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**BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY**

MG 24, I 54

Finding Aid No. **242** / Instrument de recherche no **242**

Revised in 1980-81 by David  
Walden of the Pre-Confederation  
Archives.

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Walden, Archives antérieures  
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**Canada**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
Introduction .....	iii
Inventory Entry .....	iv-v
Shelf List .....	vi-vii
Nominal List for Volumes 2, 3, & 4 .....	1-6

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid provides listings of the papers accumulated by the British American Land Company, 1832-1935. The Inventory Entry and the shelf list provide general descriptions of the contents of each volume, as well as the microfilm reel number on which the volume will be found. This is followed by a detailed nominal list for the correspondence contained in volumes 2, 3, and 4.

The early transcripts in volume one of the collection were selected and prepared by R.W. Heneker, the Company's Commissioner for Canada 1855-1902, and were presented to the Public Archives in 1887. Prior to 1950, a Mr. Wells of Sherbrooke, Quebec presented further original records. To maintain existing references the early transcripts donated by R.W. Heneker have been retained as pages 1-18 of volume one.

MG 24  
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BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY (founded 1832)

Originals, 1830-1936. 58 cm. Finding Aid No. 242.

The British American Land Company was formed in 1832 to promote settlement and land development in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada in a manner similar to that of the Canada Company in Upper Canada. In 1834 it received a Royal Charter which provided that certain Crown lands were to be conveyed to the Company in return for "valuable considerations". Initially the Company prospered and large numbers of settlers located on its lands. Heavy financial responsibilities and the political unrest resulting from the Rebellion of 1837 worked to the detriment of the Company however, and in 1841 it was forced to return over 500,000 acres of its original allotment to the Crown. The British American Land Company was supported and managed by several prominent individuals, including Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt who held the position of Commissioner from 1844-1855.

The majority of the collection was presented prior to 1950 by a Mr. Wells of Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Finding Aid No. 242 provides a nominal list of correspondence for Volumes 2, 3 and 4, and a descriptive shelf list for the remainder of the collection.

The collection was microfilmed in 1981 and has now been withdrawn from circulation. **RESEARCHERS MUST USE THE MICROFILM**, reels C-15685 to C-15687.

Official records, 1832-1895. Originals, 5 cm (volume 1, reel C-15685).

Charter, by-laws, and other official documents 1832-1895, relating to the organization, policy and history of the Company, including a historical sketch by R.W. Heneker, the Company's Commissioner in Canada, 1855-1902. Transcribed copies of significant agreements and reports were presented by Mr. Heneker in 1887. To preserve existing references these transcripts have been retained as pages 1-18 of Volume 1.

Correspondence, 1835-1839, 1926-1936. Originals, 15 cm (volumes 2-4, reel C-15685).

Letterbook, 1834-1886. Original, 4 cm (volume 5, reel C-15685).

Commissioner's letterbooks, 1880-1888, 1907-1910. Originals, 10 cm (volumes 6-7, reels C-15685 and C-15686).

Register of land deeds issued, 1835-1866. Originals, 3 cm (volume 8, reel C-15686).

MG 24  
I 54

BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY (founded 1832)

Land contracts, sales, transfers, leases, 1838-1934. Originals, 10 cm (volumes 9-10, reels C-15686 and C-15687).

Reports on lots owned by the Company, 1886-1904. Originals, 4 cm (volume 11, reel C-15687).

Reports and other material, 1861-1935. Originals, 5 cm (volume 12, reel C-15687).

Commissioner's reports, 1897-1910; financial reports, 1873-1886, 1929, 1930, 1935; list of debentures, 1861-1865, 1895-1904; resolutions and director's reports, 1866, 1873-1874; accounts and receipts.

Miscellaneous, 1850-1905. Originals, 2 cm (volume 13, reel C-15687).

Miscellaneous correspondence, 1855-1887; opinion of R.H. Coote on an agreement with an unnamed railroad company, 1850; Commissioner's annual report for 1899, 1901 and 1905.

