

**Benjamin Woodruff Price Papers
1851, 1853-1860, 1862-1863, 1874, n.d.**

RG 342

Brock University Archives

Creator: Price, Benjamin Woodruff

Extent: 2 cm textual records; 62 items of correspondence

Abstract: The papers of Benjamin Woodruff Price includes correspondence received as well as a few copies of correspondence sent. Letter writers include close family members as well as distant cousins. Also included are some business correspondence related to Price's activities as a jeweler and watchmaker in Beamsville and Fonthill.

Materials: Correspondence

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Edie Williams

Finding Aid: Edie Williams

Last Updated: May 2011

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Preferred Citation:

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Acquisition Info.: The fonds were in the possession of the late Louis J. Cahill and were donated by his estate in 2011.

Administrative History:

The fonds includes sixty two items of correspondence between Benjamin Woodruff Price, aka Woodruff, Ben or Uncle, and various family members, both immediate and distant cousins. Also included is business correspondence related to Price's activities as a watchmaker and/or jeweler.

Benjamin Woodruff Price was born in Thorold Township ca. 1831, the son of Joseph Price and Mary Smith. B.W. Price married Ella or Ellen McGlashan (1851-1906) ca. 1868. Price died between 1891 and 1901, his burial location is unknown at present. A watchmaker and jeweler, Price lived most of his life in Fonthill, Ont. He also included auctioneer, undertaker and photographer as some of his other professional activities.

His siblings included David Smith Price (wife Isabella Ann), John Smith Price (wife Elizabeth Jane), and sisters Susan Page (husband Edward Rice Page), Jerusha Price, Mary Price and Martha W. Stone (husband Dudley Ward Stone). John Smith Price died 18 April 1860, leaving no descendents. It is likely that G.W. Stone was a nephew to B.W. Price, the son of his sister Martha W. Stone and her husband Dudley Ward Stone.

Susan Page was a sister of Benjamin Woodruff Price. She was married to Edward Rice Page and they had at least two children, Joseph and Clayton. At the time of this correspondence they lived in Suspension Bridge, NY, now part of Niagara Falls, New York. Edward Rice Page's occupation was listed as saloon keeper.

The Price family appears to have had a very large extended family. This information was gleaned from the contents of letters of Maggie Tisdale, daughter of Ephraim and Hannah (Price) Tisdale, P.A. or Ann Morgan, [may also be Phebe Ann] of Newark, NY? and Marietta House of Bayham Township.

DeWitt Higgins of Suspension Bridge, NY aka Niagara Falls, NY was an auctioneer, specialized in buying jewellery, watches,

clocks, from individuals and reselling his product to others like B.W. Price.

Scope and Content:

The bulk of the materials consist of correspondence. The correspondence has been arranged into two series and arranged chronologically in the folders.

Organization: The fonds is comprised of two series, Series I, Business correspondence and Series II, Personal correspondence.

Inventory:

**Series I. Business Correspondence, 1856-1860,
1862-1863, 1874, n.d.**

- 1.1.1 Receipt: Paid by Mr. Woodruff Price to William Page, October 13, 1856 for 1 silk oilcloth cape, \$1.50, Merrittville, January 1, 1857
- 1.1.2 James A.? Ball to Woodruff Price, Thorold 30 Dec 1856; Includes Stephen H. Price is in the Merrittsville jail.
- 1.1.3 William Page to Woodruff Price, Merrittville, 23 June 1857
- 1.1.4 DeWitt Higgins to B.W. Price, Suspension Bridge, NY, 7 August 1857; Includes information about clocks and watches
- 1.1.5 H.A. Baird to Mr. Price, Ingersoll, 4 September 1857. Includes closing business in two weeks, thinks about setting up business in Welland Co.
- 1.1.6 DeWitt Higgins to Price, Suspension Bridge, NY, 1 November 1857. Includes information about clocks and watches
- 1.1.7 DeWitt Higgins to Friend Price, Suspension Bridge NY, 16 November 1857. Includes stock of watches and other jewelry. Mentions Price building a house
- 1.1.8 DeWitt Higgins to Friend Price, Suspension Bridge, NY 13

