
War of 1812 Records

213 Research Guide

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This research guide provides a brief synopsis of the War of 1812 records in the Archives of Ontario collections. This guide covers *only original material*, not material that is a microfilm or photocopy of original records.

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Getting Started

Between 1812 and 1814, Upper Canada was the major theatre of operations in the war between Great Britain and the United States. Almost all the land battles were fought in Upper Canada or along the American side of the St. Lawrence, Niagara and Detroit Rivers. Many individuals who played important roles in the government and economy of the province in later years first came to prominence during the war, including John Beverley Robinson and Bishop John Strachan.

The War of 1812 was a destructive conflict. It damaged the limited infrastructure of the province and disrupted the main agricultural economy for three years. At the same time, the war led to the development of a provincial patriotism and nationalism that grafted the successful defence of Upper Canada to the existing Loyalist tradition.

The Archives of Ontario has a rich and diverse collection of records related to the War of 1812. They include:

- original private correspondence from contemporaries
- official records relating to the administration of justice in wartime
- documents describing how later generations perceived the war.

[Click here to access the Archives of Ontario website](#) to view an exhibit about the War of 1812. It features many of the fonds and collections that this research guide describes. This research guide notes where a specific fonds or collection is in the exhibit.

The Records

This section of this guide provides a brief summary of the War of 1812 fonds and/or collections. It is arranged into six categories: the Participants, General Collections, Remembering the War of 1812, Government, Illustrating the War of 1812 and the Archives of Ontario Library.

Table 1, at the end of this guide, tells you how to access the records that you need.

1. The Participants

Most of the War of 1812 material in the Archives of Ontario's collection is original correspondence, written by the people who lived through the conflict. These letters are an invaluable source of information on the life of Upper Canadian civilians and soldiers during wartime. They also give insight into the views of American citizens. Today, much of this correspondence would be considered "official records." However, at the time, local officials and militia officers kept the records in their personal papers. The records are in the following fonds:

F 17 William Baldwin Family Fonds

William Baldwin (1775-1844) was a lawyer and businessman in Upper Canada during the war. Most of the correspondence on the War of 1812 in this fonds relates to the war's effect on the state of business in the province.

F 20 Henry John Boulton Fonds

Henry John Boulton (1790-1870) was a member of the Legislative Assembly for Upper Canada and served as Solicitor General and Attorney General for Upper Canada. The records include correspondence on life in Upper Canada during the War of 1812.

F 37 Mackenzie-Lindsay Family Fonds

William Lyon Mackenzie (1795-1861) was a newspaperman and politician in Upper Canada and leader of the Rebellion of 1837. There are a few letters in the fonds telling about the destruction of the original Brock's Monument in 1840 during the final stages of the rebellion. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 43 Thomas Ridout Family Fonds

The Thomas Ridout fonds is the Archives' most significant holding on the War of 1812 because of its breadth of coverage of the war.

Thomas G. Ridout (1754-1829) served as a militia officer throughout the War of 1812, primarily in the commissariat (or supply) department. His family letters for the period 1812-1815 are a great source of information on the impact of the war on individuals and their families. There are also first-hand descriptions of the battles at Queenston Heights and at Crysler's Farm. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 44 John Beverley Robinson Family Fonds

John Beverley Robinson (1791-1863) served as a militia officer during the War of 1812 and as the Acting Attorney General through most of the conflict. He served as the lead in the prosecution of those accused of treason in 1814 for aiding the American invaders. The correspondence in this fonds is very informative on the general administration of justice and the investigation of treason. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 429 Duncan Clark Fonds

Duncan Clark (1785-1862) was a militia officer and fur trader who served during the War of 1812. This fonds includes records describing the action at the battle of Lundy's Lane and the siege of Fort Erie. It also includes an account that Duncan Clark wrote on 25 July 1814, called "The Battle of Lundy's Lane."

F 440 John Norton Fonds

John Norton (1790-1821) was a leader of the Mohawks of the Grand River during the War of 1812. Norton achieved the rank of Major in the conflict. Most of the documents relating to the war are testimonials to his service.

