

Title:	Great falling sheet of water certificate, 1857		
Creator:	Barnett, Thomas		
Dates of Material:	1857	Record Group Number:	RG 318
Summary of Contents:	A certificate to document the bearer, Peter McLaren Duncan, "passed behind the great falling sheet of water to termination rock, being 230 feet behind the Great Horse Shoe Fall". The certificate is signed by Thomas Barnett.		
Physical Description / Condition:	1 certificate printed on blue paper : encapsulated ; 13 x 20 cm		
Administrative/ Biographical Sketch	<p>In 1827, Thomas Barnett began offering tourists a tour "Behind the Sheet" which included a walking tour to the base of the Horseshoe Falls and along a short ledge behind the falling water. Barnett had built the first building along the Canadian bank of the Niagara Gorge near the Table Rock. This building was located approximately 300 feet south of the Table Rock. Here, Barnett established the Table Rock Museum. Barnett built a stairway to the base of the gorge and the foot of the Horseshoe Falls. This was in direct competition with Isaiah Starkey who also operated a similar staircase. Barnett offered tourists a tour "Behind the Sheet" which included a walking tour to the base of the Horseshoe Falls and along a short ledge behind the falling water.</p> <p>Source: http://www.niagarafontier.com/front.html (January 18, 2011) Niagara Falls, The Front: a history of the Table Rock.</p> <p>Peter McLaren Duncan (1836-1913) was the son of James (or John) Duncan and his wife Catharine McLaren of Northumberland County, Ontario. Peter Duncan married Leonora Meade (or Singleton) of Brighton in 1861 and they had at least five children, James, Catherine, Helen, William P. [Peter W.] and Alice. In 1881 the family was residing in Colborne, Northumberland County, Ontario, where Peter McLaren Duncan was a minister in the Presbyterian church. Peter McLaren Duncan died on 23 April 1913.</p>		

Location:	Brock University Archives		
Source Information:			
Subject Headings:	600	Barnett, Thomas, fl. 1876.	
	600	Duncan, Peter McLaren, 1836-1913.	
	650	Tourism --Niagara Falls (N.Y. and Ont.) -- History.	
	651	Niagara Falls (Ont.) -- History -- Sources.	
	651	Northumberland (Ont. : County) -- Genealogy.	
Added Entries:			
Related material held at other repositories:	Trent University Archives, Reverend Peter McLaren Duncan fonds, 1872-1929.		
Described by:	Edie Williams	Date:	January 2011