

Boomer Family Business Fonds, 1830-1900, n.d. (non-inclusive)

RG 8

- Creator:** Boomer Family
- Extent:** 18 cm. (2 boxes) textual records
- Abstract:** The textual materials of the Boomer Family Business fonds includes clerical records, legal documents, receipts and various other materials that document the activities of the family.
- Materials:** Legal documents, correspondence and advertising
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Anne Adams
- Finding Aid:** Anne Adams
- Last Updated:** June 4, 2018
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Acquisition Info:

This collection was found within the Isabel McComb Brighty Fonds

Administrative History:

The Boomer Family

George Boomer (1781-1844) was a linen manufacturer of Huguenot descent. He was a descendent of René Bulmer who was driven from France because of the revocation of the edict of Nantes. The family settled in Northern Ireland. George was married to Mary Knox of Scottish descent (related to John Knox, Scottish reformer). The Boomers resided near Lisburn, County Down, Ireland and had five sons and three daughters.

Michael Boomer was born on July 1, 1810. He was educated at the Belfast Royal Academic Institution and at Trinity College, Dublin. He graduated in 1838 and also received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1860. In 1840 he moved to Canada where he was ordained an

Episcopalian Deacon by Bishop Strachan. He became a priest the following year and was appointed to the Mission of Galt. He remained in this position for more than 30 years. In 1872, he was called to London, Ontario by the Bishop of Huron where he was appointed the Dean of Huron and Principal of Huron College. He was married to Helen Blair, née Adams. His second wife was Isabella Jemima Davidson and subsequently, he married Harriet Ann Mills. He died on March 4, 1888 in London, Middlesex, Ontario, Canada.

Anthony Knox Boomer was born on April 13, 1811 in County Limerick, Ireland. He was married to Charlotte Maria Limbrick. He bought land opposite Merritt's Mill in St. Catharines. He also bought land in Concession no. 2 in Grantham. John Mittleberger and Anthony Knox Boomer are both listed as Grantham Merchants in 1838. A. K. Boomer and H. Mittleberger were in partnership in the mercantile business, but this partnership was dissolved in on June 7, 1844. In the St. Catharines Journal of Feb. 6, 1845, it was announced that Boomer Bros. and Co. had opened next to A.W. Strachan with the sign of the giant anvil. On receipts the store address was listed as "the new brick store near Bank of Montreal St. Catharines." Boomer Bros. and Co. was listed as being dealers in dry goods, groceries, liquors, hardware, ship chandlery and room papers. The address was listed as St. Paul Street, St. Catharines. In 1847, A.K. is listed as an agent for the St. Lawrence Inland Marine Assurance Company. Mr. Boomer was a member of the Provincial Mutual and General Insurance Company Directors and Agents and he served as a Reeve of St. Catharines in 1851. He was also a member of St. George's Church where he served as a church warden. He served as the secretary of the Niagara District Agricultural Society. In 1857 to 1859, he is listed as having the companies A.K. Boomer and Co. at 25 Bay Street, Toronto and Boomer and Co. Importers of Shelf and Heavy Hardware at 36 King Street East, Toronto. In 1861, the listing for him is, A. K. Boomer, Mercantile Insurance and General Agent, 53 Yonge Street, Toronto. He died in Toronto on May 13, 1875.

Elizabeth Boomer was born on August 6, 1813 in Lambeg, County Down, Ireland. She was married to Richard Niven of Chrome Hill, Lisburn, Ireland. She died on June 16, 1899 in Lambeg, Ireland.

Mary Ann Boomer was born on August 29, 1818. She was married to Charles Richard Walkem who was one of the staff who was employed at fixing the boundary between Canada and the United States under the Ashburton Treaty. She died on May 14, 1879 and was buried in Kingston, Ontario.

George Boomer was born in Ireland in 1819 and came to Canada in 1832. He was a Barrister and studied law with Judge Campbell of Niagara. He served as a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He was also a member of the Agricultural Association. He formed a partnership with Barrister, Richard Miller and later with George Skiffington Connor. He was Mayor of Niagara in 1851 for a short time. He served as a Police Magistrate and Commissioner in St. Catharines from 1862-1865. He was also an alderman in St. George's Ward in 1858 and 1861. Toronto listings include: George Boomer of Connor and Boomer at 17, Bay Street, Toronto and Boomer and Miller, Wharfingers (keepers of wharves) at Custom House Wharf at the foot of Yonge Street, Toronto.

