

# Nathan Ford fonds, 1792-1903, n.d.

RG 784

## Brock University Archives

**Creator:** Nathan Ford

**Extent:** 15 cm of textual records

**Abstract:** Fonds mostly consists of correspondence written by, or to, Nathan Ford. Much of the correspondence concerns the War of 1812, especially the events around Ogdensburg. A significant part of the fonds concerns Ford's claim for damages and losses incurred during the war. Reference is sometimes made to claims for damages in Niagara. Several letters to the editor are included which comment on the war and on some of the events that occurred in Niagara, such as the burning of Newark. Isaac Brock is mentioned in another of Ford's letters. Also includes some information on the Jones family history. There are several letters to the editor concerning tensions between France and the United States around 1797.

**Materials:** Correspondence

**Repository:** Brock University Archives

**Finding aid:** Chantal Cameron

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**Preferred citation:** RG 784, Nathan Ford fonds, 1792-1903, n.d., Brock University Archives.

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## Scope and content

Fonds mostly consists of correspondence written by, or to, Nathan Ford. Much of the correspondence concerns the War of 1812, especially the events around Ogdensburg. A significant part of the fonds concerns Ford's claim for damages and losses incurred during the war. Reference is sometimes made to claims for damages in Niagara. Several letters to the editor are included which comment on the war and on some of the events that occurred in Niagara, such as the burning of Newark. Isaac Brock is mentioned in another of Ford's letters. Also includes some information on the Jones family history. There are also several letters to the editor concerning tensions between France and the United States around 1797. The material was mostly kept grouped in its original order but was organized into broader subject categories to facilitate browsing by topic.

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## Biographical Sketch

Nathan Ford (1763-1829) was one of the founders of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York. He was an agent for Colonel Samuel Ogden and helped to establish a settlement at what was previously known as Oswegatchie, New York. The old Fort Oswegatchie was occupied by Captain Benjamin Forsyth and his company of riflemen in the fall of 1812. The residents of Ogdensburg were not keen on war with the British and conducted themselves as though a state of peace remained. When General Brown and Captain Forsyth became aware of the situation, it was made clear to the prominent citizens of Ogdensburg, including Ford, that remaining neutral was unacceptable. Ford was concerned that Forsyth, who was young and rash, would pose a threat to the security of his community.

Forsyth consistently harassed the British and met with retaliation on February 22, 1813, when the British captured Ogdensburg in a surprise attack. The victory was small, but it helped ensure that the St. Lawrence remained available as a supply line for the British. The barracks, distillery and some other property were destroyed during the conflict. Ford submitted a claim for damages to the government which took many years to resolve. He was eventually compensated for his losses, although the claim was undervalued and he only received a portion of the actual damages.

Ford was very active in the community affairs at Ogdensburg and is largely credited with establishing the settlement. His leadership enabled the community to grow from an outpost to a village, which eventually became a city. He was appointed as a First Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas in 1802 and held this position until 1820. Nathan Ford died in 1829 and was buried in the Ford Vault in Ogdensburg.

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## Inventory

The fonds was organized into four series:

Series I: War of 1812 correspondence, 1797-1821, n.d.

Series II: War of 1812 claim for damages correspondence, 1814-1826, n.d.

Series III: Quasi-War (between America and France) correspondence, c. 1797

Series IV: Other correspondence, 1792-1903, n.d.

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### **Series I: War of 1812 Correspondence, 1797-1821, n.d.**

#### **Various Letters, 1812-1814, n.d.**

- 1.1 Letter from Elisha Tibbets, York, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence County, April 18, 1812? The letter states that he received news from Washington that Congress had passed a supplement to the new embargo prohibiting all intercourse by land or water. He is sending this information so that Ford is prepared for it. A postscript notes that he should keep this information to himself. A postscript by the recipient states that he received the letter after the embargo was laid.
- 1.1 Letter from Genl. Van Rensselaer, Headquarters, Lewiston, to Judge Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence County, August 19, 1812. Van Rensselaer thanks Ford for his last letter and the account of Lt. Wells gallant enterprise. He writes about his skepticism when reading the newspaper. He mentions the Sackett's Harbor affair and notes that not much was achieved but "the attempt was characteristic of brave men which Woolsey and Wells doubtless are". He feels that Wells was too precipitate, which is natural for a young man. Van Rensselaer writes that he has concentrated his army at Lewiston and that he lives in the camp. He notes that Lovet prefers this and goes to his own tent. He writes that his marquee "is the wonder of the natures, they call it the meeting house." He asks that Ford send his regards to his friends. There are two postscripts after Van Rensselaer's signature. The first postscript concerns the Col. and his engagement with the troops. The second states that Ford has doubtless heard of a suppression of hostilities until further orders by order of Genl. Dearborn. He has heard Hull is defeated and fears it is true.
- 1.1 Letter from Col. Ford, Morristown, to his brother Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, State of New York, March 16, 1813. The writer has been anxious to hear from his brother since

the catastrophe at Ogdensburgh, and was glad that he was not exposed personally. He notes that Ford must be in a state of confusion and much distress among the inhabitants, particularly those who have been plundered. He does not doubt that those who would not fight to defend the place are vociferous in crying Tory. He knows it is difficult for the officers to prevent plunder entirely but they might have prevented a general pillage. If they make compensation as far as is in their power it is all that they can expect. He will write to D.B. Ogden for his letter if it is not in the New York Herald. He expected nothing less than for Ogdensburgh to be taken the moment he heard of Forsyth's conduct and is sure he ought to be tried as the county has lost a large supply of military stores. He would like to know what force they keep at Prescott and wonders if all their people are paroled. An attack on Sackets Harbor by the British was expected but he supposes the ice was too precarious. He hopes his brother received his letter on the subject of the lands and that if he had not ordered the ejectments before he did so on receiving the letter. He fears that if the ejectments are not served before April 11 they will lose the land. He discusses family news.

- 1.1 Letter from M. Sterling, Watertown, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence, March 30, 1813. The writer says that Ford's real friends sympathize strongly with him in the injuries he has sustained by the mad policy and rash conduct of their rulers and warriors. He read his note to General Dearborn with much satisfaction and noted that it was "penned with that bold and resolute spirit". He mentions how General Platt and his party were recently and shamefully denounced as Tories on the floor of the Senate by John Taylor. He writes that his friends all know and will take no small pains to publish it that had the military operations at Ogdensburgh been controlled by the judicious management of Ford and Mr. Parrish, the public never would have suffered such severe losses as they now have. The rash conduct of Captain Forsyth provoked the severe and heavy retaliation of the enemy and was rejoiced at by the Commander-in-Chief. He asks what the present state of the county is and asks if they will have an election or are under martial law as reported. He also asks what the most probable result of an election would be. He writes that his county will continue Federal with a small increase in the majority.
- 1.1 Letter from Henry Stores to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, County of St. Lawrence, August 8, 1813. Stores wrote that perhaps Ford is not aware of the Act of the Legislature which gives to settlers under colour of bona fide purchases the value of their improvements, deducting a reasonable sum for the use & occupation. He follows with more particulars of the Act. A postscript notes that the President's health is better since the fleet has gone down the Potomac and that "the little man has had 'relapses', Gallandar rejected—the Embargo rejected—the licence bill rejected—the Duke of Buffalo his good friend exposed—the army all dying—all defeat—all disgrace—borrowing 7 ½ millions more—the Senate refusing to go in the harness without kicking—it is enough the make Madison sick. I hope he will be well dosed with democracy before his time is out."

- 1.1 Letter to the New York Post concerning the War of 1812 and the burning of towns and buildings by both the British and Americans. The letter is signed “a native born citizen of the US” and is dated October 2, 1814. The writer states that he was astonished when reading a recent statement in the New York Herald “endeavoring to excuse our administration for the burnings and destruction done by our army in Canada” and the justification of this because of the burning of the Capitol and President’s House at Washington. He writes that Sir George Prevost admits the destruction was contrary to the modern usages of the Law of Nations and that he had resorted to it from necessity as a matter of retaliation, meaning that he was following the conduct of the enemy and that the burning of Lewiston, Black Rock and Buffalo was a result of the Americans having burned Newark. He also mentions the burnings of Dover, the mills at Long Point, and the Village of St. Davids, noting that “has not our administration fully justified all, even the burning of Newark?” He notes that Sir George Prevost promised to abstain on express conditions, which the Americans have not complied with, and therefore the Americans have no right to hold him to his offer. He points out that because of this, the British have the right to burn the Congress House and Presidents House in Washington as the Americans had to burn their Parliament House and Government House in York. He notes that the reply of the Secretary of State has been a justification of every deed done by the Americans, including the burning of Newark.
- 1.1 Letter to the New York Evening Post signed by “a native born citizen of the United States”, November 3, 1814. The letter concerns a previous letter that was published in the New York Herald and a published reply to it. In the conclusion, the writer notes that “I confess myself astonished that such papers as the Evening Post or Herald should in any respect aid the Administration in anything that may...bend to reconcile the people in any degree to the vile measures they have and are adopting to ruin this once happy country”.
- 1.1 Letter to the President of the United States with multiple signatures, n.d. The letter expresses support for the president and his handling of the war. The letter states that “in New Jersey, Sir, there is but one Voice—and that is the Voice of Confidence in the Federal Government—the Voice of perfect satisfaction with you administration of it—and the voice of fairness & determination to support the Laws and Constitution, the Honor & dignity of the United States, & his defence of those, we do this day, in the presence of the God of armies, and in firm reliance on his protection, solemnly pledge to you our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honors”. The letter contains 12 signatures.

