

Charlotte County Archives

Finding Aid - B. R. Stevenson Fonds (MC42)

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Language of description: English

Charlotte County Archives

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B. R. Stevenson Fonds

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Summary information

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|------------------------------|---|
| Repository: | Charlotte County Archives |
| Title: | B. R. Stevenson Fonds |
| Reference code: | MC42 |
| Date: | 1833 - 1893 (creation) |
| Physical description: | 6.77 m textual records and other records. |
| Language: | English |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Benjamin Robert Stevenson was born in St. Andrews 10 April 1835, the son of Robert Stevenson and Christina Green Milliken. His paternal grandfather, also Robert Stevenson, had emigrated from Lohwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland and was joined later by Benjamin's grandmother, Janet Crawford with their five sons and one daughter. Two more sons were born in St. Andrews. The Stevensons were a closely knit family and during his lifetime Benjamin kept in close touch with his uncles and aunt. Benjamin's mother, Christina, was the daughter of Benjamin Milliken who was connected with a prominent Loyalist family of St. George. His branch of the Milliken family settled in Eastport and Christina met Robert Stevenson when her father came to St. Andrews to operate a tannery. Robert had been a shoemaker until the death of Christina's father provided him with the opportunity of taking over the tannery. Thus he became more prosperous than his brothers and was able to give his two sons a good education.

Robert Stevenson became a prominent and much respected man in St. Andrews. He was a Charlotte County magistrate and several times Chairman of the Board of Sessions, a school trustee and a member of the Municipal Council. He was President of the Charlotte County Agricultural Society for twenty-seven years. He was also an elder of Greenock Presbyterian Church.

Benjamin, the elder son, was a good student at the Charlotte County Grammar School and attended King's College in Fredericton. He graduated in 1854, a few years before it became the University of New Brunswick. His brother, John Fletcher Stevenson studied medicine, possibly in Boston, and became a physician in St. Andrews. There were no other children.

On his return from Fredericton, Benjamin Stevenson studied law with James w. Chandler, a barrister in St. Andrews. He qualified as an attorney in 1858 and was called to the bar of New Brunswick in 1859. He immediately set up a law office in St. Andrews and became involved in many local activities. In association with another lawyer, G. D. Street, who was his partner at one stage in his career, he founded the St. Andrews Mechanics Institute which appears not to have been very successful. He chose not to join his father's church and became a member of the Church of England although their relatives were Methodists. Many of young Stevenson's close friends were Masons and he became a devoted member of St. Mark's Lodge and remained so throughout his life. He had friends in all walks of life and it was said

that he had a reputation for being kind and generous, although he sometimes appeared cold and unfriendly. He also joined the Militia and rose rapidly to the rank of lieutenant. At the time of the Fenian raids he was promoted captain and was on active service for three months commanding a unit known as the "Gordon Rifles". He eventually became a major.

Stevenson found it necessary to deal in insurance to supplement his income. However, he advanced in his profession and, in 1863, he was appointed Registrar of Probate for Charlotte County. He also suffered misfortune. His mother died in the same year and his brother two years later. Young Dr. Stevenson had gone to the United States to take part in the Civil War as medical officer with a black battalion. He was discharged in Florida in the fall of 1865 and died of dysentery on the way home. His brother's estate was one of many wound up by Stevenson in the course of his practice and he also looked after property left behind by people who had left St. Andrews owing to the depressed economy.

Benjamin Stevenson made his first attempt to enter political life in the provincial election of 1865, which was looked on as a test of the willingness of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to enter a union with the two Canadas. He was a strong supporter of Confederation and, having announced his candidature, he was surprised at the strength of the opposition. His father and some of his friends urged him to withdraw, but he declined.

Stevenson's membership in All Saints Church and his service in the militia had brought him in contact with two young Englishmen, James and John Bolton, whose father, John Bolton, had come from Alnwick, Northumberland, and settled near St. Andrews as a gentleman farmer. They and their sister Katherine became his close friends and their advice was an important factor in his decision to contest the election. His poor showing at the polls was mitigated by the fact that he shared his defeat with veteran politicians. Pressure from Britain resulted in the dissolution of the legislature and another election in May 1866. It took place when things were beginning to settle down after the Fenian invasion which had disrupted life on the St. Croix and among the islands. There was much indignation that the United States had permitted its territory to be used as a base for attack on its friendly neighbours in New Brunswick and this greatly enhanced the perceived value of the British connection. Nevertheless the supporters of Confederation in Charlotte County were taking no chances. A "Ticket" was formed to ensure that there were only four pro-Confederation candidates, two Liberals and two Conservatives, two of them from the north and two from the south of the County. Stevenson, a Conservative, was not one of them, withholding in favour of Francis Hibbard of St. George.