Hugh Boomer was born in about 1824 in Ireland. He married Sarah Heron, daughter of Andrew Heron of Niagara. He died on March 7, 1856

Ellen (Eleanor) Boomer was born in 1824 in Northern Ireland. She married Reverend Samuel James Meredith, son of Richard Meredith and Anne Greene, on May 3, 1850 in the U.S.A. She died on 3 Feb 1880 in Troy, New York State, USA.

Joseph Patterson Boomer was born in 1825 in Ireland. He was the Harbour Master and Assistant Collector on the Welland Canal. He married Helena Woodruff, daughter of Richard Woodruff of St. Davids, Ontario. In 1855, he was appointed to a committee to collect voluntary subscriptions for the aid of orphans and widows of soldiers in the Crimean War. He was also a church warden at St. John's Church, Port Dalhousie. He died on Dec. 9, 1873 in Port Dalhousie, Ontario.

Source: *Ontarian Families: genealogies of United-Empire-Loyalist and other pioneer families of Upper Canada* / by Edward Marion Chadwick. Toronto : Rolph Smith, 1895-1898.

Organization:

The records are arranged into 3 series.

Series I – Administrative Records, 1830-1900, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series A. Correspondence, 1830-1878, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series B. Ledger Entries, 1846-1857, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series C. Accounts, 1835-1856, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series D. Legal Documents, 1843-1875, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series E. Legal Action Taken on Past Due Accounts, 1839-1861 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series F. Receipts and Promissory Notes, 1831-1900 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series G. Tax assessments, 1853

Sub-Series H. Shipping Papers, 1835-1880 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series I. Broadsheets, Advertisements and Printed Blanks from Other Companies, 1830-1876, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Series II – Welland Canal Records, 1875-1881, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series A. Canal Documents, 1875, 1878, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series B. Port Dalhousie, 1878, 1881

Series III – Clubs, 1846-1858, n.d.

Sub-Series A. Cricket Club, 1857-1858

Sub-Series B. Agricultural Society, 1846-1849, n.d.

Series I – Administrative Records, 1830-1900, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series A. Correspondence, 1830-1878, n.d. (non-inclusive)

- 1.1 Correspondence – Much of the correspondence deals with the steamer *The Transit*. Hugh Richardson (1784-1870) was a ship owner, captain, and office-holder. In 1835, he purchased the steamer *Constitution* which he renamed *Transit*. For the first year, *Transit* operated on a semi-weekly circuit with stops at Toronto, Port Hope, Cobourg, Rochester, Hamilton, and Oakville. The next year the *Transit* took over the Canada’s Toronto–Niagara–Lewiston journey.

The *Transit* came to fame when it sailed to Niagara to warn the troops of rebellion and in 1838, it was sometimes used to transport troops. Rival American lines forced Richardson into a price-cutting war with a Canadian competitor, Donald Bethune. This forced Richardson into bankruptcy and in 1847 his fleet and assets were sold for a poor price, 1830-1878, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Letters include:

To:	From:
Mr. Reid	[illegible]
[Illegible]	Mr. MacGagan
Mr. Burns	Mr. St. John
H. Mittleberger	Joseph Boomer
W. Hamilton Merritt	Hugh Richardson
Hugh Richardson Jr.	James Browne, D. Macdonnell & Thomas Harris (assignees of the estate of Hugh Richardson)
A.K. Boomer	Thomas Harris
A.K. Boomer	James Browne
A.K. Boomer	William Hamilton Merritt
A.K. Boomer	Hugh Richardson
Rev. T. Fuller	Mr. Miller
Boomer Brothers	Mr. Cumming
Boomer Brothers	Mr. Laurie, New York
Francis Hall	H. Hardy
John S. Clark	[illegible]
Boomer Brothers	[illegible]
J. Boomer	John McGlashan
R. Wood	F. Graves
Joseph	Mr. King
Bev	Mr. Boomer (Letterhead: St. Catharines Stove Company, St. Catharines)
Mr. B. Clarke	C. Durnan
Mr. B. Clarke	[illegible] (Letterhead: The Welland Telegraph)
Bev	Jack (of Miller, Miller & Cox)

Sub-Series B. Ledger Entries – Ledger entries do not have company names on them, 1846-1857, n.d. (non-inclusive)

- 1.2 Memorandum of auction cash received, n.d.
 Memorandum of auction notes received, n.d.
 Bills unsettled and in Milton Boomer’s hands, n.d.

