

# Thomas Clark, Samuel Street and Thomas Street collection

1810-1872

RG 277

Brock University Archives

- Creator:** Thomas Clark, Samuel Street and Thomas C. Street
- Extent:** 61 letters  
3 deeds of bargain and sale  
2 sheriff's deeds  
1 list of rebellion losses claims  
1 summons  
1 will and testament  
1 freight list
- Abstract:** The collection consists of correspondence and legal documents concerning Thomas Clark, Samuel Street and his son Thomas Clark Street. Some material is related to Thomas Clark and Samuel Street's joint business ventures. Most of the correspondence is addressed to Samuel Street and involves his dealings in land speculation. There is also correspondence to Samuel Street from Thomas Clark's widow Mary M. Clark, as well as two letters to Thomas Clark. One letter is from Samuel Street to Alexander Hamilton and includes a statement of Hamilton's account. The legal documents include a summons to Thomas Clark and Samuel Street to appear in court; 2 deeds of bargain and sale to Samuel Street; 1 deed of bargain and sale from Thomas Clark Street to William Allan; 2 sheriff's deeds for lands purchased at public auction by Thomas C. Street; a list of rebellion losses claims; and a last will and testament of Samuel Street.
- Materials:** Correspondence, deeds of bargain and sale, summons, and will.
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Chantal Cameron
- Last updated:** October 2016

**Acquisition info.:** Most of the correspondence was purchased from Alexander books in 2016. The last will and testament of Samuel Street was received from Ed Phelps. Item no. 1.46 was purchased from Gordon Russell in June 2017.

---

**Terms of use:** The Thomas Clark, Samuel Street and Thomas Street collection are open for research.

**Use restrictions:** Current copyright applies. In some instances, researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the Brock University Archives before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library's usual procedures unless otherwise specified.

**Preferred citation:** RG 277, Thomas Clark, Samuel Street and Thomas Street collection, 1820-1872, Brock University Archives, Brock University.

---

#### **Administrative history:**

##### **Samuel Street**

Samuel Street was born in Connecticut in 1775. He came to Chippawa, Upper Canada in 1787 to live with his uncle Samuel Street after his father was killed in New York. His uncle was involved in mercantile affairs in the Niagara Peninsula, which helped Samuel Street Jr. in establishing successful businesses and partnerships in later years. As the son of a Loyalist he was also entitled to 200 acres of land, but his uncle successfully petitioned for an additional 400 acres. In 1798, Street struck up a partnership with Thomas Clark, an important merchant in Queenston. They parted ways the following year, but renewed their association around 1809. The result was the firm of Clark and Street, a business that proved to be one of Upper Canada's largest, and endured until Thomas Clark's death in 1835. Initially the business centred on two milling complexes, the Falls Mills and Bridgewater Mills. Both mills were destroyed by fire in 1814 and only the Falls Mills was rebuilt. The success of their milling operation provided Clark and Street with a large amount of capital. They utilized this capital by money-lending, and became one of the largest financiers in Upper Canada. The firm's clients ranged from farmers to prominent political, business and religious leaders such as Attorneys general William Henry Draper and Christopher Alexander Hagerman, Bishop John Strachan, William Hamilton Merritt, and Captain Hugh Richardson.

Clark and Street further diversified their business by investing in stocks, debentures, transportation schemes, and land. Samuel Street owned shares in the Bank of Upper Canada, Gore Bank, Bank of Montreal, and the Commercial Bank of the Midland District. He owned provincial debentures and those issued by the Gore and the Wellington Districts, as well as stock in the Welland Canal Company, the Erie and Ontario Railroad Company, and Grand River Navigation Company. He also speculated in land extensively, either owning land or holding a mortgage on land in almost every district in the province. Street employed agents to purchase land for him in various districts, acquiring desirable land at favourable prices, such as lands sold at sheriff's sales due to tax arrears.

Samuel Street died in August, 1844 in Port Robinson, Upper Canada, leaving his fortune to his son Thomas Clark Street, and his four surviving daughters.