The following June, two of the newly elected members, James G. Stevens of St. Stephen and James W. Chandler of St. Andrews, were made County Court Judges and a bye-election was called for October. This must have encouraged Stevenson to believe that his political future was assured and on 1 August 1867, he and Kate Bolton were married. The election followed soon after and Stevenson was elected, taking his seat in the Legislature the following February. In the same year, his brother-in-law, John Bolton, who had had no political experience, took advantage of the lack of interest in federal politics, became a candidate and was elected to the first House of Commons. The following year he sent back accounts of his experiences in Ottawa and Stevenson himself went to see the new capital, travelling by way of the United States to visit his younger uncles who had gone to live in Wisconsin. Bolton's political career was brief as he died in July 1872.

In opening the session of 1870, the Lieutenant-Governor spoke of the need for settlers as new sections of the Province were opened up by railway construction. At the close, an Act was passed to incorporate the New Brunswick Railroad Company with the object of extending the line originally begun by the St. Andrews and Quebec Railway and extended by the New Brunswick and Canada Railway. This section was to run from Woodstock to Edmundston in the northwestern part of the Province.

At that time strongly held political opinions cut across party lines and some members were not committed to either party, which made governments very unstable. An attempt by the Conservatives to seize power,

made during Stevenson's first session, was unsuccessful. He was re-elected in June 1870 and when the House met in February 1871, George E. King, a Liberal, was called upon to form a government. King was the author and chief proponent of a bill to reform the New Brunswick school system and knowing that Stevenson, although a Conservative, was in favour of a system that would make education freely available to all, he offered him the post of attorney-general, which he accepted. Unknown to Stevenson, some of his Conservative colleagues, who were against the School Bill, had met and decided how the offices would be allocated if King failed to form a government. According to this plan, Mr. Gough was to be premier and Hibbard attorney-general but Stevenson was not included. King did fail but the Lieutenant-Governor called on E. L. Hatheway, a supporter of the School Bill, who offered Stevenson the post of surveyor-general which he accepted. Hibbard was furious and there was a great to-do in St. Andrews. Stevenson was called home to explain himself, which he did most convincingly. The Common Schools Act, which became law in 1872, set up a system of public, non-sectarian schools and was one of the most important and far-reaching actions of the New Brunswick Legislature.

One of Stevenson's first acts as a minister was in connection with the attempt to develop St. Andrews as a summer resort. The St. Andrews Hotel Act incorporated a company to build a large new hotel, and a second act empowered the Justices of Charlotte County to borrow \$5,000 to get it started. Unfortunately the company ran out of money and the hotel was not completed.

Of the greatest importance was the Free Grants Act which Stevenson piloted through the Legislature in 1871. This provided free grants of land to new settlers under clearly defined conditions. Implementation of this act occupied a large part of Stevenson's time during his term as surveyor-general which ended in 1878. He had to deal with agents overseas, shipping companies and hundreds of immigrants, many of them in poor circumstances, and one suspects that he occasionally dipped into his own pocket to assist the sick, starving and homeless. He had a warm heart and found it difficult to resist appeals for help. The settlements formed at that time include Kintore, Kincardine and New Denmark. His records provide a vivid description of the difficulties experienced by immigrants making homes on previously uninhabited land.

The great cost involved in this project led to charges of extravagance and an investigation was held in 1877. It showed that the Surveyor-General's department had been conducted in an honest and able manner and had in fact provided revenue for the government. Mr. Stevenson was said to have administered its affairs with credit to himself and benefit to the province. His work involved a great deal of correspondence and frequent visits to the new settlements.

Naturally Stevenson was concerned with the railroads leading to the new settlements. He became a shareholder and a director of the New Brunswick and Canada Railroad and assisted in getting railroad legislation through the House. In 1886, the managers of the Company decided that there was insufficient traffic to warrant a daily train service to St. Andrews and a furore erupted. This was quelled when Stevenson persuaded the Company to complete the hotel, still standing unfinished, and to provide a daily train service during the summer months. He took personal charge of the work, engaging and paying the contractors, and ordering the furnishings himself. When it finally opened in 1881 it was the first hotel in the Province to operate in the summer only.

During the periods between sessions of the Legislature, Stevenson was active in his business and in many local projects, especially in St. Andrews. He took shares in vessels, and built Stevenson Hall, now the Masonic Hall which was rented for meetings and entertainments and included offices for himself and others. This building remained in the possession of the family until 1929 when it was sold to St. Mark's Lodge. Stevenson had a law office in St. George as well as in St. Andrews and had many friends there. It was probably through Thomas Barry that he became interested in the Bay of Fundy Red Granite Company, established in 1873 and largely financed by some men in New York. He and other friends took stock in

the enterprise and he later became President of the Company. He is said to have lost very heavily when it failed.

