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JOHN WHITE

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MG 23
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White, John. (d. 1800). Civil Servant.

Original, 1780-1840, 1855, 0.170 m. Photocopy, 1792-1797,
0.030 m. Finding Aid No. 207.

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John White served as Attorney General of Upper Canada from December 1791 until his death following a duel with John Small, Clerk of the Executive Council, in January 1800. He also sat as member of the Legislative Assembly for Leeds, 1792-1796. His brother-in-law, Sir Samuel Shepherd (1760-1840), was an outstanding member of the British legal profession and Chief Baron of the Scottish Exchequer, 1819-1830. He was instrumental in obtaining White's appointment in 1791 and undertook the upbringing of his children following his death. Charles Samuel White (1790-1823) was prepared for a career in the Royal Navy; William Glendower White went into the service of the East India Company, retiring in England as a Lieutenant-Colonel.

John White's diary was copied in 1915 from originals then held by Miss Helen Merrill of Toronto, and now with the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library. The correspondence, legal and business papers were received in 1958 from Mr. Edmund Parkin of London, England. The additional material was received in 1991 from the British Records Association, London, England.

No Restriction on Access.

Finding Aid No. 207 is an item-by-item list of the diary, correspondence, legal and additional papers, with a file description of the business material.

Diary, 1792-1797; correspondence, legal and business records, 1780-1840, relating to John White and to his brother-in-law, Sir Samuel Shepherd; legal documents and correspondence concerning White's sons, Charles Samuel White and William Glendower White, 1801-1855.

The Diary of John White was published in Ontario History, 1955, (vol. 47, pp. 147-170), edited by William Colgate.

Diary. Photocopy, 1792-1797, 0.030 m. (Vol. 1).

Diary kept by John White, June 1792 - April 1794, with some accounts, 1792-1797. The entries cover his trip to York in the suite of William Dummer Powell, the ceremonies of the inauguration of civil government in Upper Canada,

his election in 1792 and events of his life at York and Kingston. Interspersed throughout are notations of his financial affairs, and a systematic summary of accounts for 1792-1797 appears on pages 76-95.

Correspondence, legal and business papers.. Original, 1780-1840. 0.140 m. (Vol. 2-4).

Correspondence of John White to Sir Samuel Shepherd, 1792-1799, and others, 1798-1799, and correspondence relating to White's death and the administration of his estate, 1800-1806, with business and legal papers, 1780-1809, and the will of Sir Samuel Shepherd, 1840. The correspondence relating to Marianne, wife of John White, provides significant insight into the dissolution of a marriage in that period.

Additional Material. Original, 1801-1855. 0.030 m. (Vol. 4). 0.030 m.

Documents relating to properties in Upper Canada of Charles Samuel White, 1801, 1817. Letter from Peter Russell to Marianne White, 1806. Correspondence and legal documents concerning properties of William Glendower White, 1828, 1855; will of W.G. White, 1855.

M.P.. Senators and Political Parties Archives Program.

INTRODUCTION

John White (d. 1800) served as first Attorney General of Upper Canada, 1791-1800, and as Member of the Legislative Assembly for Leeds, 1792-1796. He died following a duel with John Small, Clerk of the Executive Council, 3 January 1800.

Sir Samuel Shepherd (1760-1840), an outstanding member of the British legal profession, was instrumental in obtaining the post of Attorney General for his brother-in-law, John White. He later assumed responsibility for the education of White's children and general administration of the estate. Charles White was prepared for the Navy and William White was given a military education and entered the East India Company Service.

Volume 1

The diary of John White contains entries describing the trip to York in the suite of William Dummer Powell, the ceremonies marking the inauguration of civil government in Upper Canada, his election to the first Legislative Assembly in 1792 and events of his life at York and Kingston between June 1792 and April 1794. Interspersed throughout are notations of his financial affairs and a systematic summary of accounts for 1792-1797 appears on pages 76-95.

Volumes: 2-4

The correspondence and other papers of John White and Sir Samuel Shepherd are arranged in groups: letters of John White to Shepherd regarding his professional and personal life, 1792-1799, copies of letters by John White regarding applications for offices, 1798-1799, letters regarding White's death and settlement of his affairs, 1800-1813, business papers, 1780-1804, accounts, 1786-1809, and the will of Sir Samuel Shepherd, 1840.