Source: Dictionary of Canada Biography online

[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/street\\_samuel\\_1775\\_1844\\_7E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/street_samuel_1775_1844_7E.html)

Retrieved 2016/10/20

### **Thomas Clark**

Thomas Clark was born in Scotland. He arrived in Upper Canada in 1791 to work for his cousin Robert Hamilton, a businessman in Queenston. In 1796 Clark opened a shop in Queenston, and soon after established a partnership with Samuel Street. This first partnership was short-lived, and Clark formed a partnership with Robert Nichol, establishing the firm of Thomas Clark and Company. The firm traded in flour and other commodities in 1802 and 1803, but the business did not prove to be beneficial to either partner and was dissolved. Clark renewed his partnership with Samuel Street around 1809. In 1799, Clark applied to the British military for permission to erect storage and portaging facilities on the Niagara River. He built a wharf and storehouse at Queenston, Chippawa and Fort Erie.

During the War of 1812, Clark served as lieutenant-colonel of the 2nd Lincoln Militia and was at the Battle of Queenston Heights, as well as the American surrender at Beaver Dams and raids on Fort Schlosser (Niagara Falls), N.Y., and Black Rock (Buffalo). After the war, he was one of the commissioners who assessed war losses in the Niagara District. Unlike his partner, Clark became active in politics, becoming a member of the Legislative Council in 1815.

Clark had business interests separate from his partnership with Samuel Street, including an agreement with John Jacob Aster of New York and some of his business associates for the sale and shipment of flour in Montreal, New York and Jamaica. He also conducted business with the Earl of Selkirk, including support for the Red River expedition in 1816. Clark also speculated in land independently of his firm with Street, but not nearly as extensively as his partner.

Thomas Clark died in 1835 in Niagara Falls. It was estimated that the value of his estate was £100,000. He was survived by his wife Mary Margaret Kerr.

Source: Dictionary of Canadian Biography online  
[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/clark\\_thomas\\_6E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/clark_thomas_6E.html)  
Retrieved 2016/10/20

### **Thomas Clark Street**

Thomas Clark Street was born around 1814, the son of Samuel Street and Abigail Ransome. He studied law in Toronto under the tutelage of Christopher Hagerman and William Henry Draper. He was called to the bar in 1838, but shortly after returned to Chippawa where he became involved in business affairs. He was left with a large inheritance when his father died in 1844, and amassed a considerable fortune through careful management of the assets. He served as a director and president of the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge Company, president of the Gore Bank, and a director of the British American Assurance Company, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Bank of Upper Canada.

In 1851, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly for Welland. Although defeated in 1854, he was elected again in 1861. He continued to play an active role in politics until his death in 1872. His estate was valued at between \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 at the time of his death.

Source: Dictionary of Canadian Biography  
[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/street\\_thomas\\_clark\\_10E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/street_thomas_clark_10E.html)  
Retrieved 2016/10/20

### **Schooner Simcoe**

The schooner named Governor Simcoe was named for the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada. It was built for a group of merchants, the primary one being Richard Cartwright. She launched from Kingston on October 29, 1793. The maiden voyage was from Kingston to Niagara on April 28, 1797. On November 11, 1812, the ship sank after being damaged on a shoal while being chased by the enemy at Kingston, Ontario. In 1813, the ship was evaluated and altered by the British. They renamed it Sir Sidney Smith. It had 12 guns and was used for war service. In that same year, it took part in the battle at Sackets Harbour. It was renamed Magnet in 1814. On August 5, 1814, it exploded. It was intentionally blown up in order to avoid capture by Chauncey's squadron.

---

**Scope and content:**

The collection consists of correspondence and legal documents concerning Thomas Clark, Samuel Street and his son Thomas Clark Street. Some of the material is related to Thomas Clark and Samuel Street's joint business ventures. Most of the correspondence is addressed to Samuel Street and involves his dealings in land speculation. There is also correspondence to Samuel Street from Thomas Clark's widow Mary M. Clark, as well as two letters to Thomas Clark. The first letter concerns his involvement with the Lincoln Militia. The other letter is from Dani Hazen, an early land surveyor in Niagara. One letter is from Samuel Street to Alexander Hamilton and includes a statement of Hamilton's account. The legal documents include a freight list, a summons to Thomas Clark and Samuel Street to appear in court; 2 deeds of bargain and sale to Samuel Street; 1 deed of bargain and sale from Thomas Clark Street to William Allan; 2 sheriff's deeds for lands purchased at public auction by Thomas C. Street; a list of rebellion losses claims in the Niagara District; and a last will and testament of Samuel Street.

