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GEORGE H.A. MONTGOMERY

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Prepared by Mr. James H. Lambert  
Pre-Confederation Section  
in 1974

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Section des archives antérieures  
à 1867 en 1974.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	pages 1-11
Descriptive list	pages 1-6
Index to descriptive list.	pages 7-12

GEORGE H.A. MONTGOMERY (MG 30 & 100)

INTRODUCTION

George H.A. Montgomery (1874-1951) was educated at Bishop's and McGill Universities. A lawyer by profession he became Bâtonnier of the Montreal Bar in 1927 and President of the Canadian Bar Association in 1935-1936. He was also on the board of directors of a number of corporations and Chancellor of Bishop's University until 1950.

Montgomery has long had an interest in the history of Phillipsburg, where he was born and where he maintained a summer home. Traces of his research go back to 1920 but most of it seems to have been conducted in the 1930's and 1940's, when he was also delivering lectures on the history of the Eastern Townships. His activities finally culminated in the publishing, the year before his death, of Missisquoi Bay (Phillipburg, Quebec.)

In the course of his researches Montgomery gathered together a significant collection of Ruitter papers. Henry Ruitter (or, Hendrick Ruyter, 1742?-1819) and his brother John (Johannes) Ruitter (1740?-1797) were Loyalists from the Genesee Valley, N.Y. Henry Ruitter settled first at Caldwell's Manor, and in 1799 on a grant in Pottton Township. John Ruitter settled on Missisquoi Bay, where he acted as agent of Thomas Dunn, seigneur of St. Armand. Philip Ruitter (1766-1820) succeeded his father, John, as agent for Dunn. At his death, Dr. Calvin May assumed the management of the estate for C.R. Cheeseman, the heir. The Ruitter papers in this collection ought to be consulted in conjunction with the larger collection of Ruitter family papers in MG 23 G III (3) (Finding Aid 135), which document a much broader range of the family's activities. Montgomery's collection in fact supplements the other in financial and land matters. Both collections are largely the product of the activities of Philip Ruitter.

The Montgomery papers were donated to the Public Archives in 1974 by Mr. Justice G.H. Montgomery, son of George H.A. Montgomery.

The collection has been divided into two parts, "A" being the original Ruiter papers collected by Montgomery and "B" being the research material created by him. The finding aid is a descriptive list of the documents in the order in which they appear in the collection, along with an index of the names appearing in the finding aid.

Part A: Ruiter Papers, 1778-1874.

Account and rent books, 1778-1834.

1. John Ruiter: account book, 1778-1786.
2. [ John and Phillip Ruiter ? ] account book, 1788-1809.
3. [ Phillip Ruiter ? ] cash book, 1797-1798.
4. [ Phillip Ruiter ? ] account book, 1808-1822.
5. Owner unknown: Account book of property sales and rentals, 1806-1834.

Legal papers, 1794-1852.

1. Deed of sale from John McIntosh to Lawrence Cramer, 2 Sept. 1794.
2. Deed of land from Thomas Dunn to John Ruiter, 4 Sept. 1794
3. Articles of association Thomas Dunn and 34 associates:  
Joseph Buck, John Helliker, Jacob Helliker, George Sax, Mathew Hall, William Farrand, David Farrand, Joshua Chambers, Amos Woodard, David Reyichert, John Reyichert, John Blake, Thomas Best, Daniel Mills, Jeremiah Reyichert, Daniel Trever, Alexander McCougall, James Bell, Andres Feneick, Henry Feneick, Archibald Henderson, Henry Hall, Elisha Dickenson, Jacob Best Senior, George Weymore, Abraham Lampman, John Mills, Stephen Fennce, Jacob Best junior, Adam Deal, Lodowick Streit, Samuel Mills, Phillip Ruiter and Jacob Ruiter.
4. Deed of sale from John Oliver to Lawrence Cramer, 1 Sept. 1796.
5. Acquittance by Jacob Ruiter to the executors of the estate of John Ruiter, 8 Sept. 1800.
6. Duplicate of protest served by request of Oliver Barker in his court case vs. Edmund Heard, 22 Oct. 1801.
7. Deed of sale Oliver Barker to **Jacob Best**, 3 March 1803 .
8. Deed of sale by John Misener to Judah Mandigo, 11 Nov. 1806