List of names in cash when called upon, 1846
Workbook from Boomer Brothers of St. Catharines, 1851-1853, 1857
Statement of accounts in ledger, 1854
Amounts owing and paid, n.d.

Sub-Series C. Accounts, 1835-1856, n.d. (non-inclusive) [dates reflect the year the bill was paid]

- 1.3 Mr. Bate to Henry Mittleburger, 1835
Mr. Robert Richardson to Henry Mittleberger, 1835
Mr. Henry Mittleburger to Andrew Lyons, 1836
Mr. Isaac Lacey to Henry Mittleburger, 1838
Messrs. Bate & Clarke to Henry Mittleberger, 1838
Robert E. Burns to H. Mittleburger, 1838
Mr. Stephen Boyle to [illegible], 1842
Mr. Thomas Nugent to Henry Mittleburger, 1843
Mr. Stephen Boyle to Henry Mittleburger, 1843
Boomer Bros. and Co. to Samuel F. Pratt, 1845
A.K. Boomer to James Mahoney, 1848
Boomer Bros. and Co. to Thomas Chapman, 1851
Boomer Bros. and Co. to C.A. Brouse, 1854
Mr. Boomer to R. Woodruff, 1854
Joseph Boomer to Holmes & Greenwood, 1854
J.P. Boomer to C.A. Brouse, 1854
Boomer Bros. and Co. to Mr. Sandham, 1855
Boomer Bros. to R. Woodruff, 1855
J.P. Boomer to C.A. Brouse, 1856
Joseph P. Boomer to Holmes & Greenwood, n.d.

Sub-Series D. Legal Documents, 1843-1875, n.d. (non-inclusive) [a map showing land owned by the Boomer Family is included]

- 1.4 Capital paid – seven directors appointed [no name of company] signed by Richard & William Woodruff, n.d.
- Memorandum of agreement between Richard Boyle of Grantham and the commissioners of Queenston and Grimsby macadamized road on the other part [unsigned], 1843
- A promise to take shares in the Niagara District Bank. Some of the names include: estate of Samuel Street, Thomas Street, W. Hamilton Merritt, Oliver Phelps, Thomas Keefer and S.D. Woodruff among others, 1844
- Agreement between Lewis Shickluna, St. Catharines and M.W. and E. Browne of Hamilton to build a schooner, 1845

Shop license granted to Boomer Bros., township of Grantham at St. Catharines to be shopkeepers and sell spirituous liquors, 1845

Shop license granted to Boomer Bros. of St. Catharines to be shopkeepers and sell spirituous liquors, 1846

At a meeting of the inhabitants of St. Catharines, it was decided to remove the District Town Gaol from Niagara to the Village of Port Robinson. Action for that purpose was taken at Provincial Parliament. Henry Mittleburger was appointed to the chair and A.K. Boomer was the secretary, 1846

Anthony Knox Boomer was the surviving executor of the last will and testament of Patrick Nihen. He was testifying against the Niagara District Mutual Fire Insurance Company in this capacity. [The document is torn in spots, making some of the writing illegible], 1849

A promise to pay money on lease to Mr. Jones for the steamer *Queen*. Some of the names include: Boomer Brothers, W. Hamilton Merritt and A. Hamilton among others, 1850

An insurance policy on the schooner *Saratoga* held by the Boomer Brothers, 1851

A shop license granted to the Boomer Brothers to be shopkeepers and sell spirituous liquors, 1856

A statement regarding lands in the Township of Grantham. This is signed by H. Mittleburger, 1866

An indenture between Queen Victoria and the Minister of Public Works in Canada to William Hutchinson of Port Dalhousie for a wharf lot in Port Dalhousie, Ontario, 1875

A duplicate of a lease of a wharf on the east side of East Pier at Port Dalhousie, Welland Canal. This document was made out to William Hutchinson of Port Dalhousie, 1875

O.1 Canada Company's list of lands for sale. The Canada Company was located on Frederick Street, Toronto, Ontario. Included are lands in the Niagara District including Caistor, Rainham and Walpole, June 2, 1845

O.4 Schedule of Convictions returned to the Clerk of the Peace, for the District of Niagara up to January Sessions. It is interesting to note, that in some cases half the fine is paid to the inspector and half is paid to the informer. [There is a hole in the centre of the page which slightly affects text] The document is signed by Charles Richardson, Clerk of the Peace, 1848.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Eliza Stephenson	Assault
Arthur O'Neil	Violation of Law of Master and Servant
John Jones	Breaking the Sabbath
Alfred Coons	Breaking the Sabbath
Patrick Roach	Breaking the Sabbath
William Williams	Breaking the Sabbath
Philip Anger	Assault

