

WILLIAM OSGOODE

MG 23, H I 10

Finding Aid 1719 / Instrument de recherche n° 1719

Prepared in 1987 by Elizabeth Diamond    Préparé en 1987  
for the Pre-Confederation Archives    par Elizabeth Diamond  
Section.    pour les Archives  
antérieures à la Confédération.

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 File 1 (pages 1-109)

17 letters from **Sir David Carnegie** bart. (1753-1805), M.P., 1786-1803, about politics and other affairs, with one letter from Miss E. Carnegie [Elizabeth Carnegie, sister to Sir David?], about arrangements to view the trial of Warren Hastings c. 1788.

8 Feb. 1786	4 p.	6 Jan. 1801	6 p.
25 June 1786	4 p.	17 Aug. 1801	2 p.
3 Nov. 1788	6 p.	17 Sept. 1801	4 p.
29 Sept. 1789	4 p.	8 Dec. 1801	4 p.
27 March 1793	10 p.	12 March 1802	4 p.
13 April 1794	16 p.	26 June 1802	4 p.
16 Sept. 1794	8 p.	3 Nov. 1802	4 p.
14 April 1795	10 p.	25 Oct. 1803	4 p.
24 March 1799	12 p.		

Miss E. Carnegie, c. 1788 3 p.

## File 2 (pages 110-282)

35 letters, 1782-1800, from **William Cruise** (d. 1824), life-long friend and companion of Osgoode's old age. He and Osgoode both lived in the Albany and died within a few days of one another. The letters discuss both public and private affairs. William Cruise was a member of Lincoln's Inn and a writer on legal subjects.

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22 July 1782	3 p.	1 March 1797	3 p.
11 Aug. 1792	4 p.	7 June 1797	6 p.
26 December 1792	4 p.	2 Aug. 1797	4 p.
5 April 1793	4 p.	28 Aug. 1797	4 p.
6 Nov. 1793	6 p.	21 Dec. 1797	4 p.
4 Feb. 1794	8 p.	4 April 1798	6 p.
12 March 1794	4 p.	3 Oct. 1798	4 p.
2 July 1794	8 p.	5 Dec. 1798	4 p.
7 Oct. 1794	8 p.	7 March 1799	4 p.
6 Jan. 1795	6 p.	23 April 1799	4 p.
3 Feb. 1795	4 p.	6 June 1799	4 p.
6 May 1795	8 p.	2 Sept. 1799	8 p.
4 Nov. 1795	3 p.	6 Nov. 1799	4 p.
2 Dec. 1795	4 p.	5 Feb. 1800	4 p.
3 Feb. 1796	8 p.	5 June 1800	6 p.
1 June 1796	4 p.	2 July 1800	4 p.
6 Aug. 1796	4 p.	6 Aug. 1800	4 p.
5 Oct. 1796	4 p.		

File 3 (pages 283-373)

44 brief notes or letters from "**Ninette**" [**Ann Griffiths**], c. 1786-1789. Most are undated, although the year can occasionally be established from the postmarks; the sequence is random, as a chronological order cannot be established, Ninette's letters are generally brief, to arrange meetings or explain absences. She was apparently Osgoode's mistress.

File 4 (pages 374-572)

4 letters, 1792-1801, from **Edward Hilliard** of Cowley House, Uxbridge (fl. 1760s-1810s), with two from his son George, Osgoode's godson, 25 August 1797, and 17 Sept. 1809, and one from his son John, 2 Sept. 1800. These letters discuss public news and family affairs. One dated 1796 (p. 443-50) gives a particularly lucid account of the effect of the building of the Grand Junction Canal on the agricultural and other developments in the area.

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14 Aug. 1792	4 p.	2 Oct. 1797	4 p.
5 Jan. 1794	10 p.	21 Nov. 1797	2 p.
25 Feb. 1794	5 p.	17 Jan. 1798	4 p.
16 April 1794	4 p.	24 Feb. 1798	4 p.
17 July 1794	4 p.	3 June 1798	4 p.
14 Oct. 1794	5 p.	30 July 1798	4 p.
2 Feb. 1795	4 p.	3 Sept. 1798	4 p.
post 25 March 1794	4 p.	2 Oct. 1798	4 p.
1 June 1795	6 p.	11 Nov. 1798	2 p.
20 Aug. 1795	4 p.	5 June 1799	2 p.
20 Aug. 1795	6 p.	1 July 1799	4 p.
post Nov. 1795	2 p.	2 Sept. 1799	4 p.
10 Dec. 1795	8 p.	30 Sept. 1799	4 p.
6 July 1796	2 p.	Dec. 1799	4 p.
14 July 1796	18 p.	4 Feb. 1800	4 p.
5 Sept. 1796	7 p.	3 March 1800	4 p.
29 Jan. 1797	8 p.	6 May 1800	4 p.
27 Feb. 1797	4 p.	2 Dec. 1800	4 p.
7 May 1797	2 p.	30 April 1801	4 p.
post May 1797	4 p.	1 Aug. 1801	4 p.
30 July 1797	4 p.	10 Aug. 1801	2 p.
23 Oct. 1801	2 p.		
George Hilliard			
25 Aug. 1797	4 p.	17 Sept. 1809	4 p.
John Hilliard			
2 Sept. 1800	4 p.		

