

Title:	Dickson Family Fonds, 1812 – 1911 (non-inclusive)		
Creator:	Dickson Family		
Dates of Material:	1812- 1911 (non-inclusive)	Record Group Number:	RG 65
Summary of Contents:	<p>1.1 One handwritten 1 ¼ page letter addressed to William Dickson of Newark, Niagara from Solomon White of Hudson, New York. The salutation is made out to Messrs. Dickson and Cameron Esq. There is a Feb. 6 postmark on the letter but the rest of the postmark is illegible.</p> <p>This letter was written 4 months before America declared war on Canada. Mr. White says that he wrote to Mr. Cameron in December, but did not receive a reply. He says that Captain Andrews is anxious to hear from him and the Captain will travel to Niagara if necessary. Mr. White inquires if Mr. Dickson has brought any writs of ejectments [a writ of ejectment is the title of a process issued by a party which claims land or real estate, against someone who has taken illegal possession of it]. He says “yet on account of the apprehensions of a disturbance between the two Governments but we don’t apprehend any danger of war without means. The budget of financing has at length burst, which was the exact means of ousting the Federalist out of power...” Mr. White again pleads with them to contact Captain Andrews. He also asks if Mr. Hogeboom is still in Upper Canada. Mr. White heard a rumour from some of his Penfield friends that a compromise had been offered by Mr. Hogeboom. The letter is signed “Solomon White”, 1812</p> <p>1.2 An indenture between William Dickson [Jr.] and Emma Dickson, of the Town of Niagara in the County of Lincoln, and Robert M. Wilson of the Town of Niagara, County of Lincoln. The indenture concerns the sale of 500 acres of land in the Townships of Oro and Vespra in the County of Simcoe. The land was purchased by Wilson for \$1800.00. The indenture is dated February 7, 1859.</p> <p>1.3 Marriage indenture between John Geale Dickson and Matilda McMurray dated Dec. 11, 1868. Andrew Lemon and Donald Guthrie are listed as trustees, 1868</p> <p>1.4</p>		

	<p>Probate of the will of William Dickson [Jr.] from the Surrogate Court of the County of Waterloo and dated January 25, 1877</p> <p>1.5 Last will and testament of Florence Augusta Dickson (1847-1924) signed at Galt, Ontario on February 15, 1911</p> <p>1.6 Copy of the preliminary inventory of the William Dickson Papers which was transferred to the Department of Public Records and Archives by Col. Grier, 1953</p>
<p>Physical Description / Condition:</p>	<p>1.1 The letter is made up of 1 folded page. There are folds, tears, stains and a slight chunk missing from the second page, but these do not affect the text. There is also some slight staining on the first page and the letter is coming apart at the creases in some areas. The letter is 32 cm. x 19 ½ cm.</p> <p>1.2 38 cm. x 42 cm.</p>
<p>Other Notes:</p>	<p>William Dickson, 1769-1846, was born in Dumfries, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1785. He practiced law in Niagara Falls, Ontario where he managed mills and a store. He also served as a trustee of the district grammar school, a justice of the peace and a poundkeeper. He arranged the sale of Six Nations lands on the Grand River and acted as an agent for Joseph Brant.</p> <p>In 1806, he was involved in a duel with William Weekes whom Dickson accused of speaking out against the late Governor Simcoe. Dickson was the victor and Weekes succumbed to his injuries.</p> <p>During the War of 1812, Dickson was taken as a prisoner and was confined in Albany, New York. After his release in 1814, he was elected to the legislative council of Upper Canada [1815]. In 1816, he purchased the entire block of land that comprised Dumfries Township. He was the founder of Galt, Ontario which was originally known as "Shade's Mills," He died at Niagara in 1846.</p> <p>Mr. Cameron who is mentioned in the salutation is possibly the Honourable Duncan Cameron who was born in 1764 in Glen Moriston, Scotland. He immigrated to New York with his family and settled in Tryon</p>

	<p>County. During the American revolution, he joined a loyalist regiment. In 1785, he went to Quebec and entered the fur trade. He established himself as an opponent to the Hudson's Bay Company. He was captured by officers of the Hudson's Bay Company and sent to England for trial. He was acquitted and received damages for false imprisonment. He returned to Canada in about 1820 and he settled at Williamstown. In 1824, he was elected to represent Glengarry in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. His name is listed along with William Dickson's as members of the Legislative Council of Educational Proceedings in 1829 and 1830. He died in May of 1848 in Williamstown, Upper Canada.</p> <p>William Dickson Jr. (1799-1877) was the son of the prominent Niagara businessman and politician William Dickson (1769-1846). William was educated in Edinburgh, Scotland, and settled in Galt, Ontario, upon his return to Canada. His father had business affairs in Dumfries and Galt, which he left in his sons charge when he retired to Niagara in 1837. William had an older brother, Robert, and younger brother, Walter, both of whom served in the Militia and became involved in politics. William Dickson Jr. died at Kirkmichael, Galt on Jan. 1, 1877.</p> <p>Florence Augusta Dickson (1847-1924) was the seventh child of Walter H. Dickson and his first wife Augusta Maria Geale, and niece to William Dickson Jr. She was born in Niagara and later moved to Kirkmichael in the Town of Galt which is now known as Cambridge.</p> <p>John Geale Dickson, popularly known as Geale [pronounced Gale], was born December 24, 1845, in Niagara. He and his twin brother Robert were the fifth and sixth children of Walter H. Dickson and Augusta Maria Geale. He married Matilda McMurray on December 15, 1868. Matilda McMurray Dickson (b.1847- d.1877?) was born in Niagara and the niece of the Archdeacon of Niagara and Rector of St. Mark's Parish, William McMurray.</p>
Location:	Brock University Archives

Source Information:	1.2 Purchased from Gordon Russell in 2015. 1.1 Purchased from Gordon Russell in 2017 Custodial history of other documents unknown		
Described by:	Chantal Cameron, Edie Williams and Anne Adams	Date:	June 2017