

# Joseph Edward Masters fonds, 1823-1967, n.d.

RG 9

## Brock University Archives

**Creator:** Joseph Edward Masters

**Extent:** 15 cm of textual records  
25 tokens  
1 photograph

**Abstract:** Fonds consists of records accumulated by Joseph Edward Masters during his life and career as Reeve and Town Clerk of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Fonds primarily consists of papers and correspondence, but also includes a notebook with personal entries, and ration books and meat tokens from the Wartime Prices & Trade Board. Also included are newspaper clippings and other items relating to Janet Carnochan, a prominent figure in the Niagara community, as well as papers relating to the Niagara Rifle Association.

**Materials:** Correspondence, indentures, certificates and licenses, members lists, speeches, news clippings, financial documents, ration books and tokens.

**Processed by:** Chantal Cameron

**Last updated:** October 2023

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**Preferred citation:** Joseph Edward Masters fonds, 1823-1967, n.d., RG 9, Brock University Archives.

**Acquisition info.:** Material was acquired prior to 1992. No custodial history is known.

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**Biographical Sketch**

Joseph Edward Masters (1871-1955), a native of Niagara, was a prominent figure in Niagara-on-the-Lake who served as Town Clerk and Reeve. The son of Joseph and Margaret Keith Masters, he received his education in the public and high schools of Niagara and proceeded to work in the ferrying business. His political career began in 1904 when he was elected to the Public School Board to complete his father's term after his death. In 1913 he was elected to the Town Council, and in 1915 was elected Reeve. In 1919 his work was honoured with the appointment of the Wardenship and he became mayor in 1932. He was also a member of several other groups and organizations, including the Public Library Board, the Hospital Board, the Niagara Historical Society, and St. Mark's Church.

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### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of records accumulated by Joseph Edward Masters during his life and career as Reeve and Town Clerk of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Fonds primarily consists of papers and correspondence, but also includes a notebook with personal entries, and ration books and meat tokens from the Wartime Prices & Trade Board. Also included are newspaper clippings and other items relating to Janet Carnochan, a prominent figure in the Niagara community, as well as papers relating to the Niagara Rifle Association.

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### **Organization**

The fonds was organized into five series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1907-1967, n.d.

Series II: Certificates, Licenses and other Official Documents, 1877-1950, n.d.

Series III: Town of Niagara, 1845-1955, n.d.

Series IV: People, 1897-1943, n.d.

Series V: Assorted material, 1823-1945, n.d.

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### **Inventory**

**Series I: Correspondence, 1907-1967, n.d.**

- 1.1 Correspondence, 1916-1967, n.d. Contains letters written to J.E. Masters in his role as Town Clerk, as well as a few letters written by him. Other letters not by or to J.E. Masters are also included. Contains a letter from the Lincoln County Recruiting League re: organizing recruiting campaigns for local battalions to go overseas (1916); letters from the Great War Veterans Association re: a St. Catharines War Memorial (1922); and a letter from the Royal Train Canada, Acting Private Secretary to the King, stating that it is not possible for alterations to be made to the programme for their Majesties' visit to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls (1939). Two of the letters concern the Butler family.
- 1.2 Envelopes, 1907-1963, n.d. Contains 48 envelopes addressed to various people including Joseph E. Masters; Mrs. J.E. Masters; Mrs. D. Hughes (Toronto); and Mrs. Winnifred Hughes (Toronto). Also contains first day of issue stamps with envelopes for 1956-1957 commemorating hockey, Canadian wildlife, the 5<sup>th</sup> International Philatelic Exhibition, fire awareness, David Thompson (explorer and map-maker), the Universal Postal Union conference, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Congress.