January 1858. Rec'd letter via Joseph Page. Includes watches, jewelry as stock on hand

- 1.1.9 DeWitt Higgins to Friend Price, Niagara City, NY 26 June 1858
Includes: stricken with measles; purchase of many items of jewelry, offering them to "Friend Price" to resell, also discusses option of going into business with Price in Drummondville
- 1.1.10 DeWitt Higgins to Friend Price, Niagara City, NY, 2 August 1858
Includes: health is worse, requests the return of jewelry not sold by Price, report of circuses to be held 11th to 13th, also requests any cash he has that is owed him.
- 1.1.11 DeWitt Higgins to B.W. Price, Niagara City, 17 August 1858;
Reports ill health, need to go home to recuperate, requests return of unsold merchandise and any proceeds in cash
- 1.1.12 H.A. Baird to B. Price, Dunnville, 11 December 1858. Report of watch making/jewellery business in Dunnville
- 1.1.13 Wm. Rees to Wm R. Havens, Seneca Falls, NY, 2 May 1859
Report of trip to Cleveland and President in New York; also reports access to cash is poor
- 1.1.14 Wm R. Havens to B.W. P[rice], Grantham, 6 June 1859.
Reports no cash for payment as expected due to nonpayment from nephew. Nephews note is attached. (see 1.1.13)
- 1.1.15 O.R. N?? to B.W. Price, Suspension Bridge, NY, 19 July 1859
Includes information on main spring for watch repair
- 1.1.16 Newbury & Briely? to B.W. Price, Hamilton, 30 September 1859;
Reports receipt of \$14 and a matter about watches
- 1.1.17 Newbury & Brierly to B.W. Price, Hamilton, 4 February 1860;
Reports receipt of package of four watches and cancellation of charges
- 1.1.18 Jacob Keefer to B.W. Price, Thorold, 28 July 1862; Includes statement of account of the late John S. Price with Jacob Keefer
- 1.1.19 Peter Chrysler to Dear Sirs, Brantford, 24 December 1860;
Includes purchase of land in Burford
- 1.1.20 Felix Rice to Mr. Price, Welland, 6 August 1862; Includes

posting bail. Matter concerns difficulties in his marital relations. Also mentions William Clark, Thomas Gould and Fulson.

- 1.1.21 W. Brooks, Bailiff to B.W. Price, Thorold, 19 January 1863
Includes execution of a note by or on Garner
- 1.1.22 E. H. Forman to B.W. Price, 6 April 1863; Includes 9 acres of
land in the Brantford and/or Burford area
- 1.1.23 George Baxter to Woodruff Price, Thorold, 16 April 1863;
Includes information about money due him through a claim on
Price's late brother's estate
- 1.1.24 Greenwood's Dispensary to Mr. Price, St. Catharines, 1
January 1874 Includes invoice
- 1.1.25 ? Armbrust to B.W. Price, Welland, 19 March 1874 Includes
report about money owed to Armbrust on account
- 1.1.26 P. McCarthy to B.W. Price, St. Catharines, 30 July 1874.
Includes collection of payment on account for W. G. Bennett.
- 1.1.27 Isaac Marlatt to Mr. Price, Beamsville, 28 October, n.d. Includes
note of collection against Mr. Bellinger

Series II. Personal Correspondence, 1851, 1853-1855, 1857-1859, n.d.

- 1.2.1 Phoebe Price to "Dear Cousin", Woodruff Price, June 23, 1851.
Includes: California gold specimen, come for a visit to Thorold
- 1.2.2 B. Ellis to Dear Friend, Niagara City, 6 December 1851.
Includes: Jerusha, need for a housekeeper, Kenricks, one
legged man, Uncle David Smith, DeWitt.
- 1.2.3 Elija Cockvill, Drummondville to ?, August 4, 1853. Note:
Paper bears incised stamp from the Southworth Mfg. Co.
Includes mention of Charlotte, Ward Stone, misfortunes of Mr.
Page
- 1.2.4 Dear Uncle... your affectionate nephew, G.W. S[tone]
October 5, 1853; Drummondville; letter mentions Mr. Lowell,
his employer, and Hosmer [Stone].
- 1.2.5 Susan S. Page to "Dear Brother", "Dear Mother", unsigned and
Mary Price to unknown, Suspension Bridge, NY, 26 December

