

**Northeast Boundary Records [microfilm]**

**MCC-00138**

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May 2024

## Northeast Boundary Records [microfilm] (MCC-00138)

Shelf List Number: UF-0170-0181

### Collection Overview

#### Creator

Unknown

#### Dates

[1763-1891]

Accessioned in 1996

Digitized in the 1980s

#### Extent

12 35mm microfilm rolls

#### Provenance

Originals are held by Maine State Library. Robert Russ from the Maine State Archives digitized the manuscripts onto microfilm starting in 1981-82 and finished the project in 1988-89.

#### Language

English

#### Conservation Notes

Not applicable

### Conditions Governing Access and Use

#### Restrictions

Access: No restrictions

Physical: No restrictions

Technical: A microfilm reader is necessary to access these film rolls

#### Rights Statement

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#### Recommended Citation

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### Collection Description

#### Historical and Biographical Information

The Northeastern Boundary dispute was a result of unresolved borders between the present day United States and New Brunswick, Canada after the Revolutionary War and the Treaty of Paris

(1783). At the start of this dispute, Maine was a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which granted land deeds to citizens in regions of present day Northern Maine where British citizens had also laid claim to land. Negotiations soon started between the two countries to determine where the border would fall. Over the years, the defined lines of the border changed depending on which side commissioned cartographers to draw up maps and where negotiations stood.<sup>1</sup>

When Maine became its own state in 1820, the issues of its northern boundary became a more pressing issue to resolve, especially with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts claiming a percentage of Maine lands as part of its agreement for granting Maine statehood. Tensions continued to grow. Then, in 1839, the American and Maine governments set aside troops and money to commit to the boundary issue and forts were erected on either side of the Saint John River, which at the time, marked the northern boundary between Maine and New Brunswick. This is considered the start of the Aroostook War, though it is considered a bloodless war as no physical battles were fought or casualties recorded as a result. In 1842, the Webster-Ashburton Treaty was signed, settling the boundary dispute between Maine and New Brunswick.

The original manuscripts consisted of 24 volumes that were digitized onto 12 microfilm rolls by the Maine State Archives on behalf of the Maine State Library. In the 1990s the Acadian Archives acquired copies of these rolls for their own collection. The originals are still held by the Maine State Library in Augusta, Maine.

#### Scope and Content

Microfilm copy of documents and maps relating to the dispute between the United States and Great Britain over the Maine/New Brunswick/Quebec boundary.

#### Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

#### Subject Headings

Aroostook War, 1839

Northeast boundary of the United States

Maine--History--1775-1865

United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain

Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States

#### Related Materials

Aroostook War: historical sketch and roster of commissioned officers and enlisted men called into service for the protection of the northeastern frontier of Maine. From February to May 1839. Clearfield Company, Baltimore, Maryland. 1989

The decision of the King of the Netherlands was considered in reference to the rights of the United States and of the state of Maine. Preble, William P. Portland, Maine. 1831.

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<sup>1</sup>The Osher Map Library at the University of Southern Maine has a number of maps showing the changing lines of Maine's northern boundary during this dispute. <https://oshermaps.org/>

Disturbance in Maine: (to accompany bill H.R. No. 1176). Thomas Allen Print. Washington. 1839.

Early land surveys in Aroostook County. Hardison, Grover M. 1947.

*Four forts connected*: a presentation by St. John Valley historian Guy Dubay. Dubay, Guy (compiler). Self-published. 2011.

*Forts, writs and logs: a reassessment of the military, political, and economic dimensions of the Maine/New Brunswick Border Dispute, 1783-1843*. Campbell, W.E. Gary. University of New Brunswick, New Brunswick, Canada. 2010.

In Search of the Highlands: mapping the Canada-Maine boundary, 1839: the journals of Featherstonhaugh and Mudge, August to November, 1839. McEwen (ed.). Acadiensis Press, Fredericton, New Brunswick. 1988.

*Influence du traité Webster-Ashburton sur la colonisation : dans le centre et le haut du comté de Montmagny*. Mercier, Ernest. Société historique de la Côte-du-Sud. La Pocatière. 1981.

*Maine in the Northeastern boundary controversy, by Henry S. Burrage, D.D., state historian*. Burrage, Henry S. Portland, Maine. 1919.

Message from the President of the United States, communicating copies of a report and letter from the commissioners appointed for the exploration and survey of the northeastern boundary. [Washington, D.C.] [1842].

A military interpretation of the Maine/ New Brunswick border controversy: 1783-1843. Campbell, W.E. Gary. University of New Brunswick, New Brunswick, Canada. 2003.

Papers relative to the settlement of the disputed boundaries between the provinces of Canada and New Brunswick: presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of her Majesty, 11th July, 1851. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Ann Arbor, Michigan. 2005.

Report of the Joint select committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, of the state of Maine, in relation to the north-eastern boundary of the state. Maine Legislature, Committee on the Northeastern Boundary. Portland, Maine. 1828.

State of the Madawaska and Aroostook settlements in 1831: report of John G. Deane and Edward Kavanagh to Samuel E. Smith, Governor of the State of Maine. Raymond, W.O. (ed.). New Brunswick Historical Society. St. John, New Brunswick. [1914].

*Ties of common blood: a history of Maine's northeast boundary dispute with Great Britain, 1783-1842*. Schoot, Geraldine Tidd. Heritage Books, Bowie, Md. 1992.

*To the Webster-Ashburton treaty : a study in Anglo-American relations, 1783-1843*. Jones, Howard. University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 1977.

Thrust and counterthrust: the genesis of the Canada-United States boundary. Classen, H. George. Longmans Canada. Toronto, Ontario. 1965.