F 483 Ford Family Fonds

Nathan Ford (1763-1829) was an American citizen who lived in Ogdensburg, New York during the War of 1812. His family correspondence comments on the insecurity of civilian life in wartime and on the activities of his neighbours in providing supplies to the British Army in Upper Canada. (Ogdensburg was a major wartime smuggling depot.)

The fonds is a vital source of information on wartime conditions along the frontier and the way that trade frequently trumped security during this war. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 504 Urquhart Family Fonds

This fonds documents the activities of a farm family in Glengarry County, Upper Canada in the early 19th century. It includes several documents relating to militia service during the War of 1812.

F 515 Gilkison Family Fonds

William Gilkison (1777-1833) served as an assistant quartermaster-general with the rank of Captain in the War of 1812. The fonds includes militia documents relating to his service during the war.

F 536 Joel Stone Family Fonds

Joel Stone (1749-1833) was a businessman and militia officer in Gananoque, Upper Canada. He served in the local forces throughout the war. The correspondence and reports in his papers relate to the issue of supply and defence along the line of the St. Lawrence River. After the war, Stone worked as a Commissioner under the Alien Act to review cases of suspected disloyalty during the conflict. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 542 Robert Nelles Family Fonds

Robert Nelles (1761-1842) was a local official and landowner in the Niagara area during the War of 1812. Most of the war-related records in this fonds are concerned with the experiences of his son Captain Henry Nelles, who was a prisoner of war in the United States after the Battle of Lundy's Lane. [Click here to access Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 543 Abraham Nelles Family Fonds

Abraham Nelles (1775-1839) was a surveyor, militia officer and member of the Legislative Assembly. He served throughout the War of 1812. His correspondence relates to concerns such as obtaining supplies for the British and Canadian troops, damage to his property and the administration of the local militia. There are also records of his work as a Commissioner under the Alien Act after the war. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 547 Samuel Street Fonds

Samuel Street (1775-1844) was a lawyer and moneylender in the Niagara area. The records include material documenting the damage to Street's property during the American occupation of the Niagara region in 1813 and 1814.

F 548 John Macdonell Fonds

John Macdonell (1768-1850) was a fur trader and militia officer. The fonds includes a few militia orders and some correspondence relating to the American attack on York (Toronto) in 1813.

F 549 George Crookshank Fonds

George Crookshank (1773-1859) was a businessman, office holder and politician in York (Toronto) during the early 19th century. Crookshank served as the Assistant Commissary General during the war. His fonds includes several letters on the supply issue in the Northwest. There is also correspondence on rumours of peace (1813) and speculation on the actual peace talks at Ghent in the fall of 1814.

F 556 Ely Playter Fonds

Ely Playter (fl. 1801-1853) was a farmer and militia officer near York (Toronto) during the War of 1812. He left a diary that details much of the day-to-day life during the war, and provides interesting information on the impact of the 1813 American raid on York on the townsfolk. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 662 William Hamilton Merritt Family Fonds

William Hamilton Merritt (1793-1862) served as a Captain in the Company of Provincial Dragoons (cavalry) during the War of 1812. Of particular interest in his correspondence are the letters he exchanged with his future wife, Catherine Prendergast, while he was a prisoner of war in the United States after the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Also of interest is the material relating to the construction and rededication of the new Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights in the 1840s and 1850s. As a leading businessman of the province and a veteran, Merritt played a major role in the project. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 902 William Marr Button Family Fonds

The William Marr Button family lived in Markham Township, York County during the 19th century and was involved in politics, the military and land development. The fonds includes York Militia orders dating from 1812 to 1815.

