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KERR, James and family

MG 24, B 167

Finding Aid No. 1246 / Instrument de recherche no 1246

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

Préparé en 1980 par David Walden,  
Archives antérieures à la Confédération.

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Introduction

This finding aid provides listings of the papers accumulated by James Kerr (1765-1846), his son James Hastings Kerr (1793-1845) and his grandson William Hastings Kerr (1826-1888). The Inventory Entry — and file title list provide a general description of the arrangement of the collection. A detailed description of the documents in the collection is provided by the descriptive list.

The collection has been arranged and described according to subject matter. The correspondence has been further described by author and recipient. Within each file the documents are in chronological order.

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KERR, James and family (1765-1846). Judge.

Originals, 1800-1914. 20 cm. F.A. No. 1246

James Kerr (1765-1846), a native of Leith, Scotland, was called to the English Bar in 1785. In 1793 he emigrated to Canada where he practiced law at Quebec until 1797 when he was appointed a judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Quebec. He was a member of the Executive Council of Lower Canada 1812-1831; a member of the Executive Council of Lower Canada 1821-1838; and President of the Legislative Council 1827-1831. In 1834 he was removed from the bench by Lord Aylmer as a result of charges made against him in the House of Assembly. James Kerr's son, James Hastings Kerr (1793-1845) was a land agent at Quebec. His son, William Hastings Kerr (1826-1888) was a lawyer and professor of international law (1871-1888) and Dean of the faculty of law (1881-1888) at McGill University, Montreal.

Presented in 1980 by James Kerr, Ottawa, Ont.

The finding aid No.1246 is a descriptive list.

Correspondence, 1800-1914, relating to family, legal, political and business concerns of members of the Kerr and allied families; estate records and genealogical notes, including deeds of sale of land of James Hastings Kerr and a draft will of James Kerr; transcript of a diary kept by Angelique Stewart in the summer of 1822 (volume 1).

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1857-1888; entrybook of legal opinions and judgements compiled by William Hastings Kerr, 1868-1885; and, the diary of William Hastings Kerr, 1880-1886 (volume 2).

An oil portrait of James Kerr has been transferred to the Picture Division. Photographs of William Hastings Kerr have been transferred to the National Photography Collection.

List of File Titles

Volume 1

Family Correspondence, 1805-1914

Political and Legal Correspondence, 1804-1874

Commission appointing James Kerr as Speaker of the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, 1827

Memorial of James Kerr to Lord Dalhousie, 1828

Accounts and Business Correspondence, 1800-1846, n.d.

Estate Records, 1830-1839

Wills and Miscellaneous, 1819-1840, n.d.

Genealogical Notes on the Kerr and allied families, n.d.

Transcript of a diary kept by Angelique Stewart (1767-1829), wife of John MacNider, Quebec, 1822

Volume 2

Entrybook of legal opinions and judgements, compiled by William Hastings Kerr, 1868-1885

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1857-1888

Diary of William Hastings Kerr, 1880-1886

## James Kerr &amp; Family

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File 1: Family CorrespondenceVolume 1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Letter (with a transcript)	William Burton	Michael Burton	1 November 1805	1-7
Letter	James Hastings Kerr	Mother [Margaret Kerr]	1807	8-11
"	James Hastings Kerr	Father [James Kerr]	11 November 1807	12-14
"	James Hastings Kerr	Mother [Margaret Kerr]	11 November 1807	15-17
"	James Hastings Kerr	Father [James Kerr]	November 1807	18-20
"	James Hastings Kerr	Mother [Margaret Kerr]	9 April 1808	21-23
"	James Hastings Kerr	Father [James Kerr]	2 July 1808	24-27
"	James Hastings Kerr	Mother [Margaret Kerr]	27 February 1809	28-31
"	James Hastings Kerr	Father [James Kerr]	24 November 1809	32-35
"	James Hastings Kerr	Mother [Margaret Kerr]	25 November 1809	36-39
"	James Hastings Kerr	Father [James Kerr]	23 March 1810	40-43
"	James Hastings Kerr	Father [James Kerr]	14 September 1810	44-47
"	M. Burton	James Hastings Kerr	20 December 1810	48-51