To aid the researcher, the following item-by-item description is in chronological order within each volume. Please note that the accounts in volume 4 have not been described in detail.

Volume 2: Correspondence

- n.d. [1791] Samuel Shepherd to [Mrs. E. Thornhill] concerning arrangements for Marianne [Mrs. John] White and her children pending departure for Upper Canada [draft] pp 197-200
- 30 Jan. 1792 Mrs. E. Thornhill to Samuel Shepherd, concerning arrangements for her sister, Marianne White pp 201-202
- 30 June 1792 John White to Samuel Shepherd, concerning the costs of his travels to Kingston, his first legal case, his impressions of John Graves Simcoe and William Dummer Powell, the Indians and living conditions [incomplete] pp 1-4
- 25 Feb. 1793 Same to the same, concerning the establishment of courts in Upper Canada, his financial affairs and friendship with W.D. Powell pp 5-8
- 14 and 16 Apr. 1793 Same to the same, concerning charges made against White by John Hodskinson, an applicant for the bar, and including copies of letters exchanged; his financial affairs and family matters pp 9-20
- 8 July 1793 Same to the same, concerning his financial affairs and the shortage of currency in Upper Canada pp 21-23
- 9 Aug. 1793 Same to the same, concerning his family and financial affairs pp 24-27
- 14 Aug. 1793 Same to the same, concerning the same pp 28-30
- 9 Sept. 1793 Same to the same, concerning his financial affairs and commenting on the weather and Simcoe's move to York pp 31-33
- 16 Sept. [1793] Same to the same, concerning the conduct of J.G. Simcoe as Governor, the need of a fee schedule for the Attorney General and other officers, and including a copy of his letter to Simcoe regarding the granting of Crown lands pp 34-39
- 16 Dec. 1793 Same to the same, concerning his financial affairs, theft of his glassware and family matters, pp 40-41, 43
- 1 Jan. 1794 Enclosing a certificate for his salary from 30 June pp 42

- 23 Feb. 1794 Same to the same, concerning his financial affairs, the charges of John Hodskinson, continued to his sister, Elizabeth [Mrs. Samuel] Shepherd, regarding family matters and the weather at Niagara pp 44-50
- [1794] Same to the same, regarding his financial affairs, political affairs of Upper Canada, and family matters [torn] pp 51-54
- 21 Aug. 1794 Same to the same, concerning his career and the political situation of Upper Canada, establishment of courts in the province, the threat to the border posed by Gen. Anthony Wayne and a recent battle with Indians, a meeting with the explorer Alexander Mackenzie and his impressions of the country, and trade pp 55-63
- 23 Oct. 1794 John White to Samuel Shepherd, concerning his financial and other affairs in general pp 64
- 30 Dec. 1794 Same to the same, concerning his impression of the war in Europe, political life in Upper Canada and his hope of a promotion pp 65-68
- 9 Nov. 1795 Same to the same, concerning his financial affairs, the death of a Mr. Tickel pp 69-74
- 20 Sept. 1796 Same to the same, concerning possible transfer to Nova Scotia and the changes in land grants which affected his fees pp 75-78
- 23 Nov. 1796 Same to the same, concerning his financial affairs, Shepherd's health, and the fees due him on land grants pp 79-83
- 31 Dec. 1796 Same to the same, concerning his salary, a house for his family and the health of friends pp 84-85, 87
- 31 Dec. 1796 Enclosing a certificate for his salary for 1 July-31 Dec. 1796 pp 86
- 17 July 1797 Same to the same, introducing a Mr. Raddish and explaining his inability to house his family pp 87-90
- 23 Aug. 1797 Same to the same, concerning difficulties in the construction of his house and the uncertainty over his wife's passage to Upper Canada pp 91-94
- 6 Mar. 1798 Same to the same, concerning the costs of house construction, the fees due him on land grants, and his dissatisfaction with treatment he has received pp 95-98

