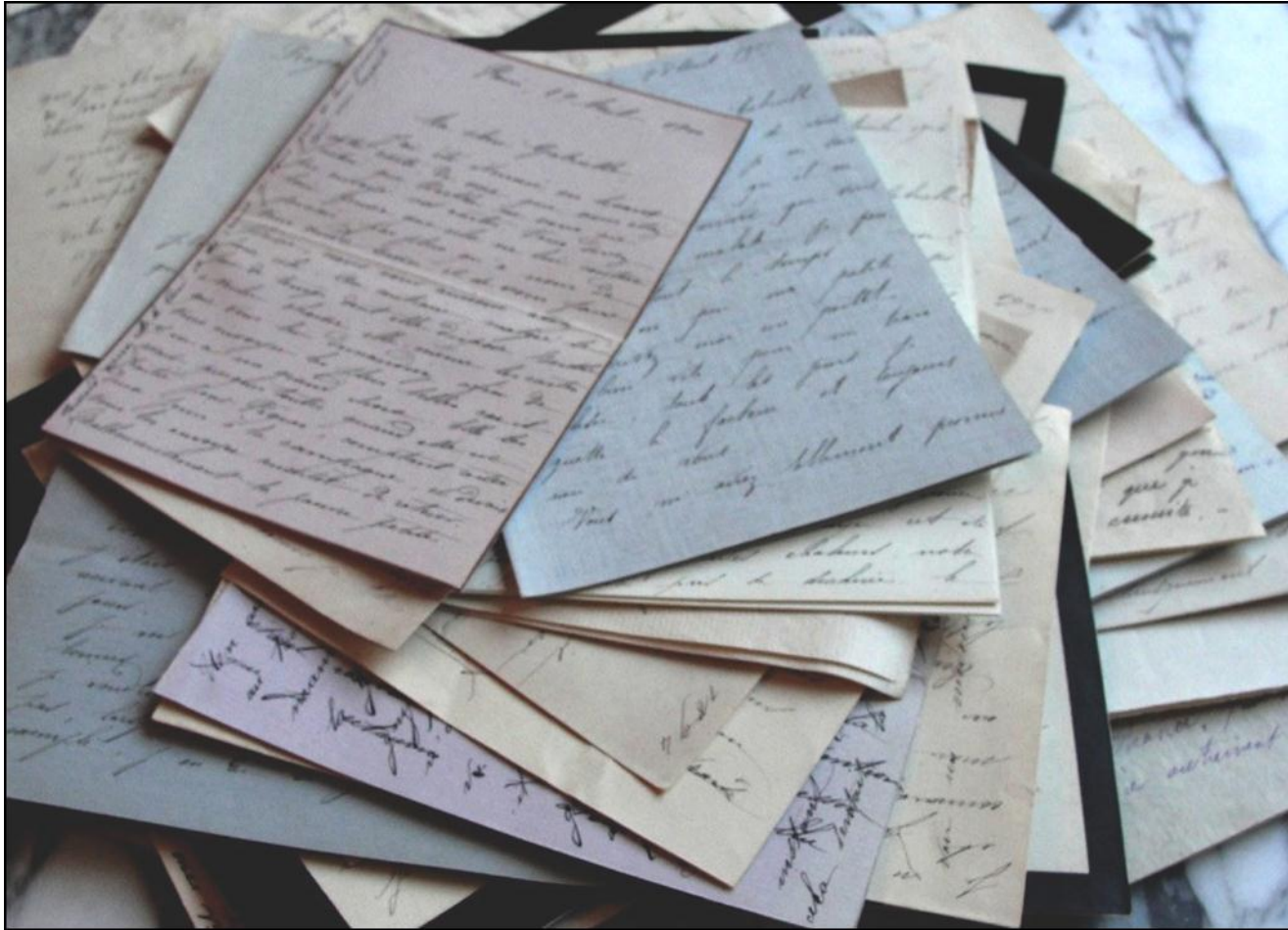


Working in Archives & Special Collections



David Sharron – Head of Archives & Special Collections
James A. Gibson Library – Brock University

Archives Stereotypes

“Blok – an ageless creature, stooped and dusty with a bunch of keys on his belt...”

- Robert Harris, Archangel, 1998



Form Strong Partnerships





Letter Writing Campaign

David Sharron
Head of Special Collections and Archives

May 15, 2009

(Name)
Associate Professor
Department of English, Brock University

Hello (Name),

I hope that you are enjoying your summer.