F 917 David Kinnear Fonds

Lieutenant David Kinnear was a British Army officer who served in Spain, France and Bermuda during the Napoleonic Wars and in North America during the War of 1812. The fonds holds Kinnear's personal diary. The diary makes references to the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812, including the burning of Washington. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 955 Gordon Drummond Fonds

General Sir Gordon Drummond (1772-1854) served as the senior British military commander in Upper Canada during the last year of the War of 1812. In the absence of the Lieutenant Governor of the province, he was also the acting President of the Executive Council (or head of the government). The fonds consists of copies of outgoing correspondence sent by Drummond's civil secretary, R.R. Loring. The correspondence deals mainly with matters of civil government, but there are some items on militia orders and related issues. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 983 John Strachan Fonds

John Strachan (1778-1867), the first Anglican Bishop of Toronto, took a leading part in promoting the defence of the province during the War of 1812. The records in this fonds document his efforts to raise morale and promote the welfare of militiamen and their families through the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 1107 John Galt Fonds

John Galt (1779-1839) was a novelist and a founder of the Canada Company. The records include correspondence relating to Galt's claims for compensation for damage to his property during the War of 1812.

F 2128 Jacques Duperon Baby Family Fonds

Jacques (James) Duperon Baby (1762-1833) was a public servant, office holder, judge, landowner and a militia officer. The records include accounts of his experiences during the War of 1812 and claims for compensation for damage to his property.

F 4140 Battle of Lundy's Lane Letter

This single document is a letter dated 30 March 1815 from an American Lieutenant, C. Blake, to his brother describing his experience at the Battle of Lundy's Lane. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 4421 Crysler Family Fonds

The Crysler family of the Niagara peninsula was one of the first Loyalist families to settle in that area. The fonds is related to the Crysler family who owned Crysler's Farm, the location of one of the major battles of the war. The records include military accounts by Captain John Crysler, regimental orders and field returns for the 2nd Lincoln.

2. General Collections

Over the years, the Archives of Ontario has obtained many miscellaneous records that organizations or individuals interested in a specific geographic area or subject collected. The Archives itself has compiled several miscellaneous collections to organize the

many single items that have been received from donors. Some of these include records relating to the War of 1812.

F 378 Hiram Walker Collection

The Hiram Walker Collection contains many records relevant to the history of south western Ontario that the Hiram Walker Museum in Windsor originally collected. It has a few documents on the War of 1812. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 775 Miscellaneous Collection

The Archives of Ontario has compiled this chronologically arranged general collection. It includes a number of documents relating to the surrender of Fort Detroit to General Brock in 1812 and some militia documents. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 895 Military History Collection

This collection has a group of miscellaneous records arranged chronologically, including a number of documents relating to the War of 1812. Most interesting among these records is a journal of a staff officer that records most of the major military actions in the Niagara area in 1813-1814. Another item of note is a prize list for militiamen who participated in the capture of Fort Detroit in 1812. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 992 Lee Pritzker Collection

This is a scrapbook with many newspaper clippings relevant to the War of 1812 and the Napoleonic wars. It is an interesting snapshot of war news distribution in the early 19th century.

3. Remembering the War of 1812

A number of fonds at the Archives of Ontario document the careers of historians and organizations with an interest in the War of 1812.

F 1076 William Kirby Fonds

William Kirby (1817-1906) was a novelist, historian and preservationist. The fonds includes correspondence between Kirby and The Lundy's Lane Historical Society on monuments and memorials about the War of 1812. There is a file on his efforts to protect War of 1812 battlefields and forts in the Niagara area from destruction. There is also a file of correspondence with Colonel James Fitzgibbon on his role in the war and the Battle of Beaver Dams. In addition, Kirby was in contact with Sarah Ann Curzon and Emma A. Currie, authors of works on Laura Secord.

F 1081 Ferdinand Brock Tupper Fonds

Ferdinand Brock Tupper (b. 1795), Sir Isaac Brock's nephew, wrote biographies of General Brock and compiled research material and correspondence on his life. The fonds has correspondence with participants in the war such as James Fitzgibbon, J.B. Robinson and General Roger Hale Sheaffe. As part of his research, Tupper collected a few original letters relating to the War of 1812. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 1137 The Lundy's Lane Historical Society Fonds

The Lundy's Lane Historical Society (founded 1887) was established to commemorate the War of 1812 and the Niagara area through historical publications and markers. The records at the Archives of Ontario include posters, pamphlets and other materials concerned with events and programs that the Society organized. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 1151 Brock Monument Committee Fonds

The Brock Monument Committee (established 1840) was formed to organize the reconstruction of Brock's Monument following the destruction of the original structure in the aftermath of the 1837 Rebellion. The records include accounts of donations and expenditures, correspondence, minutes and resolutions, resolutions from First Nations and some material on design ideas for the new tower, completed in the 1850s. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 1194 C.H.J. Snider Fonds

C.H.J. Snider (1879-1971) was a journalist and historian who wrote articles for the Toronto Telegram on Great Lakes marine topics and the general history of Ontario. His columns, "Schooner Days" and "Faded Flag of Fadeless Fame", include many accounts of incidents from the War of 1812.

