

Alexander Hamilton Fonds, 1809-1842, n.d. (non-inclusive)

RG 640

Creator: Alexander Hamilton

Extent: 5 cm. (1 oversized box) textual records

Abstract: The Alexander Hamilton fonds includes items which document the business and activities of Alexander Hamilton.

Materials: Correspondence, invoices, a broadside and other documents

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Anne Adams

Finding Aid: Anne Adams

Last Updated: September 2018

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Citation: RG 640, Alexander Hamilton Fonds, 1809-1842 (non-inclusive). Brock University Archives.

Acquisition Info:

Items were purchased from Gordon Russell, March 2018 and September 2018 from the Robert Band Collection.

Administrative History:

Alexander Hamilton was a businessman, militia officer, office holder, and judge. He was born on July 3rd, 1790 in Queenston, Ontario. He was the son of Robert Hamilton and Catherine Robertson, née Askin.

He attended school at Queenston and Niagara and went to Scotland in 1795 for further education. He worked at his father's business for a short time after returning from Scotland, but the business failed.

Hamilton was involved in the War of 1812, particularly with small raiding and reconnoitering parties. He became a captain under Major Thomas Merritt in the Niagara Light Dragoons on 1 May 1812 and later served under William Hamilton Merritt.

After the War of 1812, Hamilton applied for posts in the Niagara District as they became vacant. He married Hannah Owen Jarvis in 1816 and they had 8 daughters and 3 sons. In 1817, he received his first commission as a Justice of the Peace. He held posts between 1821 and 1839 as postmaster and deputy collector of customs at Queenston. He was also a surrogate court judge, and Sheriff of the Niagara District. By 1833, he had recouped some of his fortune which allowed him to begin construction at Queenston of a mansion, Willowbank, which still stands. He died on February 19, 1839 in Queenston, Upper Canada.

William Robertson was a Scottish-born businessman and political figure in Upper Canada. He was a merchant in the fur trade. Mr. Robertson was appointed to the district court and land board of the Hesse District of Upper Canada. He had close business ties with the Hamilton Family. Robert Hamilton had married his brother's widow, Catherine Askin in 1785.

Robert Gillespie was a merchant and businessman who was born in 1785 in Scotland. In 1800, he joined with his brother George in Montreal. At the height of his career, he became a partner in the firm of Gillespie, Moffatt and Co. He eventually moved to England where he died in 1863.

Forsyth, Richardson and Company operated out of Montreal. They were traders who also dealt in real estate.

Inventory:

- 1.1 An invoice from Mr. Wm. Robertson to G. & A. Hamilton. There are various balances 71.10.1 pounds, 6.6.8 pounds, 9.13.6 pounds and 24.17.11 pounds. The invoice is for sundry items such as: rock salt, wafers, cotton wool, umbrellas, soap, flour and whiskey. The paper is 40 cm. x 16 cm. and folded in the centre. There are some slight marks on it, as well as tape residue. These do not affect the text, 1809-1811

An invoice of sundries furnished and forwarded by Robert Gillespie of Montreal for Messrs. G. and A. Hamilton of Queenston. The final total is 486.4. 6 pounds. The invoice is for sundry items such as: thread, muslin, quilting, gingham, needles, saws, knives, bridles and chalk. The page measures 40 cm. x 50 cm. and is folded in the middle. There is staining on the pages, particularly on the folds. The invoice is signed "errors excepted, Montreal 9th, July, 1810, R. Gillespie", 1810

An invoice of sundry goods furnished and forwarded by Robert Gillespie on account of Messrs. George and Alexander Hamilton, Queenston. Consists of 2 sheets of paper measuring 40 cm. x 50 cm. These are folded in the middle to form 4 leaves. The final balance is 1034.9.6 pounds. Items on the list include: cotton lace, muslin, gown patterns, boots, camphor gum, teaspoons, pocket knives, snuff boxes, blankets, cheese and iron candlesticks. There is staining on the pages and holes along the creases. A small part of the text is affected. It is signed "errors excepted, Montreal, 24th September, 1811, Robert Gillespie", 1811

- 1.2 An invoice to James Secord from A. Hamilton Esquire. There are various balances listed. Items include, but are not limited to: linseed oil powder, children's socks, a warming pan and slippers. The list is 38 cm. x 15 ½ cm. There is slight staining on the creases and some tape residue. Text is not affected, 1819

An invoice to A. Hamilton, Queenston, from Mr. John Biggar. Various balances are listed. Items include, but are not limited to: ribbon, sugar, tea, mace, cinnamon, wine and black cloth. It is signed by J. Biggar, Fort Erie. The measurement of the paper is 32 ½ cm. x 16 ½ cm., 1818-1819