SHELF LIST

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Reel No.</u>
1	Transcripts of corporate records, 1832-1841	5-18	C-15685
	Explanatory letter from R.W. Heneker to Douglas Brymmer, 1887	1-4	C-15685
	Corporate Records		
	Charter, 1834 (Parchment)	19-39	C-15685
	Charter, 1834 (Printed Copy)	40-60	C-15685
	Amendments to the Charter, 1871-1894	61-91	C-15685
	Rules, Orders and By-Laws, 1834	92-107	C-15685
	Instructions to the Commissioner in Canada, 1834	108-144	C-15685
	List of Crown Land granted under Imperial Agreement, 1856	145-148	C-15685
	Historical Sketch by R.W. Heneker, 1834- 1895	149-162	C-15685
2	Correspondence, 1835-1859		
	Letters Received, 1835-1859	163-432	C-15685
3	Correspondence, 1860-1889		
	Letters Received, 1860-1889	433-669	C-15685
4	Letters Received, 1926-1936	670-682	C-15685
5	Letter Books, 1834-1836	863-1114	C-15685
6	Commissioner's Letter Book, 1880-1888	1115-1214 1215-1592	C-15685 C-15686
7	Commissioner's Letter Book, 1907-1910	1593-1756	C-15686
8	Land Records, 1830-1934		
	Records of Land Deeds, 1835-1866	1757-1813	C-15686

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Reel No.</u>
9	Land Contracts, Sales, Transfers and Leases, 1830-1879	1814-2014 2015-2050	C-15686 C-15687
10	Land Contracts, Sales, Transfers and Leases, 1880-1934	2051-2286	C-15687
11	Reports, 1861-1935		
	Special Reports, 1886-1904	2287-2405	C-15687
12	Commissioner's Reports, 1897-1910	2406-2503	C-15687
	Miscellaneous Financial Reports, 1873-1886, 1929, 1930, 1935	2504-2566	C-15687
	List of Debentures, 1861-1865, 1895-1904	2567-2594	C-15687
	Resolutions and Director's Reports, 1866, 1873-1874	2595-2610	C-15687
	Accounts and Receipts, 1848-1910	2611-2669	C-15687
13	Miscellaneous, 1850-1905		
	Opinion of R.H. Coote on an agreement with an unnamed railroad company, 1850	2670-2673	C-15687
	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1855-1887	2674-2711	C-15687
	Commissioner's annual report, 1899, 1901, 1905	2712-2739	C-15687

BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY  
NOMINAL LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE  
1835 - 1889

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Armour, Robert Estate of,	3 May, 1860 Montreal, Que.	Redemption of property sold for taxes. Also circular of Greenshields and Johnson soliciting business.	458-460
Bischoff, Charles	28 Nov. 1853 London, Eng.	Report on the Title Deeds of company's lands in Canada	376-404
Black, N.	27 Feb. 1841 Quebec	Legal opinion on claim against the company. Encloses the Sheriff's Writ including the case of Regina vs. British American Land Co.	327-363
Bottom, Geo.	7 Feb. 1873	Copy of letter sent to: Dismissal from clerkship in the company including Resolution of the Court of Directors.	558-561
British American Land Co.	27 Feb. 1841	Regina vs. British American Land Co.	327-363
	28 Nov. 1853 London, England	Report of Charles Bischoff on the Title Deeds of Company's Lands in Canada.	376-404
	4 Feb. 1886	Encloses Acts requested by the Governor.	597-598
	15 May, 1886	Use of Electricity, and the building of a Paper Mill.	601-607
	23 Aug. 1887	Resolution of the Court including recommendation of Edwin Waterhouse.	646-654
	26 May, 1887 London, Eng.	Instructions to prepare analysis of accounts.	623-639
- Casey, Wm.	7 Sept. - 24 Oct. 1863 Lambton.	Remittances of money; grain for seeding. Farina Mill.	512-526
Chapman, Edward	22 March, 1860 Lennoxville	Refers to court action against himself for removal of timber off land.	455-457
Coaticook Cotton Co.	20 Dec. 1882 Coaticook, P.Q.	Stock transaction	594-595
Cole, Justus D.	6 Nov. 1860	Offers his services to operate a lumber mill.	495-496
Colonial Office	17 Oct. - 21 Dec. 1838	Copies of correspondence, including replies, relating to proposed change in the original agreement.	236-276