4. Government

Overall responsibility for managing the war effort fell on the imperial government in London, as represented by senior officials and officers in the Canadas. The role of the civil authorities in Upper Canada was to support the commissariat (supply) department and maintain the militia. The government was also responsible for the maintenance of law and order. Investigating and punishing disloyalty was an important wartime aspect of this duty. The province, through the control of Crown lands, was also able to reward those who supported the war effort. In later years, particularly in the 1930s, the government of Ontario provided support for the commemoration of the war by creating battlefield parks, markers and memorials (e.g., Fort Erie).

4.1 Treason Trials

During the American occupation of Niagara in the spring and summer of 1813 and the Western District in the fall of the same year, individuals sympathetic to the United States provided direct support to the invaders by gathering intelligence or joining their military forces. After the withdrawal of American troops, there were a number of arrests and fifteen men were tried for treason (eight were eventually executed). The following records document the trials:

RG 4-1 Pre-Confederation Records of the Attorney General

The series consists of miscellaneous correspondence relating to the administration of justice in Upper Canada. It includes correspondence on the conduct of the Treason Trials at Ancaster in 1814. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

RG 22-134 Assize Minute Books

The series has the central minute books of the Court of Queen's Bench civil and criminal assizes. Each year, commissions of assize were issued for the trial of superior court criminal and civil cases in the district towns. Volume 4 has the minutes of the Ancaster Treason Trials.

RG 22-143 Court of King's Bench Records of High Treason Trial of 1814

The series has the few remaining records of the High Treason Trials held at Ancaster during May and June 1814. These records relate to individuals who were accused of treason but never captured and the confiscation of lands of individuals charged under the Alien Act.

F 907 High Treason Register

This register documents people connected with high treason in the War of 1812. It was compiled by a special clerk at the Department of Public Records and archives (now the Archives of Ontario) in 1926.

4.2 Alien Act

The Legislative Assembly passed the Alien Act in March of 1814 to permit the seizure of lands belonging to residents who left the province in wartime for the United States. Persons found guilty were declared aliens and therefore were ineligible to hold land in the province. The following records document this process:

RG 22-144 Alien Act Commissions, Inquisitions and Related Records

The series has commissions with attached inquisitions (investigations), some correspondence of the Clerk of the Alien Act Commission (J.B. Macaulay) and the proceedings of the Home District Alien Act Commission at York (Toronto) in May and November of 1822.

RG 22-678 Johnstown District Alien Act Inquisition Extract Register

The series has a register that the Clerk of the Peace in Johnstown District kept, documenting inquisitions for property seizures made under the Alien Act. The register's column headings are: names, additions, "late places of abode", real estate vested in His Majesty, date of inquisition and names of Commissioners.

RG 22-3768 Newcastle District Clerk of the Peace Inquisition to Declare Certain Persons Alien

The series has two extracts of inquisitions held in Newcastle District under the authority of "An Act to declare certain persons therein described Aliens and to vest their Estates in His Majesty, Whereby any real Estate or Estates have been vested in His Majesty" (Statutes of Upper Canada 1814, chap. 9).

RG 22-3782 Newcastle District Clerk of the Peace High Treason in War of 1812 Poster

The series has a broadside (an advertisement or public notice printed on one side of a large sheet of paper) entitled, "Names of Persons who have been attained of High Treason committed in Upper Canada, or who have been returned as having absconded from the Province during the late War with the United States of America". [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

4.3 Land Grants

After the war, the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada made provisions for the granting of land to veterans of the militia. At least part of the land distributed to the veterans came from the confiscation of estates under the Alien Act:

RG 1-9 Crown Land Administration Subject Files

The series has general correspondence related to the administration of the Crown Lands system, which was received in the office of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. It includes a file of correspondence about requests for land grants for militia service during the War of 1812.