9. Acquittance by John and Hermanius Ruitter, and Richard Cheesman and Catherine (Ruitter) Cheesman in favour of the executors of the estate of John Ruitter, 9 March 1809.
10. Perpetual lease by Phillip Ruitter to Anthony Rhodes, 9 June 1809.
11. Perpetual lease by Phillip Ruitter to Samuel Farrar, 9 June 1809.
12. Perpetual lease by Phillip Ruitter to Thomas Russell, 9 June 1809.
13. Perpetual lease from Phillip Ruitter to Simeon Lester, 9 June 1809.
14. Deed of exchange between Phillip Ruitter and Alexander Taylor, 7 Sept. 1809.
15. Perpetual lease by Phillip Ruitter to Anthony Rhoades and William Taylor, 7 Aug. 1810.
16. Perpetual lease from Phillip Ruitter to T.H. Day, 7 Aug. 1810.
17. Deed of sale from Frederick W. Ermatinger to John Jones, 2 Feb. 1811.
18. Perpetual lease by Phillip to William King, 11 Apr. 1811.
19. Perpetual lease by Phillip Ruitter to Richard Pitt, 29 May 1811.
20. Promise of Day and Gelston to Phillip Ruitter regarding sale of a lot, 21 Apr. 1812.
21. Inventory of the estate of Richard Cheesman, 31 May 1817.
22. Tutorship of Richard Cheesman, 22 July 1817.
23. Perpetual lease by Phillip Ruitter to Nathaniel Field, 29 Sept. 1819
24. Deed of sale by Phillip Ruitter to Timothy Smith, 12 Feb. 1820.
25. Deed of sale by Phillip Ruitter to Samuel Lawrence, 25 Feb. 1820.
26. Deed of sale from Samuel Lawrence to George Feller, 25 Feb. 1820.
27. Copy of a deed of sale from Frederick Ermatinger to Ralph Taylor, 16 August 1821.
28. Ralph Taylor va. Calvin May, A.V.V. Hogel and Frederick Moore. Protest of Ralph Taylor, 24 Nov. 1824.
29. Agreement between Maria (Cheesman) Burke and Charles R. Cheesman, 1834.
30. Acquittance by David Burke and Lawson Lord to Charles Cheesman, 15 June 1839.

31. Lease by C.R. Cheesman to David Burke, 15 June 1839.
32. Deposition, 9 Aug. 1839, by John Binning Monk, Captain in the First Regiment, complaining that A. Ford refused to billet him.
33. Complaint of William Joy against William Hutchinson, 20 Sept. 1847.
34. Lease by Charles Cheeseman to James Rollins, 9 June 1852.

Book of declarations of aliens, 1794-1795.

Aliens: Bennoni Grant, James Howard, James Smith, William Farrand, Asa Porter, Asa Hawley, John Brooks, William Miller, Ebenezer Rogers, Asa Spafford Allen, Ebenezer Eastman, Cardec Parker, Achilles Page, Jesse Everts, William Graves, Daniel Bishop, John Morse, Timothy Kibbe, George Frozan, Asa Warner, David Gibb, Ebenezer Clark, William Wilson, Isaac Gibbs, Joshua Gibbs, Leonard Holmes, Baxter Lyon, Isaac Magoon, Benjamin Cummings, Alexander Magoon, Levi Presbrey, Henry Collins, Elishu Buttolph, Elisha Warner, Thomas Shepherd, Eli Buell, Moses Cross, James Mariner, Ezekiel Lewis, John Moor, Ashal Deming, Willard Hills, Benjamin Esty, Noah Whipple, Joseph Scott, Samuel Crafts, Phillip Goodin, Jonas Joslin, Ephraim Story, Samuel Roberts, Enoch Hoskins, James Martindale, Ephraim Stone, Andrew Farrand, Elijah Lawrence, Daniel Davies, Daniel Ward, David Farley, Andrew Auringer, Samuel Prentice, John Lockwood, John Clark, Richard Allen, Samuel Mott, and Samuel Mott.