<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Cooke, Valentine	23 May, 1860 Drummondville	Agreement to act as agent in the townships of Weedon, Simpson, and Grantham.	465
Gross, O.P.	3 Nov. 1860 Montreal	Requests help in locating dwelling in Sherbrooke.	491-494
Crown Lands Dept.	26 Jan. 1860 Quebec	Re: land in Hatley	433-435
	27 Jan. 1860 Quebec	Re: lands in Weedon	436-439
	6 Feb. 1860	Re: lands in Weedon	442-444
	20 Feb. 1860 Quebec	Lands in Eastern Townships	445-446
	28 May, 1860 Quebec	Lands in Eastern Townships	468-471
	30 Aug. 1860 Quebec	Lands in Shefford and Ascott.	477-479
	10 Oct. 1860 Sherbrooke	Lands in Eastern Townships	484-487
	24 Oct. 1860 Quebec	Lands in Ascott and Shefford, Eastern Townships.	488-490
	15 Nov. 1860	Lands in Ascott and Shefford, Eastern Townships.	503-507
	24 Nov. 1860 Quebec		508-509
	19 Dec. 1860 Quebec	Lands in the township of Lingwick.	510-511
Gummins, John S.	15 Aug. 1859 Bury	Outlines plan to recruit immigrants from Ireland.	416-428
	21 Sept. 1859 Bury	Difficulties in connection with his recruitment scheme.	429-432
	27 Jan. 1860 Londonderry	Circular letter advertising lands for settlement.	440-441
	13 March, 1860 Cork	Scheme for settling immigrants on company's lands.	447-450
	30 May, 1860 Cork, Ireland	Describes efforts to recruit immigrants to Canada.	472-474
	20 June, 1860 London, Eng.	Describes various classes of prospective immigrants.	475-476
	2 Oct. 1860 Sherbrooke	Report on immigration from England and Ireland.	480-483
to J. Pennoyer:	9 Nov. 1860	Involving land transaction.	500-502

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Davidson, John	6 April, 1839	Refers to the Megantic and British American Land Companies.	281-284
Dennison, Simeon M. to John Thomas Windsor	1836	Process Verbial: Survey of a lot in the District of St. Francis.	190-193
Eastern Townships Bank	9 Dec. 1880 Sherbrooke	Concerns Wm. Farwell's refusal of 92 shares.	568-569
Eastern Townships Delegates, Committee of,	31 Dec. 1836 (20 Oct. 1832)	Memorial to the Director of the Company.	194-196
Elkins, A.W.(P.L.S.)	26 Sept. 1882	Report on the lands of B.B. Bennett. Encloses letter from G.J. Bennett of 21 Sept. 1882. Also advertisement of auction sales of same lands.	581-593
Farwell, Wm.	9 Dec. 1880 Sherbrooke	Eastern Townships Bank	568-569
	14 Dec. 1880 Sherbrooke	Meeting of Directors of the Magog Mfg. Co.	570-571
Forsyth, James Bell	1838	Naming the Durham Road and the Town of Lambton.	221
	16 June, 1838	Application to Hon. Charles Buller on behalf of the Quebec and Megantic Land Co. requesting crown land. Enclosures: Memorandum of agreement, properties and related documents.	197-220
	10 Aug. 1838	Encloses report to Andrew Russell on the survey of Lake Megantic Territory.	223-228
	17 Oct. 1838	Encloses letter from Andrew Russell concerning building a bridge.	233-235
Fraser, John	4 April, 1839 Montreal	Transmits statement of outlays of the company.	277-280
	8 April, 1839 Montreal	Disbursement from Improvement Fund.	285-287
	9 March, 1840 Montreal	Letter to Rt. Hon. C.P. Thomson suggesting subsidy on immigrants settling in the Eastern Townships.	310-311
to Dominick Daly:	15 Aug. 1840 Sherbrooke	Deeds for land	316-319
	18 Nov. 1840 Sherbrooke	Payment for land	320-321

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Fraser, John to Dominick Daly:	15 Dec. 1840 Sherbrooke	Patents for Crown and Clergy Reserve Lands.	324-326
Galt, Alexander T. to Dominick Daly:	15 May, 1840 Sherbrooke	Land patent for Capt. Matheson.	312-313
Galt, Alexander T.	17 Feb. 1864 Sherbrooke	Plans for development of Eastern Townships.	527-532
	22 Nov. 1867	Suggestions for re- organization of the company to improve its earnings.	540-543
Galt, Sir Alexander T.	20 Oct. 1871	Extract of letter requesting copies of the annual Reports of the Company.	552-553
Glyn, Sidney Carr	13 May, 1886 London, Eng.	Copy of letter requesting assurances as to tenancy of the proposed Paper Mill.	599-600
Goodhue, Jas. Jr.	24 May, 1860	Agreement to act as agent of the company in Arthabasca, Chester and Warwick.	466
Griffin, N.S.	23 May, 1860 Wickham, P.Q.	Agreement to act as agent for the Company in Townships, Wickham and Denham.	464
Griffin, H. L.	8 Nov. 1860 L'Avenir	Land transaction	497-499
Griffith, Wm.	8 May, 1860 Sherbrooke	Asks for sand	461-463
Gugy, A.	9 April, 1838	Circular printed letter to the Constituents of the County of Sherbrooke: Political and Religious affairs.	222
Hale, Edward	8 June, 1839	Sherbrooke (L.C.) Court House	292-293
Hale, Edw. Brooks, Sam	2 Dec. 1839 Sherbrooke	Enclose specifications for the Sherbrooke Court House.	294-298
Hale, Edward to Thos. W.C. Murdoch	26 Feb. 1840	Requests additional \$1000 for building Sherbrooke Court House.	306-307
Hall, R. N.	14 Dec. 1880	Transfer of the Magog Mfg. Co. Mortgage. Telegram from T.W. Ritchie confirming it.	564-567
Ham Copper Mine	23 Nov.-3 Dec. 1864	Reports on mining operations and includes a demand for taxes.	533-539