Joseph Burger	Profaning the Sabbath
Marion S. Keeler	Profaning the Sabbath
John Hix	Selling liquors without a license
John Gordon	Selling liquors without a license
George Hodder	Assault and Battery
Aaron Helman	Assault and Battery
Harley Farr	Assault and Battery
Michael Doyle	Assault and Battery
Dougal Macdonald	Assault and Battery
George Martin	Not performing statutory labour
James Reid	Not performing statutory labour
James McLennan	Not performing statutory labour
James Greenwood	Assault
George Alban	Assault
John Lord	Profaning the Sabbath
James Kirby	Detention at Ferry
George Bustow	Breach of Peace and Assault
George Johnson	Selling liquors without a license
Sam H. Robertson	Selling liquors without a license
Rufus Herrington	Selling liquors without a license

Sub-Series E. Legal Action Taken on Past Due Accounts, 1839-1861 (non-inclusive)

1.5	William May	vs	Robert E. Burns, 1839
	Anthony Knox Boomer & Joseph Patterson Boomer	vs	Alexander Hain, 1853
	Reed Gibson	vs	G.W. Carlisle, 1854
	Reed Gibson	vs	A. Brownson, 1854
	Nathan Pawling	vs	Boomer Brothers, 1855
	Boomer Brothers	vs	Thomas Douglass, 1855
	Messrs. Pratt and Co.	vs	Boomer Bros. and Co., 1856
	S. Smiley	vs	Boomer Bros. and Co., 1856
	Boomer Brothers and Co.	vs.	Mrs. Elizabeth Read, 1856
	C. Donaldson	vs.	Boomer Bros. and Co. 1856
	John Radcliffe	vs.	Boomer Bros. and Co., 1856
	Wheeler, Madden and Baker	vs.	Boomer Bros. and Co., 1856
	Jack Beamer	vs.	Andrew Lyons, 1856
	Thomas Clark Street	vs.	A.K. Boomer, George Boomer & John L. Rainey, 1857
	William Burch and James Burch	vs.	James Boyle, 1859
	Calvin Brown	vs.	Edwin Wright, 1861

Sub-Series F. Receipts and Promissory Notes, 1831-1900 (non-inclusive)

1.6	Receipts and promissory notes – Most items are from Henry Mittleberger, 1831-1939 (non-inclusive)
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- 1.7 Receipts and promissory notes - Most items are from Henry Mittleberger 1843-1849 (non-inclusive)
- 1.8 Receipts and promissory notes – Letterheads include: Boomer Brothers and Co., St. Catharines; Skinner and McCullough; Frothingham and Workman, Montreal; Wellington Hotel, Toronto; C.A. Brouse, St. Catharines; Plants Manufacturing Co., Hartford, Connecticut; J. Morton and Co., Brantford, Ontario; James Bluntach and Co. Importers, St. Catharines; L.U. and H. Ross Penitentiary Boot and Shoe Store, Kingston, Ontario; Lymans, Savage and Co. Importers of Foreign Drugs, St. Catharines; F. Connor Boots, Shoes and Rubbers, St. Catharines and Rooster Novelty Works, Rochester, New York, 1850-1855
- 1.9 Receipts and promissory notes – Letterheads include: F. Connor Boots, Shoes and Rubbers, St. Catharines; A.K. Boomer Importer of Shelf & Heavy Hardware, Toronto; Pratt and Co., Buffalo, New York; William P. MacLaren, Hamilton; Benson and Atkinson Importers of British & American Hardware, Hamilton; William McGiverin, St. Catharines; John Walker Dealer in Books, Stationary and Paper, St. Catharines, 1856-1862 (non-inclusive)
- 1.10 Receipts and promissory notes – Letterheads include: Journal Printing Company, St. Catharines and Welland Telegraph Publishing House, Welland, 1872-1900 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series G. Tax assessments, 1853

- 1.11 Taxable parties include: Boomer Bros. and Co., Francis Hall (proprietor A.K. Boomer), A. K. Boomer and J.P. Boomer, 1853

Sub-Series H. Shipping Papers, 1835-1880 (non-inclusive)