**Meredith Family Correspondence, Philadelphia, 1814-1821**

- 1.2 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from Wm. Meredith, October 26, 1814. The letter is three pages and contains a note written by Meredith’s wife after his letter. Mr. Meredith’s letter concerns slander. Mrs. Meredith’s note includes her recent activities

and family news. She notes that if the war continues they are considering retiring on a farm and that she has no objection to living near the lines. They may end up settling on part of Ford's territory, if he can offer any possible inducement.

- 1.2 Letter to Wm. Meredith from Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, December 1, 1814. The letter is four pages and concerns slander against Ford and politics. He comments on the war, noting that "the campaign is now closed, and we are as we were—Canada remains. General Izard has crossed to Buffalo, General Brown to Sacket's, the enemy in full possession of the Lake....Had the navigation of the St. Lawrence been stopped (which was in our power to have done at the declaration of war), Upper Canada would have surrendered before the month of October. It is a fact that Upper Canada was not meant to be defend[ed], provided we took proper measures. They were not provided, with either men or means. But as soon as it was discovered that we commenced the war, at the very place they wished, and totally neglected the navigation of the River, the eagle-eyed Brock, at once took advantage, and from the moment of Hull's capture, the Province was considered safe. It has been one continued scene of blunder from the commencement of war to the present day, and Canada is now considered as totally out of our reach, and I believe it to be the interest of the U.S. that it should be."
- 1.2 Letter by Samuel Meredith, December 18, 1814. The letter is three pages and includes a letter written by his mother following his letter. Samuel Meredith's letter concerns family matters. His mother's letter concerns family and also notes the taking of Washington and battle of Baltimore. She writes that "the state of dismay and alarm here is indescribable but it did not continue long. Our free born citizens[?] volunteered their services to defend their soil, and laid out the money for which the government ought long since to have appropriated for that purpose. I have a vestige of the capitol which if ever I have an opportunity I will send you. Dolly it seems cannot stand fire or the President's house would have been saved...".
- 1.2 Letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to Samuel Meredith, Philadelphia, January 5, 1815. The letter is two pages. Ford encourages Meredith to continue writing and persevere in his studies. The last part of the letter is intended for Samuel's mother and mostly concerns politics.
- 1.2 Letter from Gertrude Meredith to Nathan Ford, January 30, 1817. The letter concerns friends and family.
- 1.2 Letter from Gertrude Meredith, Philadelphia, to Judge Ford, City of Washington D.C., January 7, 1821. The letter is two pages and concerns Ford's health, and family and friends.

**David Parish Correspondence, 1813**

- 1.3 Letter to David Parish, March 5, 1813. The letter was written at Ogdensburgh and signed N.F, and concerns the Battle of Ogdensburgh. The writer states that he returned from Albany on the 24<sup>th</sup> [two days after the Battle of Ogdensburgh] and that “the hurly burly” since has forced him to put aside what did not require his immediate attention. He had hoped to have got through the winter without a visit from our neighbors, and hoped that the ice would pass away without being used as a bridge to facilitate an invasion of Ogdensburgh. He noted that the invasion of Brockville was planned and because there were no troops there to resist it, the Americans were triumphant. The victory gave great spirit to their heroes and the success of repeated aggressions produced an irritation which eventuated in the reduction of Ogdensburgh. He writes that they now live very peaceably and will remain so until the government replaces an adequate form for their protection. A committee was appointed to investigate the property loss that the villagers sustained by plunder. They have made out the accounts and it is not as bad as it might have been. The amount will not vary much from \$10,000. Col. McDonald is doing all he can to recover the property taken. He has said provisions taken from individuals will be paid for. The writer says that “this unexpected frolic has disconcerted our Township business”. He states that he will not lose sight of the road, provided he can stick here, which he means to do through thick and thin.
- 1.3 Letter to D. Parish, dated at Ogdensburgh, April 27, 1813. The letter concerns the actions of Col. Pike and Mr. Richards, who worked “to trample under foot the first principles of the constitution, and establish a kind of military despotism in the county”. The writer states that he sent an express for a writ of Habeas Corpus, and that the prisoners were immediately set at liberty and had arrived in the county. He also advised that immediate prosecutions be instituted and served upon Mr. Richards and other officers, and advised the same be done with Col. Pike. It is noted that “if they will keep their troops totally out of the County, we shall live perfectly safe. The British has no disposition further to molest us”.
- 1.3 Letter from David Parish, Philadelphia, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, May 12, 1813. Parish thanks Ford for keeping him informed of the events in his neighborhood. He comments on recent events of the war, noting that “the manner in which the late military outrage has been met, is highly gratifying to all true friends of the Country...from a communication made by Gen. Armstrong to a friend of mine at Washington, I clearly perceive that he has been much prejudiced against Ogdensburgh, probably in consequence of reports made to him by Gen. Dearborn. I propose being at Washington shortly when I shall have a full explanation with the secretary on the subject & try to place it before him in its proper light”. He further comments on the war, noting that offensive operations have commenced in Upper Canada and lamenting the loss of Gen. Pike.

- 1.3 Letter from David Parish, Philadelphia, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, June 16, 1813. The letter concerns the war. Parish writes that he has had several long conversations during his stay at Washington with Mr. Granger and that he is very well disposed towards them, however, he cannot interfere with Gen. Dearborn's arrangements. He expects Dearborn is strongly prejudiced against Ogdensburgh but he did not miss the opportunity of telling the men at the seat of government that his spite & malice was laughed at and viewed with the contempt it deserved by the [people] of their County. Parish is apprehensive that Sir George Prevost will make a stand at Kingston with a large force, which Dearborn will not dare to attack. As long as Kingston is in possession of the enemy, the situation at Ogdensburgh will be very precarious. From what he has heard at Washington, people of all parties are sick of the War.
- 1.3 Letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to D. Parish, June 30, 1813. Ford comments on the war, noting that "I do not see that Gen. Dearborn possesses with much rapidity in the conquest of Canada. He has taken Fort Geo., followed the British to 40 mile creek, there got flogged—lost 2 Generals and has got back to Fort Geo. Canada is certainly so much nigher being conquered, for Gen. Dearborn has got back to 'point the first'—our fleet upon the lake still remain in port waiting for the new vessel to be finished, which will be it is said in about 3 weeks. We shall then expect a tough battle, and it will be one which will determine the fate of the campaign...". He continues to write at length about the war.

**St. Regis Band Correspondence, 1797-1812**

- 1.4 Letter from Lewis Cook [Akwasasne], St. Regis, to Major Foard, 1797. The letter is one page and concerns the theft of martins skins and beaver skins from some of his young hunters who had stayed overnight with Ford on their trip. A two-page reply by Ford is included dated December 12, 1797, to the Chiefs of the St. Regis Village. Ford writes that young Larramy had been in the woods trading rum and that he made the hunters drunk, which Ford reprimanded Larramy for. He also notes that the hunters had left their skins in their canoe, instead of bringing them into the house. Ford has made enquiries about the theft but does not know who took the skins. He expresses regret at the incident and hopes it will be the last time something like this occurs.
- 1.4 Letter from the Chiefs of St. Regis to Thomas Foard, Ogdensburgh, July 5, 1812. The letter confirms the friendship and loyalty of the Chiefs to Ford and asks that he reply with news of his health and welfare.
- 1.4 Letter from Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, to Lewis Cook and the Chiefs of the St. Regis Village, July 10, 1812. The letter concerns the war and the importance of remaining loyal to the Americans and keeping a low profile to maintain the peace. Ford writes that "war has been declared by Congress against Great Britain, your friendship for the United States

has never been doubted...we have heard there are some in your village that hold a friendship for the British...you must take care and not let them do any mischief. If you find them disposed to do mischief, you must let us know....the safest way is to remain at your homes, you may be assured no body will trouble you there...Brothers, I shall take pains to prevent your being disturbed”.