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Heneker, R.W.	5 Nov. 1855	Advises J.S. Cummins re: immigration to Canada.	405
	--, 1869 Sherbrooke	Letter to the Governor and Court of the British American Land Co. enlarging on A.T. Galt's views.	544-551
	14 June, 1876	Letter to: With statement of Lands (missing)	562-563
	6 Dec. 1881 Sherbrooke	Transfer of stock in the Magog Mfg. Co. Also letter of 3 Oct./81 from A.H. Moore.	574-575
	7 July, 1887	Memorandum of evaluation of accounts.	640-645
	26 June, 1889 Sherbrooke	Justifies holding other offices.	667-669
Hobbs, Wm.	23 Dec. 1881	Consent to delay cash payment.	576
Lawrence, Noah	25 May, 1860 Melbourne	Agreement to act as agent of the Company for the townships of Eli and Brompton Gore.	467
Lord Sydenham	29 Mar. 1841	Transmits Reports to the Executive Council in connection with the claims of the British American Land Co.	364-369
Magog Manufacturing Co.	14 Dec. 1881 Magog	Transfer of stock	578-580
	23 Dec. 1881	Receipt for transfer of 363 shares.	577
Moore, Geo. W.	22 May, 1858	Request for land for industrial purpose.	414-415
Murdoch, Thos. W.C. to John Fraser:	11 April, 1839	Will submit claim to the Secretary of State.	288-291
Murdoch, Thos. W.C.	25 Feb. 1840	Asks if the Governor General will approve contract for the Sherbrooke Court House. Answered "Yes" by Charles P. Thomson.	308-309
to Charles P. Thomson	26 Feb. 1840	Asks if additional \$1000 could be appropriated for the Sherbrooke Gaol.	305
Ogden, Charles Richard	16 Dec. 1839	Refers to contract to build the Sherbrooke Court House.	299-301

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Ogden, Charles Richard Attorney General for L.C.	7 Jan. 1840	Outlines steps for legal proceedings against the Company.	302-304
	8 July 1841	Drops legal proceedings against the company because claims were settled.	370-371
Paull, Henry	3 Feb. 1886 London, Eng.	Electric Lighting at Sherbrooke and construction of a Paper Mill.	596
	13 Jan. 1887	Correspondence relating to Land Sales a/c's reported on by Edwin Waterhouse.	608-622
	27 Dec. 1888 London	Company Matters	655-658
	2 June 1889	Company affairs	659-666
Pennoyer, Joseph	7 Nov. 1835 Sherbrooke, L.C.	Report on a road from Richmond to St. Francis addressed to Hon. P. McGill and George Moffatt.	163-189
Quebec and Megantic Land Co.	16 June, 1838	Application by James Bell Forsyth to Hon. Chas. Buller for crown land. Including prospectus and related documents.	197-220
Ritchie, Thos.W. to G.H. Ryland	3 Dec. 1840 Sherbrooke	Transmits certificate from the Surveyor General.	322-323
	26 June 1857	Letter of recommendation for G. Bottom soliciting position with the British American Land Company. Also letter from G. Bottom.	408-413
Ritchie, Wm. to R. Oughtrid, (P.L.S.)	12 Aug. 1853	Sherbrooke and Magog Turnpike Rd. Co.	372-375
Robertson, J.G.	31 Jan.-17 April 1872 Sherbrooke	Grist Mill	554-557
Russell, Andrew	28 Sept. 1838 Quebec	Report on the survey of the Megantic Territory.	229-232
	11 Oct. 1838	Estimates for a bridge over the Rivers Bras du Sud-Ouest, and Bras du Ouest.	233-235
Smith, Hollis	6 May, 1856 Sherbrooke	Refers to arrangements with squatters.	406-407
Thomson, Charles P. to the Inspector General of Accounts.	6 Aug. 1840	Requests statement of payments made on behalf of the Company.	314-315
Wiggins, Henry	14 March, 1860 Eglinton Derry	Discusses problems of recruiting settlers acquainted with cultivation of flax.	451-454