RG 1-54 Petitions Relating to Land Received by the Crown Lands Department

The series has alphabetically-arranged petitions for land grants of all types. It includes petitions from veterans of the War of 1812. These petitions may provide details on military service.

RG 1-100 Patent Plans

The series has township plans showing the sale or lease of Crown Lands to individuals and corporate bodies. The maps can be useful in documenting the location of lands

granted to veterans for militia service during the War of 1812. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

RG 1-152 Registers of Militia Grants

The series has registers of those receiving land grant certificates from the provincial government in recognition of their service in the militia, provincial dragoons or provincial marine during the War of 1812. The registers record the individual's name, rank, unit and the acreage to which he was entitled. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

4.4 Remembering the War

The provincial government has been involved in the preservation of historic sites since the late 19th century. The series described below provides information on Ontario's efforts to remember the War of 1812 through parks, memorials and historic sites:

RG 5-4 Correspondence of the Minister of Tourism and Information

The series has correspondence between the Minister of Tourism and Information and various tourist organizations and agencies, tourists and tourist operators about tourism, heritage and general political matters. It documents provincial involvement in the promotion of historical tourism and the development of sites, including those related to the War of 1812.

RG 5-54 Administrative Records of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission

The series has administrative records that the St. Lawrence Parks Commission created during the time it was responsible for the planning, construction, management and operation of Ontario's parks and historic sites. The series is particularly useful for information on the Crysler's Farm Battlefield Park at Upper Canada Village.

RG 38-3 Subject Correspondence of the Niagara Parks Commission General Manager

The series has correspondence created and or maintained by the Office of the Superintendent and, later, the General Manager of the Niagara Parks Commission. There is extensive correspondence on the development of historic sites and reconstructions along the Niagara River relating to the War of 1812.

RG 38-17 Niagara Parks Commission Historical Records

The series has records on the history of the Niagara Parks Commission, hydro-power development, monuments and historic sites in the Niagara Falls Park and the landscape and environment in the Niagara Falls area. The records include reports and original documents on early preservation efforts for War of 1812 sites located along or near the Niagara River.

RG 65-35 Tourism Promotion Photographs

The series has photographs created and used to market, advertise and promote tourism in Ontario. The photographs were maintained and indexed in a photo library that the Department of Travel and Publicity established in the late 1940s or early 1950s. The photographs document all regions of Ontario and include many photographs of historic War of 1812 sites.

5. Illustrating the War of 1812

Official war artists, unlike those of the two World Wars, did not document the War of 1812. The province was a thinly populated, largely agricultural society. There was little time during peace for artistic pursuits and still less in the midst of war. The following are potential sources of illustrations for those interested in the War of 1812:

5.1 Government of Ontario Art Collection

The Government of Ontario Art Collection has a number of works related to the War of 1812. As the province grew in wealth and population during the 19th century, there was increasing interest in documenting the key figures in Upper Canadian history, including those involved in the War of 1812. George Theodore Berthon (1806-1892) was commissioned to paint official portraits of long-dead lieutenant governors and administrators who had been directly involved in the war. Berthon's subjects included senior military officers Sir Isaac Brock, Sir Gordon Drummond and Sir George Prevost. Other artists were commissioned to create portraits and busts of such figures as Tecumseh and Laura Secord.

Equally important in the holdings of the art collection are the paintings and drawings of Charles William Jefferys (1869-1951). Created in the first decades of the 20th century, these works of historical imagination illustrate battles and incidents like Laura Secord's journey to warn the British.

A selection of images from the collection can be searched using the Government of Ontario Art Collection Database, on our website. For an overview and catalogue of the artworks in the collection, please refer to Fern Bayer's *The Ontario Collection*, Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1984. This book is available in the Archives Library, Call # 708.113 B39. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

5.2 Documentary Art Fonds

There are several collections of documentary art at the Archives of Ontario which help us get a better understanding of the appearance of the province shortly before and after the War of 1812 and illustrate many places mentioned in the correspondence from the war period.

