

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA
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SIR JAMES WILLIAM MONTGOMERY

MG 23, E 6

Finding Aid 765 / Instrument de recherche 765

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Finding Aid 765

Sir James William Montgomery

MG 23 E 6

Sir James William Montgomery (1721-1803), Lord Chief Baron of the Scottish Exchequer, was the largest proprietor of land on the Island of Saint John (later Prince Edward Island). He employed a number of agents to manage the estates, including one of his sons.

The Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh, possesses letters from Sir James Montgomery to John Spottiswood, a barrister of the Middle Temple, London. The correspondence is concerned with business affairs, including the administration of the Prince Edward Island Estates. The following list provides a detailed description of the letters and other papers, which were microfilmed in 1972 (reel A-865).

1. James Montgomery to John Spottiswood, 3 Aug. 1767, concerning choice of Lots on the Island of Saint John 4 pp.
2. 2 October 1768, concerning the roll for the Court of Appeal 2 pp.
3. n.d., concerning legal affairs and court rolls 2 pp.
4. 20 May 1771, concerning the bond given by Mr. Riddell 1 p
5. 25 Nov. 1771, concerning thread used by Paisley weavers 3 pp.
6. 11 Jan. 1774, concerning his judgement in Coulter's case 3 pp.
7. 21 Dec. 1776, concerning the will and business affairs of John Angell, a cousin, and arrangements to be made in the event of his death 10 pp.
8. 12 June 1786, concerning a bank draft 3 pp.
9. 19 Feb. 1778, concerning the trial of Spottiswoods's brother and Montgomery's farm 1 p.
10. 5 July 1788, concerning the possibility of Montgomery's son running for Parliament in place of David Murray 3 pp.
11. 2 Feb. 1789, concerning payment of Montgomery's son's bills by Thomas Coutts & Co., and the affairs of Prince Edward Island 4 pp.
12. 26 Sept. 1789, concerning payments and the administration of the Prince Edward Island estates; and the accounts of Colquhoun Grant 3 pp.
13. 13 Apr. 1790, concerning letters to be sent to Prince Edward Island 2 pp.

14. 12 July 1790, concerning business affairs 2 pp.
15. 8 Sept. 1790, concerning family and social affairs 1 p.
16. 26 Jan. 1792, concerning the lease of the Earl of Portmore's estate 2 pp.
17. 12 Oct. 1792, concerning arrangements for a visit 3 pp.
18. 23 Sept. 1793, concerning the same 3 pp.
19. 13 May 1794, concerning legal training of his son, Robert Montgomery 3 pp.
20. 20 May 1794, concerning the same, and the salary paid John Spottiswood as Secreteray of a Trust fund 4 pp.
21. 21 Sept. 1795, concerning meetings for businees and social affairs 3 pp.
22. 28 Jan. 1797, concerning the positions of Solicitor to the Exchequer and Deputy Advocate, and his son James Montgomery (fragment) 2 pp.
23. 5 May 1797, concerning Sir Alexander Grant's bill 2 pp.
24. n.d. (1797), concerning the preparation of legal papers 3 pp.
25. 4 June 1797, concerning his lawsuit in Chancery 4 pp.
26. 21 June 1797, concerning the same 3 pp.
27. 23 June 1797, concerning the same 2 pp.
28. 26 June 1797, concerning an answer to Mr. Chippendale 2 pp.
29. 23 Aug. 1797, concerning arrangements for a meeting 1 p.
30. n.d., concerning affairs of the Island of Saint John and his property; and mail service via Halifax 2 pp.
31. 8 Feb. 1798, concerning a letter of Sir Alexander Grant and one for his son William Montgomery 2 pp.
32. 20 Aug. 1798, concerning Sir Alexander Grant's affairs and arrangements for meetings 1 p.
33. 28 Aug. 1798, concerning a meeting of Turnpike Trustees and the invasion of Ireland (fragment) 1 p.
34. 17 Sept. 1798, concerning arrangements for a meeting 2 pp.
35. 9 Nov. 1798, concerning the same, family affairs, and Parliamentary debates 2 pp.

36. 28 August 1799, concerning visits 3 pp.
37. 8 July 1800. concerning Sir Alexander Grant and the Trust 3 pp.
38. 29 July 1802, concerning papers on quit rents to be sent to John Stewart 1 p.
39. 5 Feb. 1803, concerning Sir Alexander Grant and the Trust 1 p.
40. "Report by General Murray on Canada 1765", prepared at the request of Mr. Secretary Conway, pursuant to his letter of 24 October 1764, on the state of the province of Quebec 7 pp.
41. "State of the Province of Quebec given by Genl. Murray to the King and Council 1765", a statement of population and produce 2 pp.
with
"Exports from Quebec, 1770 to 1775", in chart form 2 pp.

In addition to the microfilm copy of correspondence of Sir James William Montgomery, there are two letters of Montgomery to Robert Gray, secretary to the Governor, concerning charges against Edmund Fanning and his councillors, 1792. Originals, 8 pages. Acquired in 1946.

There are also photostat copies of letters from Montgomery to Henry Dundas, 1791, concerning quit rents and enclosing a memorial and two warrants on the subject (26 pages), and 1792, concerning Edmund Fanning's case (3 pages); from Robert Gray to Montgomery, 1792, concerning the Privy Council hearings (6 pages); and from Montgomery to Edmund Fanning, 1798, concerning settlement and the management of estates, quit rents, the cod fishery, Loyalist immigration, and general policy, (31 pages); together with a comparative statement of the Colonial Estimates, 1793-1794 (4 pages). Acquired in 1946.