

Ms. Grover, (Rachel) papers  
Coll. 1846-1901, 1973-2000  
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Rachel Grover Papers  
1846-1901, 1973-2000

Rachel Grover was formerly a manuscript librarian at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. She intended to publish a biography of her great grandmother-in-law Harriet Maria Grover using extracts from Harriet's journal (1846-51) and a selection of Harriet's letters written to her son, George Grover, over a period of over 30 years, from 1865 to the 1890s. The project was never completed.

The Rachel Grover papers are in three parts.

The first is Harriet Grover's holograph diary and original letters. The bulk of the letters (approx. 400) are from Harriet Grover to her son George Grover. The other holograph originals include letters to George written by his brother Thomas Grover, his father Peregrine Maitland Grover, and from his sister Mary Grover, among other family members and associates.

The second part of the collection is typescript transcriptions, both of Harriet's diary (which has been transcribed in its entirety), as well as many of the original letters. Most, but not all, of Harriet's letters to George have been transcribed, as have various letters from Peregrine Maitland, Thomas and Mary. Original letters that have been transcribed have been separated from those that have not been transcribed.

The third part of the collection is correspondence Rachel Grover had with various Canadian authors. Correspondents include: Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, George Johnston, Mavis Gallant, Joan O'Donovan, Thomas Raddall, Scott Symons and David Solway.

### **Background on Harriet Grover and family**

Harriet Maria Grover (née Keeler, 1822-1901) eloped to marry Peregrine Maitland Grover (1817-1885) in 1846. She had two sons, Thomas (1847-1909) and George (1849-1897), and a daughter, Mary (1853-1920). The family moved to Balsam Farm in Norwood, Ontario in 1853, and Harriet remained there for the rest of her life. Her husband was active in the community and became the first Member of Parliament for Peterborough East in 1867.

Harriet's letters to George describe her everyday life and that of the community around her, as well as her own thoughts and her reading. George Grover spent most of his adult life working for the American Express Company in Hamilton, Toronto and elsewhere. The letters were discovered by Rachel Grover and her husband John Carleton Grover, a great grandson of Harriet, when they inherited the family home, Balsam Farm, in Norwood, Ont.

Extent: 9 boxes (1 metre)

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- Box 1    22 Folders**    Harriet M. Grover Diary  
1846-1851  
Harriet M. Grover letters to son, George Grover, that have  
been transcribed  
1865-1874  
Transcriptions of this material can be found in Box 4
- Folder 1    2 B&W Photos: Harriet M. Grover and Peregrine Maitland  
Grover  
[187?]
- Folder 2    Harriet Grover Diary  
1846-1851  
1 small holograph
- Folders 3-22**    HMG original letters to George Grover, 1865-1874
- Folder 3    1865, July-Oct.  
7 ALS
- Folder 4    1865, Nov.-Dec.  
5 ALS
- Folder 5    1866, Jan.-April  
8 ALS
- Folder 6    1866, May-Dec.  
12 ALS
- Folder 7    1867, Jan.-April  
7 ALS
- Folder 8    1867, May-Sept.  
8 ALS
- Folder 9    1867, Oct.-Dec.  
8 ALS
- Folder 10    1868, Jan.-July  
6 ALS

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- Folder 11 1868, Aug.-Oct.  
6 ALS
- Folder 12 1868, Nov.-Dec.  
7 ALS
- Folder 13 1869, Jan.-March  
5 ALS
- Folder 14 1869, April-June  
8 ALS
- Folder 15 1869, July-Dec.  
10 ALS
- Folder 16 1870, Feb.-June  
7 ALS
- Folder 17 1870, July-Oct.  
9 ALS
- Folder 18 1870, Nov.-Dec.  
6 ALS
- Folder 19 1873, Sept.-Nov.  
3 ALS
- Folder 20 1874, Jan.-March  
8 ALS
- Folder 21 1874, April-August  
8 ALS
- Folder 22 1874, Sept.-Dec.  
6 ALS

**Box 2 25 Folders** Harriet M. Grover original letters to George Grover that have  
been transcribed  
1875-1885  
Transcriptions of this material can be found in Box 5