When Stevenson was re-elected in 1878, he was disappointed that he was given no department, especially as the new premier, John James Fraser, was a close friend. Fraser had difficulty in putting together a government and may have found it easier to offend a friend than an enemy. When the House met in 1879, Stevenson was elected Speaker and continued in this office until 1882.

Stevenson's interest in railways continued until the end of his life. As legal counsel for the New Brunswick and Canada Railroad Company, he handled important litigation and, later, with Sir Leonard Tilley, he organized the building of another railway, the Grand Southern. This line proved to be unprofitable and it is believed that he suffered heavy financial losses.

When the House was dissolved in 1882, it was rumoured that Stevenson was leaving provincial politics and, on 8 June, he was chosen unanimously as the Conservative Candidate for Charlotte in the forthcoming election for the House of Commons. His "forceful" acceptance speech was reported in the newspaper but there was little publicity thereafter. Seemingly, there was much greater interest in the provincial campaign that was going on at the same time. Stevenson had been very optimistic as it was believed that the federal Liberals had very little chance. It was ironic, therefore, that he was defeated by A. H. Gillmor who, as an opponent of Confederation, had defeated him in 1866.

Stevenson then retired from politics and devoted himself to his law practice and to local and railway affairs. He became Judge of Probate, a school trustee and President of the Charlotte County Agricultural Association. He was a warden of All Saints Church, managed the church funds, and was its representative at meetings of the Church Diocesan Society. He also served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. He continued to take an active interest in St. Andrews as a summer resort and the operation of the Argyll Hotel. He and Sir Leonard Tilley were the local representatives in 1888 when the St. Andrews Land Company was formed in association with Robert S. Gardiner and other men from Boston. He was also involved with the Chamcook Water Company. By this time he had become a man of note in the County and, when the St. Croix Cotton Mill was formed in Milltown in 1889, he was invited to lay the corner stone.

Throughout his career, Benjamin Stevenson had been plagued by ill health and he died suddenly in St. Andrews on 16 January 1890 at the age of fifty-four.

Custodial history

After BR Stevenson's death in 1890 his family continued to use the Masonic office, where he had had his office. Stevenson's office was occupied for a time by Melville N. Cockburn, who had succeeded him as judge of probate. Stevenson's papers were placed in the attic, where they remained until the building was acquired by St Marks Lodge in 1829. The attic where the papers were stored was located in the peak of the steeply slopping roof. In 1975 a severe storm caused the chimney to topple over, damaging the roof. Manley Gowan, a young carpenter, engaged in repairs, picked up a small book and seeing that it was very old showed it to his Grandmother, Rosetta Gowan, who had an interest in local history. She advised Manley to take it to Charlotte County Historical society.

Having learned that there was a lot more material in the attic, Dr Medcof, on behalf of the society, contacted Frank Langley a member of the St Marks Lodge, who consulted other Lodge members, resulting in the whole collection being offered to the CCHS as a free donation. Though they did hold the right to review the material before removal, which they did before CCHS took possession of the gift.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of correspondence, letter books, court records, client papers, legal documents, deeds, leases, petitions, bills, account books, financial documents, maps, printed ephemera, and other materials relating to the activities of B. R. Stevenson and the many organizations and businesses with which he was affiliated, principally in St. Andrews and Charlotte County. Fonds is composed of 36 series.

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by the Saint Marks Lodge, St Andrews NB, in 1975 to Charlotte County Historical Society.

Arrangement

Arrangement imposed by archivist.

Restrictions on access

No Restrictions

Finding aids

Item-level finding aids for series 1 - 27 available.

Note [General]

The creation of this finding aid was made possible by a grant from the Council of Archives New Brunswick.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Partial
 - **Status description:** Final
-

Access points

- Stevenson, Benjamin R. (subject)
- Stevenson, J. Fletcher (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Correspondence (documentary form)
- Law and justice (subject)
- Business and commerce (subject)
- Politics (subject)

- Business and commerce (subject)
 - Politics (subject)
 - Charlotte County (place)
 - St. Andrews (place)
 - Charlotte County (place)
-

Collection holdings

Series: MC42-1 - Diaries

Creator: Stevenson, Benjamin R.

Title: Diaries

Reference code: MC42-1

Date: 1869 - 1887 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains 8 small diaries written by Mr. B. R. Stevenson, which record both his personal travels and travels related to his position as New Brunswick Surveyor General and Judge of Probate, as well as brief entries noting personal and professional events.

Physical description: 7 cm textual materials

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Series: MC42-2 - Letter books

Creator: Stevenson, Benjamin R.

Title: Letter books

Reference code: MC42-2

Date: 1867 - 1872, 1878 – 1890 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises seven books with handwritten copies of letters sent by B. R. Stevenson to numerous correspondents.

