

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



PROCTOR FAMILY FONDS

AFC 138

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – February 2010

**WESTERN ARCHIVES
AFC 138
PROCTOR FAMILY FONDS**

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PROCTOR FAMILY FONDS
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FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1841-1848, 1850-1880, added material 1940-1969

Extent

25 cm of textual records
6 hair cuttings

Biographical Sketch

Samuel Proctor was born to William and Mary (née Kitchen) Proctor in Lincolnshire, England on March 1, 1789. One of the four Proctor sons to immigrate to Canada, Samuel arrived in 1834 along with his wife Ann (née Gray) and their six children:

- Edward Moore Proctor (1819-1890)
- Alfred Proctor (d. 1837)
- Reuben Proctor (1823-1904)
- Eliza Proctor Allegan
- Mary Proctor Taylor (1827-1918)
- Mirza M. Proctor (1830-1913)

The Proctor family purchased land at concession 3, lot 10 of Sarnia Township, Ontario. Samuel worked as a farmer and was active in the community, serving as reeve of Sarnia Township. Samuel Proctor died in 1860.

The eldest son, Edward Moore Proctor, was also a prominent citizen in the Sarnia area. After marrying Janet Burns (b. 1823), Edward purchased land at concession 5, lot 10 of Sarnia Township. The Proctors would have six children:

- Margaret Proctor Burwash (1842-1923)
- Alfred S. Proctor (b. 1844)
- Manfred B Proctor (1847-1934)
- Ada Proctor (1850-1856)
- Edward P. Proctor (b. 1855)
- Johnston Proctor (1860-1860)

Following his brother Reuben, Edward left for the California gold rush in 1851. Edward remained in California for three years; shortly after his return in 1855, he sold the farm and moved his family to the town of Sarnia. After a year-long business trip to the west coast of the United States, in 1856 Proctor purchased a stake in his brother-in-law Robert Burns' lumber business at Sylvan in West Williams Township, Middlesex County. After retiring from the lumber business, Edward returned to Sarnia and served on the inaugural board of directors of the Huron and Lambton Loan and Savings Company, beginning in 1876. He

was appointed Registrar of Deeds for Lambton County in 1880, holding this position until his death in October, 1890. His wife Janet died in 1909. Edward and Janet Proctor, as well as many other Proctor relatives, are buried at Lakeview Cemetery in Sarnia, Ontario.

Scope and Content

This series contains personal and business records of the Edward M. Proctor family of Sarnia, Ontario. Personal and business correspondence, financial and legal documents, and items of added material are included.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Proctor family correspondence
- Series 2: Edward M. Proctor business correspondence
- Series 3: Financial and legal documents
- Series 4: Proctor family miscellaneous documents
- Series 5: Added material

Finding Aids

File and item lists are available.

Custodial History

According to correspondence relating to the donations, the Proctor records were all found together “in an attic in Sarnia” by John R. Glynn sometime in the 1930s or 1940s. The Glynn family and the Proctor family do not appear to be related.

The records remained in Glynn’s possession until 1969, when some were donated to the University of Western Ontario. After John Glynn’s death, further documents were uncovered and donated by Glynn’s son, Peter. In October 1997, the collection (up to that point) was given to the Lambton County Room of the Lambton County Library in Wyoming, Ontario. With the last donation in March 1999, the Lambton County Library returned the records to the University of Western Ontario.

Related Material

A copy of the Proctor family tree is available at Western Archives (call number VF472).

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 1 Proctor family correspondence

Dates

1841-1848, 1850-1880

Extent

11 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains letters sent by, and sent to, various members of the Proctor family. Letters from Edward and Janet Proctor, their children Margaret, Edward P., and Alfred S. Proctor, and Edward's father Samuel and brother Reuben Proctor are included. Letters from Janet Proctor's brothers Robert and Philip Burns, as well as Margaret Proctor's husband Nathanael Burwash, are also included.

Arrangement

Letters have been arranged by sender rather than by recipient.

