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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OTTAWA / SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE D'OTTAWA

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Prepared in 1979 by
Patricia Kennedy of the
Pre-Confederation Archives,
based on the work of
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Préparé en 1979 par
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la Confédération, à partir
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INTRODUCTION

The Historical Society of Ottawa maintains the Bytown Museum and has preserved a variety of historical records relating to Ottawa and its environs. The records of the Rideau Canal are a significant example of those efforts to preserve the past. Further information regarding the collections of the Society is to be found in the guide Archives and Manuscripts of the Historical Society of Ottawa, prepared by Edwin Welch, Ph.D., and published under the auspices of the National Capital Commission in 1980.

Copies of the published guide are held by the Public Archives Library and may be consulted there.

The shelf list which follows provides a brief outline of the collection of canal records. Volume 29, a fisheries inspector's journal, is related to the canal. Volume 30, an Order Book of the Second Battalion, Lincoln County Militia, 1849-1858, is totally unrelated but has been preserved through the efforts of the Society and of M. Rheaume who placed it in the care of the Society in 1919.

RIDEAU CANAL RECORDS HELD BY THE BYTOWN MUSEUM

The records described below were removed from the respective lockmasters' offices in the autumn of 1958 and subsequently transferred to the Bytown Museum by order of the Minister of Transport. They are from three locks: Burritts Rapids, Chaffeys and Poonamalie. The records fall into three categories: Lists of traffic using the canal, registers of water levels and internal administrative records. Volume 29 is an exception, being the rough journal kept by a local fisheries inspection officer.

Until 1899, the lockmasters kept registers of all vessels using the locks. From 1899 onwards, printed "Lockmaster's Journals" were supplied to record the same information. These volumes usually give the names of the vessel and its owner, the cargo (or number of passengers, for pleasure craft), the point at which the voyage commenced and the destination. Way passes are the duplicates, bound into volumes, of the passes issued to individual vessels by the lockmasters. They sometimes include more information than the registers.

Check lists are monthly records of the repair and maintenance carried out on the lock. Until 1899, the lists are entered in the back of the lockmasters' registers. The water level registers record the height of water on the sill of the lock for each day.

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<u>Volume</u>	<u>Lock</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	Burritts Rapids	lockmaster's letter-book register of water levels checklists and memoranda	10 February 1846 - 14 April 1885 January 1846 - June 1896
2	Chaffeys	register of vessels (first page missing) Check lists	11 June 1856-31 October 1860; September 1856-October 1860
3	Chaffeys	register of vessels (September 1863 on loose pages) check lists	6 October 1863-31 August 1867; November 1863-September 1867
4	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists	3 July 1871-27 July 1874 July 1871-July 1874
5	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists	28 July 1874-8 November 1876 August 1874-October 1876
6	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists memoranda	1 May 1877-15 September 1879 April 1877-September 1879
7	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists	18 September 1879-12 August 1881 October 1879-July 1881
8	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists	12 August 1881-10 June 1883 August 1881-June 1883
9	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists memoranda	12 July 1883-20 November 1885 July 1883-August 1886
10	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists	6 May 1886-30 June 1888 May 1886-April 1888
11	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists	2 July 1888-23 June 1891 July 1888-May 1891

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Lock</u>	<u>Records</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists water level records memoranda	23 June 1891-26 June 1895 June 1891-August 1892
13	Chaffeys	register of vessels check lists	27 June 1895-17 May 1899 and 1-10 May 1907 August 1917-January 1921
14	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	1 May 1899-18 November 1906
15	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	1 May 1907-30 September 1911
16	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	2 October 1911-27 May 1914
17	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	28 May 1914-2 August 1916
18	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	3 August 1916-12 September 1919
19	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	13 September 1919-27 July 1922
20	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	27 July 1922-10 July 1925
21	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	11 July 1925-2 June 1928
22	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	2 June 1928-11 November 1932
23	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	10 May 1933-19 November 1937
24	Chaffeys	lockmaster's journal	21 May 1938-17 November 1938 and 1 June 1947 - 1 July 1947 and 9-14 September 1949
25	Chaffeys	way passes	7 July 1909-5 July 1910
26	Chaffeys	way passes	6 July 1910-3 June 1911
27	Chaffeys	water levels register check lists	1 May 1895-30 September 1904 October 1896-April 1917
28	Chaffeys	water levels register (first page missing)	1 November 1904-30 April 1927
29	...	Journal of a fisheries inspection officer	1901

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Lock</u>	<u>Records</u>	<u>Dates</u>
30	...	Order Book, 2nd Battalion, Lincoln County militia	1849-1858
31	Poonamalie	register of vessels	1 May 1899-10 August 1904
32	Poonamalie	lockmaster's journal	13 September 1916-17 August 1917
33	Poonamalie	lockmaster's journal	2 July 1924-6 July 1925