---

## Organization

The collection was organized into two series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1820-1851

Series II: Legal documents, 1821-1872

---

## Inventory

### **Series I: Correspondence, 1820-1851**

- 1.1 Letter addressed to Col. Thomas Clark of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Militia, dated at York, 10 March 1820. The letter is signed by N. Coffin, Colonel of the Adjutant General Militia, Upper Canada. The letter is about an order of Council on January 19, and a reminder not to issue certificates in the names of deceased people, or to those who deserted or were absent without leave.
- 1.2 Letter to Samuel Street from James Ghent, dated at Flambro East, 9 January 1826. The letter concerns a farm payment due to Samuel Street and is postmarked Niagara, January 12, 1826.
- 1.3 Letter to Samuel Street from Henry Crysler, dated at Ancaster, 26 June 1827. The letter concerns a debt owed to Samuel Street.

- 1.4 Letter to Samuel Street from Louis Bowerman, dated at Norwich, 29 February 1828, concerning a land sale.
- 1.5 Letter to Samuel Street from Henry Crysler, dated at Ancaster, 18 July 1829. The letter concerns a payment due to Samuel Street that Crysler is unable to pay due to a crop failure.
- 1.6 Letter to Samuel Street from Andrew Bradt, dated at Barton, 26 February 1829, concerning the payment of a note owed to Samuel Street.
- 1.7 Letter to Samuel Street from John Birdsall, dated at Norwich, 13 of 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 1830, concerning the rent and maintenance of a farm.
- 1.8 Letter to Samuel Street from Jonathan and Thomas Hart, dated at Saltfleet, 3 October 1831, concerning payment on land.
- 1.9 Letter to Samuel Street from Leo Mylne, dated at Dunnville, 30 May 1832, concerning a land sale. The letter is postmarked St. Catharines.
- 1.10 Letter to S. Street from Brice Ennis, dated at Beverly, March 1833. The letter concerns a loan payment and is postmarked Hamilton.
- 1.11 Letter to Samuel Street from Henry Chrysler, dated at Ancaster, 11 April 1833. The letter concerns a payment and is postmarked Ancaster.
- 1.12 Letter to Samuel Street from Nathaniel Kellogg, dated at Oxford East, 24 October 1833, concerning a land sale. The letter is postmarked Oxford.
- 1.13 Letter to Thomas Clark, Colonel Militia, from Dani Hazen, dated at Walsingham, 1 August 1834. The letter describes early land surveyors in the Townships of Niagara, Willoughby and Stamford, including Allan McDonald (McDonell?) and Philip Frey. Daniel Hazen was a United Empire Loyalist and a land surveyor who surveyed lands in Niagara and Walsingham, Norfolk County. In the letter, he makes a plea to Thomas Clark requesting that he speak or write to the governor requesting that his land in Walpole not be sold.
- 1.14 Letters to Samuel Street from Mary M. Clark (widow of Thomas Clark), 1835-1836. Includes 17 letters, 2 of which have replies written by Samuel Street.
- 1.15 Letter from Samuel Street to Alexander Hamilton, 7 January 1833?, dated at

Niagara Falls, Chippawa. A reply from Alexander Hamilton, dated January 17 is also included. A list of Alexander and John Hamilton's account with the firm of Clark and Street is also included, 1835-1837.

- 1.16 Letter from Samuel Street to Francis L. Walsh, dated at Niagara Falls, Chippawa, 6 December 1836. The letter is postmarked at Chippawa and addressed to Francis L. Walsh, Victoria [Norfolk County]. The letter concerns a parcel of land in Woodhouse [Norfolk County].
- 1.17 Letter to Samuel Street from John Hall, dated at Norwich, 24 February 1837, concerning a land sale.
- 1.18 Letter to Samuel Street from James Kerr, dated at Oxford, 3 August 1837, concerning a land sale in West Oxford. The letter is postmarked Oxford.
- 1.19 Letter to Samuel Street from his son, Thomas C. Street, dated at Toronto, 24 December, 1838. The letter deals with business matters.
- 1.20 Letter to Samuel Street from William Orr, dated 20 October, 1839, concerning a land sale in Norwich. The letter is postmarked Hamilton.
- 1.21 Letter to Samuel Street from John Gilbert, dated at Norwich, 10 December 1839, concerning a land sale in Norwich. The letter is postmarked Otterville.
- 1.22 Letter to Samuel Street from John Gilbert, dated at Otterville 18 February 1840, concerning the terms of a land sale in Norwich. The letter is postmarked Otterville.
- 1.23 Letter to Samuel Street from the Commissariat dated at Drummondville, 24 June 1840. The letter concerns a bath house.
- 1.24 Letter to Samuel Street from Oliver T. Macklem, dated at Chippawa, 22 February 1841. The letter informs Samuel Street that James Secord has died and asks for advice respecting the collectorship.
- 1.25 Letter to Samuel Street from Samuel Kalar, dated at Norwich, 31 May 1841. The letter concerns John Hall and his difficulty in making loan payments to Samuel Street. George [Syple?] and Philip Snider are also mentioned.
- 1.26 Letter to Samuel Street from Hugh Kneale, dated at Oxford East, 6 September, 1841. The letter concerns the payment of a debt and is