- Folder 1 1875, Jan.-Feb.  
6 ALS

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- |           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Folder 2  | 1875, March-May<br>7 ALS   |
| Folder 3  | 1875, June-Sept.<br>7 ALS  |
| Folder 4  | 1875, Oct.-Dec.<br>9 ALS   |
| Folder 5  | 1876, Jan.-March<br>8 ALS  |
| Folder 6  | 1876, April-June<br>8 ALS  |
| Folder 7  | 1876, July-August<br>8 ALS |
| Folder 8  | 1876, Sept.-Dec.<br>11 ALS |
| Folder 9  | 1877, Jan.-March<br>7 ALS  |
| Folder 10 | 1877, April-June<br>8 ALS  |
| Folder 11 | 1877, July<br>4 ALS        |
| Folder 12 | 1877, Sept.-Dec.<br>9 ALS  |
| Folder 13 | 1878, Jan.-May<br>4 ALS    |
| Folder 14 | 1878, June-Aug.<br>7 ALS   |
| Folder 15 | 1878, Sept.-Oct.<br>7 ALS  |
| Folder 16 | 1878, Nov.-Dec.<br>5 ALS   |

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Folder 17	1879, Jan.-April 10 ALS
Folder 18	1880, Nov. 1 ALS
Folder 19	1881, Feb.-Sept. 3 ALS
Folder 20	1881, Oct.-Dec. 6 ALS
Folder 21	1882, Jan.-April 7 ALS
Folder 22	1882, May-Oct. 7 ALS
Folder 23	1883, March 1 ALS
Folder 24	1884, Feb.-Aug. 4 ALS
Folder 25	1885, April-May 3 ALS
<b>Box 3</b>	<b>22 Folders</b>
	Harriet M. Grover original letters to George Grover (including letters to George's wife, Nellie Grover). 1886-1901 Transcriptions of this material can be found in Box 6 Also includes letters that have not been transcribed, various dates
	<b>Folders 1-15</b>
	HMG original letters that are transcribed
Folder 1	1886, August 2 ALS
Folder 2	1887, Jan.-Nov. 6 ALS
Folder 3	1888, October 2 ALS

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Folder 4	1889, April-Nov. 2 ALS
Folder 5	1890, April-Nov. 6 ALS
Folder 6	1891, July-Oct. 2 ALS
Folder 7	1892, July-Oct. 4 ALS
Folder 8	1894, Jan.-Dec. 2 ALS
Folder 9	1895, Jan.-March 4 ALS
Folder 10	1896, March-Dec. 4 ALS
Folder 11	1897, Jan.-April 3 ALS
Folder 12	1898, July 1 ALS
Folder 13	1899, June-Dec. 3 ALS
Folder 14	1900, Jan. 1 ALS
Folder 15	1901, May-Oct. 2 ALS
<b>Folders 16-21</b>	HMG original letters to George, not transcribed 1866-1899
Folder 16	1866-1868 3 ALS
Folder 17	1873, 1875 7 ALS

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Folder 18	1876 7 ALS
Folder 19	1877-1878 3 ALS
Folder 20	1881-1884 5 ALS
Folder 21	1888-1899 6 ALS
Folder 22	HMG original letters, fragments and undated 12 ALS

**Box 4**    **22 Folders**    Transcriptions, Harriet Grover's Diary and her letters (1865-1874) to George Grover  
Folder numbers of transcribed material correspond to folders of original letters held in Box 1

Folder 1    Historical background to Balsam Farm Letters

Folder 2    Harriet M. Grover Diary, Transcript  
50 Typescript pages

**Folders 3-22**    Transcriptions of Harriet Grover's letters to George Grover, 1865-1874  
Typescript  
Folder numbers of transcribed material correspond to folders of original letters held in Box 1

Folders 3-4    1865, transcribed letters

Folders 5-6    1866, transcribed letters

Folders 7-9    1867, transcribed letters

Folders 10-12    1868, transcribed letters

Folders 13-15    1869, transcribed letters

Folders 16-18    1870, transcribed letters

Folder 19    1873, transcribed letters

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Folders 20-22 1874, transcribed letters

**Box 5 25 Folders** Transcriptions of Harriet Grover's letters to George Grover from 1875-1885  
Folder numbers of transcribed material correspond to folders of original letters held in Box 2

Folders 1-4 1875, transcribed letters

Folders 5-8 1876, transcribed letters

Folders 9-12 1877, transcribed letters

Folders 13-16 1878, transcribed letters

Folder 17 1879, transcribed letters

Folder 18 1880, transcribed letter

Folders 19-20 1881, transcribed letters

Folders 21-22 1882, transcribed letters

Folder 23 1883, transcribed letter

Folder 24 1884, transcribed letters

Folder 25 1885, transcribed letters

**Box 6 15 folders** Transcriptions of Harriet Grover's letters to George Grover from 1886-1901  
Typescript  
Folder numbers of transcribed material correspond to folders of original letters held in Box 3