- 1.4 Letter from Lewis Cook and others, Salmon River, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, August 28, 1812. The writer addresses the concerns of the recipient about the band roving abroad during the war, noting that the Chiefs have decreed, since the declaration of war, that they are just to travel to and from the Islands that they occupy. He refers to the seven Indians who visited Ford, noting that one was currently with them and had been examined about the impropriety of his conduct at Ford’s place. He has acknowledged his error and is to remain with them. The other six belong to another village and belong to good families. He apologizes for their conduct at Ford’s place and appreciates that Ford and the commanding officer there for their goodness and civility to them. He wishes Ford to inform Col. Benedict he, Mr. Gray, and the Chiefs will prevent the use of the hatchet in any warlike manner against the people of America, and particularly the people of the State of New York. The letter is signed by several people including Lewis Cook, Peter Turbell, Jacob Francis, and witnessed by Hudson[?] and Wm. Gray.
- 1.4 Copy of a letter from N.F., Ogdensburgh, to the Chiefs of St. Regis, August 30, 1812. Ford is happy to have been informed that the conduct of Addams has been examined, as it was very improper. The rest of his party behaved very decently. Addams conduct was such that it convinced him that he was not friendly to America. He notes that it would be for their mutual happiness for the young men to remain at their homes. Ford wanted to immediately inform them of Addams’ character to prevent him from persuading other young men to join him.

#### **Governor Tompkins Correspondence, 1808-1812**

- 1.5 Letter from Daniel Tompkins, New York, to Judge Ford, Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence County, September 27, 1808. The letter introduces Col. Simons, who has command of the regulars occupying the frontiers of the state.
- 1.5 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to Gov. Tompkins, July 16, 1812. The letter is 2 and ½ pages and concerns the war. Ford writes that circumstances have occurred at this post since the declaration of war which has given rise to apprehension for the safety of the frontiers. He is sorry to say that the passion of fear has operated so strongly on some characters in his county to induce them to question the integrity of Col. Benedict because he did not yield that universal protection which every individual was willing to believe himself entitled to. Ford feels that Col. Benedict has been vigilant and disposed to give satisfaction. The problem came about because the Col. would not distribute his

small force in such a way that would gratify the views of some individuals in the lower part of the County, whose private interests motivated them rather than the public good. He notes that there are several private vessels in the harbor at Ogdensburgh which might be needed for the war. It was necessary for Col. Benedict to concenter his small forces at this point to ensure the safety of the vessels, but it has excited the jealousy and indignation of some individuals. He recognizes that Tompkins would have more confidence in this information if it was derived from other sources, but wanted him to be aware of the facts that he knows exist.

**Rev. Comfort Williams Correspondence, 1814**

- 1.6 Letter from Rev. Comfort Williams, Utica, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburg, April 14, 1814. The letter is two pages and concerns the impact of the war around Ogdensburg. The writer states that “my mind has continually reverted back to former times when your village flourished almost beyond example, when prosperity blessed all classes of men, when good order prevailed...I have been force to weep while considering the reverse which a few months of war has made in your situation, in the extinction of lawful trade, in the destruction of property, in the depression of spirit and enterprise, & in the ruin of morals”. Williams also talks about his work and wonders if the people of Ogdensburgh are prepared to release him from further obligation and are willing for him to settle elsewhere.

**Series II: War of 1812 claim for damages correspondence, 1814-1826, n.d.**

**Claim correspondence, 1814-1820**

- 1.7 Statement of Quarter Master’s account with N.Ford. The first lines read “The United States to N. Ford , Augt. 20, 1812—Balance of account sent to Judge Kent to receive at the office at Washington”. The total balance is \$251.54. A note at the bottom indicates it is signed and allowed by Gen. Pike, March 27, 1813. The date Mar. 14, 1814 also appears on the document.
- 1.7 Statement of claim against the U.S. for old barracks burnt in 1812. A list of the property owned by Nathan Ford in Ogdensburgh and destroyed on February 22, 1813. He claims a total of \$9095 but notes that this is undervalued. The document is dated January 10, 1818.
- 1.7 Copy of a letter to Major General Brown, Washington, from Nathan Ford, Ogdensburg, January 10, 1818. Ford writes that he intended to visit Brown about his claim upon the public for the loss of the barracks, distillery and boat that were occupied by Major Forsyth’s riflemen. There were also houses damaged in the village. He presumes that

Brown will have no objections in giving him a certificate to enable him to lay a claim before the proper tribunal. Ford has sent Judge Ogden his papers and the second in command was well acquainted with all the circumstances of the occupancy of the troops. He asks for assistance in advancing his claim, as far as he can, consistent with Justice. He notes that he has undervalued his loss and feels that interest could be paid to help compensate for this. Ford has requested that Judge Ogden call upon Brown with his papers. The letter concludes with Ford noting that he willingly gave the barracks to the troops at his own inconvenience and extended every aid & comfort, yet much of his property was destroyed and he was never paid for this.

- 1.7 Copy of a letter to David A. Ogden, Washington, from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, January 10, 1818. He writes that he should have written sooner about his claim but wanted to see General Brown about it before he left home for Washington, but missed him by a day. He wrote to Brown and asked for his help instead. At the time of the destruction Ford made a hasty estimate but on closer examination saw that it was considerably too low. He thinks it proper not to alter it and leave it to the justice of the government. Because the estimate was so low he does not think getting interest should be a problem, but not in that shape. He sends Captain Lytle's certificate, who was second in command and familiar with the circumstances. Ford has heard there has been considerable abuse upon the Treasury for fraudulent claims and hopes that fair & honorable claims will not be coupled with them. It is noted that he moved out of the barracks at great inconvenience and loss to himself in order to accommodate the troops. The repairs that he made to the barracks made them of greater value. He details the features of the property and notes that the distillery was a well furnished building but the fire has caused so much damage that the walls cannot be rebuilt and the removal of the rubbish will be much more than the materials are worth. He reiterates that his loss has been undervalued and hopes that Ogden will do all that is in his power to see that justice is done.
- 1.7 Letter from D.A. Ogden, Washington City, to N. Ford, January 3, 1818. Ogden writes that before adopting any decisive measures with respect to his claim, he thought it prudent to ascertain whether any other had been exhibited on his behalf. If such were the case, the papers have been withdrawn and none are now in the office. The claim exhibited by Jones or Briggs exceeded \$20 000. The shameful frauds that have been detected has created an excitement in Congress and it has been difficult to obtain a decision in favor of the most just and equitable of claims. He has retained the deposition of Captain Lytle because it must be taken under a commission to make it evidence. He has enclosed a commission and nominated Mr. Richards as one of the Commissioners. Ogden advises the Ford to employ Council to attend to the taking of the testimony as if he does not bring his case within the letter of the law he will be refused. It will also be required that he testify as to the correctness of the claim and show that the house was in the possession of the troops, and that the barracks were taken by order of an officer when burnt or destroyed. Ogden advises that the laws be carefully read and also the directions as to the

taking of the testimony, and not to rely too heavily on the testimony of Captain Lyttle. He has learned that Lyttle denies having made certain affidavits which have been exhibited in support of certain claims and says they are forgeries. He concludes by recommending the recipient obtain the best testimony possible with respects to the value of the buildings.

- 1.7 Letter to David Ogden from Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, February 24, 1818. Ford writes that he has received the commission and instructions for the examination of his claim. It has been forwarded to the proper office and he hopes it is sufficiently reported to ensure its passage. He was surprised Sandy was named as a commissioner and found that he has thrown every obstacle in the way of his claim, describing how he has complicated the proceedings. Ford notes that he sold his claim to Johnes and Briggs, who were to pay him \$6000 in January 1817. However, he never did get paid and Ford ended up having the claim returned to him. Apparently, Johnes, a commissioner, had worked the claim up to \$22,000. Ford had no knowledge of this until later and would have exposed the abuse had he known about it. He concludes by discussing politics, noting that he wrote Sterling about the approaching congressional election and was sorry to find his answer was the apathy in the Federal ranks.
- 1.7 Letter to N. Ford from David A. Ogden, March 23, 1818. He writes that the certificate of General Brown was to substantiate the character of Capt. Lyttle and others, and to prove that the Rifle Companies under Major Forsyth were in the possession of the barracks at the time of their destruction by the British. He has in all instances declined giving certificates as to the place[?] of the property destroyed. If he [Brown] were here, Ogden no longer believes he would be beneficial in stating more than he already has. The Commissioner has reported to the Committee of Claims, who have it under consideration. He has not yet seen the report but presumes it will be favorable. He appointed Richards as a commissioner to expedite a decision and explains why. Ogden thinks the Committee of Claims will report a gross sum in favor of the Niagara claimants, say 50 pds.[?] on real estate, 20 pds.[?] on personal property, and leave the distribution among the claimants. This sum he believes would be gladly accepted by the agents of the sufferers now here. If some such arrangement is not made it would be impossible for the Committee of Claims to report on  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the business before them. In that event, he thinks a law may be passed for Ford's relief & that of others upon their frontier. He is taking all the means in his power to prevent the passage of the bill regulating the communication with Canada upon their frontier. Ogden mentions the committee of ways and means has expunged a section of a bill recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury that concerns duty. It is noted that the grounds for this attrition[?] is the necessity of encouraging their own shipping, instead of suffering Great Britain to be their business for the supplier on the St. Lawrence & the Lakes. He concludes that he expects Congress will adjourn as early as the 20<sup>th</sup> of the next month and that Ford should send him a letter of Attorney to receive the money should the bill be passed in Ford's favor.

