

Early Canada Postal History Collection

1946-2001, n.d.

RG 699a

Brock University Archives

Creator:	Percy Band
Extent:	5 cm of textual records
Abstract:	This collection is related to the Alexander Hamilton/Early Canada Postal Collection (RG 699). It includes an inventory of some of the correspondence in that collection, an article about the collection written by Percy Band and published in <i>The American Philatelist</i> , as well as information about Alexander Hamilton and Canadian postal history.
Materials:	Booklets, magazine, articles, notes.
Processed by:	Chantal Cameron
Last updated:	January 2020

Terms of use:	The Early Canada Postal History Collection is open for research.
Use restrictions:	Researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the 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 699a, Early Canada Postal History Collection, Brock University Archives.
Acquisition info.:	Acquired through Gordon Russell in 2020.

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. 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.

Scope and content:

The collection is related to the Alexander Hamilton/Early Canada Postal Collection (RG 699). It includes an inventory of some of the correspondence contained in that collection, an article about the collection written by Percy Band and published in *The American Philatelist*, and general information about Canadian stampless covers and postmarks, the postal history of Canada, and Alexander Hamilton.

Organization:

The collection was organized into four series:

Series I: Queenston and Grimsby Postal History, 1948-1965

Series II: Alexander Hamilton Research Paper, 2001

Series II: Stampless Cover Catalogs, 1946, n.d.

Series III: Canadian Postal History, 1950-1961, n.d.

Inventory:

Series I: Queenston and Grimsby Postal History, 1948-1965.

- 1.1 *The American Philatelist*, vol. 64, no. 12, September 1951. Contains an article by Percy Band titled "Queenston Post Office of Upper Canada". The article provides a brief history of the post office, and refers to interesting material from his postal collection.

- 1.2 Chronology of Postal History, 1948-1965. Notes important dates in postal development in Grimsby, with mention of the Nelles family. Includes a description of an incident in which money was lost from a letter sent to Mr. Henry Griffin, Grimsby Post Office, from Brantford. A transcript of a statement taken from a witness in the case is included, with a typewritten copy of a letter sent to T.A. Stayner, Deputy Postmaster General, concerning the case.
- 1.3 Ferriage, 1961, n.d. Includes *The "Ferriage Rates" of Upper Canada: postal history of the Niagara Frontier* by Pitt Petri, 1961. Also includes a two-page typewritten article on ferriage, which includes excerpts of departmental orders from T.A. Stayner, Deputy Postmaster General, re: ferriage.
- 1.4 Inventory of correspondence in Alexander Hamilton/Early Canada Postal Collection (RG 699). An inventory of some of the correspondence in this collection created by the Archives of Ontario in the 1960s.

Series II: Alexander Hamilton Research Paper, 2001

- 1.5 Doyle, J.A. Queenston's Alexander Hamilton: from merchant to placeman. Major research paper, York University, 2001.

Series III: Stampless Cover Catalogs, 1946, n.d.

- 1.6 *The Canada and Newfoundland Stampless Cover Catalog* by Harry M. Konwiser and Frank W. Campbell, 1946.
- 1.7 Lists of Canada's first and second circular town handstamps, n.d.
- 1.8 Canada Stampless Covers, n.d. Contains lists of straight line postmarks, Canada's first and second circular town handstamps, broken circle cancellations, and miscellaneous postmarks. Includes postmark samples and tables with related information about the postmarks, including town, type, colour, date, and comments.
- 1.9 *Canada Straight Line Postmarks* by Harry M. Konwiser and Frank W. Campbell, 1951. A two-page article including examples and a list of Canada stampless covers (straight line).

Series IV: Canadian Postal History, 1950

- 1.10 *Notes on the Postal History of Canada: from 1760 to Confederation in 1867* by W.E. Durant Halliday. Reprinted from "The Philatelist", vol. 15, nos. 1-3. A letter from the author to Percy Band is pasted in the back.

Related material:

RG 634, Canada Post Office Documents, 1833, 1835, n.d.

RG 640, Alexander Hamilton fonds, 1809-1842, n.d.

RG 699 Alexander Hamilton/Early Canada Postal Collection, 1775-1983.