



The Law Society
of Upper Canada

Barreau du
Haut-Canada

FINDING AID FOR

William Osgoode collection

PF8

Summary

The "William Osgoode collection" Fonds contains:

0 Subgroups or Sous-fonds

1 Series

0 Sub-series

0 Sub-sub-series

1 Files

0 File parts

3 Items

0 Components

Table of Contents

Biographical/Sketch/Administrative History.....	4
Scope and Content.....	4
Provenance.....	4
Restrictions.....	4
Arrangement.....	4
Title Notes.....	4
PF8-1 Correspondence	5
984027-001 Osgoode correspondence 1772-1823: Vol. I	5
984027-002 Osgoode correspondence 1772-1823: Vol. II	5
984027-003 Loose correspondence	5
991052-001 Letter from the Immortal Jupiter	5

PF8

William Osgoode collection. -- 1772-1824. -- 12.5 cm of textual records

Biographical/Sketch/Administrative History

William Osgoode (1754-1824) was the first Chief Justice of Upper Canada. Born in London, England, he was educated at Kingswood, and afterwards attended Christ Church College at Oxford, where he attained BA and MA degrees in 1772 and 1777, respectively. Osgoode entered Lincoln's Inn in 1773, and was called to the Bar on November 11th, 1779. He was appointed the first Chief Justice of Upper Canada on December 31st, 1791. Osgoode served as a member of both the Executive Council (sworn July 9th, 1792), and the Legislative Council (sworn July 12th, 1792). He also served as speaker of the Legislative Council from September 10th, 1792. Osgoode was issued the commission as Chief Justice of Lower Canada on February 24th, 1794. In Quebec, he served as a member of both the Executive and Legislative Councils, and was speaker for the latter. Osgoode resigned as chief justice on May 1st, 1802. Osgoode died in London, England, on January 17th, 1824.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of correspondence received and sent by William Osgoode, first Chief Justice of Upper Canada. The collection consists of two bound volumes entitled: "Osgoode Correspondence 1772-1823", and loose correspondence. The vast majority of the letters relate to Osgoode's personal life, and only a few date from his time in Canada.

Provenance

The two bound volumes of Osgoode correspondence were owned by Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart., and English book and manuscript collector. The volumes were sold as part of his estate auction at Sotheby's in London, England, in 1919, where they were purchased by H.S. Osler. Osler donated the volumes to The Law Society of Upper Canada in 1920. A series of ten letters addressed to Osgoode, dated 1794-1808, were purchased by The Law Society from Alan G. Thomas, a British bookseller in 1972. Other loose correspondence was found in storage in the Great Library, Osgoode Hall in 1983. The provenance of this material is uncertain, but presumed to have belonged to W.R. Riddell and taken over by the library at his death.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Arrangement

The correspondence in the two bound volumes are arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the collection.

PF8-1 Correspondence. -- 1772-1824. -- 12.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of correspondence received and sent by William Osgoode, first Chief Justice of Upper Canada. The series includes two bound volumes, entitled "Osgoode Correspondence 1772-1823", and loose correspondence. The vast majority of the letters relate to Osgoode's personal life, and only a few date from his time in Canada.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Arrangement

The correspondence in the two bound volumes are arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

Title Notes

Title based on content of the series.

984027-001 Osgoode correspondence 1772-1823: Vol. I. -- 1772-1823. -- 7 cm of textual records (1 v.)

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title on spine of the volume.

984027-002 Osgoode correspondence 1772-1823: Vol. II. -- 1773-1824. -- 5 cm of textual records (1 v.)

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title on spine of the volume.

984027-003 Loose correspondence. -- 1794-1808. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the file.

991052-001 Letter from the Immortal Jupiter. -- 15 May 1794. -- 1 p.

Scope and Content

Item is a letter of congratulations from the Immortal Jupiter to William Osgoode on his appointment as Chief Justice. The letter is signed by Snowdon Barne (President) and ten others. The letter is addressed from the Temple Coffee House.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the item.