1854; Includes several notes of family correspondence on the same letter paper

- 1.2.6 Dear Cousin.... from Marietta House, April 7, 1855; includes report of the death of Maria on 16 March 1855
- 1.2.7 Dear Bro. & Uncle.from G.W.S., Port Colborne, May 1, 1855. Letter is written on Office of Grand Worthy Secretary, Grand Lodge of Canada stationery. Mentions "Hosmer"[Stone] and A.K. Scholfield, and Grandmother and aunts and uncles. Letter is signed "Yours in Fraternal Bonds"
- 1.2.8 G.W. S. to Bro. B.W. Price, Port Colborne, June 27, 1855 Includes Lodge matters; mentions "Hosmer"[Stone], Fonthill, Merrittville
- 1.2.9 Mary Price to "Dear Brother", August 16, 1855, Pelham; reports on the death of Eliza Price, also mentions Susan, John, David, Edward, Mother, Rogers, Harvey
- 1.2.10 Ellen Kendrick to Mr. Price, Drummondville, October 31, 1855; mentions Mr. Canby
- 1.2.11 G.W. Stone to Sir & Bro., Beamsville, January 22, 1857. Includes Stone's inability to pay debt.
- 1.2.12 J.E. Page to Unc, Suspension Bridge, 1 February 1857. Mentions Goodriches, Miss Dukes, Mrs. Allen, William Douglas, Jim Clark, Clayton, George Fos, the gatekeeper at Goat's Island, marriage of Thomas Philips.
- 1.2.13 I.R.C.? Page to Uncle, Suspension Bridge, NY, 5 April 1857; Mentions a school exhibition, Bridget, Isaac Wilson, an accident by a creek involving a man named Taylor. Also includes a note from Susan S. Page "Dear friends", she mentions Lydia Whitmore's baby daughter and Mrs. Glover's son. Enquiring about little John S P [John S. Price]
- 1.2.14 Mariett House to "Dear cousin", Bayham, 4 August 1857. Includes requests a visit, if not soon mother and father and she and Emline Shingler will come down
- 1.2.15 Susan Page & E.R.[Edward Rice] Page to my dear Mother, Sisters & Brothers, Suspension Bridge, NY, 14 November 1857 Includes: looking for Mary and Woodruff to come for a visit. E.R. Page writes about Joseph and Clayton, Mrs Kendrick has

moved up above Mrs. Erl in Dr. Rogers house, friends leaving for Nova Scotia, Isaac, Mary, Mrs. Church, Mrs. Allen

- 1.2.16 S.S. Page to "Dear Friends", Suspension Bridge, NY, 24 ? 1858 Includes marriage of Elizabeth Page [sister to Edward Rice Page] to Joseph Marr. Pa goes to Younstown for a surprise party, brings 3 kegs of oysters.
- 1.2.17 Sus S. Page, J.C. & .C. J. Page to Friends, Suspension Bridge, NY (Niagara City), 11 January 1858. Includes names: Aunt Isabel, David, Eleanor, George Spencer of Merrittsville, Elizabeth Kenrick
- 1.2.18 Elizabeth Kendrick to Friend Mary, Niagara Falls, NY, 10 October 1858 Mentions "Ida" and Woodruff Price. The recipient is likely Mary Price, sister of B.W. Price. Includes Ida and Carrie
- 1.2.19 Cousin [Ann] Morgan to "Dear Cousins", Newark, NY, 12 December [1858]. Includes receiving a letter, Cousin Hannah, David Tisdale the lawyer was married and living in Simcoe, Woodruff, Maggy and her cousin, Peter Price, brother John and wife.
- 1.2.20 John S. Price to B.W. Price, Fonthill, 6 July 1859; Includes notice that John Price has sued P. Swayze, with a court date set for the following week
- 1.2.21 Mary Price to "Dear Brother", Fonthill, 28 June 1859 Includes family news, and reminder about the court date, John has sued Peter Swayze, Edward, Susan, Elihu, Ed Morten, David, Uncle James
- 1.2.22 Mary Price to "Dear Uncle", Fonthill, 19 July 1859. Includes: report of Blondin's feat scheduled for the next day, as well as a circus; her mothers visit to Aunt Durinda, Also some matters regarding a Mr. Swayze and his son George and the surveying of land, Moisley and the moving of a house; Mrs. Castle has fled her home with her baby, leaving Elizabeth behind, racking up debts in Thorold before moving to the States with friends, requests to fix Foster's clock; Grandmother, Uncle Elihu & Uncle James to Matheras?
- 1.2.23 Maggie [Tisdale] to "Cousin" Woodruff, Oakridge, 14 August 1859; Includes visit to see a cousin, a portrait, her mother has many relations in Fonthill, both Paris and Simcoe are mentioned