## Collection Inventory

Description	Date(s)
<b>Roll 1</b>	
Commission of Governors of Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.	1763-1786
Correspondence and Documents relative to the Northeastern Boundary vol.1	1825-1828
Correspondence and Documents relative to the Northeastern Boundary vol.2	1828-1831
<b>Roll 2</b>	
Correspondence and Documents relative to the Northeastern Boundary vol.3	1832-1838
Correspondence and Documents relative to the Northeastern Boundary vol.4	1838-1841
Correspondence and Documents relative to the Northeastern Boundary. 8 pieces, 1 folder.	1842-1843
Curtius on the seizure and abduction of American citizens from Madawaska, by Curtius.	1832
Report on the Northeastern Boundary by Charles S. Daveis Esq.	1828
Speech upon the subject of the Northeastern Boundary by George Evans.	1838
Observations upon the Treaty of Washington, signed August 9, 1842 by George William Featherstonhaugh.	1843
A memoir on the Northeastern boundary by Gallatin and Webster.	Undated
The right of the United States of America to the Northeastern boundary claimed by them. Revised by Albert Gallatin.	1840
<b>Roll 3</b>	
The right of the United States of America to the Northeastern boundary claimed by them. Revised by Albert Gallatin. Copy 1 begins on page 80.	1840
The right of the United States of America to the Northeastern boundary claimed by them. Revised by Albert Gallatin. Copy 2	1840
The Saint Croix of the Northeastern Boundary by William Francis Ganong.	1891
First statement on the part of Great Britain according to the provision of the Convention concluded between Great Britain and the United States. Great Britain Foreign Office.	1829

Correspondence relative to the Boundary between the British Possessions in North America and the United States of America. 2 parts. Volumes 1-2.	Undated
Papers relative to the special mission of Lord Ashburton to the United States of America in 1842.	1842
The Boundaries formerly in dispute between Great Britain and the United States by the Honorable Sir Francis Hinks.	1885
A letter to the President of the United States regarding the Northeastern Boundary by John Lee.	1839
Massachusetts legislative documents relating to the Northeastern Boundary of the state of Maine.	1828
Report and resolves in relation to the Northeastern boundary. Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Lands. 3 copies. First copy to the end.	1838
<b>Roll 4</b>	
Report and resolves in relation to the Northeastern Boundary. Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public lands. Beginning of second copy.	1838
Documents relating to the Northeastern Boundary. Massachusetts Senate Document #10.	1834
Massachusetts Senate Document #45. Papers relating to the Northeastern Boundary.	1839
Report of the Committee on Public Lands on the subject of the Northern Boundary. Massachusetts Senate.	1832
Maine. Commissioners on the Northeastern Boundary. Report 1838. 1 folder.	1838
Governor's communication to the Maine Legislature regarding the Northeastern boundary and the joint select committee report in relation to the Northeastern Boundary.	1828
Report of the joint select committee on the Northeastern Boundary. Maine Legislative Committee. Copy 1.	1828
Report of the joint select committee on the Northeastern Boundary. Maine Legislative Committee. Report of Charles S. Daveis. Copy 2.	1828
Resolutions of the Legislature in relation to the Northeastern Boundary. 6 copies.	1832
Documents relating to the Northeastern Boundary .	1826-1832

Report of the Select Committee on the Northeastern Boundary. 1841

**Roll 5**

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 1- Minutes 1796-1798. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 2- Depositions and Correspondence 1796-1798. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 3- Claims and First Argument of the American Agent. 1796. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 4- First Argument of the British Agent. 1797-1798. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 5- American Agents Rejoinder 1798. Ends page 207. 1783

**Roll 6**

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 5- American Agents Rejoinder 1798. Begins page 208. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 6- British Agents Supplemental Argument. 1798. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 7- Appendix to the Supplemental Arguments. 1798. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 8- Four last arguments, 1798. Ends page 77. 1783

**Roll 7**

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 5th article of the Treaty of Peace. Journal 8- Four last arguments. Begins page 77. 1783

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Journal of the Commissioners, volume 1. 1816-1817. 1814

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent volume 2- Memorial of the American Claim. 1814

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent volume 3- Memorial of the American Claims. 1814

Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 4- Appendix to the American Memorial.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 5- Memorial of British Claims.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 6- American Reply. Ends page 53.	1814
<b>Roll 8</b>	
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 6- American Reply. Begins page 54.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 7- British memorial in reply.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 8- Appendix to the British reply.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th article of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 9- Report by E. Benson. 1799.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 1- Journal of the Commission 1816-1822.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 2- Claims of Agents. 1783. Ends page 127.	Undated
<b>Roll 9</b>	
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 2- Claims of Agents. Begins page 128.	Undated
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 3- Answers of Agents.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 4- Replies of Agents.	Undated
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 5- Report of His Britannic Majesty's Commissioners addresses to the Government of the United States of America. 1822. Ends page 24.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 5- Report of His Britannic Majesty's Commissioners addresses to the Government of the United States of America. 1822. Begins page 25.	1814



Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 6- Appendix to the British Reply.	1814
Proceedings of the Commission appointed under the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Volume 7- Report of Commissioner Van Ness. 1822.	1814
Northeastern Boundary Pamphlets.	Undated
The Northeastern Boundary Question. (Extract from United States Magazine).	1838
<b>Roll 11</b>	
Documents relative to the Northeastern Boundary.	Undated
The Northeastern Boundary Controversy and the Aroostook War by John Francis Sprague.	Undated
Speech on the Northeastern Boundary by Reuel Williams.	1838
A Cartographic History of the Northeastern Boundary by Justin Winsor.	1887
<b>Roll 12</b>	
Northeastern Boundary Maps. Volume 1	1816-1822
Northeastern Boundary Maps. Volume 2	1816-1822