Justine Cotton and I are interested in opportunities to promote the Library's collections to students during the Fall and Winter semesters. In the 2009 / 2010 timetable, we saw that you will be teaching the 2P45 course this year. If you see the benefits of Justine and I presenting to your class on poetry resources in the Library, we would be more than happy to do so.

The Special Collections and Archives have three specific collections that may be of interest: the Ethelwyn Wetherald fonds, the Literary Club of St. Catharines fonds and the Lini Grol fonds. Here are the links to descriptions of these collections: Literary Club - <http://tinyurl.com/m2an3d>, Ethelwyn Wetherald - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U50ih5H8hqY>, and Lini Grol - <http://tinyurl.com/lwg7tx>. Plus, there will surely be some materials in the book collection that would be appropriate.

Justine can show the students resources such as Literature Online (LION) and JSTOR. Students exploring Literature Online can find biographies of poets, full-text poems, critical articles, and even video clips of poets such as Margaret Atwood reading their poems. JSTOR is a great tool that offers students access to 140 online literature journals.

Please let us know your thoughts and ideas. Perhaps accessing the Library resources can become an assignment for the students. Also, if we can help you in any of your other classes, again let us know. We would enjoy working with you.

Thank you for the consideration. Take care.

David Sharron
Head of Special Collections and Archives

Letter Writing Campaign

Course: ENGL (Number) – Spenser and the Age of Elizabeth
Professor: (Name)
Speakers: (Name), Head of Special Collections & Archives
(Name), English Literature Librarian
Time: 45-50 minutes (25 minutes on Archives, 25 minutes on Library resources)
Location: Optional (Special Collections reading room, e-classroom, regular classroom)

Archives Lesson Plan

Objectives:

1. Introduce students to the holdings and nature of Special Collections and Archives in general.
2. Present Special Collections and Archives as a unique and beneficial academic resource.
3. Display online finding aids to show students what is out there waiting to be used.
4. Discuss the book culture in the Age of Elizabeth with Sir Walter Raleigh's History of the World, Geneva Bible, John Gerard's Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes, and other works as examples.

Outline:

1. Discuss the unique nature of Archives and Special Collections including the various kinds of facilities and collection mandates.
2. Introduce standard rules and procedures likely to be enforced at most archives stressing that the regulations are not meant to intimidate but protect these rare materials.
3. Do two quick searches for a relevant author or book using online finding aids.
4. Introduce students to the world of publishing in England and some of the influential figures using Sir Walter Raleigh's The History of the World (1617), Geneva Bible (1599), John Gerard's Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes (1597) as physical samples.

Library Resources Lesson Plan

Objectives:

1. Introduce students to print and digital collections for the study of Early Modern literature and society that are available through the Library.
2. Provide students with the skills to navigate and gather information from these print and online resources, focusing on **Early English Books Online**.
3. Emphasize the assistance and support available both from the English Literature librarian and the Head of Special Collections.
4. Point students to the online resource guides that have been created for the study of English Literature.

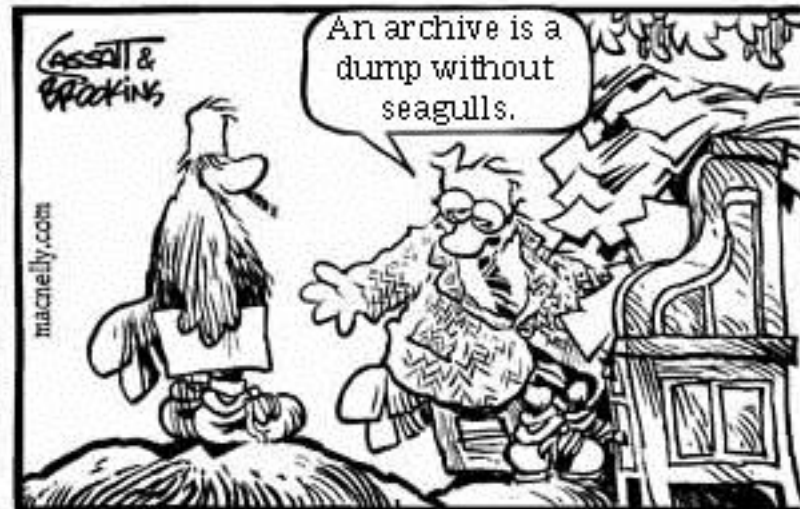
Outline:

- a) Display the online library guides that have been created for students studying English Literature. (*Note: specific materials may be linked from WebCT & a custom-designed handout can be given to the class)
- b) Open Early English Books Online. Briefly explain the history of EEBO and the accompanying Text Creation Partnership. Discuss (with students) the implications of digitizing older primary texts—what does it mean for scholarship? For archives?