File 1: Family Correspondence

Volume 1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Letter	M. Burton	James Hastings Kerr	22 February 1811	52-55
"	M. Burton	James Hastings Kerr	17 April 1811	56-59
"	M. Burton	James Hastings Kerr	29 April 1811	60-63
"	M. Burton	James Hastings Kerr	10 October 1811	64-67
(with a transcript)	James Hastings Kerr	Mother [Margaret Kerr]	27 March 1812	68-73
Letter	William Hastings Kerr	James Hastings Kerr	15 August 1832	74
"	James Hastings Kerr	William Hastings Kerr	29 August 1832	75-78
"	James Hastings Kerr	Harriet Kerr	26 February 1842	79-80
(transcript)	James Hastings Kerr	Harriet Kerr	26 July 1842 [26 February 1842]	81-83
Letter	Mrs. Cochran	Miss Magdalen Kerr	30 July 1843	84-87
"	James Hastings Kerr	William Hastings Kerr	2 January 1844	88-90
"	James Hastings Kerr	William Hastings Kerr	28 June 1845	91-94

File 1: Family Correspondence

Volume 1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Letter	James Hastings Kerr	William Hastings Kerr	n.d. (pre 1846)	95-97
"	James Hastings Kerr	unknown	28 February 1846	98-101
"	Mrs. Chapman	Mrs. Cochran	1846	102-104
"	Mrs. Duncan	William Hastings Kerr	n.d.	105-110
"	Archibald Kerr	Lillah Kerr	14 September 1884	111-115
"	Jane H. Duncan	Marion _____	9 February 1914	116-123
"	Jane H. Duncan	Marion _____	February 1914	124-131

File 2: Political and Legal Correspondence

Volume 1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Letter (copy)	Edward, Duke of Kent	Capt. Edward O'Hara	9 May 1804	132-133
"	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	15 January 1827	134-136



File 2: Political and Legal Correspondence

Volume 1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Letter	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	22 February 1828	137-140
"	Lord Aylmer	James Kerr	19 November 1831	141-144
"	Lord Dalhousie	A.W. Cochran	March 1833	145-147
"	Lord Roseberry	James Kerr	20 March 1834	148-151
"	Lord Roseberry	James Kerr	9 June 1834	152-155
"	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	22 June 1834	156-159
"	Lord Roseberry	James Kerr	8 August 1834	160-163
"	Lord Roseberry	James Kerr	2 October 1834	164-166
"	Lord Roseberry	James Kerr	12 October 1834	167-170
"	Lord Roseberry	James Kerr	26 October 1834	171-173
(copy)	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	24 November 1834	174-176
"	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	28 December 1834	177-179
"	Lord Roseberry	James Kerr	4 January 1835	180-183

File 2: Political and Legal Correspondence

Volume I

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Letter	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	23 February 1835	184-187
"	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	5 April 1835	188-190
"	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	6 August 1835	191-194
"	Lord Wynford	James Kerr	13 August 1836	195-198
"	Duke of Richmond	James Kerr	7 February 1837	199-201
"	Anthony Murray	Thomas Duncan	17 April 1837	202-204
"	John Rolt	A.W. Cochran	April-May 1847	205-210
"	Lord Dalhousie	Mrs. Cochran	24 December 1849	211-214
"	Lord Dalhousie	James Kerr	n.d.	215-216
"	J. Hamilton Gray	William Hastings Kerr	4 January 1874	217-228

File 3: Commission appointing James Kerr as Speaker of the  
Legislative Council of Lower Canada

