

Archival Sources Treasures from Ontario's Archives

Volume 98, Number 2, Fall 2006

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1065828ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1065828ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

The Ontario Historical Society

ISSN

0030-2953 (print)

2371-4654 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

(2006). Archival Sources: Treasures from Ontario's Archives. *Ontario History*, 98(2), 245–253. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1065828ar>

Archival Sources

Treasures from Ontario's Archives



Duncan Lithographing Company

In 1856 Hardy Gregory opened a lithography studio in Hamilton. The studio went through several owners until, in 1881, it was acquired by Robert Duncan and became known as the Duncan Lithographing Company. It operated under this name until it was closed in 1978, 122 years after the original company began.

In 1952 a collection of samples of the work of Duncan

Lithographing between 1898 and 1910 was donated to the Hamilton Public Library (see example above). During this period the first and only man ever to engrave copper plates in the city of Hamilton, George Burton, was in the employ of this firm. It is said that his Spenserian Scrip was the most perfect ever produced in Canada. Undoubtedly many of the samples contained in this collection were from en-

Hamilton Public Library Archives

55 York Boulevard, Hamilton,
Ontario, L8N 4E4
(905) 546-3200

<[www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/
LibraryServices/Localhistory/Archives.htm](http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/LibraryServices/Localhistory/Archives.htm)>

Collection consists of manuscript and archival records relating to Hamilton and the Hamilton-Wentworth area including records of local businesses and organizations, family papers, government records of the City of Hamilton and the County of Wentworth, military records, etc.



gravings by Burton.

There are about 132 pages of letterheads, thirteen pages of form letters and two portfolios of poster-sized certificates, merchandise labels and other advertisements, many of them in full colour.

Many of the letterheads have engravings of the factory or store and, in some cases, it is the only known image of the building. This collection is a microcosm of the commerce and industry active in Hamilton at the turn of the twentieth century.

Aged Women's Home / Hamilton Orphan Asylum

The Ladies' Benevolent Society began operating in Hamilton in May of 1846. By 1848 they had acquired a house, which they began to operate as an asylum for orphans.

They opened their own newly built facility in 1853 and discontinued and the Aged Women's Home became the primary focus of the Ladies' Benevolent Society.

The collection contains minute books from the Ladies' Benevolent Society showing the business they transacted as well as the names of some of the women housed in the facility. There are also minutes of distribution, detailing the relief efforts of the society from 1854 to 1904. The records of the Aged Women's Home co-existed until 1914 when the government decreed that the aged and orphans could not be

cared for in the same facility. The government felt that the standards of care for the aged and orphans were too dissimilar and housing the two together would be detrimental to both facilities. The orphanage was

The Hamilton Orphan Asylum records consist of registers of names from 1848 to 1914 and records of apprenticeships from 1881 to 1905. Information contained in these records includes the



Aged Women's Home. Building with aged women and orphans out front c. 1875

names and dates of admission of each child as well as the date of release. They may also contain the names of parents and the dates of their deaths, the names of people taking apprentices and other supplementary information. The orphan asylum records have been completely indexed. These records enable

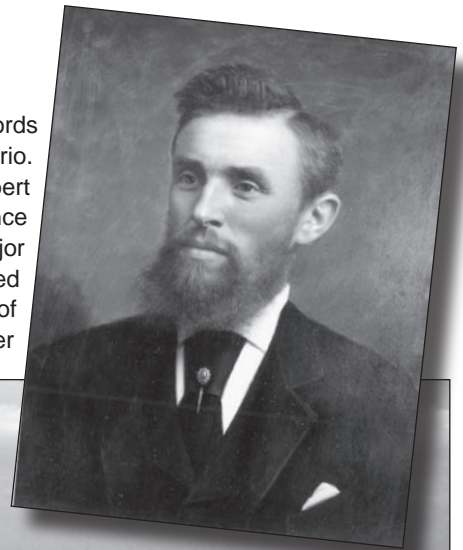
the researcher to track the changing attitudes towards orphaned children and the various ways in which they were treated. While some children were adopted, the majority were apprenticed or placed in service. They also show that the poor in Hamilton sometimes used the Hamilton Orphan Asylum

to care for their children when they did not have the resources to do so themselves. Parents would place the children in the home and then take them back later when circumstances improved.

