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Nova Scotia. Lieutenant Governor.

Letterbooks : 1753-1824.

RG 2 RECORDS OF THE GOVERNORS' AND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS' OFFICES

Attempts at settlement in Acadia or Nova Scotia were made by the Portuguese about 1525 and by the French and the English early in the seventeenth century. The territory changed hands a number of times between the French and the English until 1713 when, by the Treaty of Utrecht, France ceded to Great Britain all Nova Scotia or Acadia "within its ancient boundaries," while retaining both Isle Royal and Isle St. Jean (Prince Edward Island). For several years governmental arrangements were somewhat makeshift. By 1719, however, British policy became more clearly defined and instructions more suited to the responsibilities of the governors of Nova Scotia were prepared.

Administrative functions for British colonies were given in 1696 to "The Lords Commissioners for promoting the trade of our Kingdom and for inspecting and improving our plantations in America and elsewhere." This body was also referred to as the Board of Trade and Plantations. By 1702, responsibility for the colonies had been assumed by the Secretary of State for the Southern Department. In 1768 the separate office of the Colonial Secretary was created. In 1782 the Board was abolished and colonial affairs were placed in the Home Secretary's Department. These were transferred to the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies in 1784, and a new Committee of Council for Trade and Plantations was established. Because of the war with France, the "Plantations Bureau" was not actually transferred until 1801. A separate Secretary of State for the Colonies was appointed in 1854.

The records of the Governors' and Lieutenant-Governors' Offices are in four sections.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	PAGES
1	RG 1. Primarily dispatches of the governors to the British government from 1710 to 1867. There are two volumes of documents relating to Acadia while it was a French Colony. There is on microfilm from the Public Record Office, London, Records on Nova Scotia, C.O. 217.	4-8
2	Primarily consists of correspondence to the Secretary of State of Great Britain, 1859-1867, the Secretary of State of Canada, and the Provincial Secretary, 1867-1953.	8-10
3	A Miscellaneous Collection of correspondence, 1864-1930.	10-11
4	Blue Books or annual returns of 1830-1848, sent by the Lieutenant-Governors to the British government.	11

RG 2

GOVERNORS AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

1. 1632-1867 Documents. Originals, transcripts and microfilm, 3 m and 88 reels.
This series, in RG 1, is arranged as follows:

French Documents relating to Acadia While Under the Government of France

- Vols. 2-4. Chiefly letters from the Governors and Commandants to the Minister of Marine at Paris, 1632-1713, and correspondence of Priests, 1641-1751. List of contents in each volume. Transcripts from Quebec, being selections from Paris. Documents in the Public Archives of Canada.

Vol. 2. 1632-1699

Vol. 3. 1700-1749

Vol. 4. 1641-1751

British Government at Annapolis Royal

- Vol. 5. Documents relating to Annapolis Royal, 1710-1714, including letters of Governor Samuel Vetch. List of contents in the Volume. Transcripts from State Paper Office, London.
- Vol. 7. Letters and other documents from Governors Francis Nicholson and Richard Philipps at Annapolis Royal to the Secretary of State and the Plantation Office, 1712-1725. List of contents in the Volume. Transcripts from Public Record Office, London.
- Vol. 7½. Documents relating to Annapolis Royal, 1710-1714, including letters of Governor Samuel Vetch. List of contents in the Volume. Transcripts from Public Record Office, London.
- Vol. 9. 1710-1753. Memorials, letters and journal of Paul Mascarene. List of contents in the Volume. Transcripts from the Brown Collection in the British Museum, 1880-1881.
- Vols. 14-15. 1713-1742. Letter books of Governors. List of contents in each Volume. Originals.
- Vol. 14. 1719-1742. Letters written by Governors Richard Philipps, Paul Mascarene, Lawrence Armstrong, etc. to the Board of Trade, the Secretary of State, French Deputies and others; Philipps' Proclamations, Jan. 2, 1719-June 8, 1742. (Published in abstract in Nova Scotia Archives, II, Halifax, 1900, edited by Dr. Archibald MacMechan, pp. 1-167. Full index in printed volume.)
- Vol. 15. 1713-1717. Chiefly letters written by Thomas Caulfeild.