- 3 May 1798 Same to the same, concerning the cost of his house and other financial affairs, the office of President of the Council for Upper Canada, Peter Russell and John Elmsley and family affairs pp 99-103
- 20 Nov. 1798 Same to the same, concerning his application to John King and the Duke of Portland for a better appointment and explaining his ideas, and reporting his wife's ill-health pp 104-107
- 7 Jan. 1799 Same to the same, concerning his hopes for a better appointment and his duties in Upper Canada pp 108-109
- 17 Feb. 1799 Same to the same, concerning his financial affairs and family matters pp 110-113
- 17 Feb. 1799 John White to Sir John Scott, concerning the duties of the Attorney General and Solicitor General [copy] pp 132-134
- 15 June 1799 Same to Samuel Shepherd, introducing Major de Bouille pp 114-115
- 16 June 1799 Same to the same, concerning his wife's return to England pp 116-118
- 13 July 1799 Same to the same, concerning his applications for a better appointment, his wife's return to England and family matters pp 119-122
- n.d. [1799] Marianne White to Charles Brunson regarding funds supplied by Samuel Shepherd pp 207-208
- 18 Sept. [1799] Same to Samuel Shepherd concerning her relations with her husband and failure to effect a reconciliation pp 209-212
- n.d. [1799] Same to the same, concerning her financial circumstances following her return from Upper Canada pp 251-253
- 5 Oct. 1799 John White to Mrs. Samuel Shepherd, concerning his wife's control over their daughter Ellen [or, Eleanor] pp 123-124
- 12 Nov. 1799 Same to Samuel Shepherd, concerning the political and judicial affairs of Upper Canada, and his chances of promotion pp 125-128
- 12 Nov. 1799 John White to John King, concerning his salary and his petition to the Duke of Portland [copy] pp 135-136

15 Nov. 1799	John White to the Duke of Portland, requesting improved status and salary [copy]	pp 137-140
15 Nov. 1799	John White to John King, concerning his financial situation as Attorney General of Upper Canada, given the fees on land grants [copy]	pp 141-145
10 Dec. 1799	Same to Samuel Shepherd concerning political affairs, his intention to visit England and family matters	pp 129-131
2 Jan. 1800	John White to Peter Russell, requesting protection for his sons in the event of his death [copy]	pp 150-151
9 Jan. 1800	Robert Pilkington to Samuel Shepherd, reporting the death of John White and offers from friends to take care of his two sons	pp 156-159
15 Jan. [1800]	Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd, concerning her financial affairs	pp 218-219
n.d. [Jan. 1800]	Note of Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd enclosing receipts for payments of her allowance 24 Sept. and 13 Nov. 1799 and 14 Jan. 1800	pp 213-216
9 Jan. 1800	Peter Russell to Samuel Shepherd, reporting the death of John White 4 January, the day after his duel with John Small, and explaining the causes of the duel [duplicate] enclosed with	pp 152-154
22 Feb. 1800	Peter Russell to Samuel Shepherd, reporting that John Small was acquitted of a charge of killing John White and explaining his efforts to settle the estate of John White	pp 155
26 Feb. 1800	Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd concerning her allowance	pp 240-241
17 Mar. 1800	John King to Samuel Shepherd, regarding the applications of John White	pp 146-149
31 Mar. 1800	Marianne White to the same, concerning the possibilities for the return of her sons from Upper Canada	pp 242-244
12 May 1800	William Osgoode to Samuel Shepherd, enclosing a certificate for John White's last salary payment [enclosure not found here]	pp 160-161

15 May 1800	Marianne White to the same, concerning the control of her sons following her husband's death and her financial circumstances	pp 245-248
20 May [1800?]	Same to the same, enclosing a payment	pp 249-250
[20? May 1800]	Same to the same, concerning her future and financial situation in the light of her husband's death	pp 220-225
1 June 1800	Same to the same, concerning her efforts to see her brother William [Lynne]	pp 226-227
11 June 1800	Same to the same, concerning her financial affairs and the prospects for the upbringing of her children	pp 228-235
24 June 1800	Same to the same, concerning her financial affairs and plans	pp 236-239
8 July 1800	Same to the same, concerning her financial circumstances and aid from her family	pp 254-256
8 July 1800	Peter Russell to the same, regarding the settlement of John White's estate and the care of his sons	pp 162-165
14 Aug. 1800	William Osgoode to the same, concerning the arrangements for William and Charles White to travel to London with Captain Donelly	pp 166-168
6 Sept. 1800	Robert Pilkington to Samuel Shepherd, concerning Peter Russell's efforts to settle the estate of John White	pp 169-173
n.d. [1800]	Ellen White to Samuel Shepherd, enclosing a letter to her aunt	pp 303
n.d. [1800]	Ellen White to Elizabeth Shepherd, requesting pardon for her behavior	pp 307-309
n.d. [1800]	E. Shepherd to Ellen White, stating her resolve to have nothing more to do with the girl	pp 305-306
n.d. [1800?]	Samuel Shepherd to Marianne White, concerning his offer to undertake the care and education of her children [draft]	pp 203-204
3 Feb. 1801	Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd concerning supplies for her son Charles White as midshipman in the Navy	pp 257-259