Physical description: 42 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Item: MC42-2-1 - Letter book 1867 – 1869

Title: Letter book 1867 – 1869

Reference code: MC42-2-1

Date: 1867 – 1869 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This is a book of correspondence from Mr. Stevenson to and from clients and business also including his militia interest and mention of his running for the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. As a lawyer his client work involved insurance claims for property damage, debt payment issues, lawsuits, settling accounts for clients, trial preparation notes, a list of fees for various Solicitor services, settling Estate issues.

In August 1867 he commented on the fact he was running for the Legislative Assembly of N.B. After his election to the Legislative Assembly he was appointed to a committee to write the Rules For The House New Brunswick Government 1869.

Physical description: 4 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Item: MC42-2-2 - Letter book 1869 – 1872

Title: Letter book 1869 – 1872

Reference code: MC42-2-2

Date: 1869 – 1872 (date of creation)

Scope and content: A selection of topics represented in the letters copied in this book include Stevenson's development of the Saint Mark's Masonic Lodge constitution; settling of estate issues, insurance problems for clients and settling outstanding debts of clients, property searches and house sales. One topic of note is discussion of a family court case in which papers had been served on the estate of a Mrs. Billings and a Mr. Daggett of Grand Manan who was accused of impregnating a young lady and refused to marry. Mr. Daggett was threatened with tar and feathering but escaped by boat.

Physical description: 4 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Item: MC42-2-3 - Letter book 1878 – 1882

Title: Letter book 1878 – 1882

Reference code: MC42-2-3

Date: 1878 – 1882 (date of creation)

Scope and content: In a selection of letters copied in this book, Stevenson writes on general client issues with insurance claims, and property transactions court cases, estate and probate work, including correspondence for a client concerning a damaged schooner (Evergreen). He continued his work as Surveyor General in court cases.

As a member of legislature at this time, he writes about Legislature business and his campaign to become Speaker of the House of Assembly, as well as letters of recommendation for appointments to civil courts, for Justice of the Peace and censuses takers. He was seeking an appointment to the University of New Brunswick Senate as a representative for Charlotte County, and resigned as Common Person of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.

His private interest with the railway lines is covered in many letters. There were issues of liability with livestock being killed because of lack of fencing on the lines. He was involved with the St. George Granite Works and also had clients that were involved in other mining issues.

The building of a large summer hotel (likely the Argyll) is discussed throughout these letters and his involvement in it which seemed to be extensive. He was also interested in communication devices for the hotel.

There were discussions with Fisheries Dept. about salmon and aquaculture, also the effect the Saxby Gale had on some rivers and restocking local rivers.

There were concerns about the safety of the Grand Manan mail boat plus bridges and roads in the county.

He continued his work and involvement with the Masonic Lodge.

Physical description: 5 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Item: MC42-2-4 - Letter book 1878 - 1879

Title: Letter book 1878 - 1879

Reference code: MC42-2-4

Date: 1878 - 1879 (date of creation)

Scope and content: In this letter book, Stevenson writes extensively regarding the New Brunswick Railway routes, ports and an international connection with Maine USA.

There were issues with finding teachers and with their qualifications. He requested teachers be replaced. A new school was proposed but land issues had to be settled.

Local election issues were discussed and his concern with the Roman Catholic influence on them. He was active in poll work. (Page 408 County Council list of electors.)

There were personal issues with the failure of the Granite Co. and his loss of money. The Auditor General was to review the situation.

His law work including discussions on the fish way on the Magaguadavic River.

The building of the Argyll Hotel occupied more of his time settling land issues and when near completion he seems to be involved in ordering things for it.

The St. Andrews Land Company was also active in his reports and the proposed building of a new summer Hotel. There were land leasing issues and he conferred with the Premier S. L. Tilly regarding Fort Tipperary. It was noted that in January 1819 the new hotel was 2/3 shingled.

There are also personal letters, one due to his wife's illness he wrote to merchants regarding provisions for the winter which seemed to be her responsibility.

Physical description: 2.5 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Item: MC42-2-5 - Letter book 1882 - 1885

Title: Letter book 1882 - 1885

Reference code: MC42-2-5

Date: 1882 - 1885 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Topics covered in the letters Stevenson copied into this letter book include: Stevenson's confirmation as Judge of Probate September 1882.

Continuation of his railroad work. He requested information from the Nova Scotia government on the progress of their railway. He obtain stocks and bonds in the railroad for clients.

Correspondence with Mutual Life Insurance requiring information on affairs of the Federal Government.

Consultation on a will being contested involving a gentleman who lived for a while in both Canada and the United States. He is requesting information from Maine on Probate on these matters and the credibility issues with the number of witnesses necessary when signing the will. There were on going contested matters with the will including his children stating their father was insane at the time of writing it.