C 1 Thomas Burrowes Fonds

Captain Thomas Burrowes (b. ca. 1796) served as an engineering officer during the building of the Rideau Canal and during its operation between 1826 and 1846. During this period, he painted many watercolours of the Rideau Canal and the St. Lawrence River. These images are valuable sources of information on early riverain settlements and places that played a part in the War of 1812. All of Burrowes' watercolours in the Archives' collection may be viewed in the Archives of Ontario Visual Database. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 47 Simcoe Family Fonds

Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe (1766-1850), the wife of Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor, was a prolific and talented artist. Her watercolours and sketches of the province in the 1790s are the earliest graphic images of many of the locations that became famous during the War of 1812, including Queenston Heights, Kingston and York (Toronto). All of her work in the Archives' collection may be viewed in the Archives of Ontario Visual Database. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 596 Thomas Glegg Fonds

Captain Thomas Glegg (b. ca. 1825) was an engineer in the British army. He was in Canada West (Upper Canada) in the period 1841-1842 to assist in the construction of the New Fort in Toronto. He sketched a number of scenes of the province, including Brock's monument following the explosion that ruined the original structure. Some of Glegg's sketches may be viewed in the Archives of Ontario Visual Database. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 4516 and F 4517 Attack on Fort Oswego, on Lake Ontario, North America

These two engravings illustrate the battle for Fort Oswego on May 6, 1814, drawn by Captain Steel and engraved by R. Havell and Son. They were produced shortly after the war, in 1817.

5.3 Photographic Records

Photography was invented well after the War of 1812 but the Archives holds many images that document battlefields, monuments and some of the people who participated in the war. The work of the following photographers may be of particular interest to War of 1812 researchers. Please see the section on government records for photographs created by the provincial Department of Travel and Publicity.

C 7 John Boyd Fonds

John Boyd (1865-1941) was a railway employee and amateur historian. He took many photographs around Ontario in the first decades of the 20th century. His work documents some of the sites related to the War of 1812 and the defence of Upper

Canada. Some of Boyd's photographs may be viewed in the Archives of Ontario Visual Database. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

C 57 Eric Arthur Fonds

Eric Arthur (1896-1982) was an architect and photographer. He captured images of many of the surviving buildings from the War of 1812 era. Some of his photographs may be viewed in the Archives of Ontario Visual Database. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 1075 M.O. Hammond Fonds

M.O. Hammond (1876-1934) was a journalist and amateur historian. He photographed many of the battlefields and monuments of the War of 1812 during the early years of the 20th century. His black and white images captured these sites before they were restored or turned into parks, providing an interesting comparison for those visiting them today. Hammond also made photographic portraits of artists C.W. Jefferys and G.T. Berthon. Hammond kept a diary that has insights into his historical interests and travels. Hammond's photographs may be viewed in the Archives of Ontario Visual Database. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

5.4 Architectural Plans and Drawings

Few original drawings or plans dating from the War of 1812 are available to researchers. The fonds described below include some material related to the war and to the efforts to reconstruct some of the historic sites associated with the war.

C 23 McMurrich and Oxley Fonds

The fonds has architectural drawings of the firm, McMurrich and Oxley and their predecessor, Sommerville, McMurrich and Oxley. This firm was involved in planning for the reconstruction of a number of historic sites in Ontario, including Fort George and Fort Erie in the Niagara area. Drawings and plans relating to these projects are in the fonds. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

F 360 Mrs. Edward Kemp Collection

Mrs. Edward Kemp (1814-1896) donated this miscellaneous collection of historical records to the Archives of Ontario. It includes drawings of a bateau and of what is believed to be one of the vessels built at the Kingston Naval Yard in 1814. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit.](#)

6. Archives of Ontario Library

The Library of the Archives of Ontario holds many publications relating to the War of 1812, including works of popular and academic history, pamphlets, compilations of documents concerning the war and biographies of participants. These items range from

broad accounts of the war through detailed campaign and battle micro-histories. Information on many historic plaques in Ontario, including those describing events of the War of 1812, is available through the Library.