Both sets of records are also valuable for genealogical research.

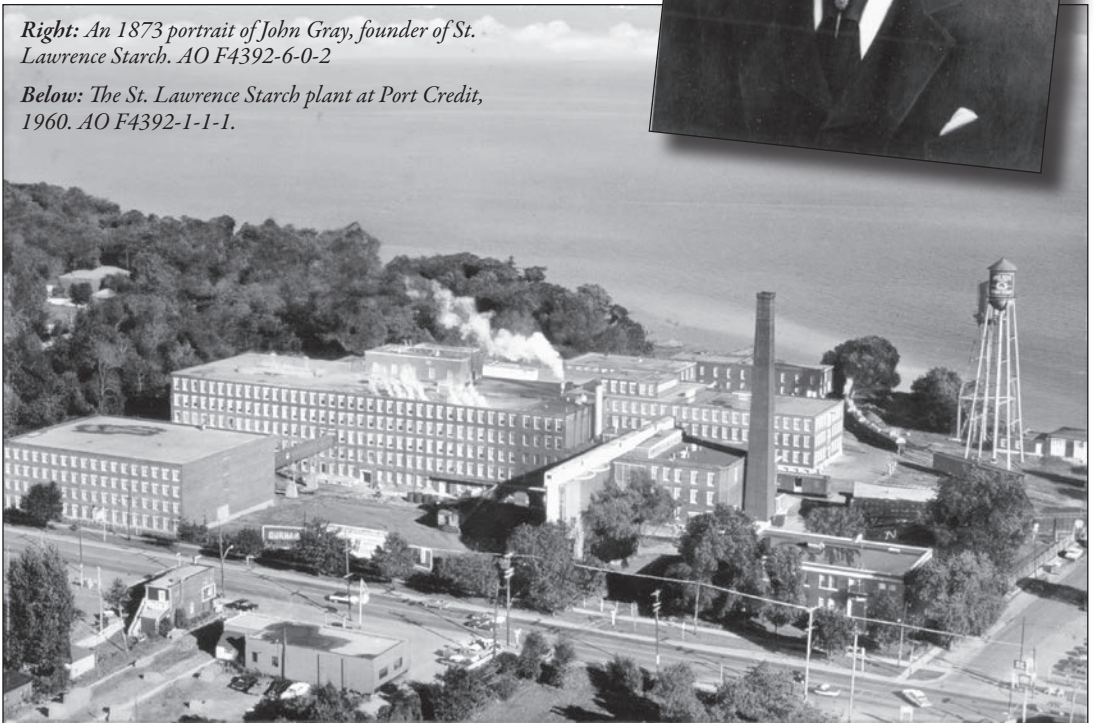
St. Lawrence Starch Company fonds *Archives of Ontario F 4392*

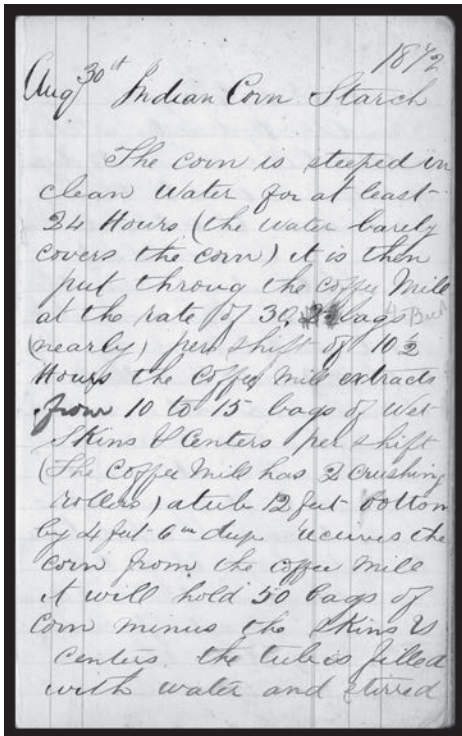
In 2001 and 2002 the Gray family donated the business records of the St Lawrence Starch Company to the Archives of Ontario. Established in 1889 by John Gray, Archie Hutchinson, Robert Kilgour, Joseph Kilgour and Jessie Malcolm, the St. Lawrence Starch Company Ltd., based in Port Credit, Ontario, was a major Canadian manufacturer of corn based starch, glucose and feed products. The records in this donation consist of a variety of media created and accumulated in the course of business over