Inventories of the estate of Phillip Rutter, 1821.

1. Legal inventory of moveable property belonging to the estate of Phillip Rutter and sold at public auction, 29 January 1821.
2. Inventory of the estate of Phillip Rutter, Jan.-Feb. 1821.

Miscellaneous, 1796-1874.

1. Letter from Hugh Finlay to John Rutter, 24 Feb. 1796, regarding Levi Presbrey, an American magistrate wishing to settle in Canada.
2. Account of Miss Townshend, a teacher, 1818.
3. Promissory note, 16 Feb. 1846, from William Fellers.

4. Newspaper clipping from St. Albans Daily Messenger, 27 July 1874. Description of the country around Phillipsburg.

Part B. George H.A. Montgomery Papers, ca. 1660-1946.

Research correspondence (with enclosures) and notes, 1920-1946, n.d.

1. Hewley R. Holmden to Montgomery, 22 July 1920, enclosing copy of drawing of Phillipsburg blockhouse.
2. Montgomery to Vermont Historical Society, 15 August 1840, requesting two copies of Colume 6 No. 2, of the proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society, "The Missisquoi Loyalists".
3. Blair Niles to Montgomery, ca. 20 August, 1943. Enclosing photocopies of pages of Thomas Joy and His Descendents, by James Richard Joy.
4. J. Richardson to Montgomery, 12 June 1944. Criticism of a typescript submitted to him by Montgomery.
5. H.G. McNeil to Montgomery, 10 May 1945. Enclosing a list of names of early settlers in and about Stanstead.
6. Thomas R. Millman to Montgomery, 13 August, 1945. Regarding early Anglican parish records in the Dunham-St.Armand area. Extracts from the register of baptisms, marriages and births, for the year 1801.
7. T.S. Allan to Montgomery, 5 Oct. 1946. Returning blueprint of the Village of Phillipsburg, 1809.
8. Notes of Jonas Abbot, n.d.
9. Notes on an account book, n.d.
10. Miscellaneous notes, n.d.

Copies of documents made for research purposes, 1784-1800.

1. Transcript of letter from William Buckley to Major Campbell, 31 March 1784. Description of settlement around Missisquoi Bay.
2. Lease of Dunham Township to Thomas Dunn and Associates, 30 Aug. 1796. (See above, Part A, Legal papers, No. 3).
3. Extracts from the Ruiter papers at the Public Archives of Canada and from the Montreal Gazette, respecting road building 1797.



4. Report from Hugh Finlay to Robert Shores Milnes, 1 Oct. 1800, on the form of the registers kept by the commissioners at Missisquoi Bay appointed to administer oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and adjuration.

Copies of maps of the Eastern Townships, ca. 1660-1866, n.d. received from the Public Archives of Canada.