In conducting your research:

- Do keyword searches on [BIBLiON](#), the Library's on-line catalogue, using the names of battles, individuals or places.
- Please note that not all publications in the Library are described in the BIBLiON database. If a publication you are looking for does not appear in the database, please contact the reference staff. [Click here to access the Archives of Ontario's online War of 1812 exhibit](#), which includes a list of a few of the publications on the war that are in the Library collection.

7. Table of Fonds and Collections Relating to the War Of 1812

For conservation reasons, you will need to conduct your research using microfilm records, when they are available, rather than original records.

With the exception of the microfiche for the Hiram Walker Collection, all microfilms are available in the Reading Room on a self-service basis. For records that are not available on microfilm, please consult a staff member in the Reading Room to request records retrieval from storage. To see the detailed description in our database, please click on the entry in the Reference Code column in Table 1, below.

Reference Code	Title	Where to Find 1812 Records
C 1	Thomas Burrowes Fonds	All Burrowes' watercolours are on the <i>Visual Database</i> .
C 7	John Boyd Fonds	Some of John Boyd's photographs are in the <i>Visual Database</i> .
C 23	McMurrich and Oxley Fonds	Project 409, Fort George and Fort Erie restorations. Available through the Reading Room.
C 57	Eric Arthur fonds	Some of Eric Arthur's photographs are in the <i>Visual Database</i> .
F 17	William Baldwin Family Fonds	Correspondence 1812-1815 on microfilm MS 88, reel 1.
F 20	Henry John Boulton Fonds	Correspondence 1812-1815, on microfilm MS 525, reel 1.
F 37	Mackenzie-Lindsay Family	Correspondence 1839-

Reference Code	Title	Where to Find 1812 Records
	Fonds	1841, on microfilm MS 516, reel 6.
F 43	Thomas Ridout Family Fonds	Correspondence 1812-1815 on microfilm MS 537, reel 1.
F 44	John Beverley Robinson Family Fonds	Correspondence 1812-1815 microfilm MS 4, reel 1.
F 47	Simcoe Family Fonds	Elizabeth Simcoe's sketches and watercolours are on the <i>Visual Database</i> .
F 360	Mrs. Edward Kemp Fonds	Drawings are available Reading room.
F 378	Hiram Walker Collection	Microfiche 20-231 (request from stacks).
F 429	Duncan Clark Fonds	Request F 429, box MU 572.
F 440	John Norton Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 94, reel 1.
F 483	Ford Family Fonds	Use microfilm MS 7695.
F 504	Urquhart Family Fonds	Request F 504, box MU 3053.
F 515	Gilkison Family Fonds	Use microfilm MS 497, reel 1.
F 536	Joel Stone Family Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 519, reel 1.
F 542	Robert Nelles Family Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 503, reel 1.
F 543	Abraham Nelles Family Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 502, reel 1.
F 547	Samuel Street Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 500, reel 1.
F 548	John Macdonell Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 821.
F 549	George Crookshank Fonds	Request F 549, box MU 5928.
F 556	Ely Playter Fonds	Diary on microfilm MS 87, reel 1.
F 596	Thomas Glegg Fonds	Sketches are on the <i>Visual Database</i> .
F 662	William Hamilton Merritt Family Fonds	For Brock's Monument see Package 8 on microfilm MS 74, reel 2; for wartime correspondence see

Reference Code	Title	Where to Find 1812 Records
		Packages 42 and 43, microfilm MS 74, reel 5.
F 775	Miscellaneous Collection	Request F 775, boxes MU 2102 and MU 2143.
F 895	Military History Collection	Request F 895, boxes MU 2035, MU 2036 and MU 2037.
F 902	David William Marr Button Family Fonds	Request F 902, box MU 453.
F 907	High Treason register	Consult series description in the Archives Descriptive Database.
F 917	David Kinnear Fonds	Request F 917, box MU 841.
F 955	Gordon Drummond Fonds	Request F 955, box MU 8191.
F 983	John Strachan Fonds	Correspondence on MS 35, reel 1.
F 992	Lee Pritzker Collection	Request F 992, box MU 2635.
F 1075	M.O. Hammond Fonds	M.O. Hammond's Photographs are in the <i>Visual Database</i> . Diaries describing his photographic expeditions are in F 1075, boxes MU 1292 and MU 1293.
F 1076	William Kirby Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 542, reels 1, 3 and 4.
F 1081	Ferdinand Brock Tupper Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 496, reel 1.
F 1107	John Galt Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 861, reel 1.
F 1137	The Lundy's Lane Historical Society Fonds	Request F 1137, box MU 1747.
F 1151	Brock Monument Committee Fonds	Use microfilm MS 7690 and MS 7691.
F 1194	C.H.J. Snider Fonds	A searchable index to Snider's "Schooner Days" is available through the website of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes. Click here to access

