1st Canadian Regiment, Continental Army, Payrolls and Muster Rolls, 1776-1854 (bulk 1776-1780): Finding Aid

This collection was purchased through the Delafield Fund, which was created as a fitting memorial to General John Ross Delafield and the Delafield Family.

Summary Information

Call number: C1537
Repository: Princeton University Library. Special Collections. Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 2.0 linear feet
1 box
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: Consists of forty-three payroll sheets and fifteen muster rolls, dating from 1776 to 1780, of the 1st Canadian Regiment, which supported colonial efforts during the American Revolution. Also included is a copy of Senate Bill S. 186 submitted to the 33rd Congress by the Committee on Revolutionary Claims in 1854.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.
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Having raised a local militia to assist with the initial American invasion of Quebec in September, 1775, the Second Continental Congress authorized Colonel James Livingston (1747-1832), an emigrant from New York, to raise a regiment to continue to support the colonies' efforts on the Canadian front. The 1st Canadian Regiment, one of a small number of Continental Army regiments that was the direct responsibility of Congress, received formal regimental designation by Richard Montgomery on November 20, 1775, with recognition by Congress following on January 8, 1776. Placed under the command of General Benedict Arnold, the regiment included a mix of Canadian, American, and foreign-born soldiers, including two of Livingston's brothers, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Livingston and Captain Abraham Livingston. The regiment saw action primarily in the Canadian theater and New York, participating in the failed American assault on Quebec and the Battle of Trois-Rivières, before fleeing with the Continental Army to Fort Ticonderoga, New York. In August 1777, it took part in the expedition to relieve Fort Stanwix, in September and October of that year participated in both Battles of Saratoga, and in 1778, the Battle of Rhode Island. For the remainder of the war, the regiment had garrison duty in New York. It was during this time when Colonel Livingston, in command of Verplanck's Point on the Hudson River, played a crucial role in exposing Benedict Arnold. The regiment was disbanded as part of a major reorganization on January 1, 1781, at King's Ferry, New York. Members that remained in service were assigned to the 2nd Canadian Regiment.

Consists of forty-three payroll sheets and fifteen muster rolls, dating from 1776 to 1780, of several companies from the 1st Canadian Regiment. Payrolls contain the names and ranks of each soldier, his wage per month, his amount of subsistence, length of time for which the soldier is receiving pay, and the total amount of subsistence and wage. Some also contain information about debt owed and whether the soldier is listed as a casualty. Two payrolls from 1780 also contain soldiers' time of service. Muster rolls list personnel of the company, both officers and enlisted men, including their appointment date, duration of service, casualties, and remarks. On the verso of each is found a "Proof of Effectives," or a roll call of personnel "Present, Absent, and Total," with a signed oath verifying that the totals are correct. The documents also reveal the passing of several of the regiment's captains, including John Baptist Allen, Augustin Loseaux, and Timothy Hughes, as the men are identified as the "late" captains of their respective companies.

Also included in the collection is a copy of Senate Bill S. 186 submitted to the 33rd Congress by the Committee on Revolutionary Claims in 1854.

Arranged by company.
Access
Open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information
Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services staff through the Ask Us! form. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition
Purchase, 2016. (AM 2017-38)

Appraisal
No materials were separated during 2016 processing.

Related Materials

Related Archival Material
Princeton University Library Collection of General John Ross Delafield Family Materials (C1508)
First Canadian Regiment records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); 1st Canadian Regiment, Continental Army, payrolls and muster rolls, Box and Folder Number; Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Encoding
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit2016-09-26T12:36-0400

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

· Livingston, James, 1747-1832 -- Sources.
· American loyalists--Canada--Sources.
· Canada--History--1763-1791--Sources.
· New York (N.Y.)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Sources.
· United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Campaigns--Sources.
· United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Participation, Canadian--Sources.
· United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Regimental histories--Sources.
· American history/Revolution
Colonel James Livingston's Battalion Payrolls and Muster Rolls, 1776-1780

Description: Consists of 7 payrolls or pay abstracts, including those for the months of February, 1778, August and September, 1778, January, April, and May, 1779; and 2 muster rolls, including one dated June 21, 1776, and one for November and December, 1780; as well as a couple of fragments.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 1

Captain John Baptist Allen's Company Payroll and Muster Rolls, 1778 June-September

Description: Includes 1 payroll of the "Late Capt. John Baptist Allens Company" for August and September, 1778; and 2 muster rolls, including one dated June 28, 1778.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 2

Captain Augustin Loseaux's Company Payrolls and Muster Roll, 1777-1778

Description: Includes 3 payrolls for the months of March, October and November, and December, 1778 (the last payroll is for the "Late Capt Augustin Lascaux [sic] Company"); and 1 muster roll dated September 7, 1777.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 3

Captain Timothy Hughes' Company Payrolls and Muster Roll, 1778

Description: Includes 3 payrolls for the months of April and May, June and July, and October and November, 1778 (the last is for the "Late Capt. Timothy Hughes Company"); and 1 muster roll.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 4

Captain Peter Van Rensselaer's Company Payrolls and Muster Roll, 1777-1779

Description: Includes 3 payrolls for the months of June and July, and December 1778, and February and March, 1779; and 1 muster roll dated September 7, 1777.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 5

Captain James Robichaux's Company Payrolls and Muster Roll, 1778-1780

Description: Consists of 6 payrolls, including those for February, 1778, the months of April, May, and July, 1779, and August, September, and October, 1780.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 6

Captain Robert Wright's Company Payrolls and Muster Rolls, 1777-1779

Description: Includes 5 payrolls for March through July, 1778, and January and April, 1779; and 3 muster rolls, including one dated March, 1777.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 7

Captain Abraham Livingston's Company Payrolls, 1778-1779

Description: Includes 4 payrolls for April through July, 1778, and January and July, 1779.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 8

Captain John D. P. Ten Eyck's Company Payroll, 1780 October

Description: Includes 1 payroll for the months of August, September, and October, 1780.

Box: P-000059
Folder: 9
Captain Dirck Hansen's Company Payrolls and Muster Rolls, 1779
Description: Includes 2 payrolls for July and August, 1779; and 5 muster rolls, including ones dated September 14, 1777, December 19, 1777, and May 4, 1778.

4th Company Payrolls, 1779 January-May
Description: Includes 3 payrolls for January through March and May, 1779.

8th Company Payrolls, 1779 January-April
Description: Includes 2 payrolls for the months of January and April, 1779.

2nd Company Payrolls, 1779 June-July
Description: Includes 2 payrolls for June and July, 1779.

1st Company Payroll, 1779 October
Description: Includes 1 payroll for October, 1779.

Senate Bill S. 186, 1854 February 6
Description: Bill submitted to the 33rd Congress by the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.