- 1.2.24 Maggie [Tisdale] to "Dear friend", Oakridge, 5 September 1859; Includes: does not return his "love" for her, cousin Ann returns to Buffalo from Dover by water, Masonic festival on 15 September, Oakridge is two miles north of Vittoria
- 1.2.25 B.W. Price to "dear cousin", Beamsville, 7 September 1859; copy of a letter including his feelings for her
- 1.2.26 Maggie [Tisdale] to "Dear Cousin Ben", Oakridge, 16 September 1859; Includes contents of last letter, wishes her cousin to come for a visit
- 1.2.27 Cousin Ben to "Dear Cousin Maggie" [Tisdale], Beamsville, 22 September 1859 [handwritten copy]; Includes: prepares for visit to Oakridge, suggests that he will bring tools to do any maintenance or repair on jewelry, watches and clocks, mentions a few weddings in Fonthill since he left, as well as a few weddings in Beamsville; compliments to Miss McCaul
- 1.2.28 Maggie [Tisdale] to "Dear Cousin Ben", Oakridge, 4 December 1859; Includes: waiting for a letter for two months, plenty of snow for sleighing, Cousin Morgan, at the Falls with Mrs. Page
- 1.2.29 Cousin Ben to Cousin Maggie [Tisdale], Fonthill, 14 December 1859 [handwritten copy, includes enlarged photocopy]; Includes: lengthy passage of time between letters, trip to Suspension Bridge and Buffalo, set up a shop in Fonthill and a visit from cousin Anne and sister, Mrs. Page.
- 1.2.30 J.C. Page to "Dear Uncle", Suspension Bridge, NY, 30 May, n.d. Includes: report of his father's illness and a request to visit
- 1.2.31 J.C.? Page to "Dear Uncle", Suspension Bridge, NY, 7 January n.d.; Includes: Uncle John sick, Dewit Higgins letter, should his mother come? Mr& Mrs. Colley's daughter Minnie died, Mrs. Allen.
- 1.2.32-35 P.A. Morgan or Ann Morgan to "Dear Cousin", Vittoria, Canada West, 27 February, 27 April, 12 July, 20 December, n.d. The correspondent refers to the following individuals: Mr. Stone, Jerusha Price, Mary Price, Mrs. Page, cousin Rebekah Bugbee [Buckbee]. Cousin Hannah has lost her mother on April 13, she was 75 years old, with six sons and four daughters, cousin Aaron in Elmer [sic] [Aylmer?], Maggy L., Libby, sister Betsy, Elizabethtown, NY?

Subject Access:

600	Price, Benjamin Woodruff.
600	Page, Edward Rice.
600	Page, Susan S.
600	Price, Mary
600	Tisdale, Maggie.
610	Price Family.
610	Page Family.
651	Pelham (Ont. : Township) -- History -- Sources.
651	Thorold (Ont. : Township) -- History -- Sources.
651	Fonthill (Ont.) -- History -- Sources.

Related Materials:

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