Right: An 1873 portrait of John Gray, founder of St. Lawrence Starch. AO F4392-6-0-2

Below: The St. Lawrence Starch plant at Port Credit, 1960. AO F4392-1-1-1.





Notebook excerpt by John Gray, 1872. AO 4392-30, Box 3c.

a period of 125 years.

The records are comprehensive in scope and span the company's history from its beginnings to the late 1990s. Included are minutes from the board of directors of St. Lawrence Starch, its subsidiaries, and the parent, W.J. Gray Holdings Company. There is also extensive executive level correspondence, along with financial statements; corporate tax returns and ledgers; factory orders; correspondence with suppliers, customers, competitors and various levels of government; internal committee minutes; and records relating to labour relations and legal matters, including litigation over supply of corn syrup to the Dionne quintuplets in the 1930s and the countervailing duty imposed in the 1980s.

Also included in the collection is documentation on product research and development, production processes, planning and expansion proposals, and files on the company's relations with the community and its involvement in sponsoring sporting events. Finally there are records on the company's downsizing and plant closing, and the demolition and redevelopment of the factory lands, including environmental assessments.

The collection also includes special media such as photographs, architectural drawings and moving images. Among the special media highlights are numerous photographs and architectural drawings of the company's facilities and machinery, photographs of company sponsored sporting events and of the Gray family, original art work and advertisements for Bee Hive, Durham Starch, St. Lawrence Corn Oil and other St. Lawrence products. A number of the Bee Hive ads feature the Dionne quintuplets and well-known Canadian athletes such as hockey legend Frank Mahovlich, and Olympic medallists Karen Magnussen (figure skating) and Nancy Green (skiing). There are a few examples of Bee Hive hockey cards of Toronto Maple Leaf players from

the 1950s and 1960s. Finally there are sound recordings, transcripts, films and videos of St. Lawrence advertisements. Of particular interest are sound recordings and transcripts pertaining to the 1930s radio program What Price Loyalty?

The collection has been arranged into sixty-seven series reflecting the various business and community activities of the company. Some access restrictions apply to these records. Please see the individual series descriptions in the Archives Descriptive Database for detailed information. The timely arrangement and description of these records was made possible through financial assistance provided by the donor.

To view an online exhibit showcasing some of the documents from the St. Lawrence Starch Company collection visit: <www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/st_lawrence/index.html> Or go to the online exhibits section of the Archives of Ontario website at: <www.archives.gov.on.ca>

Archives of Ontario

77 Grenville Street, Toronto M5S 1B3
1-800-668-9933 Toll-Free Number
(Ontario only)

(416) 327-1600 Reception

<<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/>>

Records created by the government of Ontario and its predecessors and records from the private sector including individuals, businesses, clubs and associations, labour and political organizations.

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Archives

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Archives recently processed the fonds of two prominent Ontario psychiatrists. Their records serve to document significant portions of the history of psychiatry in Canada.

J. Allan Walters fonds

For scholars studying the mental health of soldiers and the effects of war-related stress, the Dr. J. Allan Walters fonds is an essential source. His records also reflect the history of psychiatric services at Toronto-area hospitals as well as Walters's various administrative, research, diagnostic, and personal activities between 1930 and 1980.



A caricature of Dr. J. Allan Walters by the renowned Toronto caricaturist of the 1950s-70s era, W.B. Mac. Original ink drawing, n.d., inscribed (verso) "Walters / Napanee" courtesy of CAMH Archives, Dr. J. Allan Walters fonds, F34.4.10.



