



**THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS
ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER**

Guide to

**Gustave G. Nelson Collection of
Native American Research Materials (1975-2001)**

MH.MS.Coll.4

by Flannery La Grua

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Extent: 4 boxes
Other storage formats: 1 Oversized Box
Linear feet: 3'

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

PROVENANCE

Gift of Gustave G. Nelson, 2012.

OWNERSHIP & LITERARY RIGHTS

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CITE AS

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RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS

This collection is open for research.

GUSTAVE G. NELSON (1935-2015)

Gustave G. Nelson (1935-2015) was born on March 15, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. He was the son of Gustave Adolf and Frances Mae Weir Nelson. He received a bachelor of arts degree with honors from Wagner College in Staten Island, a master of divinity degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA, a master of arts degree in history from Maxwell School of Syracuse University, a graduate degree in sociology from New York University, and a degree in higher education from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst's School of Education. Gustave taught at Russel Sage College in Troy, NY before joining the faculty of Berkshire Community College in the Behavioral Sciences Department. Outside of sociology, he taught classes in the history of the Holocaust and comparative religion. He was recognized by the Communal Studies Association for his work as director of the Berkshire Shaker Seminar. He was awarded the President's Award by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires on June 20, 2000, for his work on the Holocaust.

Gustave and June Maxine Mays were married on May 30, 1970. They had two sons, David Andrew Nelson and Eric Christopher Nelson. Gustave was a member of St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Pittsfield, MA, where he served on the Parish Vestry, as a Lector, and as a Eucharistic Lay Minister. He passed away on September 28, 2015.

Source:

“Gustave Nelson.” *The Berkshire Eagle* (Berkshire, MA), October 1, 2015.

HISTORICAL NOTE

This collection contains material on multiple Native American tribes in Massachusetts, the greater New England area, and Canada, including members of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, such as the Oneida, Mohawk, and Seneca; the Mohican (Mahican) Nation; and other Algonquian language tribes, such as the Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation and Lenape (Munsee) tribes. The Stockbridge Mohicans joined the Lenape tribe’s reservation in Shawano County, Wisconsin forming the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians.

Reverend John Sergeant, the first missionary to the Mohican Nation, built Mission House c. 1742. Mabel Choate owned Mission House and moved it from Prospect Hill to Main Street in Stockbridge between 1926 and 1930. She collected Native American artifacts during the 1930s, some of which are in the Native American Museum attached to Mission House, while others have been repatriated. One such artifact, The Stockbridge-Munsee Bible, was purchased by Mabel Choate in 1930 for \$1000. The Bible was repatriated to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band in a judgment signed December 19, 1990. Mission House and the accompanying papers and artifacts were bequeathed to The Trustees of Reservations in 1948.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Gustave G. Nelson researched Native American history in Massachusetts. This collection of research material covers a broad range of topics, including the histories of multiple Native American tribes, missionary work in Massachusetts, the Sergeant family, Berkshire County, and the repatriation of the Stockbridge-Munsee Bible to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians. Additionally, this collection covers contemporary Native American interests around education, archaeological sites, and tribal life. The collection materials cover the years 1643 to 2001, with the bulk of the material between 1975 and 1998. The collection is separated into two series: Research Material, and Reference Material. These series are then subdivided into multiple subseries by subject. The majority of this collection is photocopied or printed material. Gustave Nelson numbered some of the resources.

Series I, Research Material, is subdivided into two series: Native American Tribes in Massachusetts, and Religion. This series covers material about the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, as well as other Native American tribes in Massachusetts. The material in this series contains handwritten notes by Gustave Nelson.

Series II, Reference Material, is subdivided into multiple subseries by subject. This series makes up the bulk of the collection. This series is predominately photocopied material, printed material, and newspaper and magazine articles.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Research Material			
0.8' (2 boxes)			
Dates: 1885-2000, n.d.			
Series I, Research Material, is organized into two subseries: Native American Tribes in Massachusetts, and Religion. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically.			
NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN MASSACHUSETTS			
1	1	Correspondence	1990-1993, n.d.
1	2	History of Berkshire County	1885-1976, n.d.
1	3	Mohican Nation	1893-1992, n.d.
		Original notes, original material, and photocopied material.	
1	4	Native American Institute	1998-2000
		Correspondence, video release form for interview with Lion G. Miles, and NAI produced material.	
1	5	Personnel	1991-1998
		Correspondence, newspaper articles, and notes.	
1	6	<i>The Pequot War</i>	n.d.
		Photocopied pages from Alfred A. Cave's <i>The Pequot War</i> , with notes.	
1	7	<i>The Puritan Experiment</i>	1976
		Photocopied pages from Francis J. Bremer's <i>The Puritan Experiment</i> , with notes.	
2	1	Research maps and photos	n.d.
		Some photocopies are of dated material.	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN MASSACHUSETTS			
2	2	Research notes and bibliography	2000 Jun 7, n.d.
2	3	The Stockbridge-Munsee Bible repatriation	1991
		Photo negatives of Stockbridge-Munsee Bible repatriation, copy of newspaper article, copy of correspondence.	

