

The May-Morey Papers, 1849-1861, 1905, 1917

RG 79

Brock University Archives

Creators:	Andrew May and Erecta Morey
Extent:	0.15m textual records Total: 1 half box
Abstract:	Collection of materials from Andrew May and Erecta Morey; including handwritten notes and letters, invitations, books, and patents. The bulk of the collection consists of letters from Andrew to Erecta.
Materials:	Handwritten notes, books, and patents.
Repository:	Brock University Archives
Processed by:	Lynne Prunskus
Finding Aid:	Jen Goul
Last Updated:	January, 2006

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Preferred Citation: RG 79, The May-Morey Papers, 1849-1861, 1905, 1917
Brock University Archives.

Acquisition Info.: Collection donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert May, July 18, 2005.

Administrative History:

Andrew May was the fifth generation of Mays to live in the St. Catharines area. May was born on August 24th 1830 on his father's 300 acre estate in Grantham Township. As a young boy

the family moved into St. Catharines where May was educated at “the Old Academy” (notes by Andrew May, May-Morey collection). May later moved to Hamilton where he studied portrait painting with John B. and Mark Harrison. While May studied art in Hamilton Ontario, a continual flood of letters and valentines arrived for Erecta. On March 1st 1853, the two long-time valentines wed and later had four children together; Louise E. (1854-1945), Annie E. (1859-1978), Lallah F. (1860-1917) and William Andrew (1870-1948). Shortly after marriage the couple moved to London where May moved from art into dentistry under the tutelage of Dr. Darine Perrin. In 1860, after two years of study the couple returned to St. Catharines where May set up his own dental practice. May became very resourceful making all of his own tools and “also remodeled an old sewing machine for a lathe” (notes by Andrew May, May-Morey Collection). Some of his inventions were even patented, such as the “waxing up tool for dental trial plates” (Patent, Andrew May- Dentist, May-Morey Collection). The couple is buried together, along with two of their daughters Louise and Annie at Victoria Lawn Cemetery in St. Catharines (Grantham Township Ancestors, SPCL FC 3153 G6 P375 1999).

The May family has deep roots in the St. Catharines community beginning in 1739 and continuing today with the Mayholme Foundation. “Mayholme was built in 1857 for George May [Andrew May’s second cousin] by Orren Cole, of the Cole Brothers, Ten Mile Creek (Homer). This was the second house on the property granted in 1801 by the Crown to Peter May, U. E . George May, farmed here until his death in 1891, when he willed the property to his daughter Anna May who had married Eugene F. Dwyer in 1877. Their son Leslie continued farming, selling most of this land just shortly before his death in 1970. The remaining property and the house were inherited by his daughter Corlene (Dwyer) Taylor who has donated it to the Mayholme Foundation which she founded” to aid people in researching their past. (http://www.st.catharines.com/recreation/rec_ps_culture_events_doorsopen.asp)

Scope and Content: The bulk of the materials consist of correspondence addressed to Erecta Morey. There are some personal notes of Andrew May and some of his patents for dental related inventions. The collection contains two books.

Organization: The records were arranged into four series:

Series I, Letters

Series II, Official Documents - Patents

Series III, Personal Papers

Series IV, Literature

Inventory:

Series I. Letters

- 1.1-1.4 Letters from Andrew May to Erecta Morey, 1849-1852 (39 letters)
- 1.5 Letters from various correspondents to Erecta Morey, 1849-1861 (9 letters)

Series II. Official Documents - Patents

- 1.6 Letters Patent – Andrew May #785904, 1905
- 1.7 Patent – Andrew May, Dentist #90915, 1905

Series III. Personal Papers

- 1.8 Fanny Gray: A Ballad of Real Life Very Popular in Private Circles, ca. 1860-1880
- 1.9 Invitation to a cotillion party in Port Robinson, 1851
- 1.10 Invitation to New Years dance, ca. 1850
- 1.11 May Family Tree (photocopy), n.d.
- 1.12 Notes by Andrew May, n.d.; includes personal and family history (4 pages)
- 1.13 Poems, Valentines, and memorabilia, ca. 1850

Series IV. Literature

- 1.14 Letter Writer, ca. 1844
- 1.15 Book of Common Praise, 1917
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Added Entries: 600 May, Andrew, 1830-1916
600 Morey, Erecta, 1832-1911

Subject Access: 650 Mayholme (House : St. Catharines, Ont.)
650 St. Catharines (Ont.) -- History.
650 History--Research

Related Materials:

Grantham Township Ancestors, SPCL FC 3153 G6 P375 1999

Mayholme: 525 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, SPCL FC 3155.45
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