

JOEL STONE PAPERS

Preliminary Inventory
and
Calendar of the Correspondence
April 1961

Douglas Library
Queen's University

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Introduction:

Col. Joel Stone, United Empire Loyalist and founder of Gananoque, was born at Guilford, Connecticut, Aug. 7, 1749, to Stephen Stone and his wife Rebecca Bishop, both members of families that took part in the original settlement of Guilford in 1639. The Stone family removed in 1751 to Litchfield County, Conn., where shortly before the Revolutionary War Joel Stone entered business as a general merchant. A known loyalist, Stone took refuge in New York toward the end of 1776 and during the remainder of the war served as a volunteer, attaining the rank of captain in the city militia. From 1783 to '86 he was in London seeking compensation for the loss of his confiscated American property; this took the form of a military pension of £40 per annum.

Stone sailed for Quebec in August 1786 and by the following spring was settled with his family at New Johnstown (Cornwall). In the latter year he surveyed (with Solomon Jones) the land at the mouth of the Gananoque River, which was presently divided between Sir John Johnson and himself. Stone took up residence on his grant about 1792, being the first white settler at what was to become the town of Gananoque. During the next 40 years he was the principal land-owner and leading citizen of the little community, acting as justice of the peace, collector or deputy collector of customs and roads commissioner for much of that period. He was colonel of the 2nd regiment, Leeds militia, from 1809 to 1821, and in that capacity conducted the defence of the Gananoque area during the War of 1812. In 1819 he was appointed to the Land Board for the Johnstown District. In addition to farming, he was engaged in the timber trade and operated a mill.

Stone was twice married, to Leah Moore, who died about 1793, and subsequently to Abigail Dayton who survived him. Of the first marriage, one son died in infancy, another was collector of customs at Gananoque from 1803 until his death in 1809, and a daughter, Mary, married Charles McDonald who later founded the town's leading business establishment, C. & J. McDonald & Company. Col. Joel Stone died at Gananoque Nov. 20, 1833, in his 85th year.

References:

Memoir of Colonel Joel Stone by Judge Herbert S. McDonald
(OHS Papers, Vol. XVIII, 1920)

History of Leeds & Grenville by T. W. H. Leavitt (1879)

LOYALIST MEMORIALS - F. J. TALAMAN

N.B. Additional Joel Stone papers are in the Public Archives of Canada and the MS. Collection of the Toronto Public Libraries.

General Contents:

The Joel Stone Papers consist of 77 letters and drafts of letters received and sent by Stone between 1787 and 1833, and nine letters received and sent by his son William; militia papers; customs papers papers relating to the commission of the peace; accounts and receipts, and a miscellaneous group of documents.

The bulk of the correspondence is from the years 1812 to 1821, the period when Stone was most active as a militia officer. Of especial interest is a group of 20 letters exchanged by Stone and Lt.-Col. Nathaniel Coffin who was Adjutant-General of the Upper Canada militia from 1815 to 1837, having previously served as Deputy Adjutant-General. The letters throw light on local defence problems and measures during the War of 1812 and indicate that not the least of a militia commander's concerns at that time was the unruliness of his own officers and men: in his claims for damages Stone refers both to losses resulting from enemy action and the depredations of the home army; moreover, his troubles are not ended by the Treaty of Ghent for in the exercise of his duties he has involved himself in much post-war litigation. This series concludes (and with it the Colonel's not entirely happy military career) with a letter of resignation resulting from an apparent affront received in militia general orders. In addition to the correspondence with Coffin and other superior officers, there are letters exchanged by Joel and William Stone and the government at York on the subject of customs administration at the Port of Gananoque; business letters; and two letters from Stone's sisters in the United States.

Among the militia papers are several general orders issued from the Adjutant-General's office between 1813 and 1821, relating to services rendered by Indian warriors, claims for pay, military pensions, land grants etc.; the draft of a memorial by Stone concerning his services and losses in the War of 1812; officers' quarterly returns. Papers connected with the local administration of justice and the customs are of a routine nature. Among the miscellaneous papers is an indenture of election executed by Joel Stone as returning officer for Leeds County and the freeholders of the county, June 2, 1812.

Description:

A. Correspondence 1787-1833:

77 letters to and from Joel Stone, arranged in chronological order (see calendar); nine letters to and from William Stone.

(4 folders)

B. Militia papers:

1. general & regimental orders 1813-21
(8 pieces; 1 folder)

2. miscellaneous papers relating to 2nd regiment, Leeds militia, including draft memorial by Joel Stone with schedule of losses in War of 1812, 1802; 1812-15; 1826.