Reference Code	Title	Where to Find 1812 Records
		the Maritime Museum of the Great Lakes website.
F 2128	Jacques Duperon Baby Family Fonds	Correspondence on microfilm MS 498 reel 1.
F 4140	Battle Of Lundy's Lane Letter	Request F 4140, box 1.
F 4421	Crysler Family Fonds	John Crysler (1765-1838) records, series F 4421-3, container B407684.
F 4516	Attack On Fort Oswego, On Lake Ontario, North America. May 6th, 1814 / Drawn By Captain Steele; Engraved By R. Havell And Son	Request container B411759.
F 4517	Storming Fort Oswego, On Lake Ontario, North America. May 6th, 1814 / Drawn By Captain Steele; Engraved By R. Havell And Son	Request container B411759.
RG 1-9	Crown Land Administration Subject Files	Correspondence on microfilm MS 892, reel 6.
RG 1-54	Petitions Relating To Land Received By The Crown Lands Department	A detailed listing is available on the Files and Items portion of the Archives Descriptive Database. Click here to access the Archives Descriptive Database.
RG 1-100	Patent Plans	Review plans for townships of interest to you. A detailed listing is available on the Files and Items portion of the Archives Descriptive Database. Click here to access the Archives Descriptive Database.
RG 1-152	Registers of Militia Grants	Use microfilm MS 693, reel 40.
RG 4-1	Pre-Confederation Records Of The Attorney General	Use microfilm MS 8752.
RG 5-4	Correspondence of the Minister of Tourism and	A detailed listing is available on the Files and

Reference Code	Title	Where to Find 1812 Records
	Information	Items portion of the Archives Descriptive Database. Click here to access the Archives Descriptive Database.
RG 5-54	Administrative records of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission	A detailed listing is available on the Files and Items portion of the Archives Descriptive Database. Click here to access the Archives Descriptive Database
RG 22-134	Assize minute books	Use microfilm MS 530, reel 1.
RG 22-143	Court of King's Bench Records of high treason trial of 1814	Use microfilm MS 7237.
RG 22-144	Alien Act Commissions, Inquisitions and related records	Use microfilm MS 8751.
RG 22-678	Johnstown District alien act inquisition extract register	Use microfilm MS 8751.
RG 22-3768	Newcastle District Clerk of the Peace inquisition to declare certain persons alien	Use microfilm MS 8751.
RG 22-3782	Newcastle District Clerk of the Peace high treason in War of 1812 poster	Request RG 22-3782.
RG 38-3	Subject Correspondence of the Niagara Parks Commission General Manager	A detailed listing is available on the Files and Items portion of the Archives Descriptive Database. Click here to access the Archives Descriptive Database. Search by a name or location for the best results, for example Fort Erie.
RG 38-17	Niagara Parks commission historical records	A detailed listing is available on the Files and Items portion of the Archives Descriptive Database. Click here to

Reference Code	Title	Where to Find 1812 Records
		access the Archives Descriptive Database. Search by a name or location for the best results, for example Fort Erie.
RG 65-35	Tourism promotion photographs	A detailed listing is available on the Files and Items portion of the Archives Descriptive Database. Click here to access the Archives Descriptive Database. Available through the Reading Room.

Making Contact

Ready and Willing

Although unable to do your War of 1812 research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

Contact us

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Fax: 416-327-1999
Email: [Click here to send an email to the Archives of Ontario](#)
Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

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