Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements - September 2009
WESTERN ARCHIVES  
AFC 66  
THE JOSEPH SIDDALL FAMILY FONDS  

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THE JOSEPH SIDDALL FAMILY FONDS
AFC 66
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates
1850-1912

Extent
7 folders
18 volumes

Biographical Sketch
John Siddall and his wife Diana Rowden immigrated from London, England and settled, in
the early 1830s, at a site on the boundary between London and Lobo townships,
approximately five miles from Lucan, Ontario. Here John Siddall built a grist mill in 1832,
thereby founding the village of Siddallsville. The grist mill was expanded to include woolen
and saw mills, as well as a brewery and distillery.

The mill, farm, and associated businesses were inherited by various of Siddall’s sons. The
second son, Joseph Siddall (b. 21 Jan. 1824), was active as a grain merchant in Parkhill by
1865, when he was in partnership with R.H. O’Neil of Lucan and William Shoults of
Parkhill. Joseph also served as a justice of the peace for Lobo Township, as well as
treasurer of West Williams Township. Joseph married Jane O’Neil (b. 1832) in the early
1850s. Jane died in September, 1859. Joseph and Jane had three children:
Loezia Siddall (May 1854 – 14 July 1854)
Melissa Siddall (b. 11 Oct. 1855)
Robert Henry (Harry) Siddall (b. 21 Aug. 1857)

There was a fire at John Siddalls’ grist mill in 1867; his son Joseph rebuilt it two years later.
In 1877, Joseph opened the “J. Siddall and Son” bank in Lucknow, Ontario in partnership
with his son Harry. Affiliated with Molson’s Bank of London, Ontario, J. Siddall and Son
moved to Galt, Ontario and eventually closed in the mid-1880s.

Throughout their time as bankers, the Joseph and Harry Siddall continued to run the mill or
to rent it out. The family moved back to Siddallsville in the early 1880’s, turning their focus
again to the family mill. The mill burned again in 1883, and was rebuilt the following year;
in the 1890s the Siddalls tried to sell it, apparently unsuccessfully. The family continued to
operate the mill until a flood destroyed the dam in 1907.

Joseph and his two children resided together in Siddallsville as late as 1908; there is no
evidence that either Melissa or Harry ever married. Harry gained a local reputation as a
horse breeder, but the businesses did not prosper. Joseph died at home on his 95th birthday
in 1909, and is buried at St. George’s Anglican cemetery in London Township. Harry and
Melissa’s activities following the death of their father are unknown.
Scope and Content
This fonds contains personal, business, administrative and educational records of the family of Joseph Siddall. Documents relating to the Siddall family mills, the Siddall family bank, and Joseph’s Siddall’s employment as justice of the peace and township treasurer are included. Personal correspondence and educational documents are also included.

Arrangement
The fonds is arranged into the following series:
Series 1: Joseph Siddall public office documents
Series 2: Siddall family mill business documents
  Sub-series 2.1: Siddall family mill ledgers
  Sub-series 2.2: Siddall family mill purchase ledgers
  Sub-series 2.3: Siddall family mill account books
  Sub-series 2.4: Siddall family mill specialized account books
  Sub-series 2.5: Siddall family mill day book
  Sub-series 2.6: Siddall family mill bill book
  Sub-series 2.7: Siddall family mill letterbooks
  Sub-series 2.8: Siddall family mill miscellaneous documents
Series 3: J. Siddall and Son bank business documents
Series 4: Siddall family personal documents

Finding Aids
File and item lists are available.

Custodial History
The fonds appears to have remained in the Siddall family until its donation to the University of Western Ontario in 1939.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Donated by Harry Siddall in 1939.

Conditions Governing Access
No restrictions on access.
Series 1  Joseph Siddall public office documents

Dates
1859-1869

Extent
1 folder

Scope and Content
This series contains legal documents and witness reports relating to Joseph Siddall’s position as justice of the peace at Lobo and Park Hill, Ontario. One liquor licence, from Joseph Siddall’s time as treasurer of the Municipality of West Williams, Ontario, is included.

File List

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Siddall Justice of the Peace and other legal documents</td>
<td>1859-1869</td>
<td>B4067-10</td>
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</table>
Series 2 Siddall family mill business documents

Dates
1850-1910

Extent
2 folders
17 volumes

Scope and Content
This series contains business documents relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. Documents and correspondence detailing operations at the Siddall family mills in Parkhill, Siddallsville, and Denfield are included.

