolitan Toronto Library. Microfilmed by
the Metropolitan Toronto Library, December 1983.**