

Parrish Wells papers, 1929-1951

MSS. COLL. NO. 042

Size: 8.75 linear feet

Biographical Note

Parrish Wells was born November 12, 1890 in Johnstown, New York. He was educated at the University of Rochester and graduated as a Civil Engineer. Mr. Wells worked as a hydraulic engineer in Rochester, New York and in 1946 he moved his family to Plattsburgh, New York where he remained until just before his death in October 1963. He had for many years a great interest in the French and Indian War and did research all over the state. He wrote and published "Dangerous Journeys" (see our libraries holdings for title) and also wrote two novels "50,000 Heroes" and "The Rocks Beneath Us" which were completed but not published

Scope & Content

This collection consists of Well's research materials and manuscript copies of his books and stories. Included are photocopies of excerpts from diaries of the period, magazine articles, a scrapbook which contains his story "Putnam Rangers" and his correspondence with publishers, libraries and newspapers. Many different stories are also included ("The Rangers"), "Soldiers' Story of Oswego", "Battle of Lake George", and "Johnson's March to Lake George") and numerous stories about the battles of the French and Indian War along the St. Lawrence River, in Montreal and Quebec.

Historical note

The French and Indian War was the American phase of a worldwide, nine-years' war (1754–63) fought between France and Great Britain. (The more complex European phase was the Seven Years' War [1756–63].) It determined the control of the vast colonial territory of North America. Three earlier phases of this extended contest for overseas mastery are treated separately: King William's War (1689–97), Queen Anne's War (1702–13), and King George's War (1744–48).

The French and Indian War began over the specific issue of whether the upper Ohio River valley was a part of the British Empire, and therefore open for trade and settlement by Virginians and Pennsylvanians, or part of the French Empire. Behind this issue loomed an infinitely larger one, however: which national culture was to dominate the heart of North America. Settlers of English extraction were in a preponderance in the coveted area, but French exploration, trade, and Indian alliances predominated. As early as 1749, the governor-general of New France specifically ordered the area cleared of all British, with the aim of restricting their settlements to the territory east of the Appalachian Mountains. In the spring of 1754, the French ousted a Virginia force from the forks of the Ohio River, and a skirmish was precipitated by Colonel George Washington. Shortly, Washington's force was surrounded at Fort Necessity, Pennsylvania, and forced to surrender. Ultimately the war spread to every part of the world where either of the two nations had territorial interests.

The first four years saw nothing but severe reverses for the British regulars and American colonials, primarily because of superior French land forces in the New World. Lack of colonial assistance to the war effort compounded British problems. By the end of 1757, however, the course of the war began to be altered by three major influences. One was the dynamic leadership of the British prime minister, William Pitt the Elder, who saw that victory in North America was the supreme task in the worldwide struggle and who has been truly called the organizer of victory in the Great War for the Empire. The second was the increasing superiority of British financial and industrial resources, food supplies, and naval equipment, as opposed to growing national bankruptcy and economic paralysis faced by France. Finally, both the British and Americans were becoming seasoned wilderness fighters.

In 1758 and 1759, aided by effective blockades off the coast of France as well as in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the British won important victories at Louisbourg, Fort Frontenac, Fort Carillon (later Ticonderoga), and Crown Point, and at Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh) and Fort Niagara. The climax came with the British victory on the

Plains of Abraham (September 13, 1759), where Quebec was forced to surrender and where both commanders, James Wolfe and the marquis de Montcalm, were fatally wounded (see Quebec, Battle of). A year later, Montreal and the whole of New France had fallen. By the Treaty of Paris (February 10, 1763), France ceded its territory on mainland North America east of the Mississippi River (including Canada) to Great Britain; Spain ceded Florida to Britain but in return received the Louisiana Territory (i.e., the western half of the Mississippi River basin) and New Orleans from the French. Though unpopular with the British public, which would have preferred France's rich sugar-producing islands of the West Indies rather than Canada, the 1763 treaty is often thought to mark the beginning of Britain's imperial greatness. Ironically, Britain's problems arising from victory, such as war debts and the administration and settlement of an expanded colonial empire, contained the very seeds of the conflict that would lead to the American Revolution during the following decade.

"French and Indian War." Encyclopædia Britannica. 2004. Encyclopædia Britannica Online.
7 Apr. 2004 <http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=36001>.

Provenance

The collection was donated to St. Lawrence University in December 1978 by Marjorie Harrison, daughter of James Parrish Wells.

