



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - Letter from Jonathan Sewell to his daughters, Maria and Henrietta (MS-2-66, SF Box 18, Folder 21)

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Letter from Jonathan Sewell to his daughters, Maria and Henrietta

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	Letter from Jonathan Sewell to his daughters, Maria and Henrietta
Reference code:	MS-2-66, SF Box 18, Folder 21
Date:	1828 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	1 page
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: Letter from Jonathan Sewell to his daughters, Maria and Henrietta, MS-2-66, SF Box 18, Folder 21, Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Jonathan Sewell was a lawyer, musician, office holder, politician, author, and judge. He was born ca. 1766 in Cambridge, Massachusetts into a prominent Loyalist family but spent his later childhood in London and Bristol. After briefly attending Brasenose College, Oxford, he moved to New Brunswick in 1785 to study law with Solicitor General Ward Chipman.

In 1789 Sewell moved to Quebec, where he rose quickly in the legal and political ranks. In 1790 he was appointed temporary Attorney General of the province of Quebec and in 1795 he received the permanent appointments of Attorney General and Advocate General. He was named judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court in June 1796, and in 1808 was appointed Chief Justice of Lower Canada, becoming the most powerful official in the colony after the governor.

Sewell married Henrietta (Harriet) Smith in 1797, with whom he had sixteen children. He and his family were at the centre of social life at Quebec: he was a member of the Barons' Club, an active shareholder in the Union Company of Quebec, and sat on the board of the Royal Institution. Sewell was also the patron of a literary society, promoted the theatre, and founded and played in a quartet.

Sewell passed away in 1839, one year after resigning as Chief Justice.

Custodial history

Item was accessioned by Dalhousie University Archives in 1971. Prior to that, the letter was in the custody of Mrs. Percival Foster of Toronto, Ontario, who originally donated the item in 1945.

Scope and content

Item is a letter (1828) from Jonathan Sewell to his daughters, Maria (the eldest) and Henrietta, addressed care of their uncle, Stephen Sewell, in Montreal. Sewell describes the recent departure of Lord and Lady Dalhousie and exhorts his daughters to travel by steamboat and meet him at Three Rivers, which he calls "The Modern Seat of Science, Literature & Fashion."

Notes

Title notes

Physical condition

Letter is torn but legible.

Restrictions on access

There are no access restrictions on these materials. All materials are open for research.

Conditions governing use

Materials do not circulate and must be used in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room. Materials may be under copyright. Contact departmental staff for guidance on reproduction.

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Dalhousie, George Ramsay, Earl of, 1770-1838 (subject)
- Sewell, Henrietta (subject)
- Sewell, Maria May Livingstone, 1808-1881 (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Chief justices (subject)
- Correspondence (subject)
- Judges--Canada (subject)

- Lawyers (subject)
- Lower Canada--Politics and government (subject)
- Personal archives (subject)
- Politicians (subject)
- Montréal (Québec) (place)

Collection holdings
