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**Milne Family Papers, 1797-1957
9 boxes, 2 map folders (1.5 metres)**

A collection of family papers, dating from 1797, when the first family member emigrated to New York from Scotland, to the 1950s (4th generation). Includes correspondence, land deeds, aritectural plans, and other family documents. Charles S. Milne (b.1877), the son of Alexander W. Milne, married Edna Shepard Johnson in 1909. Edna (b.1880) was the daughter of Abram S. Johnson and Saida A. Shepard, of North York. The collection includes some early Johnson family papers, including a testimonial for Abraham Johnson, dated 1794.

Historical Note

The earliest material in the collection are letters to and from Alexander Milne (b.ca.1777) and his brothers, Peter, David, and William, dating from 1797 to 1818, documenting their early years in New York and the eastern states. The Milne brothers emigrated from Dundee, Scotland, where they had learned the weaver's trade. Peter, the first to emigrate in 1797, and David, who appears to have emigrated in 1801, earned a precarious living at first as peddlers. David died on the road in 1804, but by 1802 Peter was living part of the time at his home at Oyster Bay on Long Island.

The third brother, Alexander, emigrated to New York in 1802, and was able to find work as a weaver, both on Long Island and elsewhere. He emigrated to Canada in 1817. Most of the papers described here relate to him and his descendants. (William, another brother, emigrated to New York in 1802. He appears to have been a sailor. Helen Milne, mother of the brothers, also emigrated, and lived at Peter's home on Long Island).

By 1823 Peter Milne had emigrated to Canada and had started a woollen mill and saw mill in Markham, apparently having made considerable money from business transactions in the United States. Alexander Milne became a partner with Peter in the operation of the mills in Markham around 1824. In 1827 Peter married and Alexander and he dissolved their partnership. Alexander moved to North York and established a mill at Don Mills and Lawrence (the site of Edwards' Gardens). He acquired the property along Lawrence from this site over to what is now Woodbine, where he moved his milling operations in 1832. This milling business, at "Milneford Mills", Wexford, is the focus of the most interesting part of this collection. Alexander operated it with his son William into the 1860s.

After Alexander's death (he was still living in 1866), William Milne continued to operate the mill with his son, Alexander W. Milne. In 1878 a new mill was erected after bad floods had damaged the previous one. Two sheets of architectural drawings for this mill, dated 1877, and signed by the Toronto firm, Langley, Langley & Burke, and a copy of their specifications for this mill are in the collection. There are also deeds and other legal documents relating to the mills and property along Lawrence, dating from 1829 to 1920. (Box 2)

After William Milne's death in 1880, Alexander W. Milne continued to operate the mills. Either he or his son, Charles S. Milne, closed the mills in the early 1900s.

BOX 1

Early Milne family letters and documents. 39 items.
1799-1856. See separate listing.

BOX 2

Documents re Milne property in York Township, woollen mills, etc. 1829-1920.

Selected items:

Commissioner of Crown Lands Office, York, Jan. 12, 1829, to Mr. Alex Milne, York East. 1 leaf. Printed form filled in by hand and signed by Peter Robinson, Commissioner of Crown Lands. "In application to your application to purchase Lot. No. 5 in the 3rd Concession in the Township of York East ... it is now for sale at seventeen shillings & sixpence per acre ...

Commissioner of Crown Lands Office, Toronto, Feb. 24, 1835. "Received from Alexander Milne ... twenty-two pounds ten shillings ... being the first installment on Lot no. seven in the second concession east of Yonge Street ... " Printed form, signed by Peter Robinson.

Deed: Alex Milne to Wm. Milne. Ap. 4, 1838. (Lot 5, 3rd conc. east of Yonge)

Deed: Alex Milne to Hugh Laird. Ap. 4, 1838. (Lot 5, 2nd, 3rd, 4th conc. east of Yonge)

Deed: Alex. Milne to William Milne. Mar. 7, 1839. (Lot 5, 2nd, 3rd, 4th conc. east of Yonge)

Indenture: Alex. Milne to Wm. Milne, conveying Lot. no. 5, 3rd, 4th conc. east of Yonge (with woollen mill) July 21, 1863.

Alex. W. Milne. Business correspondence re: woollen mill. 1865-66. 4 items.

Draft of Agreement: William Milne and Alex. W. Milne. July 1, 1867. Establishes them as copartners in the firm Wm. Milne & Sons.

Specifications of Mill at Wexford for Mr. A.W. Milne. Langley, Langley & Burke,

Box 2

Architects, Toronto, April 10, 1877.

Deed: A.W. Milne to York Twp. Nov. 12, 1887. For road deviation.

Indenture: Alex W. Milne leases to Frederick W. Milne, Charles S. Milne, Lot 5, 4th conc. East of Yonge (woollen mills, etc.)

Deed: A.W. Milne to H.J. Maclean, May 1, 1911. Lot 5, 4th conc. east of Yonge. (woollen mill)

Farm lease: A.W. Milne & Herbert Ley. 1920. Lot 5, 3rd conc. east of Yonge.

Layout showing proposed division of land concession 3, North York, 1945.