Consultation with a Mr. Hill Esq. in the United States, telling him it would not be possible to probate an estate in Washington. This would not be regarded as executed in New Brunswick for land issues. He had ongoing issues with the Federal Government including Marine & Fisheries and the problem with postmasters resigning. Consideration was being given to add postal cars to the railway.

He wrote to the Minister of Fisheries outlining the districts in which Harbour Masters needed to be appointed.

A letter (pg.212) to the Ordnance Office, Halifax, NS Dept. of Military and Defence requesting detailed information of property leasing involving Fort Tipperary. B.R.S. was given permission the Deputy Minister to use the name Department of Justice.

He noted in a letter to a political friend that The Civil Service Act has made quite a difference in the administration of patronage since Civil Service examinations are now required.

There were still issues with the land leases where Fort Tipperary sits for the Algonquin Hotel. He continued to communicate with Sir L. Tilley on this issue.

Regular client work continued to be estate work, executor of wills, land sales, inquiring about land grants, settling land issues. Insurance work for clients. Requested old land grant information for a Francis Morang and court cases.

The estate of Eber H. Stinson (1883) was very involved and took an extensive amount of time as there were many creditors which had to be negotiated with before the settlement could take place.

Mr. McGaw bought property on (so Called Matthews Island) from Mr. Matthews who has been unwilling to leave said property. BRS has again, in December 1883, written to Mr. Matthews advising him to vacate. He advised Mr. McGaw to speak to Mr. Matthews and write down the conversation and to gather all documents related to the buying of the property.

Mr. Dick head of the Mascrene Mining Co. wrote Stevenson asking about the stock certificate values in the company. Mr. Dick is looking to use the certificates as collateral.

A client, Mr. Lorimer who was a customs agent died. The Federal Government owed him money on behalf of Mrs. Lorimer he requested payment for this gentleman's work.

The estate of a Mr. Bolton was a complicated matter.

Personally his work included purchasing land for himself and continue to be involved with the Argyll Hotel. Work for the church (All Saints Anglican Church St. Andrews) involved interest in acquiring land and researching leases for land on the Glebe for the church. These leases could only be changed by an Act of Assembly. His run for the Federal election was defeated. He continue to request clients for payment of debts. Ordered law book catalogue New Book on Probate Law. There was research noted on information of the wreck of the schooner Viola and a request that the Justice of the Peace accept ownership of the schooner and he will be named as Master.

In May 1883 he placed an order for a large supply of building material (pg. 257).

February 1884 he is writing to say his hall is finished. The hall is 50ft. by 30ft. contains a stage with footlights for scenery, ticket office, large vestibule and anteroom with door onto stage. The popular rental price is \$25 - \$35 this includes lights and fuel. (pg.454)

A client from Grand Manan has been arrested the cause was unknown.

He still continued with the Masonic Lodge and worked with the Masonic Hall Company stockholders.

May 1883 his term as president of the Masonic Hall Co. finished.

A letter to Sir L. Tilley requesting his intervention with the Minister of Militia to have the militia camp for May 1883 held in St. Andrews.

There continued to be problems at the school (1883) with the increased number of students and not enough teachers.

Discrete inquiries on a Mr. Charles Beckerton in San Francisco. He had a number of questions that he sought answers for. There seems to be an estate of a Mr. James Beckerton he is trying to settle.

An order of a large amount of building material, though what it was to be used for was not discussed.

Physical description: 6.5 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Item: MC42-2-6 - Letter book 1885 - 1889

Title: Letter book 1885 - 1889

Reference code: MC42-2-6

Date: 1885 - 1889 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This book includes letters relating to the New Brunswick and Canada Railroad and other connecting lines with scheduling concerns that affected the efficiency plus the mail service was being impacted. Stevenson continued to be very involved in local politics offering Federal Ministers advice on problems with employees and recommending suitable candidates for federal local jobs.

His regular law work involved court cases, probate, debt collection, land issues, fisheries, with boats and their problems that were associated with the Federal Customs Dept. The issues with fisheries, particularly regarding weirs around Grand Manan, are expressed in many letters written to a Mr. Venning at the federal Department of Fisheries.

The Provincial election was scheduled for April 26, 1886, and is discussed in several letters.

Establishing lighthouses and fog whistles in the area continued to be an ongoing discussion and frustrating problem with the Fisheries Minister. Stevenson writes that transportation between the Islands and mainland, particularly Grand Manan, made it difficult for people to do business with private money and suggested the consideration for a Post Office Savings Bank be established in South Head.

The Grand Southern Railway was developed connecting St. Stephen and Saint John through the coastal towns. January 1888 the GS Railway had financial problems and the sale of the road was ordered to pay off the bond holders.

In July 1886 Stevenson recommended Marguerite Curry be appointed as postmistress at Bay Side after the death of her husband who had been the postmaster.