File 5 (pages 573-594)

4 letters (1794-1796), from **Edward Baker Littlehales**, secretary to Lord Simcoe. These letters discuss political affairs and gossip in Upper Canada. One of 20 Jan. 1796 recounts stories of the earthquake at York and Niagara, 27 Dec. 1795. These letters give a very vivid, intimate account of the personal relations in the colony.

24 Oct. 1794	3 p.
17 March 1795	8 p.
26 July 1795	4 p.
20 Jan. 1796	7 p.

File 6 (pages 595-701A)

28 letters, 1793-1805, from **John Graves Simcoe** (1752-1806),

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first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada; three, 1806-1807, from his wife, Elizabeth Posthuma nee Gwillim (1766-1850) and one from Major Darling, his aide de camp, 1806. These letters discuss political and legal affairs in Upper Canada in very private terms. They appear to reveal aspects of Simcoe's political ideas not previously well known. One of October 1793 shows that Simcoe was, at that date, trying to prevent the alliance of the Western Indians and the Six Nations, but was unwilling to have his intentions known.

29 July 1792	2 p.	16 Oct. 1795	4 p.
29 July 1792	2 p.	22 Dec. [1795]	3 p.
[4 Aug. 1793]	3 p.	15 April [1796]	3 p.
15 Sept. 1793	3 p.	20 June 1796	3 p.
[Oct. 1793]	4 p.	25 July 1796	4 p.
17 Oct. [1793]	1 p.	31 July 1796	2 p.
21 Nov. [1793]	3 p.	13 Dec. 1796	3 p.
29 Dec. [1793]	4 p.	29 July 1798	4 p.
post June 1793	2 p.	[1 May 1801]	2 p.
29 Oct. 1794	4 p.	15 Aug. [1801]	2 p.
[Nov.] 1794	3 p.	20 Sept. [1801]	2 p.
19 Dec. [1794]	4 p.	5 June 1805	3 p.
19 Jan. [1795]	3 p.	25 Sept. 1806	3 p.
15 Feb. 1795	3 p.		
17 March 1795	8 p.		
22 Aug. [1795]	4 p.		

Elizabeth Simcoe  
8 June [1807] 4 p. with enclosure Simcoe to  
Greenwood, c. 1805  
28 July c. 1805 4 p.  
27 Aug. 1807 4 p.

Major Darling  
26 Oct. 1806 4 p.

File 7 (pages 702-945)

59 letters, 1816-1823, of **Caroline Walrond**, widow of Osgoode's friend, Capt. Walrond (fl. 1790) concerning the management of her husband's estate in Devon. Osgoode may have been an executor. There is also a letter from her son Bethell and one from Samuel Athill of Antigua, to John Lyons in Hampshire about Walrond's and other business. These letters have no Canadian importance in themselves but do reveal that Osgoode spent a great deal of time carrying out his duties to his dead friend.