- 1.7 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to David A. Ogden, April 1, 1818. He has enclosed a power of attorney to receive the money which the government might think proper to award him. Ford thanks Ogden for attending to this business and asks whether the claim had passed and for what amount. Ford assumes it has passed since Ogden requested the power of attorney. He provides instructions on how to disburse the money.
- 1.7 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from David Ogden, April 26, 1818. Ogden informs Ford that he believes Ford will obtain his money in the next session. He notes that various considerations induced him to postpone the discussion of a law regulating the imports & navigation of their lakes and river. He will explain the particulars when he sees him. The part of the bill related to the entry of boats on the St. Lawrence river has been stricken out and everything there remains as formerly. He did wish to reduce the fees upon the entry & leaving of their vessels, but this he found to be impracticable in the present session.
- 1.7 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from David Ogden, Washington, January 12, 1819. Ogden notes that the session has progressed well and that he lost no time in drawing his petition, and this morning it was presented to the Senate. If Ford comes to this place no power will be necessary, but if not he should forward another Letter of Attorney, duly proved. The one he reviewed can be of no effect because it is not proven. He advises Ford to come without delay. He remarks on a report of the Military Committee and that the majority of the committee censure Gen. Jackson. Ogden feels that aliens[?] should be authorized to purchase and hold lands in the State of New York and he has written to the Governor. He hopes that Ford will use his influence to accomplish this object.
- 1.7 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from David Ogden, January 15, 1819. Ogden writes that he has enclosed a document concerning Butterfield's Lands. If Ford has not left Ogdensburgh when the letter reaches him, Ogden asks that he prevail upon his wife to accompany him to Albany or New York. He has learned she is out of spirits after the death of her aunt and he thinks that the change of scene would help her.
- 1.7 Letter to Nathan Ford from David Ogden, Washington, February 10, 1819. Ogden writes that Ford will receive a copy of the bill now before the Senate for his relief, and will become a law if they can reach the same before the adjournment of Congress. Ford can rely on his best exertions in its support. He will also do all he can to obtain a law concerning the duties imposed in Upper Canada on our vessels and products.
- 1.7 Copy of a letter to D.A. Ogden from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, March 12, 1819. Ford provides Ogden with the details of how to distribute the money he may receive from his claim.
- 1.7 Copy of a letter to Simon Ford from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, February 22, 1820. He asks for aid in forwarding his claim upon the government for losses during the late war. It passed in the last session of the Senate but was stopped in the lower house because of

other very important business towards the close of the session. Mr. Stores has certified copies of his documents concerning the claim and Simon can visit him if he needs any information. He asks that Simon argue the claim with “unremitted diligence” so that the matter can be brought to a conclusion before another session passes by.

- 1.7 Copy of a letter to Henry Stores, February 22, 1820. He has enclosed his papers on the claim he has against the United States for losses sustained during the war. He had intended to go to Washington to attend to this business but has been ill for several weeks. It was before Congress’ last session but was delayed in the other house because of the pressure of other business. It is asked for Stores to forward the claim, as it has become disputed. He has enclosed certified copies of the papers concerning the claim for Stores, in case the originals get lost. The writer is in desperate need of the money and concludes that he thinks he is sure of Stores’ exertions on his behalf, and is in an unfortunate position in that he is unable to attend to this business personally.
- 1.7 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from G. Ogden, Washington, April 7, 1820. Ogden writes that he arrived yesterday and immediately made inquiries into the situation of Ford’s business. He has seen Mr. Stores and Mr. Ford and both think there is not sufficient time to get it through this session. Independent of this objection, there is no money in the treasury, and he is told that even in a case where the committee reports favorably those concerned are unwilling to pay. It is even difficult to get the Report of the House published. He hopes to meet with the Secretary of War. The members of Congress hold a caucus tomorrow for the purpose of nominating a vice-president. There is great interest in making for Tompkins by Virginia and Pennsylvania. If he does not succeed, he believes Clay will be the man. He notes that the weather is very cold and hopes Ford’s health improves.
- 1.7 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from G. Ogden, Washington, April 12, 1820. He is sorry to say that nothing can be done with his claim this session. The course which had been pursued by Mr. Stores and Mr. Ford was perhaps the best. It has been proposed and agreed to, as far as present circumstances dictate, to prepare this claim for immediate operation at the opening of the next session, and thus have time enough by persuasion and interest to procure the requisite support of the members in its favor. It requires more than justice or equity to obtain much money from the U.S. at this time—they not only want the inclination but the ability. He concludes by writing that he plans to leave in a day or two and hopes to find him perfectly restored.
- 1.7 Letter from M. Sterling, n.d. Sterling writes that the committee has reported against him. It is mentioned that the committee does not know how to get along with the case of Mr. Henderson of Virginia. He notes that if the bill passes, it will establish a precedent neither Virginia nor the House can get rid of.

- 1.7 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from M. Sterling, n.d. The letter concerns Ford's claim. Sterling writes that the objections of Mr. Williams as stated in the written case of H. Otter will show the grounds to which Williams will likely take to his case.
- 1.7 Letter from M. Sterling, n.d. The letter concerns the recipient's claim. Sterling writes that he thought it best to have all the proof presented and therefore made a motion to that effect. He had a small majority although it was strenuously opposed. He hopes to be able to get up his case this session but it is doubtful. The case of Henderson will come on next week and that will decide the principle.

#### **Claim correspondence, 1821-1824**

- 1.8 Letter from David A. Ogden, New York, January 9, 1821, to N. Ford. Ogden writes that Ford's papers relating to his claim were submitted to the Senate and he believes them to be perfectly satisfactory to establish Ford's loss. He notes that Mr. Richards was named one of the commissioners and that it can be seen by the papers he examined the reduction of the valuation of the buildings. Ogden informs Ford that a letter was received by the Secretary of War stating that Ford should not receive compensation for his buildings because Ford did not pay anything for them. Ogden was able to dispute this, being the trustee of his uncle's daughters from whom Ford made the purchase, and noted that Ford had paid \$20,000 for the Estate. Ogden visited the Secretary of War with General Brown to ask who wrote the letter but the Secretary would not tell him. He concludes that he hopes Ford's health enables him to prosecute the claim successfully.
- 1.8 Letter to the Honorable Micha Sterling from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, December 20, 1821. Ford is writing about his claim and notes that it is of serious consequence to him, and because he is not in favor of the ruling party, may not have justice done. He states that when Judge Ogden was in Congress, his claim went through the Senate and the committee in the House of Representatives in his favor, but a lack of time prevented the passage of the bill. He attended the Senate last year when the bill was passed and sent it to the other House, but was astonished when the report was against him. He says that his papers are all with the committee of claims and asks that Sterling examine them, noting that if the bill can go through his House, there will be no difficulty in the Senate. Ford also says that an anonymous letter was sent in the matter that was full of lies and should not have been considered because it was anonymous. He has enclosed the law which passed the Senate concerning him, noting that he was awarded about \$6200, a sum he thought was scant. He concludes with comments about politics, noting that Pennsylvania has united in supporting Virginia, which he finds abominably mortifying.
- 1.8 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to M. Sterling, December 28, 1821. Ford writes that he hopes Sterling has received his papers and notes that he has written to Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Colden, and Gen. Van Rensselaer. He did not think it was necessary to

prepare a new petition, but if it is necessary he authorizes Sterling to draw a new one and subscribe his name to it. He hopes this business will not be crowded out.

- 1.8 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to C. Colden, December 28, 1821. Ford asks Colden to assist him in the passage of a law that will help an outstanding claim he has for losses during the war. He notes that Mr. Sterling (the representation for this district) has his papers, and asks that Colden call upon him. The committee of claims reported against him, which was astonishing to him and his friends. The claim was denied under the pretext that he had received rent for the use of the buildings. His friends were to contest this point before the House but the Missouri question occupied so much time that it was impossible to call it up. He notes that this claim is very important to him, especially since the government pays no interest.
- 1.8 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to Gen. Van Rensselaer, December 28, 1821. Ford asks for Van Rensselaer's help in getting his claim addressed in the House this session, as he has been friendly to him on the subject in the past. He notes that Mr. Sterling, the delegate from this district, has his papers, and asks for Van Rensselaer to confer with him.
- 1.8 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to J. Sargent, December 28, 1821. Ford asks for Sargent's continued assistance in the prosecution of his claim. He notes that the government does not pay interest, consequently by a few more years the whole capital is sunk. As to the idea set up by Mr. Williams that because he received rent for the buildings he became the assurer, is preposterous. He notes that Mr. Sterling, the delegate from this district, has his papers and has asked that Sterling consult with him about the matter. He hopes that the justice of his claim will warrant the passage of a law in his favor.
- 1.8 Letter from M. Sterling to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, December 30, 1821. Sterling writes that his petition will be attended but since Williams is still at the head of the committee of claims, he fears that not much can be expected unless he has more evidence to submit. Mr. Williams is a very obstinate enemy[?] to war claims and unless he can get them before some of the tribunal he sees no chance for success. The House has no time to act upon these claims were they willing to allow them but he will do all that he can. The remainder of the letter discusses politics.
- 1.8 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to M. Sterling, January 12, 1822. Ford writes that he has received Sterling's last letter and is sorry to hear that Sterling does not believe it is certain that Ford's claim will be approved, and that more proof may be required. He cannot do more than state the facts as set forth in the several affidavits accompanying his claim. Ford states that the destruction took place and it is sufficiently proved. The Secretary of War ordered an investigation there and it was certified that the amount of his claim was just. He would like to be informed what further evidence Mr. Williams

wants and he will try to supply it. It is noted that Mr. Hackley has written to some of his friends in Ford's favor, stating that his claim is just and ought to be allowed.