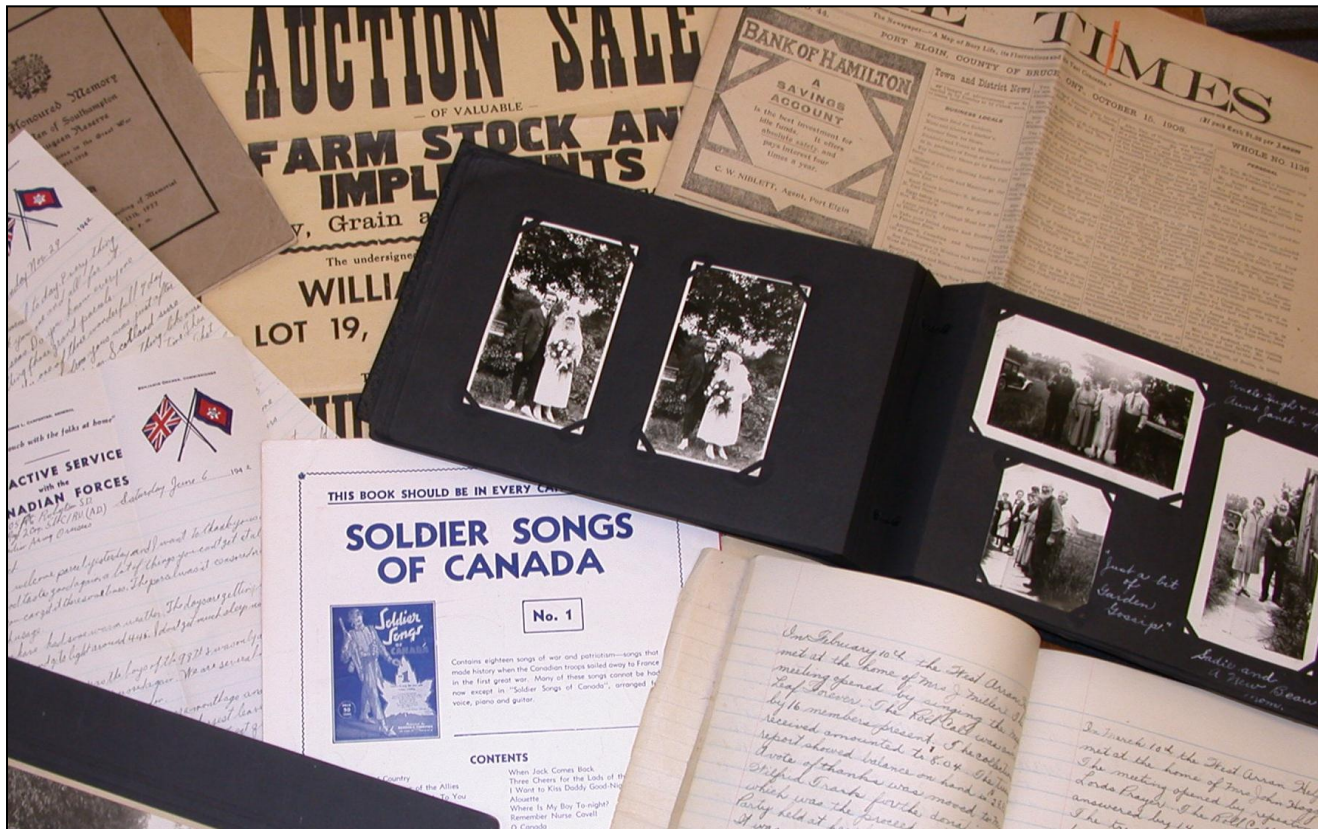
You got them. Now what?



What is an Archive?



- A repository for the records of enduring value for a specific organization, people or area



What is a Special Collection?

- An artificially created collection of materials based on a specific subject matter or the intrinsic nature of the items



What do archivists do?