Folder 1 1886, transcribed letters

Folder 2 1887, transcribed letters

Folder 3 1888, transcribed letters

Folder 4 1889, transcribed letters



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- Folder 5 1890, transcribed letters
- Folder 6 1891, transcribed letters
- Folder 7 1892, transcribed letters
- Folder 8 1984, transcribed letters
- Folder 9 1895, transcribed letters
- Folder 10 1896, transcribed letters
- Folder 11 1897, transcribed letters
- Folder 12 1898, transcribed letters
- Folder 13 1899, transcribed letters
- Folder 14 1900, transcribed letters
- Folder 15 1901, transcribed letters

**Box 7 34 Folders** Original letters from Thomas Grover to George Grover, 1865-1892; some letters transcribed  
Original letters from Peregrine Maitland to George Grover, 1865-1878; some letters transcribed  
Original letters from Mary Grover to George Grover, 1865-[187-?]; transcribed letters  
Original letters to Harriet Grover, [1869?]-1899  
Misc. original Grover correspondence, 1867-1879; some letters transcribed  
Original letter from Jas. Macintosh to PM Grover, 1867  
Transcribed letters are in the folder immediately after the folder that holds the original

**Folders 1-4** Letters from Thomas Grover to George Grover  
Originals and transcriptions

- Folder 1 1865-1868, originals  
8 ALS
- Folder 2 1865-1868, transcriptions
- Folder 3 1874-1892, originals  
5 ALS

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Folder 4	1874-1892, transcriptions
<b>Folders 5-18</b>	Original letters from Thomas Grover to George Grover No transcriptions
Folder 5	[1865?]-1868 5 ALS
Folder 6	1873 1 ALS
Folder 7	1874 5 ALS
Folder 8	1875 4 ALS
Folder 9	1876 13 ALS
Folder 10	1877 1 ALS
Folder 11	1878 9 ALS
Folder 12	1879 4 ALS
Folder 13	[187-?] 4 ALS
Folder 14	1882 3 ALS
Folder 15	1885 3 ALS
Folder 16	1889 1 ALS
Folder 17	1890 2 ALS
Folder 18	1892 1 ALS

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- Folder 19 Thomas Grover to Nellie Grover, 1901  
3 ALS
- Folders 20-21** Thomas Grover to P.M. and Harriet Grover  
1866  
Originals and transcriptions
- Folder 20 1866, originals  
5 ALS
- Folder 21 1866, transcriptions
- Folders 22-25** P.M Grover to George Grover  
1865-1877  
Originals and transcriptions
- Folder 22 1865-1867, originals  
10 ALS
- Folder 23 1865-1867, transcriptions
- Folder 24 1868-1877, originals  
9 ALS
- Folder 25 1868-1877, transcriptions
- Folder 26 P.M Grover to George Grover  
1865-1878  
8 ALS  
No transcriptions
- Folders 27-28** Mary Grover to George Grover  
1865-1878  
Originals and transcriptions
- Folder 27 [1865?]-[1878], originals  
6 ALS
- Folder 28 1865-1878, transcriptions  
Note: Some transcriptions do not have a corresponding original

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- Folder 29 Letters to Harriet Grover, original  
[1869?]-1899  
4 ALS  
No transcriptions
- Folder 30 Jas. Macintosh to P.M. Grover  
1867  
1 ALS
- Folder 31 John Borlase Warren to his daughter Eliza Warren  
1868-1878  
6 ALS
- Folder 32 Misc. letters, originals  
1867-1879  
4 ALS  
Transcribed
- Folder 33 Misc. letters, transcriptions  
1867-1879
- Folder 34 Misc. letters, originals  
11 ALS  
Not transcribed
- Box 8 20 Folders** Envelopes, 1865-1909  
Note: Every attempt has been made to separate envelopes by years using their postmarks. Envelopes whose dates can not be properly verified are placed in a separate folder.
- Folders 1-12 Envelopes from Harriet Grover letters to George Grover  
1865-1891
- Folder 13-20 Misc. envelopes to George Grover (and family), 1865-1909
- Box 9 17 Folders** Rachel Grover Correspondence  
1973-2000  
Correspondents include: Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, George Johnston, Mavis Gallant, Joan O'Donovan, Thomas Raddall, Scott Symons and David Solway.
- Folders 1-3 Margaret Avison, 1985-1992  
25 ANS, 6 ALS

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- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Folder 4      | Earle Birney, 1973<br>1 TLS                     |
| Folders 5-10  | George Johnston, 1987-2000<br>45 ALS, 5 ANS     |
| Folder 11     | Mavis Gallant, 1984-1993<br>6 ALS, 3 ANS, 2 TLS |
| Folder 12     | Joan O'Donovan, 1986<br>2 ANS                   |
| Folder 13     | Thomas Raddall, 1975<br>1 ALS                   |
| Folder 14     | Scott Symons, 1992<br>1 TLS                     |
| Folders 15-17 | David Solway, 1986-2000<br>14 ALS, 5 TLS, 2 ANS |