Health and Medicine in the Haldimand Papers

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

Section 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 of Health and Medicine in the Haldimand Papers

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 (p 5).

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”. Peripheral, but pertinent to health and welfare for their data on food stuffs and other provisions necessary for the soldiers, are documents related to other departments, such as the Returns of provisions in store at Quebec…..(21, 852); and Returns of stores and other papers relating to the Quartermaster-General’s Department (21, 849), etc.