- 1.8 Letter from M. Sterling to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence, January 23 [1822]. Sterling writes that the reason he wished Ford to furnish new evidence is because without anything new the committee of claims is likely to report against him again. The committee has already rejected other claims this session that were equally strong. His case will probably not be acted upon this session, but if others support him when it comes up he shall have strong hopes of success. Williams will no doubt oppose it with all his might. He notes that it might be well for a friend in the legal field to make a clear and full statement of his case. Sterling does not have the time to do this.
- 1.8 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to M. Sterling, Washington, February 3, 1822. Ford will do all he can to procure new materials on the subject of his claim, but does not know what more he can do. The barracks and still house were burnt because they were occupied by the U.S. troops, and were so declared by the officer who commanded the British troops. There were not other barracks burnt except the public barracks and his barracks. His boat was also taken by Forsyth for public service and not returned. Ford asks that Sterling examine his papers and let him know if any are missing. He will have Mr. Hawkey make up a statement of his business and forward it to him.
- 1.8 Letter from C.D. Colden, Washington, to Nathan Ford, January 8, 1823. Colden states that he supports Ford's claim and will converse with the gentlemen Ford has mentioned, and provide any assistance he can.
- 1.8 Letter from M. Sterling, January 9, 1823. Sterling writes that before this letter arrives the recipient may have seen that he has caused the claim to be recommitted to the Committee on Claims. He mentions Williams and a report of his own this session and by the case of Henderson last session that he thinks he will not dare again report against Ford, and if he does, he feels sure of beating him on the argument before the House. He has caused it to be recommended after consulting him & getting his assent, although he should not get him to agree to report it in Ford's favor unless he found the case exactly similar. Sterling hopes and trusts he will report in Ford's favor and that there would be a bill thro the House & Senate before March next. But if he reports against Ford he has little expectation of being able to call up the case for discussion this session as the House always acts upon favorable reports first. It is noted that in all probability, Ford will have to appeal to the next Congress. Sterling adds that he will attend thoroughly to it and believes he has expedited it already, as much as any new member could. He has spared no pains to do his duty to his constituents as far as his health would permit but he regrets that much has been left undone. He concludes by commenting on the Presidential question.

- 1.8 Letter from M. Sterling, House of Representatives, February 18, 1823. He writes that he is sorry to inform the recipient that he was again unexpectedly met by a new objection to his claim, concerning evidence as to the amount. He got rid of every question as to principle but to his disgust and astonishment met this new objection which Ford could have no doubt obviated had he any expectation of its occurrence. He will now press a report upon the ground that there is not proof of the value of the property. We will then be well prepared at the commencement of the next session to remove every obstacle. They contend there is no proof that the distillery was burnt in consequence of the barracks being burnt although they admit the distillery adjoined the barracks and were burnt at the same time. It is now best to be well prepared and to commence operations at the commencement of the next session before more important business presses. He feels confident that the claim now stands upon a solid foundation but it will require the most thorough attention both in and out of the House. Should it be his request and should he be in a situation to do it he would make it his particular business to see it brought forward next session. He would submit to the committee some friends in the House to attend and advocate its passage. Sterling deeply regrets that he cannot get the claim allowed this session but he believes he has done all that is possible.
- 1.8 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to Henry R. Stores, Washington, December 12, 1823. Ford notes that when he last saw Stores, he agreed to take up his claim and press it if possible to a favorable result. He has taken the liberty of enclosing a certified copy of the claim and remarks on the difficulty of procuring testimony and getting the government to appoint commissioners to investigate. Ford asks that Stores not let the certified copies out of his hands and has asked Mr. Sterling to him a history of how the business now stands. Sterling's last letter from Washington indicated there was little doubt the claim would be passed. He has written to Gov. Dickenson, the senator from N. Jersey, and convened with him upon the subject, and he is much disposed to render all the service he can. Ford would like Stores to have a conversation with him. He has asked others to call on him to inform them of the facts. If D.B. Ogden is in Washington, Ford asks that Stores call on him because he is well acquainted with many of the members from Pennsylvania and the Eastern States. He hopes to hear from him often and hopes to hear a favorable result.
- 1.8 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from Egbert E?, Washington, December 22, 1823. The letter concerns the committee of claims in the House of Representatives and matters Ford has before them.
- 1.8 Letter to N. Ford from Ela Collins, Washington, December 26, 1823. He writes that his claim has been presented by Mr. Stores and referred to the Committee of Claims. Collins had looked at his papers before they were presented and feels that his claim is founded in justice. Congress has not yet become seriously engaged in business and likely will not

until the New Year. He concludes that all appears to be tranquil here on the presidential question.

- 1.8 Letter to Nathan Ford from Mr. Cambreling[?], December 29, 1823. He writes that he has received Ford's letter and will consult with Mr. Stores on the subject of his claim. He will render his services to Stores with pleasure in order to secure a favourable decision by the House. It is pointed out that much will depend on the Report of the Committee.
- 1.8 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence County, from Egbert E.?, Washington, January 23, 1824. The letter concerns the status of his claim. He writes that no report has been made yet. He notes that since most of the members of the committee last year are also members this year, the report is likely to be similar. It is recommended he write to Mr. Stores again and solicit his help, and to as many of his friends as he thinks proper. He adds that there is a great disposition to put claimants off and to enlist all the help possible to ensure success. The writer asks that Ford reply and let him know his opinion of the course mentioned, as his object is for his benefit.
- 1.8 Letter to N. Ford from H.R. Stores, Washington, May 7, 1824. Stores writes that his petition was referred to the Committee of Claims and a majority of the committee has been opposed to it, but he has not. He has not been able to obtain a report friendly to it. Therefore, no report has been made and he feels it is better to have no report than a report against it. He thinks the claim is strengthened by one or two bills which have been passed at this session by a similar principle. Stores advised him not to despair or give up on the claim. He thinks it will ultimately be paid.
- 1.8 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence, from Henry R. Stores, Washington, December 31, 1824. He writes that at this time he is engaged in a bill called the Niagara Claims bill. It is broader[?] and if passed ensures a speedy decision on all claims of certain descriptions, like his. As the bill now stands it cannot pass, but when amended, as it ought to be, so as to include only cases of buildings actually occupied by the United States when destroyed. He has very strong hopes of its passage at this session through the House of Representatives. The gentlemen who brought it in went for too much and have thus injudiciously embarrassed the measure. It is in vain to ask Congress to adopt a principle by which they are to pay for all losses of buildings during the war whether in the use of the U.S. or not. He knows of no principle by which, for instance, they are bound to pay for any property at Buffalo not occupied by the U. States. There is a large mass of claims which ought to be provided for, that is, of houses occupied as barracks when destroyed. These gentlemen must give way as to all others and take what is their right. The bill is a general bill and if its injudicious [processes?] have not entangled it already so that they cannot get them on to the right and judicious ground they shall be able to do something with it. They are now trying to get out of the difficulty by giving way a little and modifying it. If it should pass Ford's claim will be paid at once. Even the opponents of the bill have supported the principle which supports Ford's case. If the bill does not pass he does not

believe that a new bill can be passed this session. He acknowledges how unjust the delay of Congress is as to this claim but thinks it will be paid, noting that last session a claim passed that had previously been voted down by large majorities. A postscript addresses the presidential question, noting that he feels quite indifferent. Mr. Clay was his favourite candidate. He cannot vote for Mr. Crawford and he is left to choose between Adams & Jackson. He discusses this at length.