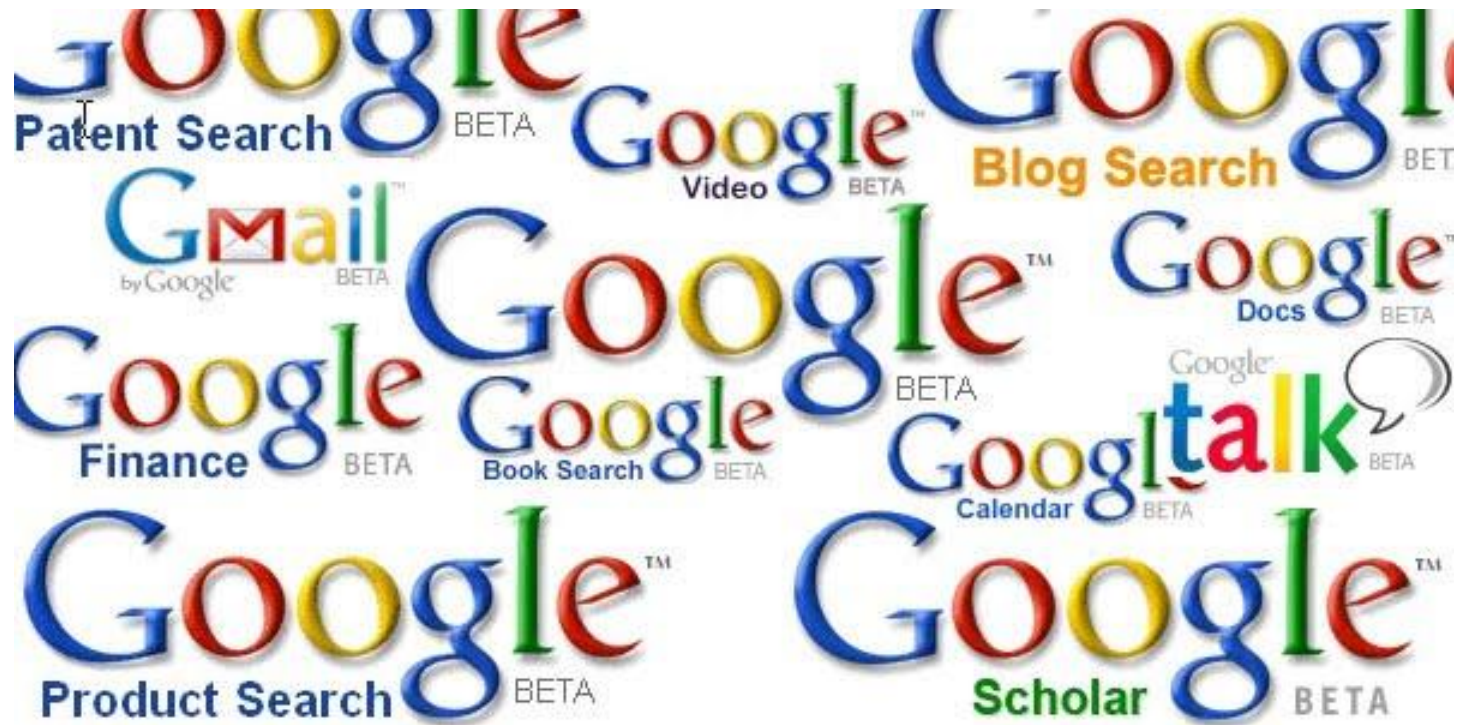
We turn this...



Into this...



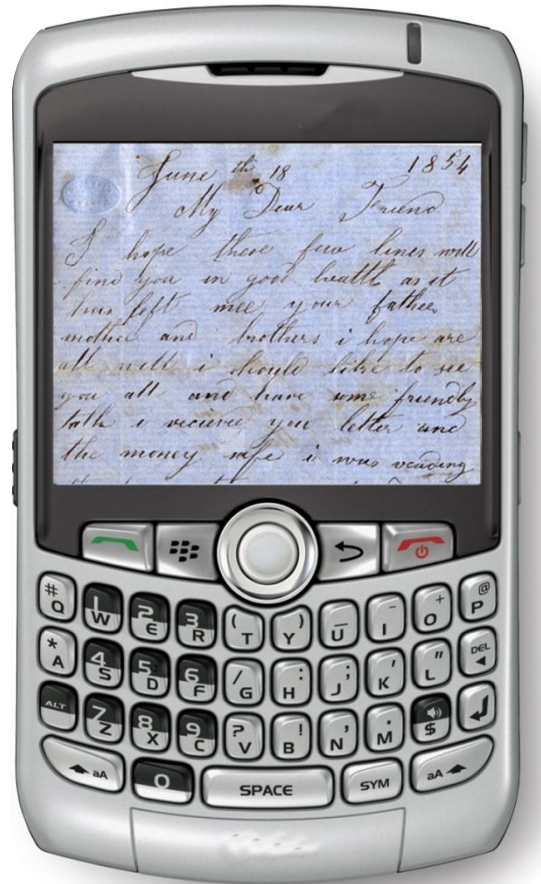
The Internet



The Internet

- Portals:
 - [Archives Canada - CAIN](#)
- Dedicated Sites
 - [L.M. Montgomery](#) – U of Guelph
 - [Dr. Seuss Collection](#) – U of California
- Full projects:
 - [Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing](#)

Warning!!