BOX

- 1 [untitled] {13}
two notebooks
three photocopied journals/papers
- 2 nine notebooks
[untitled]
Joncaire ms. copied from ms. in Quebec - 1944
[untitled] {3}
Wolfe's Journal
two bound books of photocopied material
- 3 thirteen notebooks
[untitled] {2}
John H
Preface/Introduction 1755
- 4 1756, or in chapter 1
Chapter 1 - Early Hostilities
Chapter 2 - Disaster on the Monongehela
Chapter 3 - Victory at Lake George
Chapter 4 - Rangers and Iroquois
Chapter 5 - Shirley and Oswego
Chapter 6 - Arcadia
Chapter 7 - European Theatre
Chapter 8 - Fort Bull destroyed
Chapter 9 - Oswego (including DeVilliers and Bradstreet)
Chapter 10 - Reinforcements from Europe; War Declared
Chapter 12 - Operations on Lakes George and Champlain
Chapter 13 - Pa. Indian Raids
Chapter 14 - Winter Warfare 1757
Chapter 15 - Victory and Defeat by Ambush
Chapter 16 - Futile Expedition (1st typing)
- 5 Chapter 17 - Fort William Henry Destroyed
Chapter 18 - Inaction and Massacre
Chapter 19 - Mohawk Valley Raid
Chapter 20 - Events in Europe
Chapter 21 - Battle in the Snow
Chapter 22 - Ticonderoga
Chapter 23 - Provincial Victory (Frontenac captured)
Chapter 24 - Three Skirmishes
Chapter 25 - Louisbourg Regained
Chapter 26 - Fort Dusquesne
Chapter 26a - With the Aid of God and the Prussians
Chapter 27 - Quebec
Chapter 28 - Ticonderoga and Crown Point
Chapter 29 - Niagara Campaign
Chapter 30 - Quebec (distruction of the country)

- Chapter 31 - Quebec (The Plains of Abraham)
- Chapter 32 - Quebec (retreat and capitulation)
- Chapter 32a - Inaction at Oswego
- Chapter 33 - Amherst on Champlain (St. Francis Raid and Massacre)

- 6 Chapter 34 - The French Besiege Quebec
 - [untitled]
 - Chapter 36 - Oswego-Fort Lewis in the St. Lawrence
 - Chapter 37 - Siege of the Isle au Noix
 - Chapter 38 - Murry on the St. Lawrence (Oath of Allegiance)
 - Chapter 39 - Fall of Montreal
 - Unclassified
 - [untitled] {2}
 - Johnson and the French and Indian War
 - Story Quebec 1759
 - Story Quebec 1760
 - Lake George story
 - Story of Spain
 - Revolution
 - Putnam story 1758-60
 - History Asia 1200-1900
 - [untitled]
 - Correspondence
 - 50,000 Heroes
 - [untitled] {3}

- 7 Ottawa, Canada
 - [untitled] {6}
 - Memoirs of the Last Ten Years of the Reign of George II vol. I and II

- 8 "Source material on the French and Indian War" [2 books]

- 9 [untitled] {7}
 - "C"
 - "F-G"
 - "H"
 - "K-L"
 - "M"
 - "P-Q"
 - [untitled]
 - "W"
 - "A"
 - [untitled]
 - Cobb's journal
 - [untitled]
 - Fitch diary
 - Champion geneology
 - Forbes diary
 - [untitled]
 - Gentlemen's Magazine 1754-74

- [untitled]
 - Gridley diary
 - [untitled]
 - Johnson comment
 - Lyon journal
 - Journal des Campagnes du Chevalier de Levis en Canada
 - Mante, Thomas - extracts
 - Maxwell
 - [untitled]
 - Montresor Journals
 - [untitled]
 - Rufus Putnam journals
 - N.Y. Mercury
 - [untitled]
 - Royal magazine
 - "S"
 - Edmund Wells Journal
 - [untitled]
 - Lake George Battle
 - Early Events
 - 1755
 - [untitled] {2}
- 10
- [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - Before 1755
 - Misc. 1756
 - 1758
 - 1759
 - 1760
 - A-B
 - H Sources
 - Out from Forts Edward and William Henry
 - Ft. Wm. Henry
 - Chapter 5-Winter Warfare
 - Chapter 7-Ft. William Henry
 - Previous to Ft. Wm. Henry
- 11
- [untitled]
 - Correspondence - libraries and individuals

- [untitled]
 - "C-E" sources
 - Boston Gazette
 - Robert Orme letter
 - Annual Register
 - Webb letters
 - McClintock Journal - siege Isle au Noix
 - Map of NYC 1766-67
 - Photo of a map of Ft. William Henry and vicinity
 - Topo map of Ft. Edwards and Environs
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - "General Johnson was born in Ireland..."
 - "General Johnson was born..."
 - Johnson and Indians
 - Attempts by Johnson to rescue besieged at Fort William Henry
 - Johnson's march to Lake George
 - Battle of Lake George
 - Battle of Lake George
 - Battle of Lake George, et al.
 - Battle of Lake George
 - Chapter 2, Battle of Lake George
 - Lake George Campaign
 - After the battle of Lake George
- 12 Bradstreet's Relief Expedition
- [untitled]
 - NH-Rangers
 - [untitled]
 - Notes
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - Notes
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - Misc.
 - "In 1758, the French..."
 - French into Winter Quarters, et al.
 - Pompadour and Corruption
 - German Flats
 - Catalogues
 - "To attain a colonial empire"
 - Notes from the Memoirs of the Marchioness de Pompadour
 - Review of Dangerous Journeys and copy of Dangerous Journeys
 - Desandrouins
 - Professional Correspondence
 - [untitled]