Map Folder

*in Mapcase
(10/10)*

Langley, Langley & Burke, Architects, Toronto.
Architectural plans for Mill for Mr. A.W. Milne,
Wexford. Toronto, April 10, 1877. 2 sheets.
Linen tracings. Part col.
Elevations, section, plans.
Scale: 8 ft.: 1 in.

BOX 3

William Milne (d.1880) business papers and estate papers. 1863-1887. 16 folders.

Excludes papers relating to the Woollen mill at Milneford. Many papers relate to property owned in Amabel Township, Bruce County, Ont. The remainder of the papers relate to William Milne's will and the settlement of his estate.

Selected items:

Indian Land sale. Grant to William Milne. 240 acres. Township of Amabel, County of Bruce. Quebec, Feb. 14, 1862.

Tax receipts and other papers re Amabel property. 2 folders. 1863-1890.

William Milne. Draft will. 1876. Undated draft of will. Probate of will. 1880.

BOX 3

Claims of David Milne and Peter Milne against the estate. Quit claims and releases from Jane Milne (widow); Ann Jane Armstrong. Accounts from Jane Milne to A.W. Milne (son) and agreement between Jane Milne and A. W. Milne.

BOX 4

Alexander W. Milne (1837-1922). Business papers and estate papers. 25 folders. 1861-1922; 1938.

Excludes material relating to woollen mill at Milneford. (See Box 2)

Selected items:

Indenture: Alex. Milne to A.W. Milne. Feb. 28, 1877. Alexander Milne gives his grandson A. W. Milne \$2000.

Peter Milne. Accounts with A.W. Milne. 1871-80.

Alexander W. Milne. Cancelled cheques. 1880-1909.

Dr. Robert A. Milne and A.W. Milne. Correspondence re: construction of a crossing for the James Bay Railway on Milne property. 1904-1906.

Alexander W. Milne. Will. Jan. 10, 1921.

BOX 5

Alexander W. Milne. Family correspondence. 1856-1896.

Most material is from 1850s and 1860s. Lengthy sequence of letters from A.W. Milne to his wife, Harriet, 1885.

Includes photograph of Mr. St. Germaine in "first horseless carriage in Toronto". "Taken in the summer of 1898". This photo is also held in Toronto Public Library and was reproduced recently in D. Ritchie's book, *North Toronto*.

BOX 6

Charles S. Milne., Family and business papers. 1899-1947. 12 folders.

Charles was son of A.W. Milne, father of Lorus J. Milne.

Lorus J. Milne. Memorabilia and clippings re: Milne family. ca. 1912-35. 5 folders.

Johnson family papers. 1794; 1875-1933; 1954. 12 folders.

These papers come from the wife of Charles S. Milne, Edna Shepard (Johnson) Milne, and relate to her family.

Selected items:

[Testimonial certifying that] "Abraham Johnson ... late of this place has behaved himself as an industrious, sober and honest Man and in every other respect as a good Subject and as such we recommend him." Digby, N.S. May 13, 1794. 1 leaf.

Address of the officers and Teachers of the Newtonbrook Methodist Sabbath School to Abraham Johnson Esq. on his retiring from the office of Superintendant. Feb. 11, 1876.

Deeds, mortgages and other papers relating to property at 92 Quebec Ave., Toronto. 1888-1931.

Golden wedding invitation for John Lawrence and Lydia (Johnson) Lawrence, Feb. 14, 1878. Polo, Ill.

Clippings re Fish family, Gibson family, Montgomery family, Shepard family, 3 folders.

Johnson Family printed materials, including:

High School Literary Society. Grand concert ... to be held in the auditorium of the High School. March 24, 1899. (Toronto? since includes Edna Johnson as Ass't Critic) Program.

Henry A. Fish. "In memory of Abraham Johnson. 11 Gore Bay, 1892. Broadside.

P. L. Grant. "In memory of the late Mr. Abraham Johnson. 11 Richmond Hill, 1892. Broadside.

BOX 6

"Auction sale of farm stock, implements, furniture, etc. belonging to Abram Johnson." 1911. Broadside.

Consumers' Gas Co., Toronto. "Amended A.R.P. instructions to all gas users." 11 [194-?] : "It is not necessary nor advisable to turn off the gas at the meter unless bombs are actually falling in your immediate vicinity."

BOX 7

Edna (Johnson) Milne. Account Book. 1838-1957.

Hughes, Samuel. A primer of map geography. Compiled by Samuel Hughes and Jas. E. Dennis. Toronto: W.J. Gage, 1883.

BOX 8

A.S. Johnson and others. Cash book. 1886-1954.' Later accounts kept by Charles S. Milne and Edna (Johnson) Milne.

A.S. Johnson. Ledger book. ca. 1887. Most of the book was used by his daughter, Edna Milne, as scrapbook for recipes. Most accounts are pasted over.

Lorus J. Milne. Account Book. 1947-1957.

BOX 9

Entry for "Lorus J. and Margery Milne", *Something About the Author, Autobiography Series*, v. 18, pp 241-258, 1994.

Map Case

Pierce's memorandum account book. Buffalo, 1906.

Wedding certificate: Abram Johnson and Saida Shepard.