

<b>Title:</b>	King's Portage List of Carriers, 1817-1818		
<b>Creator:</b>	James Kerby [Kirby] and Robert Grant		
<b>Dates of Material:</b>	1817-1818	<b>Record Group Number:</b>	RG 525
<b>Summary of Contents:</b>	<p>1 handwritten 1 1/2 page list of carriers in the King's Portage. The three companies listed are: Grant and Kerby, Robert Hamilton and Thomas Dickson.</p> <p>Kerby, Grant, Hamilton and Dickson are listed within their own lists along with the following people:</p> <p>In the Grant and Kerby list, there are 16 additional names including: John Fralick, Gilbert Vanwyck, Veart Vanwyck, John Willson, Robert Pew, Samuel Hicks, James Pew, Adam Killman, Jerothman Caswell, Adam Bowman Junior, Mrs. Keeler, William Weishuhn, Bernard Griswold, John Reed, Frederick Smith and Edward Dunfield.</p> <p>In the Robert Hamilton list there are 14 additional names including: Nathan Caswell Sr., Thomas Whetham, James Thompson, John McMicking, William Forsyth, James Cummings, William Peterson, James Durham, Martin Dorshimer, John Shannon, Andrew Rorback, Samuel McKerlie, Thomas Helmer and John Brooks.</p> <p>In the Thomas Dickson list there are 16 additional names including James and Thomas Lundy, Joseph Lawson, Archibald Thompson, Abraham Bowman, Robert Brooks, John Smith, Adam Brown, Robert Kirkpatrick, Roswel and William Stevens, Christopher Boughner, John Biggar, Henry Green, Adam Bowman Sr. and James Secord Sr.</p> <p>The back of the last sheet has a note dated May 9, 1818 regarding the delivery of 4 bags of wheat.</p> <p>The recapitulation of the accounts lists the sums at 94.1.8/4 pounds for Thomas Dickson, 101.19.2/4 pounds for Robert Hamilton and 148.2.10/2 pounds for Grant and Kerby.</p> <p>It is signed by E.E. for Grant and Kerby at Queenston on November 24, 1817</p>		
<b>Physical Description / Condition:</b>	<p>There are folds in the paper and glue residue which does not affect the text. There is a watermark of a vase with a fleur-de-lys design and a countermark "FELLOWS   1813". Some of the folds are slightly stained. The paper is 36 1/2 cm. x 45 cm.</p>		
<b>Administrative/ Biographical Sketch</b>	<p>Portaging of goods at Niagara began as a pre-Revolutionary economic activity. The principal users were the military and fur traders. An 11 mile</p>		

portage was created which ran from Queenston, over the Niagara Escarpment, descended at Goat Island and followed along the edge to Chippawa Creek. Storage and docking had to be created at Queenston, Chippawa and Fort Erie. Goods which had been transported by road were transferred into shallow, flat-bottomed boats to be transported to Fort Erie.

The British military took over the financing and creation of major facilities for the portage in 1791. They built wharves, storehouses and guardhouses. The king's vessels carried government goods to and from the portage. The portage was a profitable business because the number of merchants involved in portaging was restricted.

James Kerby (1785-1854) and Robert Grant: James Kerby was born near Sandwich (Windsor), Ontario. At the age of twenty he arrived in Queenston where he worked for Thomas Clark. Robert Grant also was an employee of Thomas Clark. In 1810 Kerby went into business with Robert Grant as a shipping agent. Kerby and Grant leased Clark's warehouses and wharves at Queenston, Chippawa, and Fort Erie.

In 1809, Clark became commanding officer of the 2nd Lincoln Militia and Kerby was appointed regimental adjutant. In 1810, Kerby and Robert Grant, began their own shipping business. Their business was disrupted by the War of 1812 and Grant was taken as a prisoner of war in 1814. He was not repatriated for several months. Kerby was appointed a justice of the peace in 1817 and by this time, the business was doing so well that Kerby and Grant planned for the construction of a warehouse and wharf of their own at Queenston. Kerby continued to devote much of his time to the militia. Kerby and Grant purchased a grist-mill at the Fort Erie Rapids in 1820. In February 1822, Kerby became a major, and in March 1823 he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel. In June of that year he became regimental commander with the honorary rank of colonel. Kerby later became the town warden of Bertie Township in 1826 and was also the postmaster in the township. He was instrumental in establishing St Paul's Anglican Church in Waterloo. The partnership of Kerby and Grant ended in 1830.

Robert Hamilton Jr. (1787-1856) was a merchant and politician in Upper Canada. He served as a lieutenant-colonel and he became a Justice of the Peace in the Niagara area in 1823. He represented the 3<sup>rd</sup> riding of Lincoln in the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Upper Canada. He died at Queenston in 1856.

Thomas Dickson (1775-1825) was a businessman, militia officer and politician in Upper Canada. He was born in Dumfries, Scotland. He and his brothers left Scotland to seek work with their cousin Robert Hamilton in Upper Canada. In 1793, Dickson opened a shop in Fort Erie to supply goods to the military and fur traders. In 1796, he moved to Queenston. He was named justice of the peace in the Niagara District in 1800.

	<p>In 1803, Dickson became a customs collector at Queenston. He then operated a ferry between Queenston and Lewiston, New York. He was elected to the 6th Parliament of Upper Canada representing the 3rd riding in Lincoln in 1812. During the War of 1812, he served with the Lincoln Militia, and became a lieutenant-colonel. He was wounded at the Battle of Chippawa in 1814. He died in Queenston in 1825.</p> <p>Source: Wilson, Bruce G. <i>The Enterprises of Robert Hamilton: a Study of Wealth and Influence in Early Upper Canada</i>. Ottawa. Carleton University Press, 1983.</p>		
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