- 1.12 Included are: Report of the Steamer Rochester from Lewiston; Custom House at Port of Chippawa; Shipping by McCuaig and Company, Kingston; Shipping by William D. King, St. Catharines; Shipping by Thomson Brothers of Buffalo; Shipping by Isaac B. [illegible] of Montreal; Shipping by Lemesurier Routh and Company, Montreal; Shipping by Mitchell and McGiverin, St. Catharines; Shipping by Great Western Railway, St. Catharines Station; St. Lawrence Warehouse, St. Catharines and Captain Ben Tripp, Insurance and Marine Broker, Toronto, 1835-1880 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series I. Broadsheets, Advertisements and Printed Blanks from Other Companies, 1830-1876, n.d. (non-inclusive)

- O.5 Map of the Great Western and Canada Rail Road Route from Boston to the Lakes put out by Thayer and Co., n.d.
- 1.13 Advertisement for Robert Thompson and Co, Port Dalhousie; Circular advertising C.O. Beam, dental surgeon of St. Paul Street, St. Catharines; Flyer for Birmingham and Sheffield Shelf and Heavy Hardware; Circular for an English stallion from John B. Hathaway; Circular for S.M. Beckley and Co. of New York; Circulars for L. Clark and Co., Connecticut; Josias Bray's Insurance Exchange; The Art Union of Glasgow; Miller & Miller Barristers; D.W. Canfield and Bro. of Kingsville, Ont; Way and Sherman Bench and Moulding Plane Irons of New York; H.G. Hunt's Ticket Office, St. Paul Street, St. Catharines and Northern Ogdensburgh Rail Road, 1830-1876, n.d. (non-inclusive)

- 1.14 Printed blanks which are not filled in including: Agency Commercial Bank, St. Catharines deposit slip; Province of Canada wheat importation paper; The Commercial Permanent Building and Investment Society of Toronto; Office of W.E. Clark, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Food and Coal, Port Dalhousie, 1840-1870, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Series II – Welland Canal Records (includes: St. Lawrence Canal and Chambly Canal), 1833-1878, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series A. Canal Documents, 1875, 1878, n.d. (non-inclusive)

- 1.15 *Supplement to the Inland Revenue Report – Canal Statistics, 1875*
Department of Inland Revenue List of Blank Forms, Books, Licenses, Stamps and Envelopes, [cover is loose and piece has been cut from back cover], 1877
Annual Report of the Superintendent and Collector of the St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal, 1877
- 1.16 Includes notes to the collectors on the Welland Canal, statistics from the Department of Transport on the Welland Ship Canal, reports from the Canal Office at Port Dalhousie, a diagram of the Shipman Tract, St. Lawrence Canal pass permits and receipt for hydraulic and other rents, 1833-1878, n.d. (non-inclusive)
- O.3 67 cm. x 106 cm. Diagram of main canal and tunnel – titled *Niagara Utilization*, n.d.
30 cm. x 68 cm. Diagram of Lake Ontario including East Pier, West Pier and Clark's Wharf, n.d.

Sub-Series B. Port Dalhousie, 1878, 1881

- 1.17 List of voters for the village of Port Dalhousie, 1878, 1881
- O.2 33 cm. x 25 cm. broadside for Tenders for the construction of a lighthouse tower upon the pier at Port Dalhousie, County of Welland, Ontario. This was put out by the Department of Marine in Ottawa and signed by William Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine, Oct. 24, 1878

Series III – Clubs, 1846-1858, n.d.

Sub-Series A. Cricket Club, 1857-1858

- 1.18 Minutes from a meeting of the St. Catharines Cricket Club, I.H. Conolly was the Chairman and J. P. Boomer was the secretary. *Canadian Cricketer's Guide* sent to John L. Ranney, St. Catharines, 1857-1858

Sub-Series B. Agricultural Society, 1846-1849, n.d.

- 1.19 Includes notes from the memoirs of Col. John Clark, of Port Dalhousie on the growth of flax. Also included is correspondence to the Agricultural Society from William Woodruff regarding the growing of grapes, 1846, n.d.
- O.6 Two 55 cm. x 40 cm. broadsides from Niagara District Agricultural Cattle Show and Fair announcing meetings of the officers of the Niagara District Agricultural Society. A.K. Boomer is listed as secretary on both posters. John Clark is listed as president on one poster, but the name is crossed out and replaced by John Gibson. John Gibson is listed as president on the second

broadside. [The 1847 broadside is slightly stained and jagged on edges], 1847 [crossed out],
1849

Related Material:

Letter to A.K. Boomer, secretary of the Niagara District Agricultural Society from Rich Graham,
1845. RG 559