RELIGION

2	4	Materials regarding religion	2000 Jun
		Newspaper articles about personal parish and Pope Pious XII, as well as correspondence, including material from My Father’s House Retreat Center on Pope Pious XII, abortion, and prayer in schools.	

Series II. Reference Materials

2’ (2 boxes)
 Dates: 1643 – 2001, n.d.

Series II, Reference Materials, is organized alphabetically.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

3	1	Academic studies	1982-1989, n.d.
3	2	Algonquian Language Tribes	1911-1999, n.d.
3	3	Educational materials	1982-1993, n.d.
		Materials for children, news and resources about education, catalogs for informational material in print and video, and a folder created by Gustave Nelson entitled, “Workshop/Educators Mahican History & Culture,” left as created.	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
REFERENCE MATERIALS			
3	4	Historical figures	1735-1994
		Information about John Sergeant, Sr. and Jr., Jonathan Edwards, and Sir William Johnson. Photocopied material, articles, and three folders created by Gustave Nelson: "Sergeant Materials," and "Sergeant, John Rev (Sr.) Journal April 1, 1739-3/30/1740," and one untitled. Materials include copies of the following: journals of Sergeants, Sr. and Jr., handwritten Sergeant family tree, Sergeant family correspondence, and John Sergeant, Jr.'s last will and testament. The folders are kept in their original order.	
3	5	Historical sites	1975-1992, n.d.
		Brochures, communication, finding aids, and tour information. The publication, "American History Illustrated: Saratoga," includes an event listing on the verso of the cover for a tour of Boston that includes a stop at Plimoth Plantation.	
3	6	History of Berkshire County	1885-1959, n.d.
		Photocopied material.	
3	7	Stockbridge	1854, n.d.
		Photocopy of <i>Stockbridge, Past and Present: or, Records of an Old Mission Station</i> by Miss Electa F. Jones, and the first half of the "The Stockbridge Indian Papers" finding aid.	
3	8	Stockbridge	n.d.
		Second half of "The Stockbridge Indian Papers" finding aid.	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
REFERENCE MATERIALS			
3	9	Indian Shakers This folder was created by Gustave Nelson and includes photocopied material, correspondence and an article by historian Darryl Thompson. It has been left in its original order.	1933-1988, n.d.
3	10	Iroquois Confederacy Photocopied and printed material.	1881-1991
3	11	Iroquois Confederacy Photocopied material.	1992, n.d.
4	1	The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation Photocopied material, articles, and brochures.	1643-1998
4	2	The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation Photocopied materials, articles, brochures, and a note.	2000, n.d.
4	3	Mohican Nation Photocopied material and two folders (“Mahican” and “Treaties/Mahican Indians”) created by Gustave Nelson and left in original order.	1826-1974
4	4	Mohican Nation Photocopied material and one folder, “Bibliographies/Mahicans,” created by Gustave Nelson and left in original order.	1975-2000, n.d.
4	5	Interview with historian Lion G. Miles VHS recorded interview and note.	1998 Nov 29

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
REFERENCE MATERIALS			
4	6	Native American history Photocopied material includes an article entitled "Synoptic Survey of Data on the Survival of Indian and Part Indian Blood in the Eastern United States;" list of Indians in the Indian Charity School dating from 1754-1927; material on general Native American history; and two folders created by Gustave Nelson, "Festivals/Indian Pow wows" and "Census, Indian (1990)." The folders are in original order. Large item copy of <i>Historical Memoirs Relating to the Housatonic Indians</i> is stored in the General Oversized Box.	1938-1994, n.d.
4	7	Native American Institute Issues of the <i>Journal of the Native American Institute</i> ; copy of "Death in the Bronx," by Richard S. Walling; meeting notes; materials relating to the 2000 seminar, including flyers, menu from dinner with recipes and presentation notes; and folder, "Native American Institute," created by Gustave Nelson and kept in original order.	1998-2000
4	8	Native American publications and events	1990-2000, n.d.
4	9	Native American publications and events	1991-2000, n.d.
PUBLICATIONS			
4	10	Contemporary Racial Issues	1991, n.d.
4	11	Publications Articles, features, and letters to the editor. The majority of materials are from <i>The Berkshire Eagle</i> . Large item edition of <i>Treaty Rights</i> by <i>The Milwaukee Journal</i> is stored in the General Oversized Box.	1986-1993

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
PUBLICATIONS			
4	12	Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians Internet printouts about the tribe and four folders created by Gustave Nelson: "Mohican Conference Oct 11-12, 2001," "Mohicans/ Univ Main, Farmington: Internet Site Burial Dig," "Mohicans Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation: Internet Site," and "Stockbridge Indians: Internet Sources." All folder contents have been kept in original order.	1998-2001
4	13	Stockbridge-Munsee Bible Material pertaining to the repatriation of the Stockbridge-Munsee Bible.	1981-1991, n.d.

OVERSIZED MATERIAL

Large item copy of *Historical Memoirs Relating to the Housatonic Indians* is stored in the General Oversized Box.

Large item edition of *Treaty Rights* by *The Milwaukee Journal* is stored in the General Oversized Box.