

McCormick collection [textual records]

COLLECTION NUMBER

VMM88

DATE(S)

1798-1904

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

19 p. of textual records.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Reverend McCormick had four sons. Three of his sons emigrated to Australia and New Zealand. His third son, Shephard McCormick, was a mining engineer (gold) who traveled extensively in Africa, South America, Spain, Mexico, and Portugal.

Captain Shephard McCormick, R.N., was born in Ireland in 1793. He was an early immigrant to Canada and joined the Royal Navy and served his country in fourteen engagements. He commanded the *St. George* and the *Agincourt*. When he retired, he settled in a Canadian backwoods settlement in Upper Canada during the Governorship of Sir F. Bond-Head, from 1834-1837. His daughter Charlotte would end up marrying into the Bond-Head family. He rejoined the Navy and was responsible in 1851 for the capture and sinking of the *S.S. Caroline* during the Canadian rebellion in the Niagara River. This cut short the war, saving countless lives and expense. Due to war wounds and threats on his life he returned to England where he commanded the *Ordinary* at Plymouth from 1851-52. He died in Ireland in 1853.

Other creators of records in this collection include Sir Richard Musgrave, a notable figure and author of numerous works pertaining to the Irish Rebellion of 1798, and Sir Francis Bond-Head, Governor of Upper Canada (1835-1837).

Part of this collection is related to the 1837 rebellion in Upper Canada. The 1837 rebellion in Upper Canada was a less violent, more limited affair than the uprising earlier that year in Lower Canada. However, its leaders, including William Lyon Mackenzie, were equally serious in their demands. They wanted democratic reform and an end to the rule of a privileged oligarchy. The rebellion itself failed, but its very failure helped pave the way for moderate and careful political change in British North America. This included the union of Upper and Lower Canada into the Province of Canada and the eventual introduction of responsible government.

Source: Buckner, Phillip A. "Rebellion in Upper Canada." Last modified October 4, 2019.

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/rebellion-in-upper-canada>

SCOPE & CONTENT

Collection consists of original documents recording historic events of Upper and Lower Canada in the early part of the 19th century, including letters signed by Sir Francis Bond-Head, an original copy of an act of the Common House of Assembly of Upper Canada, and materials related to Captain Shepherd McCormick's involvement in the historic 1837 Rebellions. The records also relate to early political procedures surrounding pensions for naval officers and the values and customs of 19th century Canadian political society.

RESTRICTIONS

Access: Due to the age and fragility of the items in this collection, accessing the digital scans is preferable. Please email the Librarian & Archivist for more information.

Collection Contents

McCormick collection (18 records)

- Letter to Mrs. McCormick from Sir F. Bond Head
- Letter to an unknown recipient from Sir F. Bond Head
- Letter to Captain Shephard McCormick from Colonel Allan MacNab
- Letter to Sir Francis Hincks from Colonel Allan MacNab
- Letter to Mrs. McCormick from Colonel Allan MacNab
- Letter to Andrew McCormick, Esquire from Sir F. Bond Head
- Letters to Sir F. Bond Head from H.T. Lane (?)
- Letter to Captain Michael McCormick, R.N., from Major-General Henry Jackson
- Letter to Captain Shephard McCormick, R.N., from Captain Andrew Drew
- Act regarding granting Captain Shephard McCormick, R.N., a pension
- Letter to Captain Michael McCormick, R.N., from Sir Richard Musgrave
- Letter to Captain Michael McCormick, R.N., from Sir Richard Musgrave
- Letter to unknown recipient
- Letter to Sir Francis T. Baring from Captain Andrew Drew

Letter to unknown recipient from Sir F. Bond Head
Clipping from *Beacon Light and Anti-Tobacco Journal*
Advertisement for *A Ride Across Iceland in the Summer of 1891*
Clipping from the supplement to the *English Churchman*

Clippings related to the McCormicks (3 records)

File consists of clippings from several papers which relate to Captain Shephard McCormick, Reverend William Thomas McCormick, and the family name of McCormick.

Clipping from *Montreal Daily Witness*
Clipping from an unknown source
Clippings from the *English Churchman* and the *S. Daily News*