A studio photo portrait of Dr. J. Allan Walters from the 1960s era, courtesy of CAMH Archives, Dr. J. Allan Walters fonds, F34.5.1.

James Allan Walters (b. Napanee, 1906, d. Toronto, 1986) earned a Bachelor's degree in biological and medical sciences in 1930 and a Medical Diploma in 1933 from the University of Toronto. After internships at the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital, Ontario Hospital-Whitby and Toronto General Hospital from 1932 to 1937, Dr. Walters continued his post-graduate training in England at the London Hospital and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases (1937-38), and subsequently was Assistant Medical Officer at Maudsley Hospital and Senior Medical Officer at Coventry & Warks Mental Hospital in Warwick, England (1937-39).

He was employed as a Fellow in Neurology in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto and Toronto General Hospital from 1940 to 1943 before joining the war effort as a Major in

CAMH Archives Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

1001 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4
416-535-8501, x.2159
<www.camh.net/about_addiction_mental_health/camh_archives.html>

Founded in 1982, the theme Archives for the History of Canadian Psychiatry, Mental Health and Addiction Services is mandated to preserve, and make available for study, material concerning the history and development of psychiatry and other mental health and addiction services in Canada, especially Ontario. In 2000, that original mandate was broadened to commence a phased evolution as the corporate archives for the permanent records of CAMH.

the Canadian Army and a specialist in neuropsychiatry at Basingstoke Neurological Hospital and #1 Neuropsychiatric Wing in England. He also spent some time in northwest Europe in 1944.

Walters resumed his joint teaching/practising position at the University of Toronto and Toronto General Hospital after the war (1945-66) being promoted to Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the former in 1955 and to Head of Psychiatric Service at the latter in 1960. Though he resigned his position at the hospital in 1966, he continued to work there as a senior physician and as a psychiatrist and physician at the Wellesley branch of the hospital. He retired from the university in 1978 but contin-



ued to work as a consultant at Wellesley and to treat patients at his hospital clinic until 1985.

The records show Dr. Walters's active participation in numerous professional associations including the Canadian Psychiatric Association, Ontario Psychiatric Association, and Ontario Medical Association; his work as the secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Neurological Society during its early years (1949-56) helped to ensure its growth and survival as well as the success of the Canadian Neurological Congress.

From his research into Parkinson's disease (1940-45) and fibrositis (1947-50) Dr. Walters originated the concept of psycho-

genic regional pain (1959), which he first described in a paper entitled "Psychogenic Regional Pain Alias Hysterical Pain" [*Brain*, Vol. 84, (1961), 1-18].

The fonds consists of approximately one metre of textual records, a small number of photographs and drawings, lecture slides, and ten audio reels predominantly dating between 1930 and 1980. More specifically, the fonds includes: patient case files; original manuscripts and reprints of his articles; publications by other authors; notes for speeches and research; reports; minutes of meetings from the Canadian Neurological Society, the Ontario Medical Association and various other hospital and association committees; correspondence and memos; ephemera collected from various conferences; self-analyses and a journal; and personal income tax records. Some materials relate to the administration and delivery of psychiatric services at Toronto General Hospital and Wellesley Hospital from the 1960s to the 1970s. Dr. Walters's papers also include writings on the history of the Toronto General Hospital and over 400 patient case files from the Neurological and Plastic Surgery Hospital in Basingstoke, England.

A detailed finding aid is available onsite and additional fonds information is available electronically via

ARCHEION <<http://archeion-aao.fis.utoronto.ca>>. Some access restrictions apply.