In 1886 Stevenson was looking for a buyer for the Argyll Hotel. He had an offer of \$7000. Sept. 14, 1887 Mr. William Herbert and his wife of Richmond Maine purchased the Argyle Hotel for \$7000.

In a letter referring to a newspaper article regarding the Fenians Raid at Campobello Island in 1866, Stevenson writes he has a Roll of the volunteers who served under him.

There is extensive correspondence with Hugh Stevenson in St. Stephen NB , concerning his dire financial situation and the possibility of losing his business.

Physical description: 7 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Item: MC42-2-7 - Letter book 1889 - 1890

Title: Letter book 1889 - 1890

Reference code: MC42-2-7

Date: 1889 - 1890 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Letters copied by Stevenson into this letter book include topics such as:

Involvement in purchasing stocks for clients. (One client Dr. N, Parker, England)

Continued discussions about the Algonquin Hotel. The land leasing issues with the St. Andrews Land Company and the written deed for the property. He also mentioned it was nearing completion with the furniture and crockery in place.

Discussion of interstate commerce papers. Connecting the railway to Vanceboro Maine. Continued to work with the NB Railway and purchased material for them.

Stocks in the railway were being purchased on behalf of two gentlemen in England a Dr. Parker and Mr. Henry Osbourne.

Work on the possibility of incorporating St. Andrews as a town April 1889, this was delayed because of illness and a petition against it. Later a bill was introduced again for discussion concerning the incorporation.

Serious concerns with leased land, the ensuing controversy with the St. Andrews Water Company and the selling of it.

The school situation and finding quality teachers was discussed. There were further problems with land for the new school which had been leased to settlers.

Continued client work including court cases, partnership papers, deeds and debt repayment.

Stevenson appears to still be involved with the militia and noted he had procured meat provisions through O'Neil's for the Brigade Camp at St. Andrews.

Physical description: 3 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-3 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: MC42-3

Date: 1864 – 1890 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises letters received by B. R. Stevenson from numerous correspondents, relating to the wide range of activities he was involved in. The letters are arranged into sub-series by year, files by month, and ordered by date at the item-level. An item-level inventory is available.

Physical description: 3.05 m textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-4 - J. Fletcher Stevenson Correspondence

Creator: Stevenson, J. Fletcher

Title: J. Fletcher Stevenson Correspondence

Reference code: MC42-4

Date: 1890 – 1893 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series comprises letters to J. Fletcher Stevenson after the death of his father B. R. Stevenson, including letters of condolence, inquiries regarding business his father had been involved in before his death and the completion of same. Business letters to Fletcher involving his own practice and personal items are also included.

Physical description: 6 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-5 - Legal Papers & Court Cases

Title: Legal Papers & Court Cases

Reference code: MC42-5

Date: 1840 – 1887 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series comprises documents relating to legal cases B. R. Stevenson was involved in, including court cases in the Superior Court of Canada, Charlotte County Court, The Exchequer Court of Canada, and one from the Court of Common Pleas Charleston County, South Carolina. Cases involve estate matters, debtors, tenant eviction and bail hearings.

Notable cases include: Attorney General for the Dominion vs. The Grand Southern Railway Co., held in The Exchequer Court of Canada (file 374); Debenture Holders in the New Brunswick & Canada Railway & Land Company Limited vs The N. B. and Canada Railway & Land Company, the St. Stephen Bank, a number of gentlemen and all creditors of the New Brunswick and Canada Railway and Land Company Ltd. (file 473).

Physical description: 58 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Law and justice (subject)
 - Lawyers (subject)
-

Series: MC42-6 - Deeds, bonds, and leases

Title: Deeds, bonds, and leases

Reference code: MC42-6

Date: 1840 - 1889 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of documents of B. R. Stevenson's non-court legal work involving leases, mineral rights, bargain and sale, bonds, articles of separation, mortgages, agreements and deeds. Notable items include: a lease to B. R. Stevenson from the Canada Minister of Militia and Defence (file 9); reference to a 1784 Crown Grant Nova Scotia (file 13).

Physical description: 6 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Law and justice (subject)
-

Series: MC42-7 - Probate, estate, and other client documents

Title: Probate, estate, and other client documents

Reference code: MC42-7

Date: 1856 – 1888 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series comprises documents related to legal clients of B. R. Stevenson's, including estate papers, intestate papers, deeds and settlements, property disputes, financial papers and correspondence.

Physical description: 52 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available (covering most items).

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Law and justice (subject)
 - Lawyers (subject)
-

Series: MC42-8 - St. Andrews Mechanics Institute documents

Title: St. Andrews Mechanics Institute documents

Reference code: MC42-8

Date: 1858 – 1859 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series is comprised of the constitution, by-laws and minutes of meetings of The Mechanics Institute in St. Andrews, NB, of which B. R. Stevenson was the secretary.

