

The French and Indian War Journals of Augustin Hayden, 1758-1759

Finding aid

Windsor Historical Society
96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095

Creator: Hayden, Augustin (1740-1823)

Dates: 1758, 1759

Extent: 2 volumes

Accession #: 1984.60.54, 1984.60.55

Biographical Note:

Augustin Hayden was born 24 August, 1740 in Windsor, Connecticut, second son of Samuel Hayden and Abigail Hall, one of a family of seven sons and one daughter. On 25 May, 1758, at age 18, he enlisted to serve with General Phineas Lyman's regiment during that summer in the area near Ticonderoga, NY. In June 1759, he again enlisted and again served with Major General Phineas Lyman. In 1765, he moved to Torrington, CT with his father and then built the frame part of the old Hayden homestead in the town. In 1769 he married Cynthia Filer, daughter of Jeremiah Filer and Jerusha Kelsey. They became the parents of 15 children. In the spring of 1775, Augustin trained for 12 half days in the Torrington militia, however, there is no indication that he was actually involved in any fighting during the American Revolution. In 1803, he withdrew his support from the established (religious) society of Torrington and therefore could not be taxed to support the church. In the *History of Torrington*, he is called a hard-working, influential man. He died 24 Feb. 1823, age 82 and is buried in the Torrington Cemetery beside his wife.

Scope and Contents:

These two journals were written by Augustin Hayden during his two terms of service in 1758 and 1759. The first journal covers his enlistment in 1758 and 1759. The two journals are covered with brown paper and sewn together with white thread. The cover reads "Journals of Augustin Hayden Campaigns against the French & Indians 1758 & 1759." In the middle is a brown paper cover reading "Copy of Augustin Hayden Journal of the Campaign of 175(9) made by himself from the original which is somewhat mutilated and a few (-----) gone."

The second journal is 3.5" x 5.25" with a brown paper cover over another cover, possibly leather and sewn with white thread. It has separated into three sections. The cover reads "Original Copy of Augustin Hayden Journal 1759 the copy has a few pages that are wanting in this." In 1758, Hayden records incidents in the Battle of Ticonderoga and the death of Brigadier Lord Howe, a commander of the British forces. In 1759, he records the destruction of the French fortress at Crown Point, NY.

In both journals, his entries are laconic; many days he records "Nothing Speshel." Generally describes in two or three sentences some of the activities of his day or records a special event in the course of the campaign. He is meticulous in recording the deaths of his fellow soldiers. He includes hunting and fishing forays, the sending and receiving of mail from home, punishments of others for insubordination, an injury to his foot, the novelty of a comet in the night sky, the theft of his wallet and pocket compass, and his being commissioned to serve with the Rangers.

Other Sources:

Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, v. IX, v. X, *Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War 1755 – 1762*, In Two Volumes. Hartford: The Society, 1903, 1905, Reprints, v. 1 & v. 2

Journals and orderly books kept by Connecticut soldiers during the French and Indian War, 1755-1762, compiled by David Sanders Clark. Connecticut State Library.

Bibliography:

Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, v. IX, v. X, *Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War, 1755 – 1762*, in 2 volumes. Hartford: The Society, 1903, 1905, Reprints, v1 & 2.

Hayden, Jabez Haskell, *Records of the Connecticut Line of the Hayden Family*, Windsor Locks, Conn., 1888.

Orcutt, Samuel, *History of Torrington, Connecticut from Its First Settlement in 1737, with Biographies and Genealogies*, Albany: J. Munsell, 1878

Stiles, Henry R., *The history and genealogies of ancient Windsor, 1635-1891*. Hartford, Case, Lockwood and Brainard Co., 1891, 1892.

Subjects

Connecticut – History – French and Indian War, 1755-1763 – Sources
United States – History – French and Indian War, 1755-1763 – Sources
Crown Point Expedition of 1759
Battle of Carillon July 1758 [at Fort Ticonderoga]
Fort Ticonderoga (N.Y.)

Administrative History:

These two journals came to the Windsor Historical Society in 1984 as part of the big Hayden collection from the estates of Jabez and H. Sidney Hayden, descendants of Augustin Hayden. That same year, Alexander Boyd Hooker (1922-2004) a long time active member of the Society undertook the task of transcribing the journals. He had the assistance of members Marni Lyndecker and Barbara Byczkiewicz. Barbara Goodwin, Society Librarian did editing in Dec., 2008 and Jan., 2009. In 2016, Elaine Brophy compiled an index of names found in the journals

using the two volumes of the *Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War* to identify individuals and correct the spellings.