- 1.8 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, from H.R. Stores, Whitesboro, March 25, 1825. He has enclosed the Bill as passed relative to the claims for property burnt during the War. The law is general and not conferred to the Niagara frontier. The claims on the Niagara frontier which really came within the law are very far short of what the claimants themselves in that quarter supposed them to be. Personal property which they have claimed is not included. It will be necessary for all under the payment law to have their papers presented anew to the Third Auditor. He believes Ford's papers are in the Clerk's office of the House of Representatives. Stores asked if Ford would like him to write to the clerk to have his papers delivered there in case he does not have them. A clipping is included and titled "An Act further to amend the act authorizing payment for property lost, captured, or destroyed, by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes; passed ninth April, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen".

#### **Claim correspondence, 1825-1826**

- 1.9 Copy of a letter from Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, to H.R. Stores, April 2, 1825. Ford notes that upon reflection, he thinks it better for Stores to write to the clerk of the House to hand over his papers and that this should be done as soon as convenient. Ford leaves it to Stores' discretion about the propriety of writing to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor representing the validity of his claim. Ford goes on to explain a few ideas which he thinks strengthen his claim. He adds that if he were to write to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor he might mention that General Brown can satisfy him that Ford's buildings were occupied by Major Forsyth's Riflemen, and that they were burnt. Ford had agreed to let Major Forsyth take possession of the buildings and notes that he made a strong fortification on the north side of the buildings but was driven out of them and they burnt very quickly after that.
- 1.9 Letter from Mr. Hagner, Treasury Department, 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, June 13, 1825. The letter was originally addressed to H.R. Stores and was forwarded to Ford. The letter concerns Ford's claim and informs Stores that the papers from this claim have been transferred to his office from that of the Clerk of the House of Representatives. A full investigation of this case will be made and the result communicated to him.
- 1.9 Copy of a letter from Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, to H.R. Stores, June 20, 1825. Ford notes that he should have forwarded the affidavit before, but was hoping he might

procure further proof of the damage. He then provides an account of how his buildings were occupied and destroyed during the war. His boat was also taken by Captain Forsyth for the army's use and was destroyed. Ford notes that these things all appear in his claim, which was investigated by commissioners appointed by the government. He sees no reason why the government is unwilling to abide by the award of their own commissioners. He asks to be informed if there is anything further for him to do and its confident Stores will do all he can to help.

- 1.9 Letter from Mr. Hagner, Treasury Department, 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor's office, to Henry R. Stores, Whitesboro, New York, July 9, 1825. The letter informs Stores of the particulars of Ford's claim as set forth in a schedule annexed to the commission issued by the late Commissioner. A total of \$9095 was awarded to Ford. It is noted that the distillery was not proven to be occupied by U.S. troops by order of an officer and that it will be necessary to prove this in order for compensation to be awarded for the distillery. In the Niagara cases, respectable master workmen appraised the buildings using specifications under oath to create estimates. The value of Ford's buildings should be proved this way or by the testimony of a person acquainted with the condition of the buildings and judged competent.
- 1.9 Papers respecting Ford's claim for the Old Barracks. Contains notes, letters, and affidavits concerning Nathan Ford's claim. Includes an affidavit by D.W. Church and J. Tibbits (August 15, 1825); a letter by P. Hagner, Treasury Department, 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor's office, September 1, 1825, concerning additional depositions that were not properly authenticated and lacked evidence; a letter by Nathan Ford to H.R. Stores regarding additional affidavits to be forwarded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> auditor (October 4, 1825); and affidavit of Nathan Ford (October 4, 1825). The documents are enclosed in a letter to Ford from H.R. Stores, September 12, 1825.
- 1.9 Letter from Henry R. Stores, Whitesborough, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, November 8, 1825. Stores writes that he has received a letter from Mr. Hagner which state that the papers in his case have established to his satisfaction the claim regarding the barracks and distillery. He will be travelling shortly and asks that any mail be sent to Washington, where he plans to be by December 1. The letter is postmarked Whitesboro, N.Y., Nov. 7.
- 1.9 Letter from H.R. Stores, Washington, December 15, 1825. Stores writes that he saw Mr. Hagner and it is probable before Congress rises[?] he will complete the distribution of the grant of 250,000 among the losses. If the recipient will forward him a power of attorney Stores will draw the money for him and remit it to some bank in New York unless other arrangements are made.
- 1.9 Letter from H.R. Stores, Washington, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, April 18, 1826. Stores writes that he has enclosed the amount of the award in Ford's favour on the Act relative to losses during the late war. He has enclosed the draft to Ford's order.

- 1.9 Letter from Henry R. Stores, Whitesboro, to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, June 6, 1826. Stores writes that it is necessary that Ford's affidavit should be had as posted in the annexed notice. He has made the application on Ford's behalf to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor. He notes that the enclosed notice was sent to him by Mr. Hagner. Ford can have an affidavit drawn at Ogdensburgh according to the notice and transport it to him by mail. He will then send it to Mr. Hagner. A clipping is enclosed with the letter titled "Notice to Claimants" by Peter Hagner, Treasury Department, 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor's Office, March 18, 1825. The letter is postmarked Utica, N.Y., Jun 7.

**Claim correspondence, no date**

- 1.10 Letter from N. Ford to Richard Stocton, Governor, n.d. Ford thanks him for defending his reputation on the floor of Congress. He writes of the war, stating that "the frontiers have been placed (in consequence of the war) in a very perilous situation, with respect to the enemy and by those who (supposedly) were sent as its defenders—at times it has been very difficult for the inhabitants to determine which were most to be guarded against—for it soon became a favourite principle with the army to do away civil law and institute martial law." He continues that Gen. Pike sent a military escort into the County with a blank warrant, and that eight of their citizens were arrested and taken to Sacket's Harbor. He retaliated by having the officers arrested and had hoped that would put an end to the problem but instead it seemed to "whet their appetite for this sort of mischief". He notes that his attempts to put an end to this have drawn upon him the ill will of the army. Wilkinson justified the military invasion of civil rights and applied it to the government for his justification. Ford notes that he continued to uphold the rights of the citizens and that this has brought him much persecution. He questions Wilkinson's actions after he retreated from French Mills and feels that he mishandled provisions. He writes that "disgrace has, and still does, stick like a brother to all our military movements—who is to answer for the disgrace of the expedition down the St. Lawrence?". He feels that peace is more likely to occur from the Eastern states taking a stand than through negotiations.
- 1.10 Letter by M. Sterling, n.d. The letter concerns the difficulty of submitting a claim. The writer notes that the Treasurer of the Committee of Claims has more influence in getting a claim allowed than all the administration put together. He remarks that Judge Ogden was no doubt friendly and did all he could. He notes that the claim is a fair one and that the communications already made show the obstacles encountered in the process.
- 1.10 Letter to Nathan Ford from H.R. Stores, February 28. The letter concerns Ford's claim. Stores writes that he will give it every aid in his favour with great pleasure.
- 1.10 Unfolded sheet used as an envelope for the report of the Committee of Claims. It is addressed to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence, NY. The report is a one-page extract concerning Nathan Ford's claim and awards him \$9095 for damage done to the

French barracks occupied by Major Forsyth and his riflemen, a distillery, a boat stolen by the troops, damage done to houses, and five years interest.

**Series III: Quasi-War (between America and France) Correspondence, 1794-1826, n.d.**

- 1.11 Letter to Mr. Woods, February 10, 1794. There are four pages containing two separate letters. The first letter is signed "a Whigg of 1776" and the other letter is signed "your friend & a Federalist".
- 1.11 Letter to Mr. Printer signed "a federal farmer", December 10, 1794. The letter is five pages and concerns the creation of societies "for the purpose of sowing sedition against the government of the people".
- 1.11 Letter to W. Woods signed "a Federal Jerseyman", April 1, 1797. The letter is four pages and concerns a dispute between America and France. It is written that "we have submitted to abuse, insult, robbery & plunder long enough, but I am bold to assert that the people of America will not bear it long, and when our resentment once gets in motion, take care all foreign influence".
- 1.11 Letter "for the Centinal of Freedom", signed "An American Republican", April 1, 1797. The letter is four pages and concerns relations between France and America. The writer notes that "it is well known that France has emissaries both foreigner & natives in America, ready to defend whatever she in the plentitude of her tyranny many think proper to do, yet I did not expect at so early a period to see her champions turn out to defend one of the...most unprovoked insults ever offered to an Independent nation. That is, their refusing to receive our minister and ordering him away in a disgraceful manner..."
- 1.11 For the Morris County Gazette, May 13, 1797. The letter is four pages and begins "The present is the most important period of America, since the Peace of 1783. That, by closing a long & bloody war, established us a Free & Independent Nation. This period is to determine whether we have firmness & spirit left to defend that Independence which has cost us so much blood & treasure...". It is signed "Americans".
- 1.11 Letter to Mr. Porcupine signed "Americans", dated at New Jersey, 21 May 1797? The letter concerns the possibility of war. The text reads "It is with the true principles of an American that I read the excellent speech of your President. His language warms every heart that beats high for the honor & interest[?] of America ...however I must differ in one point with him that is further negotiation. Yet if that is not inconsistent with the honor of America, it is a most desirable object to obtain redress by negotiation rather than War. That it is not absolutely in conflict to try negotiation again, we have authority much better than mine, thence my fears arise from another source which is if we wait until France has settled all her disputes in Europe, and then have to contend with her alone, I am sorry to say it is too obvious how, at least our Naval War will end, our

commerce most certainly be cut off. When their Navy is enabled to Act alone against us...we would soon make them into Soup Meager. It is too evident, France is bound by no laws, human or divine, thence the strong arm of power will only convince her. If one must go to war, let us do it, while France is engaged against a powerful Navy. Now our force brought to act against them will affect them deeply. Let loose our Privateers & declare open War. Their islands are ruined and taken before fall. Their European coats will swarm with American ship, which will totally break up all their coasting trade... This would soon convince them we will never consent to be sold to be their slaves, tho' a faction of the whole modern Philosophers both of America &...European should combine. Delays are dangerous, now I think the time to make our power known from hence all the powers of Europe will learn to know we will be free and independent Americans".

