

Collection #  
SC 0001

**EDWARD ABBOTT  
PAPERS, CA. 1777–1778**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Shawn Dailey  
August 2019

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1777–1778

PROVENANCE: Public Archives of Canada, 1964; Toronto Public Libraries, 1942

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Paul L. Stevens, ““To Keep the Indians of the Wabache in His Majesty's Interest”: The Indian Diplomacy of Edward Abbott, British Lieutenant Governor of Vincennes, 1776–1778.” (F521 .I52)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1942.0616

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edward Abbott was appointed Lieutenant Governor and Superintendent of Fort Vincennes in April of 1775. Due to weather delays, he and his family did not arrive at St. Vincennes until May 19, 1777. They remained there until Abbott felt forced to abandon his position in February of 1778.

In the fall of 1777, Abbott received letters from General Sir Guy Carleton, Governor of Quebec, complaining about how much money he had spent providing gifts to the Native Americans. Abbott was ordered to cease giving gifts because it was much too expensive to maintain. He was also instructed to limit the expenses he incurred to only payments to his interpreters. It is this order that ultimately led him to feel forced to leave his post when he received dual news about hundreds of Native Americans planning to relocate to St. Vincennes from Fort Pitt as well as plans by Rebels to attack his position.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

*Great Britain: Public Record Office, Colonial Office 42, Canada; Original Correspondence "Q" Series - 11890. 1775–1777. Manuscript/Mixed Material.*  
[http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac\\_reel\\_c11890](http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c11890).

*Great Britain: Public Record Office, Colonial Office 42, Canada; Original Correspondence "Q" Series - 11891. 1777–1780. Manuscript/Mixed Material.*  
[http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac\\_reel\\_c11891](http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c11891).

Stevens, Paul L. "'To Keep the Indians of the Wabache in His Majesty's Interest': The Indian Diplomacy of Edward Abbott, British Lieutenant Governor of Vincennes, 1776–1778." *Indiana Magazine of History* 83, no. 2 (1987): 141-72.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The documents contained within this collection are photocopies provided by the Public Archives of Canada and the Toronto Public Libraries. The collection consists of two documents, one photocopy of a copied letter written by Edward Abbott to General Sir Guy Carleton on 9 June 1777 and a photocopy of an official request for financial compensation made by Abbott ca.1778, though no official date is attached to the document. As a note, folder one does contain small slips of paper with hand written notes related to the content of the collection on them.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

9 June 1777

Letter from Edward Abbott to Sir Guy Carleton in which Abbott updates Gen. Carleton on his creation of a militia force, the influx of Native Americans, threats to his safety, and his desire for Carleton to send a garrison for protection so that he might remain there. He requests orders from Gen. Carleton on how to act in several instances that he details within the letter. 3p.

ca. 1778

“The Memorial of Edward Abbot Esquire Lieutenant Governor of Saint Vincenne on the River Wabache in the Province of Quebec...” document details a request for compensation from Edward Abbott to the Royal Treasury for the loss of his belongings to the Rebels due to what is stated as being compliance with orders from Gen. Sir Guy Carleton to quickly evacuate his post and leave everything he had behind. 2p.

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2