Not everything is online

We cannot scan them all



The uniqueness of each book



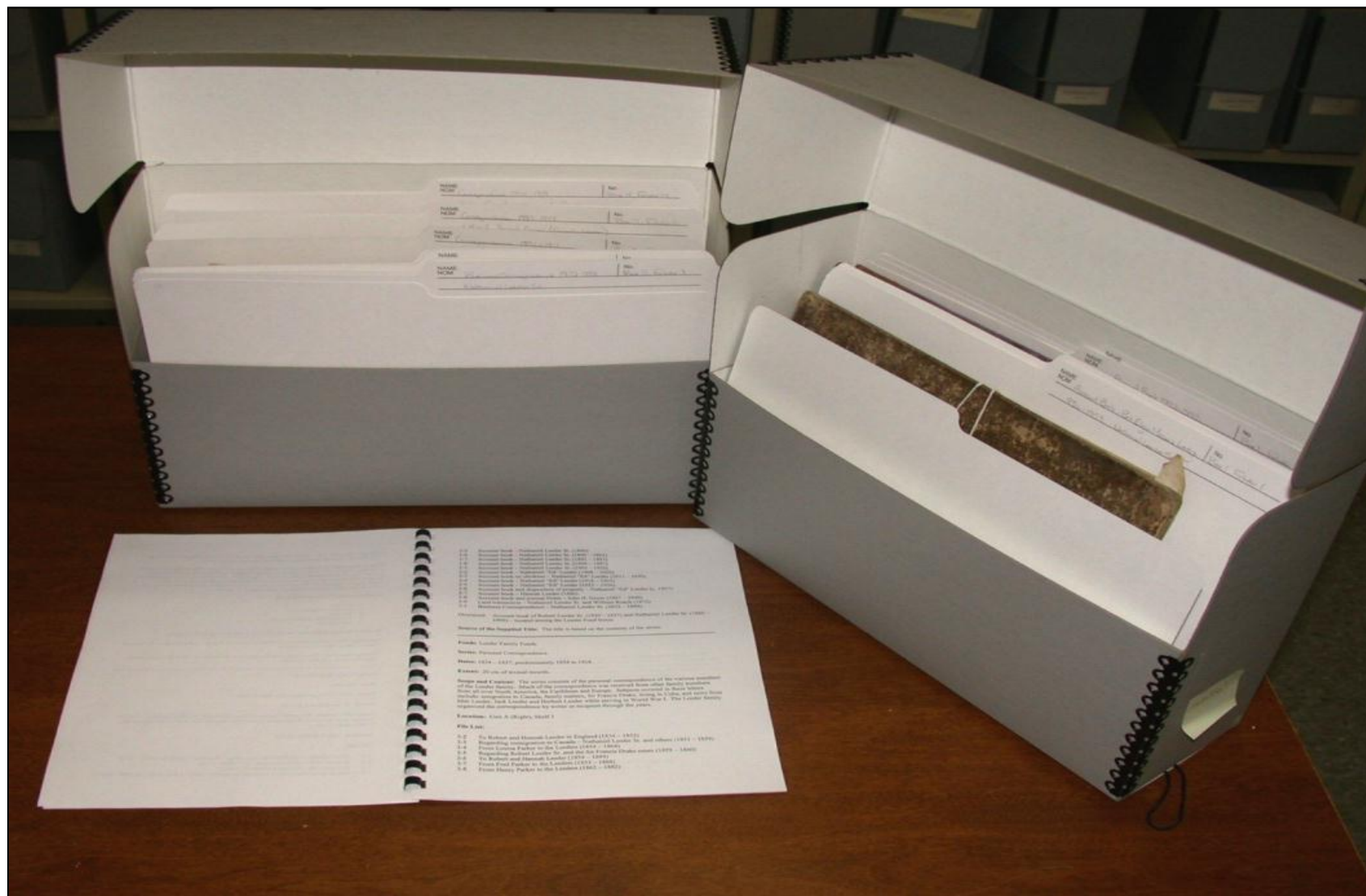
Before Visiting an Archive

- Have a clear idea what you want to see
- Call ahead and make an appointment