- 1.11 For the Morris County Gazette, June 12, 1797, n.d. Contains two letters. One is titled "for the Morris County Gazette and is four pages. It has no date and is four pages. The other letter is ten pages, is dated June 12, 1797, and signed "one of the people".
- 1.11 For the Centinal of Freedom, June 16, 1797. The letter is seven pages and concerns an item previously published in the paper in support of Silas Conduct's attack upon Gen. Doughty.
- 1.11 Letter to Mr. Kolloch/k., late 1790s? The letter concerns the possibility of war between France and Great Britain and how "our common country is to become distressed, our commerce ruined, our revenues from commerce fail, our expences increase, the necessity of all which must be a recourse to taxing of lands".
- 1.11 For the Morris County Gazette, September 30, 1797, Morristown. The letter is four pages and concerns slavery. It is signed "a friend to liberty & property".
- 1.12 Letter for the Morris County Gazette, to the people of the County of Morris, signed "Americans", April 10, 1798. The letter is seven pages and concerns relations between America and France. It is stated, "that our very existence as a free and mighty people is threatened by the French Republic...". Also contains the last page of another letter on the same subject, signed "Americans" and dated at Morris County, September 1797.
- 1.12 Letter for the Morris County Gazette, June 4, 1798. The letter is three pages and concerns relations between France and America. The writer states that "the great and all important questions to this country, is now to be decided, it is nothing less than whether you will defend that Independency, which you have acquired at so much expence of blood & treasure, or surrender it to France".
- 1.12 Letter to the people of the County of Morris, 1800. The letter is eight pages and concerns the laws of Congress and an address by Joseph Halsey. The writer argues that the address lacks candour, reason, and truth.

- 1.12 For the Newcastle Gazette, Morristown, November 5, 1804. The letter is four pages and concerns religion.
- 1.12 Letter “to the people”, signed “Americans”, February 1811. The letter is six pages and concerns American Republicans, Federalists, and Federal Republicans.
- 1.12 Letter for the New York Evening Post, c. 1826. The letter is one page and concerns the appointment of Albert Gallatin, minister to Great Britain. The writer disagrees with the appointment.
- 1.12 Letter to Mr. Printer, n.d. The letter is two pages and concerns resolutions sent from Virginia and Kentucky to their Legislature for concurrence.
- 1.12 Letter written in response to a recently published letter to the editor, 1 ½ pages, n.d.
- 1.12 Letter to Mr. Printer, n.d., signed “a Whigg of 1776”, New Jersey. The letter is two pages and concerns the prospect of war. It is written “that any man...can wish to involve this now happy land in war I cannot conceive...the great and astonishing improvements that are daily making in agriculture & manufacturing, the...buildings that have risen in every part of New Jersey since the adoption & operation of our Happy & Glorious Federal Constitution...”.
- 1.12 Letter to Messrs. Printers, n.d. The letter is two pages and concerns a recently published letter to the editor that the writer disagrees with.
- 1.12 Letter to Mr. Woods for the Newark Gazette, n.d. Only the first page of the letter is included. The letter concerns a dispute between the Americans and the French, noting that “the public mind is extremely agitated at the scandalous depredations committed by order of the French Directory, on our commerce, and their refusing our minister, the feelings & resentment of every man who is at heart an American cannot fail being roused when he sees the Independency of his country called into question, and that by a nation pretending much friendship to us...”.
- 1.12 Letter to the President of the United States, n.d. The letter is three pages and concerns a dispute with a foreign power, and expresses satisfaction at the President’s handling of the affair. The writer states that “at a crisis so important as the present, when insults to our government and injuries to our fellow citizens have roused the indignation of every honest American—when the hostile violence of foreign power attacks us abroad and her secret agents endeavor to disunite us home...the Grand Jury of the County of Morris in the State of New Jersey approach the Chief Magistrate of the United States and...present to him their tribute of respect for his talents and zeal for the public good and to assure him of their entire confidence in the wisdom and justice of his administration.”

**Series IV: Other Correspondence, 1792-1903, n.d.****Personal Correspondence, 1798-1856**

- 1.13 Letter to Timothy Ford, Charleston, South Carolina, signed N.F., Ogdensburgh, October 12, 1798. The letter concerns a new settlement that the writer is establishing. He states that “the Oswegatchie fort falling within our purchase of the State, and by some means or other not being reserved, affords me very excellent temporary accommodations. Upon my arrival here I found myself placed in a situation, almost totally without the protection of the State, being at least five hundred miles from N.Y. and at least one hundred and fifty miles from any inhabitants of the U. States and upon the line of Upper Canada, the Governor of which appeared to be rather hostile, than otherwise, towards the United States—added to all this a national of Indians, not the most friendly (and whose village is but three miles from one) and they stimulated by white people in Canada (who had purchased large tracts from them, within our purchase) to believe that I was an interloper, and meant to take away their hunting grounds & c.”. He goes on to say that he received a late and unexpected visit from an Indian Chief who wanted to know how he came to take possession of their lands without their leave, and that they wished for him to be gone. He refused and reprimanded them for visiting him in such an “impudent manner”. They assured him they would not speak to him on the subject again and have not troubled him again. He notes that the St. Regis Nation sold the land, and the Oswegatchie Indians say it is theirs, and this is a matter for them to settle. He continues that since “the white people finding they could not get the better of me thro’ the medium of the Indians, set about the matter themselves more openly”. He remarks on his mental and physical fatigue at undertaking a settlement so remote. He writes in detail about the construction of a dam and grist mill. His next project will be ironworks. He notes that the settlement is progressing and trusts that in a few years it will be extensive. He concludes that if he was in a convent he should know as much about what is happening in the world as he does there and asks to be given the news about the city.
- 1.13 Letter to Thomas Morril from Nathan Ford, May 11, 1802. The letter concerns a slave of Morril’s. Ford writes that Morril’s slave came to him that morning and informed him that she and his slave had engaged each other as companions. Ford states that he will take her for sixty pounds if Morril can vouch for her as honest, sober, and industrious.
- 1.13 Letter to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence, from Maria Ford, Morris Town, October 12, 1812. Maria chastises her uncle for not writing to her after she has sent him several letters. She comments on the war, noting that “the prospect is very gloomy for us all but we are in hopes the war will take a more favorable turn.” She describes a trip to New York that was longer than she expected.
- 1.13 Letter from Nathan Ford to B. Shaw & Arnold, October 29, 1825. The letter is titled “Proposition for the sale of my mill and all my water privilege at Ogdensburgh”. Ford

proposes selling his water privileges with about 30 to 40 acres of land for fifty thousand dollars. He also offers to sell as much land containing pine lumber as the purchaser would like, for ten dollars per acre.

- 1.13 Letter to Judge Ford, Ogdensburgh, St. Lawrence County, from George Shaw, Philadelphia, December 14, 1825. The letter concerns financial matters and the distribution of his assets.
- 1.13 Letter from [N.C.]? Ford, Toronto, to Sidney Jones, Brockville, August 17, 1850. The letter is written to Susan and concerns her activities and travels. She remarks that she “will give...particulars of one of the preliminary steps to Canada becoming Free & Enlightened”. Also includes a transcript of a letter from the writer’s Uncle Nathan.
- 1.13 Family history. Eight pages of family history, n.d.
- 1.13 Typewritten copy of a letter from Stephen Jones (son of Elisha and Mary Jones) to his brother Israel Jones, Sissibo, March 5, 1828. The letter concerns family news.
- 1.13 Note regarding an inventory of Miss D. Ford’s furniture, n.d.
- 1.13 List of items at auction of C. Lawton, September 8, 1830. The list is one page and includes kitchenware and tools.
- 1.13 Ephraim Jones and his descendants as recorded by Sidney Jones before 1856. Two and a half pages of family history.

