

Health and Medicine in the Haldimand Papers

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Keywords: Dr. Hugh Alexander Kennedy, Frederick Haldimand, health issues of soldiers, hospital, infirmary, medical expenses, medical supplies, Montréal, Trois-Rivières.

Additional Manuscript Number (Add. MSS No.) 21,857 groups together the correspondence of Haldimand with Doctor Hugh Alexander Kennedy, Inspector of Infirmaries, and William Barr, Purveyor of Hospitals in Canada, 1778-1784; together with returns (lists) and accounts of the general hospital at Three Rivers (Trois-Rivières), and the hospitals at Montréal, Quebec, etc..

Examples

1) Correspondence related to health issues of soldiers (pp 14, 38-44), abuse in the system (p 103), housing for the sick (p 69), need for medicines and supplies such as firewood -men need proper allowance for firewood when at hospital in order to recuperate (pp 14, 162), issues with inhabitants (p 157), the organisation/distribution of staff (pp 59, 152), and regulations, for e.g., respecting surgeons (p 73).

2) Returns/lists, such as wages (p 31); staff distribution (p 51); medicines, for example, List of medicines etc. wanted for the use at garrison at Quebec (p 86) and Detroit (p 192); and Account of medicines issued of the General Hospital, which gives extensive detail of items for each regiment, by whom ordered and the cost (p 227).

3) Supplies, such as, stores belonging to the hospital in Canada in store and in use at Montréal and St. John's (p5). 4) Accounts and expenses, which give much detail to the items attached, for example, schedule of expenses hospital in Canada, contingent expenses and for which the date, by whom paid and cost is given for each expense. The expenses included things such as: "paid for shaving sick", "medicines and sundry for apothecary", "for hospital at Three Rivers", and "for transporting sick".

Other sections of interest: Peripheral, but pertinent to health and welfare for their data on food stuffs and other provisions necessary for the welfare of the soldiers, are documents related to other departments, such as the Returns of provisions in store at Quebec.....(Add. MSS No. 21, 852); and Returns of stores and other papers relating to the Quartermaster-General's Department (Add. MSS No. 21, 849), etc..

Finding Documents:

Using the *Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts of the British Museum*, available electronically and found in the catalogue under the Electronic Finding Aid section, find

the sections of interest and note the Additional Manuscript Number (Add. MSS No.). Then use the finding aid (Haldimandfinding) to find out what the microfilm reel number is for that section.

Using Library and Archives' Reports, available online, their transcriptions of the original material have been included chronologically. Then use the finding aid (Haldimandfinding) in the Electronic Finding Aid section to convert the Reports referencing into Add. MSS numbering, which enables a match with The Loyalist Collection reel numbering.