

Thomas Marks and Company fonds

1874-1893

78 cm of textual records

Administrative history

Thomas Marks and Brothers was first established in 1857 in Bruce Mines. In 1868, employee James Dickson established a branch office at "the Station", later known as Prince Arthur's Landing (later Port Arthur and now part of Thunder Bay). Thomas Marks (1834-1900) became a permanent resident at Prince Arthur's Landing in 1872 and the stores office there became the head office. Thomas Marks was the small community's leading commercial figure and played an important role in the local Board of Trade and in politics as Reeve of Shuniah for nine years as well as Port Arthur's first Mayor. His interests included Railway construction, ship building and ownership, real estate, mining, hotel ownership as well as his mercantile business. Closely associated with Thomas Marks were his nephews George T. Marks and the Wiley Brothers. He was a leading figure in the Prince Arthur's Landing and Kaministiquia Railway project and the Ontario Rainy River Railway project. He was also involved in both federal and provincial politics as an active member of the Liberal Conservative Association.

Scope and Content

Series B 10/1/1-17 includes letter books containing primarily the business correspondence of Thomas Marks. For example, letters accompanying promissory notes and cheques, letters of inquiry regarding shipments of merchandise to and from his company. Contains also personal letters of Thomas Marks regarding economic issues, real estate deals, shipping and navigation, political issues, mining, railways, fisheries, and the formation of a local militia. Letters are copies made via the work-press method. Items included are:

- 1) 30 June 1874-31 Dec. 1875, (indexed, cover missing, damaged).
- 2) 4 Jan. 1875-29 Dec. 1876.
- 3) 5 Jan. 1877-27 Dec. 1877.
- 4) 3 Jan. 1878-30 June 1879.
- 5) 29 July 1879-28 June 1880.
- 6) 28 July 1880-19 June 1881.
- 7) 29 June 1881-27 Feb. 1883.
- 8) 24 March 1884-20 Sept. 1884.
- 9) 14 Apr. 1885-8 Sept. 1885 (some items are typed, item is fragile).
- 10) 28 Oct. 1885-30 Sept 1886 (mostly contains accounts of purchases).
- 11) 15 May 1888-17 Mar. 1892.
- 12) 16 Apr. 1890-12 Oct. 1891.
- 13) 23 Sept. 1891-30 Nov. 1891.
- 14) 17 Mar. 1892-10 July 1893.
- 15) Letter and telegram book. 24 Oct. 1879-28 Feb. 1883 (fragile).
- 16) "Steamer City of Montreal" letter book of Thomas Leach, owner prior to transfer of ship to Thomas Marks. 3 Mar. 1877-10 June 1881.
- 17) Private letter book of Thomas Marks 1877-1881 and a letter and account book of the Duncan (formerly Shuniah) Silver Mining Company.

Notes

Physical condition

Some of these volumes have been water damaged and are fragile.

Originals and reproductions

B 10/1/17: Thomas Marks' private letter book and accounts of Duncan Silver Mining Company copied on microfilm from originals in Archives of Ontario, Ms. 725.