**Professional Correspondence, 1812-1833, n.d.**

- 1.14 Letter to the Committee of the several Towns of the county of St. Lawrence by Nathan Ford, Chairman of the County Committee, Ogdensburgh, 26 November 1812. The letter is typewritten and concerns the upcoming Congressional election. He endorses the candidate Moss Kent, who he feels will “promote a speedy restoration of Peace and Commerce”. This was written a few months after the War of 1812 began and this is acknowledged in the letter. Ford writes that “we view with satisfaction the vast majority, throughout the northern and eastern States, who are for peace and commerce—Shall we, who are upon the borders of the frontier, be wanting in our exertion to procure that blessing, which so closely interest our happiness and property? We trust we shall not”.
- 1.14 Letter to D.A. Ogden, Member of Congress, Washington City, from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, February 14, 1818. The letter concerns Crawford’s report and boat regulations. He notes that any individual residing in the neighborhood of the Northern and Western waters of the United States, and particularly the St. Lawrence, should be excited by this.

- 1.14 Copy of a letter to the Honorable H. Stores, Member of Congress, from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, February 14, 1818. Ford asks about the testimony of Genl. John Doughty and Thomas Mitchel. He also discusses Crawford's report and boat regulations. The report recommends a non-intercourse law, meaning that no one can cross the St. Lawrence without making a regular entrance and clearance and that Ferry boats are not excepted. He asks more about how this would work. He adds that he has written to Judge Ogden about the matter as well. He notes that this attempt to suppress smuggling comes with consequences, and the effect on the community would be dreadful. He asks that Stores consider the matter, and give it his opposition.
- 1.14 Letter to Noah Worcester, Secretary of the Peace Society, Boston, from Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, May 5, 1818. Ford asks to be made a member of the Peace Society. He indicates that he has brought up the subject with local gentlemen, as well as those across the river in Canada, and circulated Peace Society pamphlets. He feels that he would be able to form a very respectable branch of society at this place that would include members from both sides of the St. Lawrence River. A rough copy of this letter is also included.
- 1.14 List of articles received from Mrs. Coupland, February 2, 1833. The articles were for security for \$80 lent to her and her husband John. Most of the items are kitchenware.
- 1.14 Memo concerning house taxes, n.d. The memo is initialled L. Ford. The memo is written by the Commissioner for the Valuation of House Land to clarify falsehoods and misrepresentations that have been propagated. He notes that the system exempts the poor, falls very light upon the lower and middle class, and is heavy upon the wealthy. He comments that this ought to be the system of taxation and he questions why a claim should be raised against this law. A list of the house values and the corresponding tax levied is included.

**Letters not written by or to Ford, 1811-1821**

- 1.15 Letter "to the People" signed "Americans", March 31, 1811. The letter is eight pages and compares the relationship between the United States and Britain and the United States and France. He remarks that the United States "continued for the last ten years to submit to France, in the most degrading manner, and have taken every opportunity to quarrel with and irritate Great Britain and tho England has given us causes of complaint her conduct has been so far inferior in that respect to France, that there is no kind of comparison...France has robbed us of millions of dollars and treated us with the utmost contempt. While England we scold tho France we submit."
- 1.15 Letter to David Ford, Morris Town, St. Lawrence County, signed A.G.M., September 5, 1817. The letter contains news about her financial situation.

- 1.15 Letter from Mrs. Morris to Mrs. Ford, Morris Town, St. Lawrence County, March 8, 1821. The letter concerns troubles with people including Wm. Morris and David Parish.

**Correspondence with Beverley Jones and Family, 1792-1903**

- 1.16 Copy of a letter by Eph'rm Jones, Augusta, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1792, to Israel Jones. There are three typewritten copies of the letter. The letter mostly concerns an encounter he had with Governor Simcoe as he travelled through the area on his way to the seat of government in Canada. He was impressed by Governor Simcoe and listened to his plans for building roads. The letter concludes with some brief family news.
- 1.16 Letter and other documents concerning steamships, 1860-1861. Consists of two letters and a charter from H. Jones and S.J. Jones to Sidney Ford Jones of the steamers the *Whitby*, the *Ranger*, the *Oshawa*, and the *Protection*, April 2, 1860.
- 1.16 Letter from Robert C. Jones, Brockville, March 22, 1866. The letter concerns the sale of a building and the details of the transaction.
- 1.16 Letter from Robert C. Jones, Brockville to Beverly Jones, May 29, 1866. The letter concerns business matters.
- 1.16 Handwritten pages. One page is a letter and the other is a numbered list. The ink has bled which makes it very difficult to read. The letter is dated June 1869.
- 1.16 Clipping from the Binghamton Leader, June 3, 1903, titled "Gen. Jones Birthday: Review of the career of one who has been a prominent factor in the city's activities". The article is two pages.

**Correspondence by David Ford, 1798-1808, n.d.**

- 1.17 Letter "to the Public" by David Ford, Morris Town, October 8, 1798. The letter concerns Aaron Kitchel, one of the candidates for Congress, and an address Kitchel wrote that was published in the Farmer's Journal, which Ford takes objection to. Includes two drafts.
- 1.17 Letter to Mr. Coleman from David Ford, December 20, 1808. The letter is four pages and concerns the prospect of war with Great Britain.
- 1.17 Letter to the Electors of Morris and Sussex County, signed D.F., n.d. The letter is eight pages and concerns an address given by Aaron Kitchel, a candidate for Congress, that throw some aspersions on Ford's conduct. Ford has written the letter in response to Kitchel's address.

- 1.17 Document titled "Toasts for the celebration of the downfall of Bonaparte, the greatest Tyrant and Murderer which ever disgraced the World". It is 2 ½ pages and was written by D. Ford.

**Correspondence by Governor Morris/Mrs. Morris, 1803-1821**

- 1.18 Memorandum between Governor Morris and David Ford, October 13, 1803. The agreement concerns land in the Township of Hague and is signed by Gov. Morris, Nathan Ford, Louis Hasbrouck, and David Ford.
- 1.18 Letter by Gov. Morris, October 20, 1807. The letter is addressed to multiple recipients who were proprietors of lands in the St. Lawrence (including Ogden and Ford), and concerns township surveys.
- 1.18 Letter by Ann Morris to N. Ford, November 4, 1816. The letter concerns a debt Ford has with Ogden. A reply by Ford is included on a separate sheet of paper and is dated November 16, 1816. Ford assures her that he does have a considerable debt with Ogden, which he has been unable to pay because the war has destroyed much of his business. He states that he will meet his payment to Ogden, which in turn will enable Ogden to discharge the debt due from him to Mr. Morris' estate.
- 1.18 Letter from Mrs. Gov. Morris to David Ford, Morris Town, April 27, 1821. The letter is one page and concerns the settlement of an estate.
- 1.18 Letter from Mrs. Morris to Mrs. Ford, 1821. The letter concerns her difficult financial situation.

**Correspondence to Mr. Craft, 1799**

- 1.19 Letter to Mr. Craft signed "Americans", November 18, 1799. The letter is four pages and concerns the proceedings against the murderer Thomas Nash.

**Correspondence to Mr. Mann, n.d.**

- 1.20 Letter to Mr. Mann, unsigned, n.d. The letter is four pages and concerns a group of citizens who oppose the government, and support movements such as the Western Rebellion. Includes a one-page document titled "An infamous Falsehood detected" that was written in response to an article published in a Morris paper that "endeavors to stain the Federal character".

**Correspondence to George Shaw, 1826**

- 1.21 Copy of a letter from N. Ford, Ogdensburgh, to George Shaw, February 14, 1826. The letter concerns financial matters affecting family members and the distribution of assets.

**Correspondence by L. Sherwood, 1803-1805**

- 1.22 Letter from L. Sherwood to Nathan Ford, Ogdensburgh, December 18, 1803. The letter concerns the Assembly for dancing.
- 1.22 Letter from L. Sherwood, Augusta, to Judge Ford, Ogdensburgh, November 4, 1805. The letter concerns business matters.

**Correspondence by John Strachan, 1806**

- 1.23 Letter from John Strachan, Cornwall, September 18, 1806. The letter concerns the death of his servant's husband, who drowned in a river near the recipient. He asks that any belongings the man carried with him be returned to his wife.

**Other Documents, 1812, n.d.**

- 1.24 Partial letter to Nathan Ford from Philip Kearney, New York, November 6, 1812. Only the very top portion of the letter remains. Not enough of the letter is left to determine its contents.
- 1.24 Folded sheet labelled "Copy of a letter to the Honorable R. Stockton & Grovesnor, Members of Congress, on the subject of Wilkinson". There is no letter enclosed.
- 1.24 Document titled "Debtor and Creditor states according to a decision of Congress upon the fixed report of the General Board of Commissioners".
- 1.24 Letter for the Morris County Gazette. The letter is unsigned and has no date. It concerns the Treaty of 1794 between the United States and Great Britain. The writer remarks that "all the Acts of our Government, with which I am acquainted, certainly contradict a belief that they understand the Treaty as authorizing the British to take our Vessels, except when loaded with contraband goods..."