

Jarvis Family fonds

1789-1847, n.d.

RG 563

Brock University Archives

- Creator:** Jarvis Family
- Extent:** 10 cm of textual records
1 photograph
1 map
1 lock of hair
2 medallions
- Abstract:** Fonds contains material about the Jarvis Family, especially Samuel Peters Jarvis. Some material about his wife Mary Boyles Powell and the Powell family are also included, as well as some documents concerning William Munson Jarvis (brother of Samuel Peters Jarvis) and William Jarvis (father of Samuel Peters Jarvis and William Munson Jarvis). Also contains a letter written to Mary Boyles Powell from John Macdonell (Sir Isaac Brock's aide-de-camp), and a lock of his hair. Materials include correspondence, land documents, military documents, map, photograph, medallion and travel journal.
- Materials:** Correspondence, land grants, indentures, military appointments, pay warrants, travel journal, map, photograph, medallions, and a lock of hair.
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Chantal Cameron
- Last updated:** May 2016
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Preferred citation: RG 563, Jarvis Family fonds, 1789-1847, n.d. Brock University Archives, Brock University.

Acquisition Info.: The collection was purchased in 1990 by Hugh McMillan of Guelph, Ontario, from a member of the Jarvis Family. The collection was subsequently sold to Warren Baker of Montreal. R.W. Band purchased the collection from Mr. Baker in July, 1992. The collection was purchased by Brock University in 2016.

Biographical Sketch:

William Jarvis

William Jarvis (1756-1817) was Upper Canada's first secretary and registrar. He was born in Stamford, Connecticut, the son of Samuel Jarvis and Martha Seymour. He joined John Graves Simcoe's Queen's Rangers in 1777 and fought in the Revolutionary War. After the war he returned to Connecticut. He married Hannah Peters in 1785, and they had seven children. Around 1784-85, he travelled to England where he was able to secure John Graves Simcoe as a patron, who later appointed him to the lucrative post of provincial secretary and registrar in Upper Canada. In 1792 he arrived in Upper Canada and settled in Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake), before moving to York in 1796. He was also provincial grand master of the newly organized Masonic Lodge of Upper Canada and deputy lieutenant of the county of York.

Source: Dictionary of Canadian Biography
http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/jarvis_william_5E.html
Retrieved 2016/05/12

Samuel Peters Jarvis

Samuel Peters Jarvis (1792-1857) was the son of William Jarvis and Hannah Peters. He was educated by the Reverend John Strachan at his Cornwall grammar school and articulated with Attorney General William Firth in York in 1810. His education was interrupted by the onset of the War of 1812. He joined Captain Stephen Heward's flank company in the 3rd York Militia, which served at the capture of Detroit, the Battle of Queenston Heights, Stoney Creek and Lundy's Lane. After the war, Jarvis resumed his law studies and was called to the bar in 1815. Two years later he was appointed clerk of the crown in chancery, an administrative post in the House of Assembly. Although his ambition was to follow in his father's footsteps and become the provincial secretary and registrar, he remained as clerk of the crown for the next 20 years. His volatile and impetuous personality caused problems on many occasions, most notably in 1817 when he

quarreled with John Ridout (son of Surveyor General Thomas Ridout) and killed him in a duel. The affair split the local elite. Although he was exonerated by the courts, the incident limited his career opportunities.

In 1818 he married Mary Boyles Powell (daughter of Chief Justice William Dummer Powell) and practiced law in Queenston and Niagara, before moving back to York in 1824. Two years later, he once again found himself in trouble when he led a group of young men to break into William Lyon Mackenzie's printing shop where the *Colonial Advocate* was published, a newspaper often critical of Upper Canada's ruling elite, known as the Family Compact. Mackenzie was awarded £625 for damages, which was collected by subscription from members of the Family Compact, and from Samuel Peters Jarvis. Despite this incident, he was appointed deputy provincial secretary and registrar in 1827. In 1837, he was appointed Chief Superintendent of Indian affairs for Upper Canada, a position he held until 1845. With the outbreak of the Rebellion of 1837 shortly after his appointment, Jarvis was involved in defending the established order and searching for suspected rebels. His performance in this office was heavily scrutinized, with multiple inquiries. Ultimately, he was found to be an incompetent administrator and possibly dishonest. The department's accounts were poorly managed, with as much as £9000 unaccounted for. The office of chief superintendent was abolished in 1845, and Jarvis was forced into retirement. Despite his attempts to clear his name on charges of speculation, he was never able to.