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10 Jan. 1816	3 p.	26 June 1818	4 p.
1 Feb. 1816	4 p.	4 July 1818	4 p.
9 Feb. 1816	4 p.	31 July 1818	4 p.
7 March 1816	4 p.	23 Sept. 1818	4 p.
14 March 1816	4 p.	18 Oct. 1818	4 p.
23 March 1816	4 p.	[22 Oct. 1818]	8 p.
9 April 1816	4 p.	28 Oct. 1818	4 p.
18 April 1816	4 p.	12 Nov. 1818	4 p.
11 May 1816	2 p.	24 Nov. 1818	4 p.
with enclosure, Sam Athill		30 Nov. 1818	4 o.
to		21 Dec. 1818	4 p.
J. Lyons, 28 March 1816		27 Dec. 1818	3 p.
3 June 1816	4 p.	19 Sept. 1819	4 p.
18 June 1816	4 p.	26 Oct. 1819	4 p.
6 July 1816	4 p.	12 Jan. 1820	4 p.
23 July 1816	4 p.	3 Feb. 1820	4 p.
13 Aug. 1816	4 p.	7 April 1820	4 p.
20 Aug. 1816	4 p.	10 June 1820	4 p.
29 Oct. 1816	4 p.	23 June 1820	4 p.
17 Nov. 1816	4 p.	28 July 1820	4 p.
24 Dec. 1816	4 p.	16 Oct. 1820	4 p.
5 Jan. 1818	4 p.	28 Oct. 1820	4 p.
11 Jan. 1818	4 p.	14 March 1821	4 p.
19 Jan. 1818	4 p.	7 April 1821	4 p.
19 Feb. 1818	4 p.	3 May 1821	4 p.
28 Feb. 1818	4 p.	8 May 1821	4 p.
7 March 1818	4 p.	2 Aug. 1821	4 p.
24 March 1818	4 p.	16 March 1823	4 p.
16 April 1818	4 p.	31 May 1823	4 p.
6 May 1818	4 p.	20 July 1823	4 p.
30 May 1818	4 p.		
17 June 1818	4 p.		

Bethell Walrond c. 1823 p.

File 8 (pages 945-1008)

14 letters, 1794-1799 from **John White** (c. 1761-1800) Attorney General of Upper Canada. These letters reveal much detail about the disputes between White and the Governors and the other law officers of the province.

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23 Aug. 1794	4 p.	10 Oct. 1798	12 p.
20 Nov. 1794	6 p.	9 Feb. 1799	3 p.
18 June 1796	4 p.	15 Feb. 1799	8 p.
3 July 1796	8 p.	16 July 1799	2 p.
23 July 1796	2 p.	1 August 1799	4 p.
24 July 1796	4 p.	26 Nov. 1799	6 p.

File 9 (pages 1009-1220)

**General Correspondence.** 45 letters 1793-1809 from correspondents in England and Canada on many subjects. In almost every case there is some public or historical matter of significance.

Type of Document Number	Author	Subject & Place	Date of
letter merits	James McGill 20-1-1793	discussing the of taxing rum	Quebec
memorandum 1794-1800	(McGill) 4 pp.	means by which witnesses and others may be paid their costs by Courts in Lower Canada	c.
letter death of	James Clarkson 9-2-1793	4 pp. his son Peter with Osgoode's draft reply	concerning the
5 letters draft	John Hodgkinson	replies, concerning the qualifications required for barristers in Upper Canada, Newark, March 1793	with Osgoode's

Tuesday, letter and reply, 2 p.  
 Tuesday, letter and reply, 4 p.  
 15 March 1793, letter and reply, 2 p.  
 n.d. reply 2 p.  
 28 March 1793, letter and reply, 4 p.  
 30 March 1793, letter, no reply, 5 p.

This correspondence is referred to in the diary of John White, published in Ontario History vol. 47, 1955, p. 162.

2 letters William Dummer complaining of  
 the 12 August 4 p. position he has  
 one private and first Judge each  
 been 1793, Niagara put in by the new  
 one official of the Court of commission for  
 the court Pleas for Hesse

District to be set for the whole Province. He felt his chances for promotion had been blocked. Osgoode's reply to this letter, dated 9 Sept. 1793, was published in Ontario History, vol. 46, 1954, p. 81.

receipt William Jarvis #36 from Osgoode  
 1 Oct. 1793 2 p.

letter Thomas Forsyth reporting the  
 imminent 28 Nov. 1793 4 p.  
 Montreal death of Chief Justice

Montreal merchant William Smith of Lower Canada and discussing the means of influencing people in London to ensure Osgoode's appointment in his place.