postmarked Burford.

- 1.27 Letter to Samuel Street from U. O'Kelley, dated at Burford, 21 December 1841. The letter is stamped "money-letter" and postmarked Burford.
- 1.28 Letter to Samuel Street from Thomas Racey of Dundas, dated 21 December 1841. The letter concerns the will of James Culhan, of the Township of Etobicoke. The letter is postmarked Dundas.
- 1.29 Letter to Samuel Street from Samuel Kalar, dated at Norwich, 12 February 1842. The letter concerns business matters involving John Hall and James and William Clark.
- 1.30 Letter to Samuel Street from Brice Annis, dated at Beverly, 11 July 1842. The letter concerns payments on a farm and is postmarked Sheffield.
- 1.31 Letter to Samuel Street from Rev. R. Mills dated at Brantford, 5 September 1842. The letter concerns purchasing a tract of land in Norwich on which to build a Catholic Church and School. The letter is postmarked Brantford.
- 1.32 Letter to Samuel Street from Walter B. Mabee, dated at Oxford, 10 April 1843. The letter concerns a sale of land and is postmarked Oxford.
- 1.33 Letter to Samuel Street from Francis Walsh, dated at Victoria, 6 June 1843. The letter concerns land registry procedures and mentions the will of the late Hon. R. Hamilton. The letter is postmarked Victoria.
- 1.34 Letter to Thomas Street from A. Duff Jr., dated at Amherstburg, 16 July 1843. The letter concerns the payment of a note and is postmarked Amherstburg, U.C.
- 1.35 Letter to Samuel Street from John Lambert, dated at Gainsboro, 11 January 1844. The letter concerns a payment on land and is postmarked Pelham.
- 1.36 Letter to Samuel Street from Benjamin Flueling, dated at Norwich, 18 March 1844. The letter concerns a land sale in Norwich and is postmarked Dereham.
- 1.37 Letter to Samuel Street from John Cornell, dated at Beverly, 13 June 1844. The letter concerns Wilder and James Babcock and entitlement to their late



mother's property. The letter is postmarked Sheffield and Chippawa.

- 1.38 Letter to Samuel Street from N. Witesi?, dated at Farmersville, 23 July 1844.
- 1.39 Letter to Thomas Street from James Matthews, dated 10 October, 1844. The letter is stamped "money letter" and postmarked Simcoe.
- 1.40 Letter to Thomas Street from John Lambert, dated at Gainsborough, 3 December, 1845. The letter concerns payment due on land and is postmarked Pelham and Chippawa.
- 1.41 Letter to Thomas C. Street from Samuel Kalar, dated at Norwich, 21 April 1846. The letter concerns Moses Mott and a sale of land. Reference is also made to George Gilbert and Robert Stroud. Kalar also asks Clark to see John Lemon regarding the settlement of his mother's estate. The letter is postmarked Norwich.
- 1.42 Promissory note of Robert Stroud to Abraham Gilbert, dated 8 April 1846. The note is addressed to T. Street and is postmarked Woodstock, Queenston, and Chippawa.
- 1.43 Letter to Thomas C. Street from Samuel Kalar, dated at Norwich, 3 June 1847. The letter concerns land transactions and mentions the names Robert Burns, Benjamin Gilbert, and Seth Colkins(?). The letter is postmarked Chippawa, Hamilton, Otterville and Queenston.
- 1.44 Letter to Thomas C. Street from George Ponting, dated at Port Rowan, 28 January 1850. The letter concerns a payment due and is stamped "money-letter". It is postmarked Port Rowan, Hamilton, and Chippawa.
- 1.45 Letter to Thomas C. Street from Thomas Moore, dated at Dorchester, October 1851. The letter concerns a will and the distribution of land from the estate. The letter is postmarked London, Chippawa, Hamilton, and Queenston.