1. Chemin des Iroquois, ca.1660 or 1670.
2. Missisquoi Bay area, ca. 1740.
3. "Carte du Lac Champlain depuis le Fort de Chambly Jusques au desus du Fort St. Frédéric dans la Nouvelle France, n.d."
4. "A survey of Lake Champlain, including Lake George, Crown Point and St. John, by William Brassier in 1762.
5. "A Plan of the Division line between the Provinces of Quebec and New York, 1 October 1772, by John Collins.
6. "Plan of part of Lake Champlain." Gother Mann, 17 June 1791.
7. "Sketch of the posts at the entrance of Lake Champlain," ca. 1794.
8. "Connected Plan of the several Townships situated to the southward of the River St. Lawrence." Joseph Bouchette, July 1805.
9. "Figurative plan of that part of the Frontier of Lower Canada which is in the Vicinity of Lake Champlain and Missisquoi Bay". William Sax. 22 Dec. 1815. (2 copies).
10. "Plan of new line of communication between Missisquoi Bay and St. Johns." Samuel Romilly, 27 March 1817. (2 copies).
11. Part of sheet 7 of "Plan of the frontier of Canada East" of 1839.
12. "Sketch of Phillipsburg, Missisquoi Bay Showing the situation of the Blockhouse and Land proposed to be purchased, 28 Apr. 1846, (2 copies).
13. "Canada East, Phillipsburg, Blockhouse, constructed for 35 Men in 1839 on the land owned by Mr. James Taylor". R. Pilkington, 24 August 1853.

14. Map of Canadian-American border near Lake Champlain, n.d.
15. Sketch of a portion of the township between Ile aux Noix and Missisquoi Bay, n.d.

Manuscripts of books, articles and speeches on the history of the Eastern Townships, 1938-1945, n.d.

1. Manuscript book of notes for speeches given by George Montgomery in 1938 and 1939 on the history of the Eastern Townships.
2. George H. Montgomery, "Early pioneers of the Eastern Townships", Typescript of a speech to be delivered to the Stanstead Historical Society, 18 August 1945.
3. Typescript of a speech given on the occasion of the centenary of incorporation of Phillipsburg, 1946.
4. Typescript, n.d., of an article on "The War of 1812 in the Townships," by J.A.H. Richardson.
5. Manuscript, n.d., of George H. Montgomery, Missisquoi Bay (Phillipsburg, Que) (Granby, Que.: Granby Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., 1950).

## INDEX TO DESCRIPTIVE LIST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page in finding aid</u>
Abbot, Jonas	1803	4
Allen, Asa Spafford	1794	3
Allen, Richard	1795	3
Allan, T.S.	1946	4
Aurringer, Andrew	1795	3
Barker, Oliver	1801,1803	1
Bell, James	1796	1
Best, Jacob, Senior	1796	1
Best, Jacob, Junior	1796,1803	1
Best, Thomas	1796	1
Bishop, Daniel	1794	3
Blake, John	1796	1
Bouchette, Joseph	1805	5
Brassier, William	1762	5
Brooks, John	1794	3
Buck, Joseph	1796	1
Buckley, William	1784	4
Buel, Eli	1794	3
Burke, David	1839	2,3
Burke, Maria (Cheeseman)	1834	2
Buttolph, Elishu	1794	3
Campbell, Major	1784	4
Chambers, Joshua	1796	1
Chambly, Fort		5
Cheeseman, Catherine (Ruiter)	1809	2
Cheeseman, Charles	1834-1852	2,3
Cheeseman, Richard	1809,1817	2
Clark, Ebenezer	1794	3

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page in finding aid</u>
Clark, John	1795	3
Collins, Henry	1794	3
Collins, John	1772	5
Crafts, Samuel	1795	3
Crammer, Lawrence	1794, 1796	1
Cross, Moses	1794	3
Crown Point	1762	5
Cummings, Benjamin	1794	3
Davies, Daniel	1795	3
Day, T.H.	1810	2
Deal, Adam	1796	1
Deming, Ashal	1794	3
Dickenson, Elisha	1796	1
Dunn, Thomas	ca.1788-1820	1
Eastman, Ebenezer	1794	3
Ermatinger, Frederick W.	1811, 1821	2
Esty, Benjamin	1794	3
Everts, Jesse	1794	3
Farley, David	1795	3
Farrand, Andrew	1795	3
Farrand, David	1796	1
Farrand, William	1794, 1796	1,3
Farrar, Samuel	1809	2
Feller, George	1820	2
Fellers, William	1846	3
Field, Nathaniel	1819	2
Feneick, Andres	1796	1
Feneick, Henry	1796	1
Fennce, Stephen	1796	1
Finlay, Hugh	1796,1800	3,5