The Lone Arranger

Finding Aids and Catalogues



The Basic Rules

NOTICE

**Persons Caught Walking on
the Streets of this Village**

**IN BATHING COSTUME
WILL BE PROSECUTED**

ACCORDING TO LAW

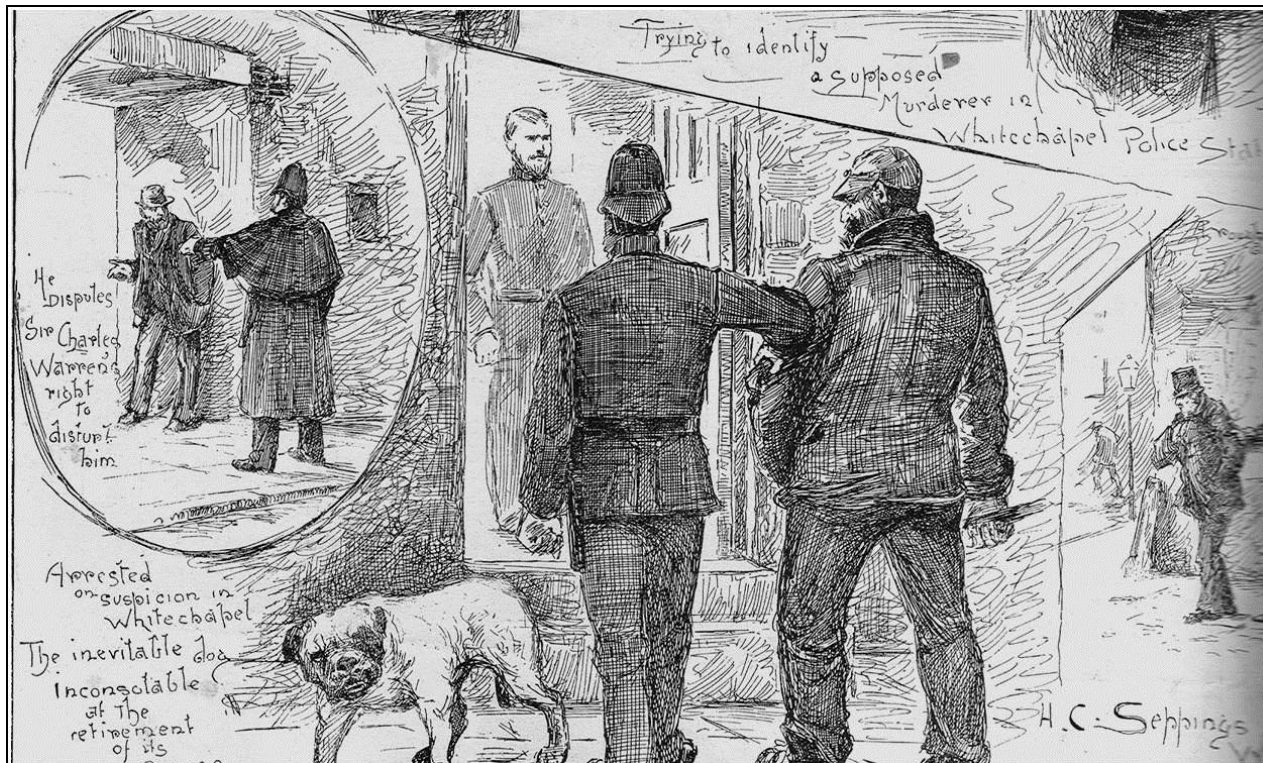
