

Ms.
Coll.
00557

St.-Denis, Guy papers
Letters of Lieutenant Laurence Norcop, 1756-1765

Gift of Guy St-Denis 2006

Gift includes 23 letters by Lieutenant Laurence Norcop, 32nd Regiment, 1756-1769 to his father Laurence Norcop, and other related documents.

“Laurence Norcop’s military career began with an ensign’s commission in the 32nd Regiment of Foot. While the exact date of his appointment is unknown, it probably occurred shortly before 1756 and the formal declaration of the Seven Years’ War. Norcop, who was born in 1733 to a family of landed gentry in Shropshire, no doubt arranged the purchase of his commission with the financial backing of his father. A promotion to the rank of lieutenant followed in the summer of 1756 but, despite the persistent family tradition that Norcop attained the rank of captain, he never succeeded to the command of his own company. He did manage, however, to purchase the quartermaster’s commission in 1764.

For most of the decade or more that Lieutenant Norcop served in the army, his regiment was garrisoned at various places in north-eastern Scotland. But rumours of a possible deployment overseas eventually materialized in 1764, when the 32nd Regiment was ordered to the West Indies. The high incidence of potentially fatal diseases, such as yellow fever and malaria, made the Caribbean a dangerous posting for British military and naval personnel. In the late summer of 1765, several months after his arrival in St. Vincent, Norcop was stricken with what seems to have been a malarial fever that swept through his regiment. A relapse probably accounts for Norcop’s death early in 1766.

Most of the following letters are addressed to Laurence Norcop’s father, who surely preserved them as cherished mementos of a dearly loved son. In time, these letters became a valuable source of family history but now, some 250 years after they were written, the correspondence is finally recognized for its historical significance...”

By Guy St.-Denis

Guy St.-Denis of London, Canada, is a descendant of Juliana Norcop, another of Lieutenant Norcop’s half-sisters.

Extent: 1 box (6.5 centimetres)

Transcription by Guy St-Denis available

PLEASE NOTE: there is no photocopying of this material due to the fragile condition, transcriptions are available upon request

Box 1	Correspondence, Lt. Laurence Norcop to his father Laurence Norcop, 1756-1769

Ms.
Coll.
00557

St.-Denis, Guy papers
Letters of Lieutenant Laurence Norcop, 1756-1765

Folder 1	7 November 1756, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 2	15 July 1757, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 3	7 September 1757, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 4	15 May 1758, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 5	17 March 1759, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 6	10 July 1759, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 7	6 November 1759, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 8	3 January 1760, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 9	26 July 1760, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 10	13 June 1762, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 11	22 March 1763, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 12	27 August 1763, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 13	1 November 1763, Laurence Norcop to his brother
Folder 14	16 May 1764, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 15	13 October 1764, Laurence Norcop to his father

Ms.
Coll.
00557

St.-Denis, Guy papers
Letters of Lieutenant Laurence Norcop, 1756-1765

Folder 16	4 November 1764, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 17	5 November 1765, Laurence Norcop to his father
Folder 18	14 January 1766, Inventory of Lieutenant Laurence Norcop's effects
Folder 19	24 July 1767, John Richardson to William Norcop
Folder 20	9 January 1768, William Norcop to his father
Folder 21	29 January 1768, William Norcop to his father
Folder 22	28 January 1768, Estate account of Lieutenant Laurence Norcop
Folder 23	29 January 1769, Administration bill of Lieutenant Laurence Norcop
Folder 24	"Letters from the 32 nd Regiment, 1756-1765" – Guy St.-Denis <i>Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research</i> , Summer 2009, Volume 87, No. 350 (2 copies)