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letter 1794	Hugh Finlay offers to take messages merchant & founder Canadian postal service	to England and wishes to see Osgoode succeed Chief Justice Smith	6 Jan. Quebec
2 letters general April 1794 Montreal	Thomas Forsyth 28 Jan. 1794 4 p.	containing 8 p. news of Lower Canada and Europe. Letters were sent by winter express, going overland when the river was frozen	16
3 letters arrangement Detroit August 1794	Dummer Powell 11 April 1794 3 p.	concerns the 3 p. for the men to meet, friendly in tone; discusses the exchange of books and news; Detroit discusses the question of the loyalty of Detroit French Canadians at Detroit and thanks Osgoode for using his influence to get a post for one of Powell's sons.	9 30
memorandum Aug. 1794	(Powell) 4 p.	presents opinion on the application of the Quebec Act to civil liberties in Lower Canada	c.
letter Montreal	anonymous 3 p.	from "a loyalist" 13 Sept. 1794 complaining against the legal system and especially the pardoning/ commutation of sentence of a murderer, Graham	

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letter disturbances	James Walker 14 Sept. 1794 lawyer & at Montreal (Montreal member of the legislative assembly of Montreal	concerning 4 p. Road riots?)	
letter Nov. 1794	Sir David 4 p. William Smith Niagara lawyer, Surveyor General of Upper Canada & Member of the Legislative Assembly	gives general news and good wishes	19
letter 1794	P. Lukin 2 p.	soliciting patronage as interpreter	1 Dec. Montreal
letter for an the	Arthur Davidson 8 Dec. 1794 4 p. lawyer & judge	covering letter opinion of 6 of 8 barristers at Montreal on the administration of justice (the enclosure is not present)	
letter 1795	David Hunt 4 p.	social letter of old friend, giving news from Europe	29 May London
letter July 1795 makes from later	J.G.S. 4 p. (possibly John Halifax Gee Smyth, chaplain to the Duke of Kent)	social letter from old friend but also introduction of George Pyke, a jurist Nova Scotia who became a judge in Gaspé; affairs of Duke of Kent are discussed in detail,	15

suggesting that the  
letter may be from one  
of his household.

letter taken Osgoode's with  
Berkley Binland  
18 Feb. 1796  
of Stock House  
near Sherbourne  
Dorset  
Lord Dorchester would  
be presented to Henry  
Dundas, Secretary of War  
about steps to be  
4 p.  
to insure that  
side of a dispute

2 letters Executive (contemporary Lower copies) him to put below)  
William Lindsay  
12 May 1797 2 p.  
who became  
Clerk Asst. in  
Lower Canadian  
House of Assembly in 1792  
before Osgoode in hopes  
it will help his career  
1792

(Lindsay) 3 p.  
to Jonathan Sewell Dec. 1796  
concerning the Montreal  
disturbances at Montreal

4 letters: court-formal letter in  
Herman Witsius  
6 Oct. 1797 4 p.  
Castle  
Montreal & Quebec St. Louis  
about building  
houses and jails

private letter  
3 Oct. 1798 4 p.  
(Witsius)  
between Prescott  
and Osgoode  
about antagonisms

letter  
4 p.  
(Witsius)  
about effects of  
Osgoode's intervention  
on his behalf to put  
7 Nov. 1798  
London

the clerkship on a firmer  
financial basis. He speaks  
of accusations against  
Osgoode and himself

letter	(Witsius) 4 p.	"	3 Dec. 1798  Stamford, Linc.
letter 1798	John Black 5 p. shipbuilder & escape from Gironde & office holder	recounts his capture  London privateers & the state of European politics including plans for the invasion of Ireland	3 Oct.
letter	Jacob Mountain c. 1796-1799 Anglican bishop	expressing his 2 p. displeasure with  of Quebec General Prescott for usurping his authority	
letter Sept. 1799	John Lees 4p. merchant & system office holder	about the land granting  Lachine	5
2 letters introduction Philadelphia	J. Guillemard 7 Oct. 1799 4 p.  for Mr. Dunn, former  Irish M.P.	letter of	
1799	W. Macdonald 4 p.	"	8 Oct.  Philadelphia
letter patronage	Arthur Davidson 30 Jan. 1800 advocate and Montreal judge	asking for 1 p. as successor to  James Walker on the Court of King's Bench Montreal	

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letter help Montreal	Simon McTavish 16 Mar. 1800 fur trader Osgoode had been to a Mr. Cobbett who was in financial distress	regarding the 2 p.
letter his Bishop	Henry Blackstone 13 Aug. 1801 sheriff, Trois Three Rivers Rivieres Mountain & the Governor (incomplete)	complaining of 4 p. problems with
letter Oct. 1801 American	John Young 16 p. Executive Councillor Lower Canada	lengthy & important 29 discussion of various subjects, including the threat of Quebec invasion, recording the dissent on the Council, granting land in lieu of salary increases and the effort to suppress an American newspaper called the <u>Watch Tower</u>
letter	Charles Talbot 14 Nov. 1801	of invitation 3 p. Dorking, Surrey
letter Oct. 1805 Chief	Thomas Dunn 3 p. judge and sometime Administrator of Lower Canada	about Council affairs 26 and expressing his hope that Monk is not appointed Quebec Justice of Lower Canada
note invitation	Thomas Warre 28 May 1808 2 p.	declining Stratford Place, London
letter	J. Campbell 3 p.	invitation 1 Oct. 1809 Sudbury,

