



DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

Bowman Family Collection
C.0005
Revised October 2019

Title proper:	Bowman Family Collection
Dates of creation:	1844-1961, predominant 1938-1961
Physical description:	3 folders of textual records
Biographical sketch:	
<p>Abraham Bowman (1768-1860) was born on the Mohawk River NY. He came to Fort Niagara with his mother in 1776 and enlisted in Butler's Rangers as a fifer in 1777. He must have transferred in 1780 to the Kings Royal Regiment of New York until the end of the war as a musician. After the war, Abraham settled with his father at the Whirlpool, moving later to St. Catharine's where he died. He served as a captain in the War of 1812 fighting at Lundy's Lane, Chippewa, and Queenston Heights where he was wounded. He received 300 acres plus 200 for his wife (the daughter of a Loyalist) and a town lot in Newark. He married at least twice, and possibly a third time. With his second wife Mary Jones (1770-1854) he had a son, Joseph.</p> <p>Joseph Bowman (1823-1895) came to Dundas in 1875 and owned a lumber mill with his partner Wm. Casey. Bowman, along with his wife Sarah Smith (1829-1894) and family, moved to Dundas in 1888. In 1890 he was a licensed inspector and his son Joseph Henry Bowman carried on the lumber mill. Additionally, Joseph Bowman was a Justice of the Peace for many years.</p> <p>Joseph Henry Bowman (1861-1954) was the head of Bowman Lumber Company. The business first started in 1865 at the south east corner of King and Market Street and was owned by James Mercer and William Casey. In 1877 the mill was operated by Joseph Bowman and S. Jull. In 1878 Wm. Casey eventually bought Jull's interest and Bowman and Casey moved to a new planing mill on the north side of King Street opposite John Street. This mill burned down in 1882 but was rebuilt and Wm. Casey moved to Hamilton in 1884. Thereafter it was known as the Bowman Lumber Company. Joseph Henry Bowman succeeded his father about 1890 and sold it to Snetsinger in 1941.</p> <p>Joseph Henry Bowman's children with his first wife Clara N. Behimer were Sarah McMahon Bowman and Frederick Bowman. Sarah married James J. Grafton (1857-1939), who was president of the Dundas Historical Society Museum for many years and ran the Grafton and Co. operation after her husband's death in 1939. Dr. Frederick Bowman (1885-1954) was a Hamilton doctor who served in the U.S. Medical Corps in World War I.</p>	
Scope and content:	
<p>This collection consists of assorted documents, clippings, a time book, correspondence, tickets, and other ephemera related to the Bowman family. The collection includes an essay "Tentative Bowman Family Tree" by T. Roy Woodhouse in 1961.</p>	
Custodial history:	
<p>Immediate source of acquisition is unknown.</p>	

Language:	English
Restrictions on access:	Open

Bowman Family Collection

Descriptive Inventory

Folder 1

File	Item	Contents	Date
1	1	Notice from Wesleyan-Methodist Church, 1 st Quarter with Brother Bowman written in.	1844
1	2	Handwritten receipt addressed to Mr. Nesbit.	n.d.
1	3	Part of a note that states, "Bowman was sixty the 4 th day of July 1845.	n.d.
1	4	In Memoriam notice for Brother Joseph Henry Bowman, died December 7, 1954.	1954
1	5	Clipping of a prayer, "God a Father".	n.d.
1	6	Letter from Jos. Sesh (<i>spelling?</i>) to Rev. G.R. Sanderson, Superintendent of the Mathaine (<i>spelling?</i>) Circuit. Letter begins "My Dear Brother" and appears to be an endorsement for Abraham Bowman and his wife as they are leaving the Stamford Circuit where they had been acceptable members of the Wesleyan-Methodist Church.	23 December, 1844
1	7	Letter from George Bowman of Centreville to his uncle, with envelope.	7 September 1862
1	8	Letter from John Whiteman to Mr. Bowman.	n.d.
1	9	Letter from Ephraim (<i>no last name</i>) to his brother. In the letter he writes asking about his brother's children, George, Mary and Sarah.	24 October 1864
1	10	Eight pieces of what appears to be a Bowman family history. The age of the document and the way in which it was folded might have contributed to its current state.	n.d.

Folder 2

File	Item	Contents	Date
2	11	Time Book for the Bowman Lumber Co. Book beginning on August 7, 1844 and ending on January 21, 1886.	1844-1886
2	12	Newspaper clipping, "Paintings Win Another Prize for Dr. Bowman".	23 June 1954
2	13	Copy of a Death Notice for Abraham Bowman, father of Joseph Bowman of Centreville. Abraham Bowman was a United Empire Loyalist.	n.d.
2	14	Envelope with a newspaper clipping of the Bowman family.	n.d.
2	15	Ticket for the Women's Auxiliary Bazaar, Tea, and Concert.	11 December 1895
2	16	Envelope addressed to Joseph Bowman, Saw Mill Proprietor, St. Catherine, ON, postage included on envelope.	24 March 1874
2	17	Blank postcard with a cross stitched message, "To Joseph", attached.	n.d.

2	18	Envelope containing the obituary for Dr. John Edgar Bowman. He died on July 21, 1938.	1938
2	19	Handwritten document titled, "Tentative Family Tree of the Bowmans of Dundas" by T.R. Woodhouse.	n.d.
2	20	Typed copy of document titled "Tentative Family Tree of the Bowmans of Dundas" by T.R. Woodhouse. Typed on Dundas Historical Society Museum letterhead.	n.d.
2	21	Copy of the typed copy of document titled "Tentative Family Tree of the Bowmans of Dundas" by T.R. Woodhouse. Typed on Dundas Historical Society Museum letterhead. No Date.	n.d.

File 3

File	Item	Contents	Date
3	22	Christmas card from Dr. and Mrs. Fred B. Bowman with a painting by Dr. Bowman on the front.	1962
3	23	Christmas card from Dr. and Mrs. Fred B. Bowman with a painting by Dr. Bowman on the front.	1963
3	24	Christmas card from Dr. and Mrs. Fred B. Bowman with a painting by Dr. Bowman on the front.	1960
3	25	Christmas card from Dr. and Mrs. Fred B. Bowman with a painting by Dr. Bowman on the front.	n.d.
3	26	Christmas card from Dr. and Mrs. Fred Bowman with a painting by Dr. Bowman on the front.	1954
3	27	Christmas card from Dr. and Mrs. Fred Bowman with a painting by Dr. Bowman on the front.	1955
3	28	Obituary for Joseph Henry Bowman, died December 7, 1954; newspaper article titled, "Retired Builder J.H. Bowman, Dies at Dundas" from The Hamilton Spectator, December 9, 1954.	1954
3	29	Front page from The Hamilton Spectator, includes an article titled, "Joseph Bowman Marks 91 st Birthday Raised Historic Dundas Buildings".	4 July 1952
3	30	Front page from The Hamilton Spectator, includes an article titled, "Joseph Bowman Marks 91 st Birthday Raised Historic Dundas Buildings".	4 July 1952
3	31	Front page from The Dundas Star, includes an article titled, "90 th Birthday of Joseph H. Bowman".	3 July 1951
3	32	Page from The Hamilton Spectator, includes an article titled, "None Left to Continue Staunch Old Line: Cruelty, Privation Ranged UEL Family".	22 October 1960