Source: Dictionary of Canadian Biography online
http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/jarvis_samuel_peters_8E.html
 Retrieved: 2016/05/06

William Munson Jarvis

William Munson Jarvis (1793-1867) was the son of Samuel Jarvis and Hannah Peters. He joined the militia during the War of 1812 and fought at Queenston Heights and Stoney Creek. He also fought at the Battle of York on April 27, 1813, where he was wounded and captured. He was later released, but suffered the loss of an eye during the altercation. In 1826 he married Anne Sumpson Racey and they had four children. He served as High Sheriff of the District of Gore.

Source: United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada website
<http://www.uelac.org/St-Alban/biographies/memorial-tiles-Jarvis-William-Munson.php>
 Retrieved: 2016/05/12

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains documents about members of the Jarvis Family. Most of the documents relate to Samuel Peters Jarvis (Upper Canada's Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs from 1837–45), his wife Mary Boyles Powell (daughter of Chief Justice William Dummer Powell), and some members of the Powell family. There are also some documents concerning William Munson Jarvis (brother of Samuel Peters Jarvis) and William Jarvis (father of Samuel Peters Jarvis and William

Munson Jarvis). The papers include correspondence, land documents (including land grants, sales, leases, and memorials), military documents (including military appointments, militia general orders and military pension), map, photograph, medallions, and travel journal. The collection includes a letter written and signed by John Macdonell (Sir Isaac Brock's aide-de-camp), as well as a lock of his hair. An inventory that came with the collection is included in box 1, which also contains biographical sketches of William Jarvis, Samuel Peters Jarvis (son of William Jarvis), William Munson Jarvis (son of William Jarvis) and Samuel Peters Jarvis (son of Samuel Peters Jarvis). The custodial history of the collection is included on the folder containing the inventory.

Organization:

The records were arranged into five series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1812-1847

- Sub-series A: Handwritten letters
- Sub-series B: Printed letters
- Sub-series C: Envelopes

Series II: Land Documents, 1827-1844

- Sub-series A: Land grants
- Sub-series B: Sales of land
- Sub-series C: Leases of land
- Sub-series D: Memorials
- Sub-series E: Public notice of sale of land

Series III: Military Documents, 1812-1828

- Sub-series A: Military appointments
- Sub-series B: Militia General Orders
- Sub-series C: Military pension
- Sub-series D: Medical Board Statement

Series IV: Visual Materials, 1825, 1838, n.d.

- Sub-series A: Map
- Sub-series B: Photograph
- Sub-series C: Medallions

Series V: Travel Journal, 1789

Inventory:

Series I: Correspondence, 1812-1847**Sub-series A: Handwritten Letters, 1812, 1825-1841**

- 1.1 A letter written and signed by John Macdonell, addressed to Mr. Justin Powell, dated July 23, [1812?]. The letter reads “Mr. John Macdonell will do himself the honor of waiting on Mr. Justin Powell on Thursday next at 4 o’clock.” Mary Boyles Powell [later wife of Samuel Peters Jarvis] has inscribed the letter “Days of my youth...”
- 1.2 A love poem addressed to Miss Mary Powell from John Macdonell, [1812?]. The letter is addressed at York, Upper Canada and consists of 1 page. The poem begins Adieu. Adieu and it is so | And must I from sweet Mary, go | Oh! Mary, say adieu once more...
- 1.3 A letter written and signed by Captain John Powell of the 1st Lincoln Militia to his sister Mary Boyles Powell, circa October 13, 1812. The letter is 4 pages in length and contains a detailed account of the death of a family member and John Macdonell, an aide-de-camp to Sir Isaac Brock, at the Battle of Queenston Heights. Included with the letter is a lock of John Macdonell’s hair with the inscription “killed at Queenston Heights by the Americans, October 13, 1812, Lieut. Col. John Macdonnell.”
- 1.4 A letter written and signed by N. [Nathaniel] Coffin and addressed to S.P. [Samuel Peters] Jarvis, dated at York, February 25, 1825. The letter informs Jarvis of his promotion to Colonel in the 2nd Regiment of the York Militia.
- 1.5 A letter written and signed by N. [Nathaniel] Coffin, Adjutant General Militia Forces, and addressed to S.P. [Samuel Peters] Jarvis, dated at York, Upper Canada, 1st August 1825. The letter informs Jarvis of the promotion to Lt. Colonel in the 2nd Regiment of North York Militia.
- 1.6 A letter written and signed by N. [Nathaniel] Coffin, Adjutant General Militia Forces, and addressed to Colonel Jarvis, dated at York, Upper Canada, 2nd April 1827. The letter informs Jarvis of his promotion to Colonel with the 2nd Regiment of the North York Militia, as well as Wm. B. Robinson as Lieutenant Colonel.
- 1.7 A letter written and signed by N. [Nathaniel] Coffin and addressed to Col. Sam. P. Jarvis, 28 April 1827. The letter notifies Jarvis of the enclosure of four commissions, one as Major, two as Lieut. Colonel, and one as Colonel.