(19 pieces; 1 folder)

C. Commission of the peace 1809-32:

routine papers & prosecutions

(43 pieces; 1 folder)

D. Customs administration, Port of Gananoque 1803-30

(17 pieces; 1 folder)

E. Miscellaneous accounts & receipts 1796-1842

(21 pieces; 1 folder)

F. Miscellaneous documents:

1. Roads commission - record of survey/Elizabethtown & Yonge townships road, Jan. 9-10, 1800.

- notice concerning road statute labour, May 29, 1820, Gananoque.

2. indenture of election, Leeds County, June 2, 1812.

3. memorandum listing persons "In favour of Gourley in the Township of Kitley" (n.d.).

(1 folder)

4. typewritten copy of letter from E. B. Littlehales to Mr. Aitken, Surveyor, Midland District, Kingston, April 18, 1795, concerning Joel Stone's tenancy of Howe Island (from the Simcoe Papers, Public Archives of Ontario).

5. Memorial re Confiscated Land of Joel Stone from State of Connecticut, 1786.

6. Notice from Joel Stone, J.P., 1815.

Calendar of Correspondence (1787-1833)

Letters to Joel Stone:

Boulton, G. S.	York	Aug. 26, 1818	Concerning Mrs. Stone's petition (ownership of land).
Burpee, Peter	Bastard	Aug. 8, 1816	Request from land claimant for copy of oath of allegiance etc.
Camp, Elisha	Grindstone Island	Mar. 31, 1823	Request from American citizen to use influence to persuade inhabitants of Grindstone Island to accept his proprietorship.
Coffin, Nathaniel	Kingston	May 28, 1814	Order for militia detachment to be sent to Kingston for garrison duty. Order re deserter.
"	"	Sep. 24, 1814	Orders for issue of muskets, apprehension of horse thieves
Elizabeth-	Oct. 21, 1814	Order for disposition of troops to protect expresses, apprehend horse thieves.	
town			
Kingston	Oct. 28, 1814	Peace negotiations. Fleet movements. Niagara frontier. Guard for expresses.	
"	Nov. 19, 1814	Conveys official regret concerning damage inflicted on Stone's property by militia promise of compensation.	
"	Nov. 19, 1814	Private report on conversation with Sir Gordon Drummond concerning Stone's property losses. Order for boards, pease, hay.	
"	Apr. 6, 1815	Acknowledges letter & pease. Mrs. Stone's accident.	
"	Apr. 7, 1815	Militia orders. Stone's claim Report on reception of Stone's claim by Board of Claims. Price of horses; offer to purchase mare.	
York	Nov. 25, 1819	Settlement of Stone's military claims (for £130).	
York	Jan. 21, 1820	Transmits order-in-council & militia general orders (Crown grants - see B)	

Letters to Joel Stone:

Coffin, Nathaniel	York	Jan. 21, 1820	Encloses order-in-council (Crown grant).
"	"	Apr. 5, 1820	Corrects error in militia document.
"	"	Apr. 18, 1820	Instruction concerning Crown grant to militia.
Cooke, Charles	London	Aug. 9, 1788	Concerning Stone's military allowance.
Ferguson, John	Kingston	June 20, 1800	Loyal Militia Association, [Midland?] District.
Foster, C. L. L.	Kingston	Dec. 3, 1814	Promises early consideration of memorial setting forth claims for property damage.
Freer, Noah	Kingston	Aug. 10, 1813	Conveys Gen. Prevost's approval of arrangement for road repairs.
Green, James	n.d.[York	May 2, 1803]	Appointment of William Stone as Collector of Customs at Port of Gananoque.
Hopkins, Irene	Hartford	Dec. 31, 1797	Discusses possibility of Stone's children & sister Rachel joining him in Canada [from his sister].
<i>Hicoek</i> Huck [?], Truman	Crosby	Sep. 19, 1821	Transmits information concerning land in Crosby.
Jones, William	Bastard	Oct. 15, 1816	Request for payment of acct.
Kirby, John	Kingston	Nov. 29, 1810	Request to collect debt.
Leavenworth, Rachel	New York	June 1, 1813	Death of Mr. Leavenworth. News of friends & relatives. [from his sister].
McDonald, John	n.d.[Gananoque	May -, 1830]	Transmits enquiry from John Macaulay concerning assessment of his property in Leeds [Macaulay's letter, May 7, 1830, attached].