**Series II: Legal Documents, 1810-1872**

- 1.46 1 handwritten 1 1/2 page list of freight charges. The list has the title *Messrs. George and Alexander Hamilton for freight to owners of the Schooner Simcoe*. The total amount for items such as: barrels, anvils, boxes, kegs and trunks is

150.82 pounds. The list is signed by E.E. for T. Clark at Queenston in November of 1810.

- 1.47 Summons to Thomas Clark and Samuel Street to appear in court to answer the complaint of Frederick Brackbill of trespass “vi et armis”. The summons is dated 14 April 1821 and is signed by John Small, Clerk of the Crown. The name John Brakenridge, attorney, also appears on the summons.
- 1.48 King’s deed, assignment of lands and losses, 1830. James to Charles & Robert Fields and by them there to Samuel Street. There is a small diagram of a parcel of land with dimensions. The name A. Mercer also appears on the deed.
- 1.49 Deed of Bargain and Sale from Stirling H. Nicholson to Samuel Street, 1 November 1837. The deed is for 200 acres of land. The names Thomas Mallary and Abel Hogan also appear on the deed.
- 1.50 Rebellion Losses Claims in the Niagara District belonging to Thomas Clark Street, 2 January 1847. Contains 41 names of individuals or estates making a claim, the amount awarded to each person, and the equivalent amounts in British Pounds. The total of all the claims is £1432,17,3. The names include Adam Crysler; Isaac Tomass; Robert Slater; Richard Yeokam; Henry C. Preen; Henry Bond; Austin Morse; Thomas Wheaton; Andrew Oliphant; Adam Fralick; Thomas Patrick; John Davis; Francis Louison; Matthew Donahae; William Oldfield; George H. Wright; Thomas McClennan?; Estate of Haggai Skinner; Joseph Moore, trustee of Methodist chapel; Estate of Edgworth Ussher; George Nettle; Joseph Wynn & Job Chubbuck; John Misener; Joseph Merriam; Barnabas Johnston; Isaac Brooks; Peter Anderson; Joseph Hamilton; Thomas Panty; Lewis House; Kenneth McKenzie, husband to Charlotte Warren?; Nelson Forsyth; John Slaght, alias Slack; Frederick Smith; John Maxwell; Richard Moffate; Slade Robinson; Charles Stanton; Estate of Samuel Street of Stamford; Thomas C. Street, agent for Falls Co.; and Joseph More.
- O.1 Deed of Bargain and Sale from Thomas Clark Street to William Allan, 17 April 1851. The deed is for land in the Township of Stamford, including range or block numbers 9, 33 and 45 on a map or plan of the lands belonging to the Falls Company, drawn by James W. Fell, Deputy Provincial Surveyor. The lands were originally purchased from William Forsyth, his wife Jane and son Nelson in 1832.

- 1.51 Sheriff's deeds, 1862, 1866. The deeds are from the Sheriff of Lambton to Thomas C. Street. They are signed by James Flintoff, Sheriff. The first deed is dated 9 May 1862 and acknowledges the purchase of 50 acres of land by Thomas Street in the Township of Dawn, sold at public auction. The second deed is dated 9 February 1866, for the purchase of one hundred acres of land by Thomas Street in the Township of Dawn. Both deeds are also signed by Stuart Macvicar.
- 1.52 Last will and testament of Samuel Street, 12 February 1872. Consists of 5 handwritten pages. The last paragraph written reads "I hereby certify that I have compared what is written on this and the four preceding sheets with the Probate of the Will of the late Samuel Street and find it a true copy of that part thereof, which covers the trusts relating to real? Estate &c mentioned therein". It is signed by a Justice of the Peace and is dated at Niagara Falls, 12 February 1872.

---

#### Related material

Parker, Bruce Alexander. *The Street-Clark business of Niagara to 1844: a study of a commercial dynasty*, 1978. **SPCL FC 3160.45 B83 P37**

*Copy of probate of the last will and testament of Thomas Clark Street late of the Township of Stamford, in the County of Welland, Esquire, deceased*. St. Catharines [Ont.]: Miller & Miller, Solicitors, Conveyancers, &c., 1872. **SPCL FOLIO FC 3159 S7 Z49s 1872**