- 1.8 A letter written and signed by Samuel Peters Jarvis, Ch. S. I. Affa. [Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs], addressed to the Chiefs of the Six Nations of the Grand River, dated 5 January 1841. The letter is 3 pages in length and informs the Chiefs that the Lieutenant Governor has considered their speech, especially the problem of unauthorized occupancy of their land by white people, and has determined that each family or single man receive 100 or 200 acres, with the remainder of the land be “surrendered to Government to be disposed of for the exclusive benefit of the Indians”. A note on the letter indicates “the reply after being corrected by Sir Charles Metcalf”.

Sub-series B: Printed Letters, 1817-1818, 1841-1847

- 1.9 “Francis Gore, Esquire, Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada to John McGill, Esquire, Receiver General of the said Province, you are hereby directed and required, out of such monies as are in, or shall come to your hands for defraying the Civil Expenditure of this Province, to pay or cause to be paid unto [Samuel P. Jarvis, Esquire, Barrister at Law], the sum of [£28...] and for your so doing, with the acquittance of the said [Samuel P. Jarvis] or his assigns, shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge.” Dated at York 27 May 1817 and signed by Francis Gore and D. Cameron. Also signed by Samuel Jarvis and J. Baby (Inspector General).
- 1.10 “Samuel Smith, Esquire, Administrator of the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, to John McGill, Esquire, Receiver General of the said Province, you are hereby directed and required, out of such monies as are in, or shall come to your hands for defraying the Civil Expenditure of this Province, to pay or cause to be paid unto [Samuel Ridout, Esquire, as agent for and for the use of the Officers of the Land Granting Department]...the sum of [£269...being the amount ...due to the said Officers on Patents for Land to U.E. Loyalists...]. Dated at York, 5 June 1818, and signed by Samuel P. Jarvis, secretary and Sam Smith, administrator. Also signed by Ridout and J. Baby (Inspector General).
- 1.11 Correspondence, addresses, &c, connected with the subscriptions of various Indian tribes in Upper Canada in aid of the funds for the re-construction of Brock’s Monument, on Queenston Heights. Toronto: Printed by Robert Stanton, 1841. The pages are printed on vellum and bound in red, flexible leather. Two letters from Samuel Jarvis are included. One is addressed to R.A. Tucker, Provincial Secretary (with his reply), and the other to Colonel Bullock, Sec’y to the Com. for restoring Brock’s Monument. The letters express the complaints of various Indian tribes about the destruction of Brock’s Monument, and their contribution of £207 towards its restoration.

- 1.12 [Correspondence and accounts of S.P. Jarvis, Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs, 1842-1847]. Appendix (V.V.) to the *Journals of the Legislative Assembly*, 1847 (74 pages).

Sub-series C: Envelopes, 1842, n.d.

- 1.13 One envelope addressed to Mrs. Samuel P. Jarvis, Toronto, from her husband. The envelope is post-marked Kingston, Dec. 13 [1842]. The reverse side is post-marked Toronto, Dec. [14], 1842. The envelope has the seal of the Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs.
- 1.13 One envelope addressed to Mrs. Samuel P. Jarvis from her husband. The envelope is postmarked Kingston, date illegible. The reverse side has a seal of the Indian Office.

Series II: Land Documents, 1827-1844

Sub-series A: Land Grants, 1827

- O.1 Two military land grants, Sir Peregrine Maitland to Samuel Peters Jarvis of Captain Heward's Flank Company in the 3rd York Regiment of York. The first grant is for 200 acres of land in Ekfrid Township, County of Middlesex, London District, 29 November 1827. The second grant is the same, except for 300 acres of land. Both grants signed by Maitland as Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada; William Beverly Robinson, Attorney General; Stephen Heward, Auditor General of Land Patents (Jarvis' Captain during the War of 1812); and Duncan Cameron, Secretary. Both grants have a hard seal of Upper Canada attached.