Physical description: 1.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- St. Andrews (place)
-

Series: MC42-9 - St. Andrews Brass Band documents

Title: St. Andrews Brass Band documents

Reference code: MC42-9

Date: 1860 – 1861 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series comprises documents relating to the organization of the St. Andrews Brass Band for the years 1860 - 1861, including handwritten lists of individuals who subscribed support; receipts for instruments; and lists of instruments associated with individual band members.

Physical description: 1 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Music (subject)
 - St. Andrews (place)
-

Series: MC42-10 - St. Andrews Water Company documents

Title: St. Andrews Water Company documents

Reference code: MC42-10

Date: 1848 – 1879 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series is comprised of correspondence with proposals and minutes used to form The St. Andrews Water Company; a shareholder's list; and notes on the leasing of wells, buying of pipes and privileges granted for supplying of water,

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-11 - Militia documents

Title: Militia documents

Reference code: MC42-11

Date: 1867 – 1889 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises documents related to the transfer of militia command to B. R. Stevenson in April 1866, which included the camp ground on Joe's Point, St. Andrews.

Physical description: 7 pages textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-12 - All Saints Church documents

Title: All Saints Church documents

Reference code: MC42-12

Date: 1865 – 1887 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series consists of documents relating to the building of the Anglican All Saints Church in St. Andrews, including plans; minutes November 1865 – 1867, specifications of the building and materials required; tenders for work and contracts; and a small booklet called New Church Fund with record of finances.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-14 - St. Andrews Land Company documents

Title: St. Andrews Land Company documents

Reference code: MC42-14

Date: 1888 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of documents relating to the St. Andrews Land Company: a draft of Declaration of Trust of nine properties in St. Andrews; a draft authorization for a transfer of land at Indian Point to the St. Andrews Land Company; and the description of a proposed extension of Queen St..

Physical description: 1 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-15 - Town of St. Andrews documents

Title: Town of St. Andrews documents

Reference code: MC42-15

Scope and content: This series comprises documents relating to the incorporation of the Town of St. Andrews including a list of individuals for and against, and a bill to establish a police force in the town.

Physical description: 1 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- St. Andrews (place)
-

Series: MC42-16 - St. Andrews Schools documents

Title: St. Andrews Schools documents

Reference code: MC42-16

Date: 1883 – 1887 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series comprises documents relating to an assessment of school District No. 1; rules for conducting examinations; and documentation of school taxes paid and owing.

Physical description: 1 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Education (subject)
-

Series: MC42-17 - Charlotte County Byroad documents

Title: Charlotte County Byroad documents

Reference code: MC42-17

Date: 1871 – 1877 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series comprises documents relating to byroad appropriations and expenditures for the parishes of St. Andrews, West Iles, Campobello and Grand Manan; an agreement for allocation by local MLAs; and a printed list of funds allotted.

Physical description: 1 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Charlotte County (place)
-

Series: MC42-18 - Shipping documents

Title: Shipping documents

Reference code: MC42-18

Date: 1856 – 1876 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises documents relating to financial records of various ships, which include building costs, repairs, bills of sale, transfer of registry and affidavit of seizure.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-19 - Fisheries documents

Title: Fisheries documents

Reference code: MC42-19

Date: 1888 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of notices and petitions for the weir fisheries and fish ladders on the Magaguadavic River.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Fishing (subject)
 - Magaguadavic (place)
-

Series: MC42-20 - Petitions

Title: Petitions

Reference code: MC42-20

Date: 1875 – 1886 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises documents sent to the government for issues relating to appointments of persons to positions, boundary lines, road work and construction of wharfs.

Physical description: 1 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-22 - Crown Land Office documents

Title: Crown Land Office documents

Reference code: MC42-22

Date: 1873 – 1881 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of assorted documents related to requesting jobs, appointments, complaints and requests for wages due; letters from individuals interested in developing a business or purchasing or leasing land; and a memorandum concerning land at Sandy Point, Bayside.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-23 - St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad documents

Title: St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad documents

Reference code: MC42-23

Date: 1837 – 1851 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of Acts (printed in one volume) of the New Brunswick House of Assembly incorporating the St. Andrews and Quebec Railway, as well as a petition of the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad company for relief from duties on a locomotive and tender.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Railways (subject)
-

Series: MC42-24 - New Brunswick and Canada Railroad documents

Title: New Brunswick and Canada Railroad documents

Reference code: MC42-24

Date: 1857 – 1885 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises of documents relating to the operation of the New Brunswick and Canada railroad, including Abstracts of Acts; transfer of interests of the shareholders; railroad stocks' debentures; legal issues with bond holders; financial statements and annual reports; an assessment of the railroad; a draft act to incorporate the New Brunswick and Canada Railroad Company; and discussion on further construction and extension into other communities.