Suffolk

note	? Kerwan	declining invitation	n.d.
	2 p.		
			post 1801
note	[Sir John]	invitation	c. 1806-1811
	2 p.		
	Anstruther		

File 10 (pages 1221-1223)

Copy of the **Address** delivered to Lt. Gov. John G. Simcoe by William Osgoode as Speaker of the House of Assembly, Upper Canada, on the passage of the Militia Bill, 1793. 3 p.

File 11 (pages 1224-1246)

Document outlining the case of Ralph Gray (c. 1736-1813) against the plaintiff John Young (c. 1759-1815) in a dispute over land and two houses in St. Louis Street, Quebec City, presented by A. Panet, Gray's lawyer in the Court of King's Bench, district of Quebec, 14 June 1799. 4 p.

Notes in French and English, of testimony and verdicts in a burglary case (24 Sept. 1800) and two murder cases (26 Sept. 1800, 29 March 1801), heard at Quebec. Endorsed "Judges Notes", apparently not in Osgoode's hand. 18 p.

File 12 (pages 1247-1338)

Papers transmitted to members of the **Royal Commission** enquiring into the procedure for electing "jurats" who were officers with both legislative and judicial power on the island of **Jersey**, 1811. 92 p.

File 13 (pages 1339-1341)

Undated draft of **poem**, probably in Osgoode's hand. 3 p.

File 14 (pages 1342-1455)

28 letters addressed to **Schomberg**, (d. 1780), the brother of

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Alexander Crowcher Schomberg (1756-1792), while he was resident in Flanders, 1776-1779. The letters contain many references to politics, literary figures and the beau monde. Included are two press cuttings, 1931, quoting this correspondence.

10 letters from Sir Herbert Croft, bart. (1751-1816).

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4 June 1776	4 p.	11 Feb. 1777	4 p.
2 July 1776	4 p.	1 April 1777	4 p.
28 Sept. 1776	4 p.	26 Aug. 1777	3 p.
20 Oct. 1776	4 p.	22 Dec. 1777	4 p.
10 Nov. 1776	4 p.	15 Jan. 1778	3 p.

7 letters from John Davison			
1 July 1776	4 p.	1 Sept. 1777	4 p.
23 Oct. 1776	6 p.	5 Oct. 1777	4 p.
mid 1777	4 p.	22 Jan. 1779	4 p.
16 May 1777	4 p.		

7 letters from William Osgoode			
Dec. 1776-early 1777	4 p.	Sept. 1777	4 p.
30 March 1777	4 p.	2 Jan. 1778	4 p.
14 June 1777	4 p.	3 April 1778	4 p.
June 1777	4 p.		

4 letters written jointly, including one in verse

9 May 1776	4 p.	18 May 1776	4 p.
early 1776	4 p.	1777	4 p.

File 15 (pages 1456-1464)

Correspondence addressed to **John Davison**.

letter (in French) from Henrietta B., Brussels, 28 February 1776.

two letters from Sir Herbert Croft (1751-1816),  
24 March 1780 discussing his  
controversial work

Hackman on the murderer James  
(1752-1779) 3 pp.

authorship of	31 Jan. 1781	attributing the
Davison 3 pp.		"Kirkhampton Abbey) to
to Croft		(the work is attributed
biography in		by the author of his
NATIONAL		the DICTIONARY OF



BIOGRAPHY).

File 16 (pages 1465-1480)

Papers of the estate of **Miss Copley**.

letter from Osgoode to his aunt, Miss Copley, from Quebec, 5 June 1792, recounting his voyage across the Atlantic 4 pp.

three letters from Osgoode to Mr. Burrows regarding Miss Copley's death and her will, Albany House, 21 July 1815 4 pp.  
27 July 1815 4 pp.  
9 Oct. 1815 3 pp.

three letters from Osgoode to Miss Copley and his cousin Ellen were published in ONTARIO HISTORY (see vol. 57, 1965, pages 181-187).

File 17 (pages 1481-1486)

Two letters to **William Burrows** of London, a relation who inherited Osgoode's papers, from T. Noyes, Coventry 11 May and 24 Nov. 1826, 3 pages each, not relating to Osgoode.