Sub-series B: Sales of Land, 1833-1843

- 1.14 Upper Canada Sheriff's Deed, dated 27 March 1833. The deed is for a sale of land at public auction in the Gore District, purchased by Thomas Clark of Stamford, Niagara. The deed is signed by William Munson Jarvis, Sheriff of the District of Gore.
- 1.15 Written indenture between Henry Fry, his wife Eleanor, and John McMurrick (representing the Fry estate) in the first part and William Benjamin Robinson of St.Catharines in the District of Niagara of the second part for the sale of land to Robinson, 2 November 1841. Also a deed of surrender to the Crown by Robinson and his wife Eliza to Samuel Peters Jarvis, Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs, on behalf of the Queen, of the same land, Rama Township, for a reserve for the Chippewa tribe of Indians, 8 December 1843. The documents are handwritten on 2 sheets of vellum and joined at the bottom by four red seals.

Sub-series C: Leases of Land, 1840

- O.1 Indenture, lease of land between Samuel Peters Jarvis (acting on behalf of the Mohawk Indians of the Bay of Quinte), and John Deens Jr. of the Township of Tyendinaga, dated 1 October 1840.
- O.1 Indenture, lease of land between Samuel Peters Jarvis (acting on behalf of the Mohawk Indians), and James Geddes of the Township of Thurlow, dated 16 November 1840.

Sub-series D: Memorials, 1841-1843

- O.1 A Memorial, to be registered pursuant to the Statute in that behalf, of a Conveyance by Deed to surrender to the Crown by the Canada Company 200 acres in Alwick Township, County of Northumberland, Newcastle District, in trust for the sole use and benefit of the Misissauga Tribe of Indians of Kingston and the Bay of Quinte. The document is dated 8 November 1841 and lists Samuel P Jarvis, Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs acting on behalf of the Queen. Signed by Thomas Mercer Jones and Frederick Widder for the Canada Company and witnessed by Donald McDonald and Thomas Collier. Seal of the Canada Company at bottom right.
- 1.16 Written memorial deed of surrender of 183 acres of land in the Township of Rama to the Crown by William Benjamin Robinson of St. Catharines, dated 8 December 1843, for a reserve for the Chippewa tribe of Indians.

Sub-series E: Public Notice of Sale of Land, 1844

- O.1 Public Notice, 28 March 1844. "The inspection and valuation of certain Lands on the North side of the Grand River, in the Gore and Niagara Districts, belonging to the Six Nations Indians, being now completed, in pursuance of an order in Council, dated 27th, November, 1840: the Public are hereby notified that the said Lands, with certain exceptions, are for Sale, under the following regulations, viz..." Followed by 10 paragraphs of text. The last few lines read "By Command of His Excellency the Governor General, Samuel P Jarvis, Chief Sup. Indian Affairs, Indian Office, Kingston, March 28, 1844".

Series III: Military Documents, 1812-1828

Sub-series A: Military Appointments, 1812-1825

- 1.17 Appointment of William Jarvis, by Isaac Brock, Esquire, President, administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, to Ensign in the Third

Regiment of York Militia during pleasure and of which William Chewett, Esq. is Lieut. Colonel, dated at York 20 May 1812. Signed by James Brock and Isaac Brock.

- 1.18 Appointment of Samuel Peters Jarvis by Sir Peregrine Maitland, Knight Commander of the most Honorable Military Order of Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces, to the rank of Major in the Second Regiment of West York Militia, of which Regiment the Honorable John Henry Dunn is Colonel. Signed at York by Maitland and another government official (G. Hillier), 12 August 1824.
- 1.18 Appointment of Samuel Peters Jarvis by Sir Peregrine Maitland, Knight Commander of the most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Second Regiment of West York Militia, of which Regiment the Honorable John Henry Dunn is Colonel. Signed at York by Maitland and another government official (G. Hillier), 25 February 1825.
- 1.18 Appointment of Samuel Peters Jarvis by Sir John Colborne, Knight Commander of the most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Gore Militia. Signed at York by Colborne and another government official, 31 December 1831.