6 Feb. 1801	Same to the same regarding the same	pp 260-261
7 Mar. <u>[1801]</u>	Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd, concerning his payments for support of her family	pp 205-206
14 June 1801	Same to the same, concerning arrangements for her daughter Ellen	pp 262-263
28 June 1801	Same to the same, concerning her financial circumstances and authority over her children	pp 264-267
16 July 1801	Thomas Ward to Samuel Shepherd, concerning land grants to the three children of John White	pp 178-180
<u>[25 July 1801]</u>	Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd, concerning her financial circumstances	pp 268-270
5 Aug. 1801	Same to the same concerning her financial circumstances and arrangements for her daughter Ellen	pp 271-273
1 Oct. 1801	Peter Russell to the same, concerning the lands granted to Charles, William and Eleanor White and other arrangements for the settlement of John White's estate	pp 181-184
19 Nov. 1801	Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd concerning her financial circumstances	pp 274-277
13 Nov. 1801	A.H. Steward to Samuel Shepherd, enclosing a statement of funds expended for Charles White	pp 278-280
8 Jan. 1802	Charles Samuel White to Samuel Shepherd, reporting his arrival at Gibraltar on HMS NARCISSUS	pp 281-283
9 Sept. 1802	Peter Russell to Samuel Shepherd, concerning settlement of John White's account with Forsyth, Richardson and other estate matters enclosed with <u>[duplicate]</u>	pp 185-187
21 Oct. 1802	Same to the same, concerning final settlement of John White's estate	pp 187-188
9 Oct. 1802	Charles S. White to Samuel Shepherd reporting his being at Alexandria	pp 284-285

28 Mar. 1803	Same to the same, reporting his arrival at Malta and expressing concern over arrival of his letters	pp 286-287
14 May 1803	Henry Allcock to the same, concerning the lands to be granted to the widow and children of John White and his presiding at the trial of John Small following the duel	pp 189-192
19 Sept. 1803	Peter Russell to the same, concerning the settlement of John White's estate and including a statement of his expenses in that respect	pp 193-196
11 Mar. 1805	Mr. Forsyth to Samuel Shepherd, concerning the account of John White with Forsyth, Richardson & Co., including a "Memorandum concerning the Affairs of the late John White..."	pp 174-177
26 Sept. 1806	Charles S. White to Samuel Shepherd, concerning his position on the ARDENT	pp 288-290
6 Oct. 1806	T. Goode to Samuel Shepherd, concerning the transfer of Charles S. White from HMS NARCISSUS to HMS ARDENT	pp 291-292
[Oct. 1806]	Charles S. White to Samuel Shepherd, concerning the same	pp 293-295
n.d.	James Andrew to Samuel Shepherd reporting on his pupil William White and requesting payment for expenses of the boy's education	pp 296-297
n.d.	Entry forms of the East India Company Service for a cadet in the Engineers or Artillery [printed - blank]	pp 298-302