File List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Early Proctor family correspondence | 1841-1848 | B2018-1 |
| Philip Burns correspondence | 1850-1859 | B2018-11 |
| Margaret Proctor correspondence | 1850-1879 | B2018-7 |
| Janet Proctor correspondence | 1851-1856 | B2018-4 |
| Edward M. Proctor correspondence | 1851-1873 | B2018-3 |
| Samuel Proctor correspondence | 1851-1856 | B2018-2 |
| Reuben Proctor correspondence | 1851-1880 | B2018-5 |
| Mary Proctor correspondence | 1851-1856 | B2018-6 |
| Robert Burns correspondence | 1851-1870 | B2018-10 |

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Other Proctor family correspondence | 1851-1880 | B2018-13 |
| Alfred S. Proctor correspondence | 1852-1874 | B2018-8 |
| Edward P. Proctor correspondence | 1869-1879 | B2018-9 |
| Nathanael Burwash correspondence | 1873-1878 | B2018-12 |

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Series 2 **Edward M. Proctor business correspondence**

Dates

1851-1879

Extent

6 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains business correspondence sent to Edward M. Proctor. Letters from lumber business contacts in California, as well as in Southwestern Ontario, are included.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in the following sub-series:

Sub-series 2.1: California business correspondence

Sub-series 2.2: Sylvan lumber business correspondence

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Sub-series 2.1 California business correspondence

Dates

1851-1867

Extent

2 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains letters received by Edward Proctor during his lumber business dealings in California. Letters from Proctor's associates A.J. Walker and John Lancaster, some dating after Proctor's return to Canada, are included.

File List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Miscellaneous California business correspondence | 1851-1855 | B2018-20 |
| A.J. Walker correspondence | 1852-1867 | B2018-15 |
| John Lancaster correspondence | 1852-1865 | B2018-16 |

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Sub-series 2.2 Sylvan lumber business correspondence

Dates

1856-1879

Extent

4 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains correspondence addressed to the firm Burns and Proctor, as well as to Edward Proctor in his position as lumber merchant. Letters from John Owen, a colleague and collaborator in Detroit, Michigan are also included.

File/Item List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Correspondence to Burns & Proctor | 1856-1875 | B2018-18 |
| Miscellaneous business correspondence | 1856-1878 | B2018-17 |
| Miscellaneous business correspondence | 1856-1879 | B2018-19 |
| John Owen correspondence | 1866-1870 | B2018-14 |

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Series 3 **Financial and legal documents**

Dates

1852-1885

Extent

3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains financial and legal documents retained by the Proctor family. Personal and business receipts and invoices, assessment notices for Proctor family properties, and other financial and legal documents are included.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in the following sub-series:

Sub-series 3.1: Receipts and invoices

Sub-series 3.2: Property tax assessment notices

Sub-series 3.3: Miscellaneous financial and legal documents

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Sub-series 3.1 Receipts and invoices

Dates

1854-1885

Extent

2 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains the Proctor family's business and personal receipts and invoices for goods and services. Documents relating to Edward M. Proctor and Alfred Proctor, acting on behalf of their lumber business, predominate.

File/Item List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Receipts | 1854-1868 | B2018-22 |
| Invoices | 1855-1885 | B2018-25 |
| Receipts | 1869-1882 | B2018-23 |

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Sub-series 3.2 Property tax assessment notices

Dates

1867-1875

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains property tax assessment notices for Edward Proctor's properties in Sarnia and in West Williams Township, Middlesex County.

File List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Assessment notices | 1867-1875 | B2018-21 |

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Sub-series 3.3 Miscellaneous financial and legal documents

Dates

1852-1880

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This sub-series contains various financial and legal documents relating to Edward Proctor and his family. Mortgages, a power of attorney, formal business agreements, and a lease are included.

File/Item List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Financial and legal documents | 1852-1880 | B2018-24 |

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Series 4 **Proctor family miscellaneous documents**

Dates

1860-1879

Extent

1 folder of textual records
6 hair cuttings

Scope and Content

This series contains miscellaneous documents retained by members of the Proctor family. Alfred Proctor's barely-used diary, family hair cuttings, recipes and calling cards are included.

File List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Proctor family ephemera | 1860-1879 | B2018-26 |

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Series 5 Added material

Dates

1940-1969

Extent

4 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains additional material gathered by donor John R. Glynn. Notes about the Proctor family, and photocopies and transcriptions of some of the original letters from series 1, are included.

File List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Letter transcriptions | transcribed 1940 (original material 1843-1852) | B2018-27 |
| Letter photocopies | [photocopied ca. 1960 (original material 1852-1856)] | B2018-28 |
| Notes and clippings | 1940-1969 | B2018-29 |