Robert Edward Turner fonds

The Robert Edward Turner fonds is particularly important for those interested in the history of forensic psychiatry. His records pertain to the Law Reform Commission of Canada for which he served as a consultant (1972-84), and the Metropolitan Toronto Forensic Service (he was its Psychiatrist-in-Charge and Director as well as a member of its board from 1977 to 1987). They also detail programs and services at various psychiatric institutions such as the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Robert Edward Turner (b. 1926) graduated with an Honours B.A. (zoology and chemistry) from McMaster University in 1948, served with the Canadian Officers Training Corps (1949-52) and in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps' Supplementary Service, and obtained a degree in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1952. He interned at Hamilton General Hospital (1952-53), and subsequently completed a locum tenens in general practice in Grimsby. Moving to Bristol, England, Turner undertook post-graduate studies in psychiatry at the University of Bristol and with the Bristol Mental Hospitals Group from 1953 to 1955. Returning to Toronto, he con-



The file on "Electrical Treatments" through the ages relates that this electro-therapy apparatus was employed in the early twentieth century at Ontario's Homewood Retreat in Guelph – specifically not for gynaecological disorders (as then recommended in certain medical literature) but "only for muscular problems, digestive disorders, and its sedative effect." Photo courtesy of CAMH Archives, Dr. R. Edward Turner fonds, F27.5.44.



The Metro Toronto Forensics Unit (METFORS) was established in 1977 under a multi-agency board to which the director and psychiatrist in charge, Dr. R. Edward Turner (left) reported from the outset. At the METFORS official opening held at the Queen Street site, the Hon. Roy McMurtry (right), Attorney-General of Ontario, delivered the keynote address. Photo courtesy of CAMH Archives, Dr. R. Edward Turner fonds, F27.9.4.

tinued his post-graduate studies in psychiatry at the University of Toronto obtaining a diploma in 1957; the same year he passed the examinations of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, obtaining the Certificate of Specialist in Psychiatry.

In 1957 Dr. Turner joined the Forensic Clinic of the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital first as a resident and later as a staff psychiatrist; he ultimately became its director in 1958, a position he held until the formation of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in 1966. He held a number of positions at the Institute, including Senior Psychiatrist, Forensic Service, and later as Chief of Forensic Services (1967-69), Medical Director (1969-77), and chairman of its Medical Advisory Committee (1972-77). His service with the Metropolitan Toronto Forensic Service dates from 1977 to 1987. Since 1991, Dr. Turner has provided an outpatient therapy practice through the

(former) Clarke Institute of Psychiatry and subsequently at the College Street site of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Academically, Dr. Turner taught at the University of Toronto's Department of Psychiatry as assistant professor (1964-68), associate professor (1968-73), and professor (1973-77). In 1977 he became professor of Forensic Psychiatry, a position he held until 1991 when he obtained emeritus status.

As a psychiatric consultant, Dr. Turner worked for the Law Reform Commission of Canada (1972-84) and acted as a liaison between it and the Canadian Psychiatric Association. His records reveal an active service on many task forces, advisory councils and committees as well as in organizations such as the Ontario Psychiatric Association (1972-76), the Canadian Psychiatric Association (1974-77), and the Kenneth G. Gray Foundation (1971-2005). For his contribution to psychiatry and to the Anglican Church of Canada, he was awarded a Commemorative Medal on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee in 2002.

Dr. Turner has contributed numerous papers to a wide variety of respected bulletins, journals, and professional text

and reference books, and has presented papers at various seminars and conferences. He continues to reside in Toronto.

The fonds consists of nearly two metres of textual records as well as architectural drawings, photographs, audio reels and audio cassettes predominantly dating between 1931 and 2001. The records pertain to Dr. Turner's professional development and career, beginning with his medical education and continuing with his professional positions at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, including the Metropolitan Toronto Forensic Service, the University of Toronto's Department of Psychiatry, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Also included are records that document his consultancy work, his various professional associations and his involvement with conferences and symposia. Lastly, there are biographical records, copies of court cases involving Dr. Turner and numerous research files pertaining to various psychiatry-related topics and changes in government legislation.

A detailed finding aid is available onsite and additional fonds information is available electronically via ARCHEION. Some access restrictions apply.