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page in finding aid</u>
Ford, A.	1839	3
Frozan, George	1794	3
Gelston and Day	1812	2
Gibb, David	1794	3
Gibbs, Isaac	1794	3
Gibbs, Joshua	1794	3
Goodin, Philip	1795	3
Grant, Bennoni	1794	3
Graves, William	1794	3
Hall, Henry	1796	1
Hall, Matthew	1796	1
Hawley, Asa	1794	3
Heard, Edmund	1801	1
Helliker, Jacob	1796	1
Helliker, John	1796	1
Henderson, Archibald	1796	1
Hills, Willard	1794	3
Hogel, A.V.V.	1824	2
Holmden, Hewley R.	1920	4
Holmes, Leonard	1794	3
Hoskins, Enoch	1795	3
Howard, James	1794	3
Hutchinson, William	1847	3
Ile aux Noix		5
Jones, John	1811	2
Joslin, Jonas	1795	3
Joy, William	1847	3
Kibbe, Timothy	1794	3
King, William	1811	2
Lampman, Abraham	1796	1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page in finding aid</u>
Lawrence, Elijah	1795	3
Lawrence, Samuel	1820	2
Lester, Simeon	1809	2
Lewis, Ezekiel	1794	3
Lockwood, John	1795	3
Lord, Lawson	1839	2
Lyon, Baxter	1794	3
Magoon, Alexander	1794	3
Magoon, Isaac	1794	3
Mandigo, Judah	1806	1
Mann, Gother	1791	5
Mariner, James	1794	3
Martindale, James	1795	3
May, Calvin	1824	2
McCougall, Alexander	1796	1
McIntosh, John	1794	1
McNeil, H.G.	1945	4
Miller, William	1794	3
Millman, Thomas R.	1945	4
Mills, Daniel	1796	1
Mills, John	1796	1
Mills, Samuel	1796	1
Milnes, Sir Robert S.	1800	5
Misener, John	1806	1
Monk, Captain John Binning	1839	3
Moor, John	1794	3
Moore, Frederick	1824	2
Morse, John	1794	3
Mott, Samuel		3
Niles, Blair	1943	4

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page in finding aid</u>
Oliver, John	1796	1
Page, Achillis	1794	3
Parker, Cardec	1794	3
Pitt, Richard	1811	2
Porter, Asa	1794	3
Prentice, Samuel	1795	3
Presbrey, Levi	1794, 1796	3
Reychert, David	1796	1
Reychert, Jeremiah	1796	1
Reychert, John	1796	1
Rhodes, Anthony	1809, 1810	2
Richardson, J.	1944	
Roberts, Samuel	1795	3
Rogers, Ebenezer	1794	3
Rollins, James	1852	3
Romilly, Samuel	1817	5
Ruiter, Hermanius	1809	2
Ruiter, Jacob	1796, 1800	1
Ruiter, John	1778-1794	1,2
Ruiter, Phillip	1788-1821	passim
Russell, Thomas	1809	2
St.Frédéric, Fort		5
St. John, P.Q.	1762	5
Sax, George	1796	1
Sax, William	1815	5
Scott, Joseph	1795	3
Shepherd, Thomas	1794	3
Smith, James	1794	3
Smith, Timothy	1820	2
Stone, Ephraim	1795	3

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page in finding aid</u>
Story, Ephraim	1795	3
Streit, Lodowick	1796	1
Taylor, Alexander	1809	2
Taylor, James	1853	5
Taylor, Ralph	1821, 1824	2
Taylor, William	1810	2
Trever, Daniel	1796	1
Ward, Daniel	1795	3
Warner, Asa	1794	3
Warner, Elisha	1794	3
Weymore, George	1796	1
Whipple, Noah	1794	3
Wilson, William	1794	3
Woodard, Amus	1796	1