- 1.3 A broadside which was printed at the Telegraph Office opposite the British Hotel by Webb, Printer. The notice was given that a fair or mart would be held at St. Catharines on Thursday, May 25th between 9 in the forenoon and sunset, pursuant to His Majesty's letters patent of July 8, 1836. Alexander Hamilton is listed as the steward. The broadside is dated at Niagara, April 15, 1836. There is an annotation on the opposite side of the broadside regarding the date of the fair, which has bled through. One of the folds is held together with tape. The dimensions are: 21 cm. x 30 cm. and it is made with wove paper, 1836

- 1.4 Letters patent to establish a fair or market in St. Catharines which give Alexander Hamilton the authority as the Sheriff to collect the tolls. These 2 sheets are vellum and measure 37 cm. x 44 cm. The Royal Coat of Arms is in the upper left hand corner of the first page and the document is signed by Sir Francis Bond Head, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada; Robert S. Jameson, attorney general and D. Cameron, secretary. There is some tape residue on the back of the first page

and slight staining which does not affect text. A hole in the second page affects one word, July 8, 1836

1.5 An invoice for a number of transactions at Queenston and Chippewa. The invoice lists a number of people including Alexander Hamilton, W.G. Hepburn, Mr. Brooks, Robert Hamilton, Mr. Thompson and D. Irvine, purser of the navy on Lake Erie. Items include, but are not limited to: rope, kegs containing liquor, chocolates, tobacco, lime juice and oil. The document is made of wove paper and it measures 38 cm. x 16 cm. There is water damage, particularly in the upper corner which does affect the text slightly. Two pieces of tape are attached to the back of the document, June 1816

Regulations for the surrogate court of the District of Niagara. This is written text stating the terms of the settings of the court. It is signed by Alexander Hamilton who is the surrogate court judge. Intermediate office fees and fees are listed. The page is 42 cm. x 33 cm. of wove paper. There is slight staining and tearing on the creases which does not affect text. There is some tape residue on the back, July 21, 1824

Return of Prisoners Confined in the Niagara Gaol, Alexander Hamilton, Esquire, Sheriff [October 1 is crossed out and replaced with January], 1834. Most prisoners were committed on a writ of Capias [a writ issued by a court to bring the defendant, having failed to appear, to answer a civil action against him.]. This is a 24 ½ cm. x 40 cm. sheet of paper with folds in it. There is a watermark: "WEBSTER 1831", 1833-1834

<u>Name of Prisoner</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date of Confinement</u>
Linus Bapt	Lower Canada	40	March 23, 1833
David Thompson	England	42	June 4, 1833
Lewis O'Dell	United States	36	August 24, 1833
Harvey Wilkins	United States	18	October 23, 1833
Thomas Whitwell	England	59	October 29, 1833
John G. Rorke [Rourke?]	Ireland	24	November 25, 1833
John Callaghan	Ireland	30	December 26, 1833
Francis Knoll	United States	26	December 30, 1833
Harris Lathrop	United States	23	December 31, 1833
John Doyle	Ireland	30	December 31, 1833

Leonard Hix	Canada	25	stealing	November 20, 1833
Thompson Brown	Canada	27	murder	May 1, 1833
Charles McLain [McLean?]	Scotland	47	rape	October 15, 1833
Thomas Smith	England	22	stealing	November 24, 1833
Aron [Aaron?] Roy	Canada	21	stealing	November 19, 1833
James McBath	Scotland	22	stealing	October 13, 1833
James Ensign	Canada	30	stealing	August 15, 1833

This is on the reverse of the page: This side of the page is in different handwriting and is not as legible as the front side. Return of prisoners to Gaol, July 34. Listed are: names, crimes and dates of confinement.