Arrangement
The series is arranged into the following sub-series:
Sub-series 2.1: Siddall family mill ledgers
Sub-series 2.2: Siddall family mill purchase ledgers
Sub-series 2.3: Siddall family mill account books
Sub-series 2.4: Siddall family mill specialized account books
Sub-series 2.5: Siddall family mill day book
Sub-series 2.6: Siddall family mill bill book
Sub-series 2.7: Siddall family mill letterbooks
Sub-series 2.8: Siddall family mill miscellaneous documents
Sub-series 2.1  Siddall family mill ledgers

Dates
1879-1905

Extent
3 volumes

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains ledgers relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. Ledgers detailing operations at the Siddall family mills in Siddallsville and Denfield are included.

Item List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/Volume</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ledger 1880-1884 [vol.]</td>
<td>1880-1884</td>
<td>B4066-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal 1879-1882 business [vol.]</td>
<td>1879-1882</td>
<td>B4066-10</td>
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</table>
THE JOSEPH SIDDALL FAMILY FONDS
AFC 66
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 2.2    Siddall family mill purchase ledgers

Dates
1858-1875

Extent
5 volumes

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains purchase ledgers relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. Purchase ledgers detailing operations at the Siddall family mills in Park Hill, Siddallsville and Denfield are included.

Item List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<tr>
<td>J. Siddall 1858-1865 purchase ledger [vol.]</td>
<td>1858-1865</td>
<td>X1666-1667</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Siddall 1866-68 purchase ledger [vol.]</td>
<td>1866-1868</td>
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<td>Joseph Siddall 1868-9 purchase ledger [vol.]</td>
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<td>X1666-1667</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Siddall 1869-71 purchase ledger [vol.]</td>
<td>1869-1871</td>
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<td>J. Siddall 1872-75 purchase ledger [vol.]</td>
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Sub-series 2.3  Siddall family mill account books

Dates
1850-1861, 1885-1891

Extent
4 volumes

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains account books relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. Account books detailing operations at the Siddall family mills in Park Hill, Siddallsville and Denfield are included.

Item List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/Volume</th>
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<tr>
<td>Siddall’s mills A/C book 1885-1888 [vol.]</td>
<td>1885-1888</td>
<td>B4067-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siddall’s mills A/C book 1886-1891 [vol.]</td>
<td>1886-1891</td>
<td>B4067-4</td>
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Sub-series 2.4    Siddall family mill specialized account books

Dates
1858-1864, 1877-1884

Extent
2 volumes

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains specialized account books relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. A distillery account book and grain account book, detailing operations at the Siddall family mills in Parkhill and Siddallsville, are included.

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/Volume</th>
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<td>Distillery account book [vol.]</td>
<td>1858-1864</td>
<td>B4066-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grain book 1877-1884 [vol.]</td>
<td>1877-1884</td>
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Sub-series 2.5  Siddall family mill day book

Dates
1880-1885

Extent
1 volumes

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains a day book relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling business at the Siddall family mill in Siddallsville.

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Daybook 1880-1885 R.H. Siddall [vol.]</td>
<td>1880-1885</td>
<td>B4067-1</td>
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Sub-series 2.6 Siddall family mill bill book

Dates
1884-1897

Extent
1 volumes

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains a bill book relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. This bill book details operations at the Siddall family mills in Siddallsville and Denfield.

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<td>Billbook 1884-1897 [vol.]</td>
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Sub-series 2.7  Siddall family mill letter books

Dates
1888-1910

Extent
2 volumes

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains letter books relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. These letter books detail business correspondence for the Siddall family mills in Siddallsville and Denfield.

Item List

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/Volume</th>
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<tr>
<td>Letter book 1888-1900 [vol.]</td>
<td>1888-1900</td>
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Sub-series 2.8  Siddall family mill miscellaneous documents

Dates
1865-1868, 1877-1900

Extent
2 folders

Scope and Content
This sub-series contains miscellaneous documents relating to Joseph and Robert Henry Siddall’s milling businesses. Correspondence, receipts, and other documents detailing operations at the Siddall family mills in Park Hill, Siddallsville, and Denfield are included.

File List

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<td>Miscellaneous business papers</td>
<td>1877-1900</td>
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Series 3  J. Siddall and Son bank business documents

Dates
1868-1887

Extent
3 cm of textual records
1 volume

Scope and Content
This series contains documents relating to the J. Siddall and Son bank in Lucknow, Ontario. Included are bank books and records, cancelled cheques, and a teller’s book.

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<tr>
<td>Siddalls’s Bank cancelled cheques</td>
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Series 4 Siddall family personal documents

Dates
1877-1912

Extent
5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains correspondence, school notes, and other documents relating to the personal lives of Joseph Siddall and his two children, Robert Henry Siddall and Melissa Siddall.

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<td>B4067-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Henry Siddall school books and letters of reference</td>
<td>1879-1883</td>
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<td>Letters between Joseph Siddall and Robert Henry Siddall</td>
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