Sub-series B: Militia General Orders, 1815

- 1.19 Militia General Orders from the Adjutant General's Office of Militia, Kingston, 18 August, 1815. Consists of 4 paragraphs of a letter from Earl Bathurst to Sir Gordon Drummond, published by Frederick Robinson. The letter expresses thanks to Drummond and his troops for "the great service which you have rendered to your country". The last few lines read "By Command of His Excellency, N. Coffin, Adjutant Gen. of Militia."

Sub-series C: Military Pension, 1824

- 1.20 Military Pension, received of the Right Honorable Sir Charles Long, Paymaster General of His Majesty's Forces, the sum of £87 for 15 months Military Pension at £70 per Annum, commencing 25 December 1822 and ending 24 March 1824.

Sub-series D: Medical Board Statement, 1828

- 1.21 Written statement of a medical board in pursuance of a garrison order dated 12 October, 1828, at Kingston "to examine and report upon a wound received by Lieut. William Munson Jarvis by the enemy at York in Upper Canada on 27 April 1813...The Board having met and minutely examined the above named

Officer and find that the vision of the right eye is very naturally impaired from the injury received and not likely to be benefited by any treatment". Signed by J.D. Miller, staff surgeon; John Winterscale, surgeon; and James Geddes, assistant staff surgeon.

Series IV: Visual Materials, 1825, 1838, n.d.

Sub-series A: Map, 1838

- O.1 Map backed on linen, prepared by J.G. Chewett, Surveyor's General Office. The map is a "copy from Mr. [David] Thompson's Map of the Boundary line between Upper Canada and the United States", showing the action around Navy Island during the Rebellion of 1837 and the spot where the Caroline Steamer was cut out. Lithographed by H.I. Castle, 1838.

Sub-series B: Photograph, n.d.

- 1.22 Photograph of Samuel Peters Jarvis from a daguerreotype by Middlemiss & Hunter, late Ewing & Company Artists & Photographers, to H.R.H. Prince Arthur. A Cabinet photograph, n.d.

Sub-series C: Medallions, 1825

- 1.23 Small jewelry case with the name A.H. Baldwin, numismatist, Duncannon St., Charing Cross, London, W.C. Within the box is a silver medallion which is 4 cm. in diameter. The medal is engraved "William Dummer Powell and Anne Murray, intermarried 3rd October 1775". This is from the Jarvis Family. It is a Powell Marriage medal. Silver medals were given to family members and bronze medals were given to guests. The one gold medal was struck for Mrs. Powell. This medal is Mary Boyles Powell Jarvis' medal. She was the daughter of William Dummer Powell and the wife of Samuel Peters Jarvis. The medal was purchased from the Jarvis Family. The other side is engraved "To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary, Upper Canada, 3rd October, 1825"
- 1.24 Military General Service Medal, 1793-1814. A medal awarded to S.P. Jarvis for service in the Canadian Militia. The medal features Queen Victoria standing on a plinth, crowing the Duke of Wellington with a laurel wreath. The surrounding inscription reads "To the British Army, 1793-1814". The reverse side of the medal features Queen Victoria. There is one bar on the ribbon attached to the medal that reads "Fort Detroit". The circumference of the medal is engraved with "S.P. Jarvis Canadn Militia".

Series V: Travel Journal, 1789

- 1.25 Diary of Anne Powell on her voyage from Montreal to Detroit with her brother W.D. [William Dummer] Powell (later Chief Justice of Upper Canada), 1789. The handwritten journal is 20 pp. in length, plus a separate leaf with a red seal watermarked 1832. It was written on her return to Montreal. During the trip she observed a Six Nations Council, describing the dress and manners of the tribal people. She wrote a lengthy description of her impressions of Mohawk Chief David Hill (Karonghyontye) and, to a lesser extent, Seneca Chief Red Jacket (Sagoyewatha). She also mentions encounters with Peter Hunter (later Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada); Lord Edward Fitzgerald; and Mohawk Joseph Brant. Thomas Smith (later clerk of the Court of the District of Hesse, a member of the Michigan Militia, killed at the Battle of Fallen Timbers) is also mentioned. The journal has been published in *The Magazine of American History* (July 1880): 37-47; and William Renwick Riddell's *Old Province Tales: Upper Canada* (1920), pp. 64-95. Anne Powell married merchant and fellow Loyalist, Isaac Winslow Clarke (mentioned in the journal). She died in childbirth in Montreal in 1792.