Volume 3: Business Records

29 Apr. 1780	Will of John White [father of John White and Elizabeth White, wife of Samuel Shepherd], with record of probate, 29 March 1781	pp 310-313
13 June 1786	Appointment of Henry Shepherd and John White as trustees for the marriage settlement of Elizabeth White Shepherd	pp 343-345
1 Nov. 1786	Owen Owens to [John White] regarding settlement of his father's estate	pp 316-317
8 Nov, 1786	Surrender by Ellen Lynne of a portion of her marriage settlement to John White, husband of her daughter Marianne Lynne	pp 314-315
10 Nov. 1786	Power of attorney from John White to Samuel Shepherd to act with regard to Henry Shepherd	pp 318-320
10 Nov. 1786	Power of attorney from John White to Samuel Shepherd, to act with regard to property of his wife, Marianne Lynne	pp 321-324
10 Nov. 1786	Power of attorney from John White to Samuel Shepherd, to act in general	pp 325-328
21 Nov. 1786	Bond of John White to pay £114 to Elizabeth Margetson, with notations of payments made, 1792-1798, [copy]	pp 329-332
1 Aug. 1791	Letter of John and Marianne White to Samuel Shepherd offering to sell him the Peasnell estate	pp 333-335
27 Jan. 1792	Letter of Samuel Alston to Samuel Shepherd regarding repairs to Peasenhall [sic]	pp 336-338
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30 July 1793	Power of attorney from John White to Samuel Shepherd for the collection of his salary	pp 351-352
1 Jan. 1798	Certificate of performance of duty 1 July - 31 Dec. 1797 by John White as Attorney General, for payment of salary	pp 353
1 Jan. 1799	ditto, for 1 July - 31 Dec. 1798	354
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1 May 1799	Peppercorn lease from John White to Samuel Shepherd [copy]	pp 356-358
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n.d. [1800]	Draft power of attorney for Peter Russell to settle affairs of John White	pp 363-364
n.d. [1800]	Descriptions of lands granted to Eleanora [sic] Charles Samuel and William Glendower White in Rainham Twp., Norfolk Co., U.C. and the town of York, U.C. - including a plan of Eleanora White's land	pp 365-374
n.d.	[Blank] grant of lands to Charles S. White in York and in Rainham Twp.	pp 375-376 pp 377-378
1 Sept. 1804	Grant of lands in Elmsley Twp. to Charles Samuel White, with a notation of further grants to Mrs. Marianne White, Miss Eleanor White and William Glendower White [copy], dated 11 Sept. 1806	pp 379-380

Volume 4: Business Records and Accounts

- 1803 Transcriptions of promissory notes made by John White, 1792-1799, copied by Owen Owens pp 381-399
- 1786-1799 Rough account book in the hand of John White, with a receipt of Marianne White, 13 June 1787 pp 400-423
- The various statements of accounts, receipts, promissory notes and similar documents found as pages 424-578 have not been sorted into any order by the person to whom they refer, nor are they described in detail here. They include the accounts of John and Marianne White, Samuel Shepherd, Ellen [Eleanor] White, Charles Samuel White and William White. pp 424-578
- 1799-1809 Account book of [Samuel Shepherd] recording payments made to Mrs. Marianne White and on behalf of her children pp 579-594
- 1840 Will of Samuel Shepherd, made 1 April 1833, with codicils of 14 Aug. 1834, 10 April and 23 Oct. 1837, as probated in 1840 pp 595-598

Volume 4: Additional material

- 24 Sept. 1801 Grant to Charles Samuel White of 900 acres, Township of Rainham, District of London (copy)
- 10 Sept. 1806 Letter from Peter Russell to Mary Anne (Marianne) White, including abstract of land grants to Mary Anne, Eleanor, Charles Samuel and William Glendower White
- 16 June 1817 Power of attorney, Charles Samuel White to John Beverley Robinson, to sell lands in Upper Canada
- 14 Mar. 1828 Letter, William Glendower White to J. Brundrett, concerning power of attorney
- 17 Mar. 1828 Letter, J. Brundrett to Sir Samuel Shepherd, concerning power of attorney
- 18 Mar. 1828 Power of attorney, William G. White to John Beverley Robinson, to sell lands etc. in North America
- 18 Mar. 1828 Letter, Shepherd to Brundrett, enclosing letter
- 18 Mar. 1828 Letter, Capt. Lowen to Brundrett, enclosing letter
- 19 Mar. 1828 Letter, William G. White to Brundrett, accompanying power of attorney
- 15 Nov. 1855 Will, William G. White
- 22 Dec. 1855 Letter, William G. White to John Randall, Lawyer, London, concerning disposition of property
- 31 Dec. 1855 Letter, James Stuart Vaughan to John Randall, concerning business affairs of W.J. White