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OELSCHLAGER FAMILY PAPERS

A collection of papers relating to the family of William Oelschlager. It consists of some correspondence from him to his family, journals of his trips to Manitoba and to Europe, drafts of his report to the Minister of Agriculture and his letter to the Mayor and Council of the Town of Berlin, passports of other family members, extract from a birth certificate, autograph albums, and two issues of the Daily Telegraph (Berlin) Ont. with an account of his funeral and that of his grand-daughter, Martha.

Explanatory notes about the Oelschlager Family by his great grand-daughter, Joyce Brown, are in the manuscript file.

EXTENT: 1 box, 6 cm. & mapcase

Accession number: 86.026

Gift of Mrs. T.C. Brown, May 1986

Edna Hajnal  
June 1989

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Oelschlager, born in Schleswig-Holstein, may have emigrated first to Pennsylvania where he met and married Catherine Schmidt of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. By the early 1860's he was living in Canada, for by 1862 he was a Justice of the Peace. In Lovell's Province of Ontario Directory for 1871 he is listed as the proprietor or manager of a "tobacco factory" in Berlin, Ontario. Later he was manager of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Berlin. From 1879 until his death he served as town treasurer. In 1881 he escorted four invited German "delegates" to Manitoba to study its potential for agricultural settlement. He reported on this to John H. Pope, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture. He travelled to Europe in 1890 visiting France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and England. He died in Berlin, Ontario in 1893.

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- Mapcase Passport issued by the Kingdom of Westphalia to Johann Friedrich -----, 10 September 1813.
- Folder 1 Extract from baptismal register of the Kirche St. Michaelis, Hamburg, for Wilhelmine Schunck, 1804. Extract dated 1843.
- Mapcase Passport issued by the State of Hamburg to Wilhelmine Oehlschlager, 1 June 1844.
- Folder 2 Passport issued by the State of Hamburg to Theodor Schunck, 15 February 1844.
- Folder 3 Magistrate's Guide, 1862, Wm. Oelschlager, J.P. Index, manuscript, to Consolidated Statutes of Canada; Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada; Magistrates Hand-Book of 1860; Provincial Justice, 1858; and Law Journal.
- Folder 4 Oelschlager, William to His Worship the Mayor and Council of the Town of Berlin. [188?] A.L. draft. Defends his conduct as town treasurer since taking office in 1879.
- Folder 5 Journal of William Oelschlager's trip to Manitoba in 1881. Contains notes and observations on soil, climate, crops, prices, and the life of the settlers, and a list of his expenses on the trip.
- Folder 6 Oelschlager, William, to His Honor J.H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture. Report of the journey to Manitoba with the German delegates. [1881?] 2 drafts of the reports.
- Item 7 Journal of William Oelschlager's trip to Europe, 1890. Contains notes, sketches, addresses, lists, and record of expenses. Visited Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig, Prag, Wien, Tirol, Zurich, Lausanne, Basel, Coln, Paris, London.
- Folders 8-13 Oelschlager, William, to Dear Ma and Children, Berlin, Ontario. 1890. 6 A.L.S. and several fragments. Written mainly from Vienna, describe in detail the cities and places visited, the food eaten, and impressions of people and places.

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- Items 14-15 Autograph albums belonging to Louise Oelschlager, William's daughter, 1870-1894. 2 volumes.
- Item 16 Autograph album belonging to Alfred Oelschlager, William's son, 1881-1904.
- Mapcase Daily Telegraph (Berlin, Ontario) 18 February 1893 and 9 November 1906.  
Account of William Oelschlager's funeral is in issue for 18 Feb. 1893, and account of Martha Oelschlager's funeral (Alfred Oelschlager's daughter) is in that for 9 Nov. 1906.