

INVENTORY DESCRIPTION

Great Britain. Audit Office.

Claims, American Loyalists : Series II
(AO 13) : 1780-1835.

Transcripts, 1780-1790, 10 cm. Photostats, 1786-1787.
7 pages. Microfilm, 1780-1835. 141 reels, B-2176 to
B-2216, B-2284 to B-2297, B-2331 to B-2346, B-2416 to
B-2455, B-2551 to B-2580. Finding Aid Nos. 90 and 250.

Audit Office 13 consists of 140 bundles of the second series of papers relating to the claims for compensation submitted by persons who alleged that they had suffered losses during the American War of Independence because of their loyalty to the British Crown. These bundles contain the original memorials of the claims, and papers supporting them or otherwise closely connected with them. At least five bundles are known to be missing from the series, as a result of a robbery occurring in the room at Somerset House where they were deposited before their transfer to the Public Record Office. The transcripts and photostats are also available on 16 mm microfilm (reel C-12905).

The claims in Series II are, for the most part, the same as those in Series I (i.e. A.O. 12, q.v.), apart from a small percentage of names which appear in only one of the classes. The Public Archives of Canada has microfilmed the whole of the second series also, since it contains not only the original memorials and schedules of losses pertaining to each claim, but also many other papers such as wills, deeds, land survey plans, drawings of buildings, indentures, certificates, accounts, pamphlets, newspaper cuttings, letters, power of attorney, or any other relevant documents. Some of the papers date from before the war, while others are much later.

The bundles are distinguished as relating to the Army and Navy supplies claims, new claims, claims received too late, temporary assistance, temporary support, and a few other categories such as letters, various, and miscellaneous. The basic arrangement, as for A.O. 12, is according to the States in which the losses occurred, but where the internal arrangement of the claims volumes in A.O. 12 is chronological according to the the hearing of the evidence, that in the A.O. 13 bundles is alphabetical according to the names of the claimants. It should be noted that the alphabetical arrangement is not strictly reliable beyond the initial letter and that there is no certain method of determining which reel will contain a particular claim, although the corresponding alphabetical idiosyncrasies of the index often permit an informed guess to be made. It should also be appreciated that the papers pertaining to a claim may often contain a considerable number of documents bearing completely different names, which are not indexed: that papers pertaining to the same claim may be found in more than one bundle, as indicated in the index: and that duplicated or closely related documents are sometimes found in related claims, which bear very different names.

Besides the complete series on microfilm, bundle 76 containing the papers of Connecticut claims has been transcribed, as well as a few selections from bundles 47, 70B and 81 relating to the claims of

MG 14
A.O. 13

GREAT BRITAIN: Public Record Office, A.O. 13, Claims, American
Loyalists: Series II

Mary Loring, Asa Porter, Benjamin Bennett and Angus McInnell.
A number of other transcribed papers relating to individual
Loyalists are also to be found, associated with material from
A.O. 12 and other sources, in MG 55/14 1. Particulars of these
items are given in Finding Aid 250. Other official records of
Loyalists are ascribed in Treasury 50 (q.v.).

Finding Aid 90 contains the shelf list of Audit Office material
on microfilm at the Public Archives of Canada. Finding Aid 250
contains a consolidated shelf and microfilm conversion list, and
also provides a table of contents to bundle 76 (papers relating
to Connecticut claims), together with cross references to other
Connecticut material in A.O. 12. A few selected papers transcribed
from among those in the claim of Mrs. Mary Loring in bundle 47
are also listed in Finding Aid 250. An alphabetical index to the
claims in this class is available in a separate bound volume as
part of Finding Aid 250, and has also been microfilmed on reel
B-2176. The index to the claims for supplies furnished to the
British army and navy during the war, which are contained in
bundles 1-10, is not included in the main body of this index but
appears separately at the end of the volume.

Of the published aids mentioned in the MG 14 Introduction, those
applicable to this class are the Guide to the Contents of the
Public Record Office, II; Lists of the Records of the Treasury,
The Paymaster General's Office, The Exchequer and Audit Department
and the Board of Trade to 1837, preserved in the Public Record
Office, of which the portion pertaining to A.O. 13 is also
available on microfilm reel B-2176; and Guide to the Materials
in London Archives for the History of the United States since
1783, by C.O. Paullin and F.L. Paxson. Paullin and Paxson, it
should be noted, refer to this class by its former number, which
was A.O. 4.

Because of the heavy interlibrary loan demand for the index and
list of this class, these two items, together with the equivalent
finding aids for A.O. 12, have been microfilmed and are available
on reel C-9821.

November 1978
B. Driscoll

B.R.A.M. Section

EXCHEQUER AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT

Audit Office, Claims, American Loyalists, Series II.

(A.O.13)

These bundles consist of the original memorials, certificates, accounts and vouchers of the various claimants, as presented to the Commission. The memorials are usually the same as those entered in the set of volumes containing the evidences taken before the Commissioners, but the other papers are supplementary. In some cases, where the volumes are missing, these bundles supply the only information. Bundles 1-10 being claims for supplies furnished to the Army and Navy, are not included in the Index to Claimants Names. They correspond with the numbers 71-76 in the series of volumes (A.O. 12/71-76). The index to these volumes is number 77(A.O.12/77) which should be applied for under the reference Index 10342(1).

February 1958.