**Series II: Certificates, Licenses and other Official Documents, 1877-1950, n.d.**

- 1.3 St. Mark's Church land documents, 1877-1928. Contains 7 documents including a deed of land to Hannah Clement; an assignment of mortgage from Louis Maurer to James Aikins; assignment of mortgage from James Aikins to John Gaul(?); assignment of mortgage from James Aikins to Louis Maurer; mortgage from Joseph E. Masters to James Aikins; assignment of mortgage from James Aikins to John Freel; and a deed of land between the trustees of St. Mark's Cemetery and Joseph E. Masters. The documents include an envelope labelled "Cancelled Mortgages".
- 1.4 Other documents, 1918-1950. Contains an invoice to J.E. Masters from Marquis & Bowman, Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries Public, for preparing a discharge of mortgage held by John Freel (1918); an indenture between Canada Steamship Lines and Master Bros.; and an application for change of beneficiaries to Winnifred Annie Masters (Joseph E. Masters wife), April 1950.
- 1.5 Licenses, 1907-1925. Contains Gill Net Licenses to J.E. Masters from the Ontario Game and Fisheries Department (1922-1925); Ferry Operator Licenses to Joseph Edward Masters and Arthur Ernest Masters (1907-1917); and Special Fishery Licenses to Master Bros. from the Province of Ontario (1907-1920).

- 1.6 Certificates and Regulations, 1882-1936. Contains a certificate to Joseph Edward Masters as Master of a passenger steamer in minor inland waterways; Lay Reader's license to Joseph Edward Masters (1896, 1936); certificate to J.E. Masters from the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Ontario (1905); a blank Hawkers' & Pedlers' License signed by F.A.B. Clench (n.d.); an admission certificate to Joseph E. Masters from Collegiate Institutes and High Schools of Ontario (1882); rules and regulations for the examination of candidates for certificates of competency or service as [Ships] Masters; a letter re: Joseph Masters' application for a certificate as master of a passenger steamer in minor inland waters (1905); an inspector's certificate for the passenger steamboat *Viola*, owned by the Masters Bros. (1908); and a certificate of British Registry of the ship *Viola* (1907).
- 1.7 Niagara Rifle Association, 1905, n.d. Contains a service roll with the names of members, rank, residence, age and date of enrolment; and a letter by R. Cartwright, Lt. Col., A.A.G.M. with several attached documents including a copy of registration for the Rifle Association; form of application; enrolment form; bond for rifles; requisition forms; target practice returns; and claims for care and maintenance of rifle range.

**Series III: Town of Niagara, 1845-1955, n.d.**

- 1.8 Members Lists (Committees, Boards, etc.), 1845-1955, n.d. Contains typewritten list of office holders for the position of Mayor, Reeve, Clerk, and those who have served in Town Council, 1845-1948; list of Librarians (1848?-1933?); Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Treasurers of the Public Library (1848-1932); list of Library rooms (1848-1866) and location of Post office (1851-1912); handwritten notes re: Niagara Public Library meetings (1850-1922); list of Library Officers (1866-1898); alphabetical list by surname of members of Town Council from 1856; typewritten list of long-serving members of Town Council with mayors who resigned before finishing their term and Reeves who died in office; typewritten list of Officers of the Niagara Public Library from 1848 to 1938; a typewritten list of subscriptions to tower fund; minutes of the Memorial Committee, Town of Niagara (1923?); list of Town of Niagara officials including the Board of Police President and Clerk, Mayor, Reeve, Deputy Reeve and Clerk (1845-1932); Niagara Street Guide (alphabetical listing of street names and distances); a list of Council members of the Town of Niagara (1856-1955); and a handwritten list of members of the Board of Police, Collectors of Customs, and Postmasters.
- 1.9 Essays, Addresses and Notes, 1898-1954, n.d. Contains an address by Wm. Kirby at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Niagara Public Library, (Dec. 12 1898); "Neighbourhood Notes" by J.E. Masters (July 1954); "Do you know" by Fred Williams, an article about Rev. Robert Addison, first rector and founder of St. Mark's Anglican Church at Niagara; a poem by E.