- Braddock's defeat
 - "There were two main routes"
 - "When Gov. Shirley had arrived..."
 - Soldiers' Story
 - Narrative of Thomas Brown
 - Braddock and the four expeditions
 - Putnam Ambush
 - Chapter 3: camp life and rangers
- 13
- Ranger
 - The Rangers
 - The Rangers
 - Rangers' Story
 - Roger's Ranger
 - "Frenchman who captured his jailor..."
 - "What was the nature of the Indian warriors?"
 - [untitled]
 - Fort Bull expedition
 - Fort Bull-last part
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - Albany to Oswego
 - "Includes siege of Oswego"
 - The Capture of Oswego
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - Ticonderoga
 - Ticonderoga
 - Ticonderoga
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - Expenses and receipts
 - Libraries and Librarians-general comments
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
- 14
- [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - [untitled]
 - Narrative of peter Pond
 - "Fr. and Inc. War" Unknown diary
 - Artemis Ward's Journal
 - Rufus Putnam's journal
 - Ilsey journal

- DeLery's Journals
 - Putnam's journal
 - Hamilton ms. from Harvard
 - Chapter 40-Europe
 - Witherspoon, Quebec 1757-1759
 - The French besiege Quebec
 - Chapter XIV-Quebec
 - Niagara campaign
 - Victory at Niagara
 - Niagara
 - On General Amherst
 - Lake Champlain Campaign
 - Up Lake Champlain
 - NY Gazette - 9/11/1758
 - Capture of Putnam
 - Chapter 8 - Massacre and attempted rescue
- 15 [untitled]
 Chapter IV: 1756
 Extract letter from John Shirley to Gov. Morris, 1755
 Disaster on the Monongehela: Chapter I
 N. England diaries from Forbes
 Books (English)
 Other Material
 IX: German flats destroyed
 50,000 Heroes
- 16 Assorted books
- 16a (oversize—kept in MSS oversized area) *Putnam's Rangers* typed manuscript with notes
 Double oversize—large green cloth-bound scrapbook containing Photostat copies of articles about Putnam, maps, and other items (stored in flat file, cupboard #2 drawer #1 in reading room)
- 17 Battle of Lake George, 1755
 Binder: Character outline
 Hand written notes on Chapters 1, 5, 6
 Folder: Notes
 Chapter 3 typed
 Folder: Notes on Chapters 1-5
 Typed Chapters 1-3
 Folder: Notes on Chapters 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16
 Folder: Draft Chapters 1, 4, 11 (Typed)
- 18 Novel (Manuscript): Lake George Story, 1755
 Vol. I, Chapters 1-16: Ready for first typing, notes to self (Aug. 5, 1942)
 Vol. II, Chapters 16 (end)-31: Ready for first typing, minor corrections (Aug. 5, 1942)
 Vol. III, Chapters 33 (there is no Chapt. 32)-48: Ready for first typing, reviewed (Aug. 5, 1942)
- 19 Novel (Manuscript): Lake George Story, 1755
 Vol. IV, Chapters 48 (end)-62: Ready for first typing (Aug. 5, 1942)

Vol. V, Chapters 62 (end)-76: Looked over for corrections (Jan. 26, 1942)
 Vol. VI, Chapters 77-88: Last Volume

- 20 50,000 Heroes
 -Typed and corrected Manuscript
 -Chapters 4-38
 -Written in 1st person
 50,000 Heroes
 -Typed Manuscript
 -Chapters 1-30
 -Written in 2nd person
 50,000 Heroes
 -Typed Manuscript
 -Chapters 1-37
 -Written in 3rd person

Box 21 Publications

Monographs

Annual Register... *A Complete History of the Late War*. 6th ed. Dublin: Exshaw, 1774.

Bisset, Robert. *The History of the Reign of George III...* v. I. Philadelphia: Levis & Weaver, 1810.

Guerre du Canada. Relations et Journaux de Differentes Expeditions. Quebec : Demers & frere, 1895.

Hale, Salma. *History of the U.S. to 1815*. (missing title page) NY?

Johnstone, James. *Memoirs of the Chevalier De Johnstone*. V. 1 & 3. Aberdeen: Wyllie & Son, 1870.

Smollet, T. *Continuation of the Complete History of England*. Vol. III. London: R. Baldwin, 1762 .

Serials

Archives de Quebec. *Rapport de L'archiviste de la Province de Quebec Pour 1928-1929*.

Grand Magazine of Universal Intelligence... London: R. Griffiths, 1759.

Vol. II, Jan. – June, 1759

Vol. II, July – Dec., 1759

The London Magazine... London: R. Baldwin Jr. Vol. XXX, Jan. - July, 1761

Miscellaneous Correspondence... London: W. Owen, 1759. Vol. II, 1757 -58

Public Archives of Canada. *Report ... for the Year 1929*. Ottawa: 1930.

The Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure. London: John Hinton, v. LVI, Jan. – June, 1775.