22 January 1827 229-230

File 4: Memorial of James Kerr to Lord Dalhousie

21 February 1828 231-261

File 5: Accounts and Business Correspondence

Volume I

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Receipt	Charles Carmon	James Hastings Kerr	21 October 1836	266-267
Receipted Agreement	Philander Coburn	William Parker	25 August 1835	268-269
Letter	William Parker	James Hastings Kerr	17 May 1838	270-273
Receipt	L. Massue	Philander Coburn	22 August 1838	274-275
Statements of Account - James Hastings Kerr			1842, 1843	276-278
Letter	W. Demers	James Hastings Kerr	30 June 1843	279-280
Receipt	Augustin Lamothe	James Hastings Kerr	25 March 1844	281-282
Letter	Gilmour & Co.	James Hastings Kerr	18 July 1844	283-285
Promissory note	David Moorhead	W. Radford	10 May 1846	286-287
	James Hastings Kerr	R.C. Young	22 October 1845	288-289
List of notes due	W. Phillips	James Hastings Kerr	n.d.	290-291

File 5: Accounts and Business Correspondence

Volume I

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
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Rough notes			n.d.	294-298

File 6: Estate Records

Volume I

<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Location ticket for Pierre Debigari			23 July 1830	299-302
Deed of sale for land	William & E.H. Hall	James Hastings Kerr	10 September 1834	303-306
	widow Ashwood	James Hastings Kerr	7 October 1835	307-310
	J. and J. Allgeo	James Hastings Kerr	7 November 1835	311-314
	Louis Gogy	James Hastings Kerr	30 November 1835	315-323
	Charles Martineau <u>et ux.</u>	James Hastings Kerr	24 December 1835	324-327
	Robert Young	James Hastings Kerr	26 December 1835	328-331

File 6: Estate Records

Volume I

<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
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	J. Bte. Laviolette	James Hastings Kerr	29 mars 1836	336-339
	F.E. Globensky	J.B. Violette	7 juin 1836	340-343
	J. Bte Laviolette	James Hastings Kerr	7 juin 1836	344-346
Land transfer	James Hastings Kerr	J. Jones	20 July 1836	347-348
Deed of sale for land	widow Stubinger	James Hastings Kerr	10 October 1836	349-352
Land grant to George Johnston			17 July 1837	353-354
Deed of sale for land	John Patrick O'Meara	James Hastings Kerr	9 February 1838	355-358
	sieur Jean Deneau	James Hastings Kerr	28 January 1839	359-362
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	sieur René Mathieu Charpentier	James Hastings Kerr	2 février 1839	368-372

File 6: Estate Records

Volume 1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
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	veuve de Pierre Debigaré	James Hastings Kerr	18 février 1839	378-382
	Joseph Couture	James Hastings Kerr	26 février 1839	383-386
	François Cloutier	James Hastings Kerr	27 février 1839	387-390
	Guillaume Clairemont	James Hastings Kerr	25 mars 1839	391-394
	Jean Thomas Letourneau et François Trudelle	James Hastings Kerr	22 août 1839	395-398
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Deed of sale for land	Joseph David Lejeune	James Hastings Kerr	28 August 1839	401-404
	Pierre Fabre	James Hastings Kerr	18 October 1839	405-408
Deed of sale for land	Joseph David Lejeune	James Hastings Kerr	19 October 1839	409-412

File 7: Wills and Miscellaneous

Volume 1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
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Memorandum by James Kerr			2 February 1846	420-421
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Poem "Think of the Dead"			n.d.	436-439
Notes on the Will of William Smith, Quebec			n.d.	440-449
Letter	Stephen Priest	Dugald Stewart	31 January 1840	450-452
Letter (extract)	Helen Farquaharson	Mrs. Hugh O'Hara	n.d.	453-454

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<u>File 9:</u> Transcript of a diary kept by Angelique Stewart (1767-1829), wife of John MacNider, Quebec	Summer 1822	1	481-488
<u>File 1:</u> Entrybook of legal opinions and judgements, compiled by William Hastings Kerr	1868-1885	2	1-382
<u>File 2:</u> Scrapbook of newspaper clippings (includes obituaries of William Hastings Kerr)	1857-1888	2	383-484
<u>File 3:</u> Diary of William Hastings Kerr	1880-1886	2	485-613