Byron Hostetter titled "If it may please their Majesties"; an article titled "Niagara: its Genesis and Exodus" about the history of Niagara; a document concerning the sale of land belonging to St. Mark's Church; notes from Drummond book of descent; an article about a race between the *Chicora* and the *Rothsay* across Lake Ontario; and minutes of members of the Memorial Committee (June 1922).

**Series IV: People, 1897-1943, n.d.**

- 1.10 J.E. Masters, 1897-1943, n.d. Contains a photograph of a group of choir boys; news clippings about the death of Dorothy Masters, daughter of Joseph Masters, and the death of John Thornton; news clippings about the death of Rev. Charles K. Masters with a graduation photograph of Charles Masters; 2 copies of a certificate of baptism for Joseph Edward Masters, October 6, 1943; typewritten biography of Joseph Edward Masters; photocopied news clipping about Joseph E. Masters from the Niagara Advance, December 23, 1920; certificate for Joseph E. Masters, Bailiff, First Division Court, November 12, 1897; invoice to J.E. Masters from St. Mark's Church, September 1928; invoice to J.E. Masters from Rigg Bros., June 15, 1931; Report Outwards Coastwise (for a registered coasting vessel or boat proceeding from one port to another in the Dominion of Canada), Oct. 26, 1904; and a printed blank certificate for the Port of Niagara for a vessel bound for Jordan listing J.E. Masters as Master of the vessel; a certificate to Joseph Masters as a Lay Representative, dated at Niagara, April 11, 1898; and a typewritten article about the death of Fred Masters.
- 1.11 Notebook belonging to J.E. Masters, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1901. Contains "Rules for Mensuration"; a table of the specific gravities of solids; specific gravity of liquids; church history; birth dates of members of the Masters family including Joseph Edward Masters, his wife Mabel Clare Thornton, Charles Edward Masters and Merrill Isabel Barry Masters; and lists of birthdays of members of various families including the Masters, Hewgills, Woodruffs, and Wallaces.
- 1.12 Janet Carnochan, 1898-1926, n.d. Contains letters to Reeve Masters from Janet Carnochan (1923); news clippings about the death and burial of Janet Carnochan (1926); a letter from Isabella Carnochan re: the donation of books to the Niagara Public Library by the late Janet Carnochan; a typewritten Janet Carnochan centenary program; a handwritten address by Janet Carnochan at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Niagara Public Library (Dec. 12., 1898); typewritten dedication of tablet in her honour; and an untitled handwritten speech about J. Carnochan.

**Series V: Assorted Material, 1823-1945, n.d.**

- 1.13 Assorted notes, clippings and reports, 1823-1937, n.d. Includes an advertisement for P. Bishop Stores, Niagara-on-the-Lake; handwritten list of U.S. State Capitals; Niven Survey field notes and report (1909); sketch of lots between Church Lane and Wellington St. with dimensions and owner's names and accompanying lists and notes; handwritten list of changes shown by plan of Capt. Henry Davison (Feb. 1, 1823); a clipping titled "Niagara" about the death of Miss Mary Beaven, daughter of Rd. Dr. James Beaven; a handwritten copy of an article from the Gazette titled "Blinco aids Cupid" about acting mayor Henry Blinco performing a marriage ceremony, Niagara Falls, July 2, 1937; a printed financial statement of the Niagara Hydro-Electric Commission (1926); and a typewritten article by Frederick Helson titled *Did Hydro Engineers draft the Saunders Plan to abandon Niagara Plants?*, n.d.
- 1.14 Rations books and tokens, 1945, n.d. Six ration books belonging to Winnifred Annie Hughes of Toronto. The ration books come in an envelope of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board with another envelope containing 25 meat tokens.
- 1.15 Financial documents, 1902-1909. Contains invoices to Robert Luffman from Lewis Moyer (Feb.-Oct. 1909) and invoices to Robert Luffman from Titterington & Co. (1902-1909).