The Village Council of Port Dalhousie

Brock's Archives & Special Collections



What can you find in the records

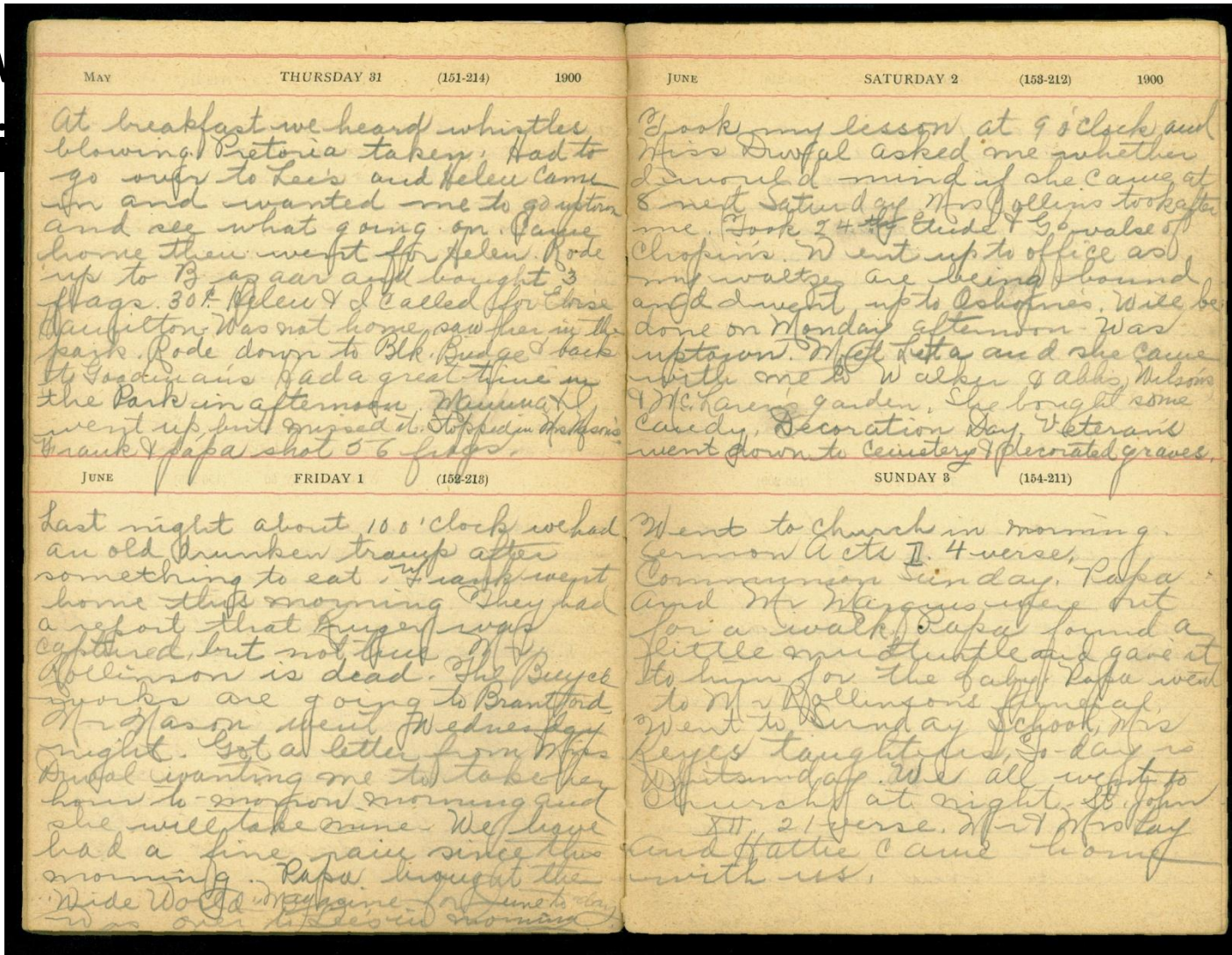
It is not always obvious what a collection contains. You must be an investigator.