Physical description: 12 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Railways (subject)
-

Series: MC42-25 - Grand Southern Railway documents

Title: Grand Southern Railway documents

Reference code: MC42-25

Date: 1878 – 1884 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises documents relating to the operation of the Grand Southern Railway, including the prospectus of the Grand Southern Railway; contracts and agreements with contractor; minutes of Directors; orders to issue bonds; and other correspondences related to the Grand Southern Railway.

Physical description: 2 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Railways (subject)
-

Series: MC42-26 - Legislative Council documents

Title: Legislative Council documents

Reference code: MC42-26

Date: 1876 – 1882 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series consists of notes by B. R. Stevenson on a proposal to abolish the Legislative Council of New Brunswick.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Finding aids: Item-level inventory available.

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-28 - Financial documents

Title: Financial documents

Reference code: MC42-28

Date: 1861 - 1888 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises documents relating to B. R. Stevenson's financial affairs, both business and personal. Included are invoices, bills, receipts, promissory notes, tax receipts, and other accounting records, most of them ordered by year.

Physical description: 54 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Finance (subject)
-

Series: MC42-29 - Cash and Account books

Title: Cash and Account books

Reference code: MC42-29

Date: 1839 - 1890 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises 12 ledgers recording B. R. Stevenson's cash and bank transactions, as well as a ledger recording court cases, with dates, results, and account details, from 1839 – 1865. Much of this latter book predates Stevenson's own law career, which began in 1858.

Physical description: 42 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-30 - Masonic Lodge documentsTitle: Masonic Lodge documentsReference code: MC42-30Date: 1846 - 1889 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises documents relating to St. Mark's Masonic Lodge in St. Andrews, including documents of formation, requests for membership, petitions for member advancement, by-laws, receipts for dues, account books, property deeds, meeting notes, and correspondence.

Physical description: 11 cm textual recordsPublication status:

Published

Access points:

- Free Masons (subject)
 - Organisations (subject)
-

Series: MC42-31 - Estate documentsTitle: Estate documentsReference code: MC42-31Date: 1889 - 1893 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises financial documents sent and received on behalf of the estate of B. R. Stevenson after his death in 1889, including bills, promissory notes, and invoices. Also included are financial documents relating to J. F. Stevenson from the period 1890 – 1893, who appears to have inherited responsibility for much of the management of his father's estate.

Physical description: 1 cm textual recordsPublication status:

Published

Series: MC42-32 - Maps and plansTitle: Maps and plansReference code: MC42-32

Date: 1833 - 1883 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series comprises 12 maps depicting regions within Charlotte County, many of them marked with lot borders and the names of owners. Areas depicted include the Digdeguash River, Beaver Harbour, Mill Lake, Brandy Cove, and the Passamaquoddy Bay. The series includes both original survey maps from the 1830s and 40s, several by William Mahood, and later maps traced from the surveys.

Physical description: 0.5 cm cartographic material

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Maps (documentary form)
 - Charlotte County (place)
-

Series: MC42-33 - Miscellaneous documents

Title: Miscellaneous documents

Reference code: MC42-33

Date: 1845 - 1893 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises various documents not fitting elsewhere, including printed material such as advertisements, forms, booklets, and notices; correspondence and financial documents without a clear tie to B. R. Stevenson; and assorted notes and ephemera.

Physical description: 30 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-34 - Photographs

Title: Photographs

Reference code: MC42-34

Date: 185-? – 188-? (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises 32 cartes-de-visite and one tintype, all portraits. Twelve are commercial cartes-de-visite depicting well-known figures, many of them Confederate generals. Other portraits are stamped as coming from studios in the United States and Glasgow, with two identified as made by a Fredericton studio and one, a portrait of a Mr. Robert Grant, hand-captioned “St. George.” Most of the non-commercial portraits are unidentified.

Physical description: 2 cm photographic materials

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Photographs (documentary form)
 - Photographs (documentary form)
-

Series: MC42-35 - Books

Title: Books

Reference code: MC42-35

Date: 1875 - 1880 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises two books inscribed as belonging to B. R. Stevenson, both relating to railways: the 11th Annual Report of the Board of Railroad Commissioners, January 1880, and the Digest of Railway Decisions, 1875 (inscribed with the year 1878 by Stevenson).

Physical description: 12 cm textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: MC42-36 - Eyeglasses

Title: Eyeglasses

Reference code: MC42-36

Date: 182-? (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series comprises a pair of eyeglasses in an oblong metal case. The case is inscribed with the year 182[?], the name Ric[-] Williams, and the letters B D T L S. The connection to B. R. Stevenson is unknown.

Physical description: 1 object

Publication status:

Published