Lettefs to Joel Stone:

Raymond, Dr. Truman	Niagara	Nov. 6, 1826	Complains of persecution caused by 'professional jealousy'; requests Stone to certify that Raymond acted as surgeon in late war.
Schofield, Ira	Bastard	Jan. 1, 1818	Concerning money owed to Stone.
Sherwood, Adiel	Brockville	May 28, 1819	Wilkinson v. Albro (theft of notes).
Sherwood, Daniel	Augusta	Feb. 16, 1803	Order for potashes.
Sherwood, Livius P.	York	Dec. 16, 1802	Offers contract for customs house at Gananoque, states specifications.
Smyth, Thomas	Yonge	June 29, 1814	Information concerning suspect in tobacco theft.
Stone, Giles	Percy	Oct. 21, 1815	Request to support application for Crown land.
Stone, William M.	'2 miles from Crab Island'	June 24, 1803	Reports loss of cribs in storm, intended recovery.
Vincent, Col.	[Kingston]	Dec. 9, 1812	Militia business. Request for list of ship carpenters.
Whitehead, Rev. Thos.	Burford	Jan. 12, 1816	Request to rent farm in Burford Twp. Effects of war in Burford. Report of [Benajah?] Mallory's imprisonment at Batavia. David Balden & family.
	"	July 31, 1816	Burford farm. Death of Col. Henry Bostick. Frost & drought; lack of fodder. Morale of the people.
	"	Apr. 21, 1823	Burford farm.
Wiltse, Benoni	Yonge	July 3, 1813	Militiamen [?] at liberty; threatened prosecution of Stone.
Correspondent Unknown	Brockville	- - 1821	Information concerning land in North Crosby Twp.

Letters from Joel Stone:

To: Beesley, Richard	June 13, 1818	Property in Burford Twp.
Bowen, William D.	Nov. 15, 1820	Land transaction, Burford Twp.
Breakenridge, James	Jan. 10, 1806	Recommends Samuel Howland for commission in Leeds militia.
Coffin, Nathaniel	Mar. 27, 1814	Complaints against magistrates, militia officers. Request for charges to be laid against prisoners at Kingston.
	Feb. 9, 1815	Militia returns. Claims for pay & allowance.
	Apr. 15, 1815	Illness. Claims; war service; losses.
	Nov. 21, 1816	Transmits commission with letters. Boundary line between [Leeds] regiments.
	Nov. 21, 1816	Charles Jones of Brockville: his political opinions, quarrel with Stone. Litigation in which Stone has been involved as result of war.
	July 21, 1818	Report on Lt. William Read. Claims.
	Feb. 23, 1819	Apologizes for inability to explain in person to Lieut.-Gov. his conduct during late war.
	Feb. 24, 1820	Concerning delay in receipt of militia orders.
	Nov. 21, 1821	Protests General Order of Oct. 31; resigns his command.
Cooke, Charles	Nov. 7, 1787	Stone's business affairs in London. Prospects for his distilling business at Cornwall.
Foster, Ezekiel	Nov. 15, 1820	Land transaction, Burford Twp.
Glege, Major	Apr. 27, 1815	Request for permission to send militia equipment to Kingston.
Green, James	Jan. 11, 1803	Estimate for proposed customs house, Gananoque. Request for continuance in customs post under present title.
	Apr. 5, 1803	Unable to serve as Collector of Customs at Gananoque; recommends William Stone for the post.
	May 26, 1803	Encloses William Stone's bond (as Collector of Customs) and quarterly returns.

Letters from Joel Stone:

To: Hillier, Major	June 3, 1828	Encloses return showing salary & emoluments for 1827.
Howard, John et al	Aug. 9, 1813	Request to lower level of Gananoque River.
Jones, William	Oct. 21, 1816	Concerning account with firm of Jones & Schofield.
Lorand, Capt.	Mar. 13, 1814	Application for Court of Enquiry to examine complaints against militia officers. Legal proceedings against Stone.
Macaulay, James B.	Mar. 12, 1822	Concerning land in South Crosby Twp. [Forfeited Estates Com.]
Munsell, Benjamin R. & Archibald McLean	Nov. 1, 1833	Apologizes for 'blunder' in dealing with petition. James McAdam's fine.
Sherwood, Livius P.	Feb. 9, 1815	Concerning award to Capt. Schofield litigation.
Stone, Mrs. Abigail	June 25, 1801	Accident with raft. Instructions for hiring of farm labor, disposal of cow.
Stone, Giles	Oct. 29, 1815	Declines to use influence to procure land grant unless proof given of war service.
Swan, Thomas	Feb. 8, 1787	Arrangements for transporting stills, furniture etc. from Quebec to Montreal & Johnstown.
Vincent, Col.	June 5, 1813	Re-organization of 2nd Regiment, Leeds Militia, following 'Desertions and vile Elopements'.
Whitehead, Rev. Thos.	Mar. 1, 1823 Aug. 27, 1825 July 5, 1828 Sep. 23, 1828 Dec. 27, 1828	Concerning rental of farm in Burford Twp. Dispute with Bowen family concerning land in Burford Twp.
Recipient Unknown	Jan. 23, 1815	Concerning failure of militia detachment to return blankets.
" "	n.d.	Draft letter (incomplete) protesting writ issued against Stone & Mr. Wills on behalf of Avery Stone, Dec. 22, 1817.