Ben Anderson	criminal assault	January 19 – March 28
[Charles W.K? illegible]	[illegible]	April 22
[William E.L? illegible]	stealing	March 28
Richard Abbot	assault	March 14 – July 4
James Ensign	stealing	March 19 – July 2
[Joseph J? illegible]	stealing	March 22 – March 23
[Peter? illegible]	[illegible]	March 22
[Philip Archer?]	assault	March 31 – September 5
John Fry	[theft of bank?]	April 12 – August 10
[John illegible]	stealing	April 12 – April 16
Mick Rilly [Reilly]	assault	May 10 – May 24
[Rufus?] Watson	stealing	July 3 – July 29
[David?] Clause		July 15 – August 24
[J?] McCoy	assault	August 1 – August 24
[Thomas Fao?]	stealing	August 4 – August 24
Joseph Moseby		August 5 – August 27
Thompson Brown	murder	May 1
[Thomas Jackson?]	[stealing?]	Sept. 1 – Sept. 24

[Will?] McLean	stealing	Oct. 1 – Oct. 19
James [Bannister?]	stealing	Nov.4 – Dec. 11
James Price		Nov. 20 – Dec. 25
Ian McCowan [McGowan?]	stealing	Dec. 7 – Dec. 30
Nelson Petty	[illegible]	July 14

- 1.6 Bill of exchange to Messrs. G. and A. Hamilton for flour and offal [entrails and internal organs of an animal used as food] in exchange for wheat in account with Clark and Strud Bridegewater. The measurements are 30 cm. x 37 cm., April 4 – June 13, 1809
- 1.7 A writ of execution issued by William Kingsmill, Sheriff of Niagara regarding the estate of Alexander Hamilton. Hannah A. Hamilton is the executrix. It contains the matter of David Thorburn who was a merchant, warden and Justice of the Peace for the Niagara District. He was also a political figure in Upper Canada. He sued the estate for damages of 1203 pounds and 12 s. ½. The writ also refers to Joseph Hamilton and lands on the Grand River in the Township of Moulton in Haldimand. The document is on a sheet of vellum measuring 32 cm. x 53 cm. There is a red seal on the bottom right hand corner. It is signed by W. Kingsmill, Sheriff. The signatures of the witnesses are A. Gilkinson and David Thorburn. There are some tiny holes in the vellum which do not affect text, 1841
- 1.8 Deed from Alexander Hamilton Esquire to Edward Powell Esquire of Stamford. This is a writ of Fieri Facias [writ of execution directing a sheriff to take goods or property of someone against whom a judgement has been rendered]. Alexander McLeod of Stamford, is the Deputy Sheriff in the suit of the President, Directors and Company of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District against Cadwallader G. Pelton in the district of Niagara for 68 pounds 4 s. 3 farthings. Hamilton is mentioned in the original writ, but he died before carrying this out. This is on 2 sheets which are 40 cm. x 32 cm. There is a red seal on the lower right hand corner. The document is signed by Alexander McLeod, Deputy and witnessed by G.R. Shears and John McLaren. There are some very slight holes and stains in the document, particularly along tears. They do not affect the text, 1842
- 1.9 Invoice of Goods bought from Robert Gillespie for the amount of 238.7.8 pounds. This invoice contains 3 leaves of a list on a folded paper measuring 29 ½ cm. x 50 cm. There are stains and slight tears in the folds which do not affect the text. The list is made up of sundry goods furnished and forwarded by R. Gillespie on the account and risk of Messrs. Hamilton and Askin. Items included, but not limited to: quilts, beaver gloves, Irish linens, mourning shawls, mustard, peppermints, glasses, tea pots, needles, knives and forks, buttons, spices, spades and numerous

other assorted items. At the bottom of the list it is written: “errors excepted, Montreal 24th, September 1811” It is signed by Robert Gillespie. There is a watermark of a crest in the paper, 1811

Invoice to Forsyth Richardson for the amount of 478.0.9 pounds. This invoice contains 3 pages of a list on a folded paper measuring 29 ½ cm. x 50 cm. There are stains and slight tears in the folds which do not affect the text. The list is made up of sundries sent from Montreal by their order from Messrs. Smith and Hamilton. Items included, but not limited to: military grey cloth, white cottons, blankets, sugar, coffee, ivory combs, fishing lines, a black lamp, wafers, toothbrushes and numerous other assorted items. There is a watermark of a crest in the paper, 1818

Invoice for 11.13.10 ½ and 10.3.9 pounds to A. Hamilton from Mr. Thomas McCormick. Items included, but not limited to: wine, green tea, a toothbrush, a broom head, jars and nutmeg. The measurements are 14 cm. x 41 cm. There is tape residue on the document which does not affect the text, 1818

- 1.10 A number of printed blanks that are not filled in – these include: Upper Canada in the Court of Requests summons [4 different forms – small hole in one of the forms], List of Property Taken under Execution, Sheriff’s Sale and a Report of the Board of Health for Queenston. The final document is a command from Niagara District – Alexander Hamilton, Esq. Sheriff of the Niagara District to the Keeper of the Gaol, 1820s – 1831, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Related Material:

Canada Post Office Documents RG 634 – Brock University Archives and Special Collections