Canadian Nursing Sister of the First World War

by Amelia Ferguson

The story of a woman who finds herself in the middle of the Great War is told at the Grey County Archives. Luella Euphemia Denton volunteered her services as a nurse in the First World War. It is through her letters to a friend from Annan, Ontario, that her story is told. The Lorna Towler Collection contains twenty-one original letters written to Mrs. Arthur McArthur spanning the course of Miss Denton's service from 1916 to 1919.

As with most wartime correspondence many hardships are described in detail. She decided to join the British Ex-

peditionary Force shortly after she arrived in England. This moved her quite close to the action, serving at various casualty clearing stations in France and Belgium. In a letter dated 27 October 1917 she writes:

"The guns have kept a terrible roar all night. The earth shakes with the explosions. All day yesterday, it was the same. The fighting is stiff all right and our boys are doing splendidly. Flanders fields are seeing terrible things and we, all of us, are sick, nauseated with the horrible sights. I love my work, the opportunity which I

Grey County Archives
 Grey Roots: Your Heritage and Visitor Centre
 102599 Grey Road 18, R. R. #4,
 Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5N6
 (519) 376-3960 ext 111 or
 Toll Free (866) 473-9766
 <www.greyroots.com>
 The archival holdings at Grey Roots are an extensive assemblage of municipal and private collections covering the history of Grey County.

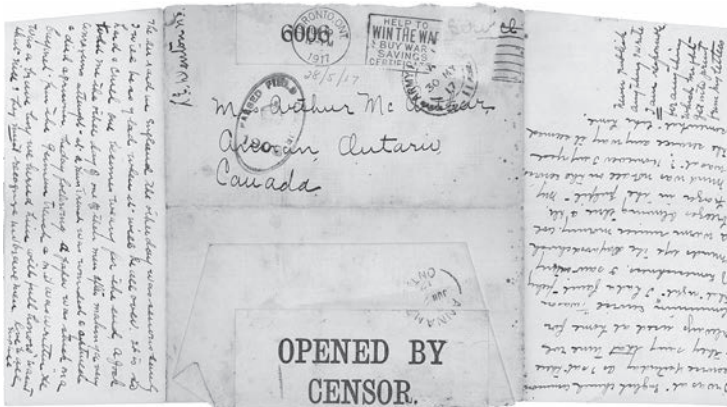
have here. To me it is a sacred place, men everyday giving their lives here. Oh it is cruel. We who have seen will never forget; you who have not seen be thankful."

She also speaks of many events and personages including: the sinking of the H.M.S. Llandovery Castle, William Avery Bishop, various bombing raids which she endured, the deaths of Captain David Howes and Nursing Sister Gladys Wake, the declaration of peace and the influenza epidemic.

However, as Miss Denton's service as a Canadian Nursing Sister was lengthy, she also speaks of more pleasurable times, including her leave time in London, the Scottish highlands and Paris. As well,



Luella Euphemia Denton posed with an Australian soldier during the First World War. (Grey County Archives PF131S1F318)



Written using British Expeditionary Force letterhead, Luella Euphemia Denton describes nightly bombardments experienced by the Number 3 Canadian unit at a Casualty Clearing Station in France during the summer of 1917. (Courtesy of Grey County Archives PF131S1F112)

she writes of the general happenings at the camp which includes her comments on the church services offered, the games played by hospital residents and even the contents of packages received from the homeland.

The letters of Miss Denton offer a unique view of the events of the First World War. Her letters show the declining progress she makes towards not only homesickness but also her personal views of the war. The correspondence is generally uplifting, in some fashion, as her support for the boys never wavers. Writing to Mrs. McArthur, 6 August 1917, Miss Denton writes, "...our Tommy is always first. Our splendid Tommys, they are of the best. I would not have missed this experience up here for a great deal."

The letters are also complemented by a selection of snaps, or photographs, taken of Miss Denton and others while serving overseas. In addition, the collection contains postcards from Miss Denton's subsequent travels to the Near East, and

newspaper clippings detailing her acquirement of the Order of other life achievements such as the British Empire award.



Luella Euphemia Denton, on right, standing with a soldier at entrance to a British Red Cross compound. (Grey County Archives PF131S1F317)