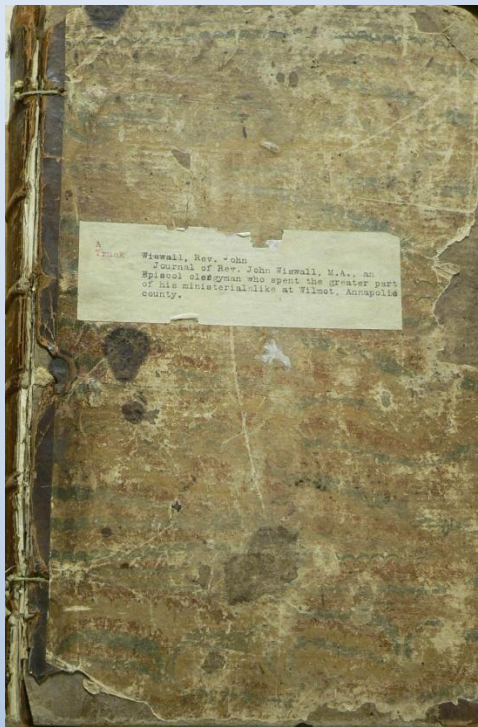


ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

JOHN WISWALL FONDS
Accession 1900.008-WIS



Compiled by Rhianna H. Edwards

July 2001

John Wiswall fonds. – [textual records]. – 1771-1821. – 1 v. of textual records

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Scope and Content

Fonds consists of one journal, covering the years 1771 to 1812.

Journal. – 1771-1821. – 1 v. of textual records

Item is a journal that is divided into two sections.

The first section contains

- 1 Letters from Falmouth, Mass., 1770-1774
- 2 Letters from Boston, 1775
- 3 Letters from London and Oxford, England, 1780-1782
- 4 Letters and memoranda to and from the Rev. Dr. Morice, Secretary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London, when Rev. Wiswall was in Cornwallis, NS, 1783 to 1789, and at Wilmot, NS from 1789 to 1812

The second section, which reads from the back cover, reversed, contains

- 1 Letters and petitions from Boston, 1775-1776, and from London, 29 March 1776
- 2 Family anecdotes and JOURNAL
- 3 Chronological account of events during his life, 1731 to 1798, with other memoranda

Wiswall's petitions outline the losses he suffered because of his loyalty to the Crown. The letters to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel that Wiswall wrote from Nova Scotia contain much detail about the construction of church buildings, the clearing and planting of Glebe land, and the help received from his parishioners in Cornwallis, Horton, Aylesford and Wilmot, NS. The Family Anecdotes contain genealogical information about his family.

Note: Supplied title based on contents of item

Note: Back cover of journal has separated from the volume and a number of pages have been cut from the journal

Note: The letters are not in strict chronological order

Biographical Sketch

Rev. John Wiswall¹ was a Church of England clergyman, born in Boston in 1731. He died in 1821 at Wilmot, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. He was married twice: first to Mercy Minot of Brunswick, Maine with whom he had four children, and secondly to Margaret Hutchinson of New Jersey.

Wiswall was the minister at Falmouth in New England when the Revolutionary War began. As a Loyalist, he was forced to flee to Boston with his family and he lost his house and property. After a time as the minister for several churches in England and as a Chaplain aboard a British ship, he was sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to Cornwallis Township, Nova Scotia in 1783. He served in this area until his death in 1821.

Custodial History

The identity of the donor of this journal cannot be determined with any certainty. The volume has been in the Archives' holdings for a great number of years. There is a small possibility that it was donated by Rev. Edward Manning Saunders. In the *Collections* of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, 1908, there is an article titled "The Life and Times of the Rev. John Wiswall, M.A.", written by Saunders. He indicates in a footnote that "the chief authorities used in the preparation of this paper were....the MS journal of the Rev. John Wiswall. This consists of one large folio volume in a state of excellent preservation; it is in the custody of the Wiswall family, and has been drawn on largely." Therefore it is possible that the journal might have been donated by Saunders (who died in 1916), or directly from the family.

Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds.

Records subject to the *Copyright Act*.

Microfilm copy is available : 35 mm.

¹ For more detailed information, see Hutchison, Margaret. "John Wiswall". *Dictionary of Canadian Biography V*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1983.

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management holds the 1808 and 1809 issues of Theophrastus' *Almanacks of Nova-Scotia Calendars*², on the blank pages of which Wiswall wrote meteorological observations. These have been transcribed and published as number 12 in the Bulletins of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia series, titled *Glimpses of Nova Scotia, 1807-24*, edited by C. B. Fergusson (Halifax, 1957)

See also "The Rev. John Wiswall, M.A., loyalist" by E.M. Saunders [MFICHE FC5 .C5 no.76031]

Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: John Wiswall fonds

Date: 2001

Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

Access Points

Wiswall, John (1731-1821)

United Empire loyalists—Nova Scotia—Annapolis Valley Region

² MG1, volume 978