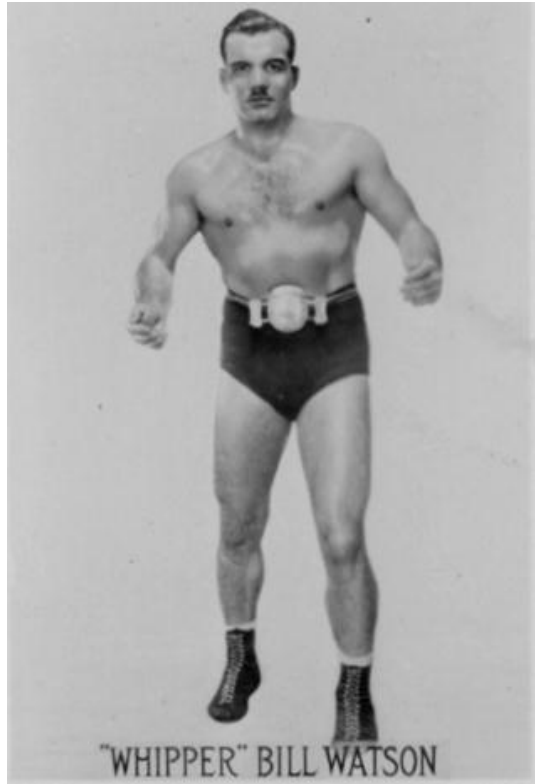
What can you find in the records

W
g

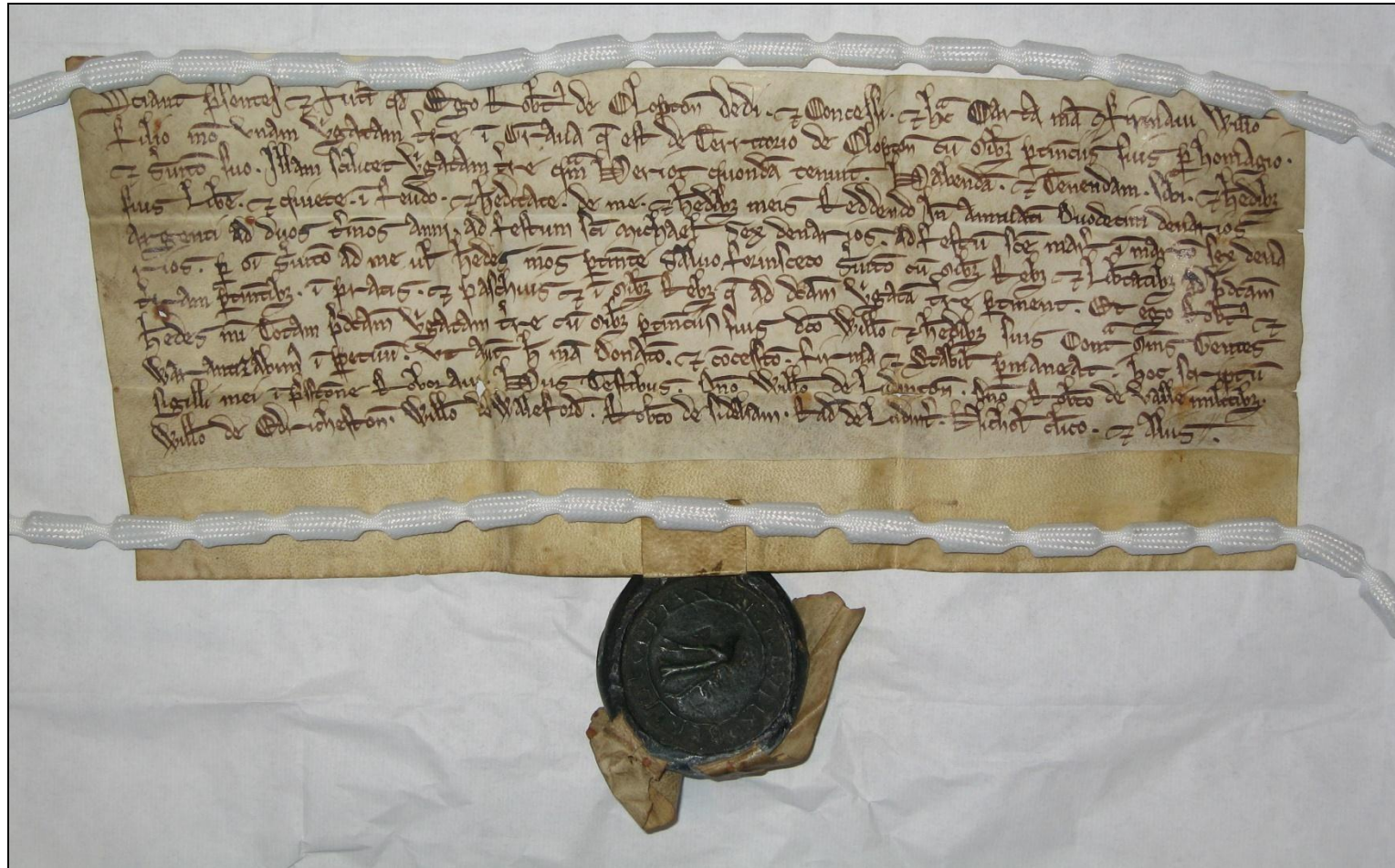
d



Rare and Unique Items



Or something amazing



1. You cannot find these records anywhere else

We the Commissioned Officers belonging to the
Second Regiment of Lincoln Militia —
Do sincerely promise and swear that we will
be faithful and bear true Allegiance to his
Majesty King George, and him will defend
to the utmost of our Power against all traitorous
Conspiracies and attempts whatsoever which
shall be made against his Person, Crown
or Dignity; and we will do our utmost
endeavours to disclose and make known to
his Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, all
treasons and traitorous Conspiracies and
attempts, which we shall know to be against
Him or them, So help us God. —

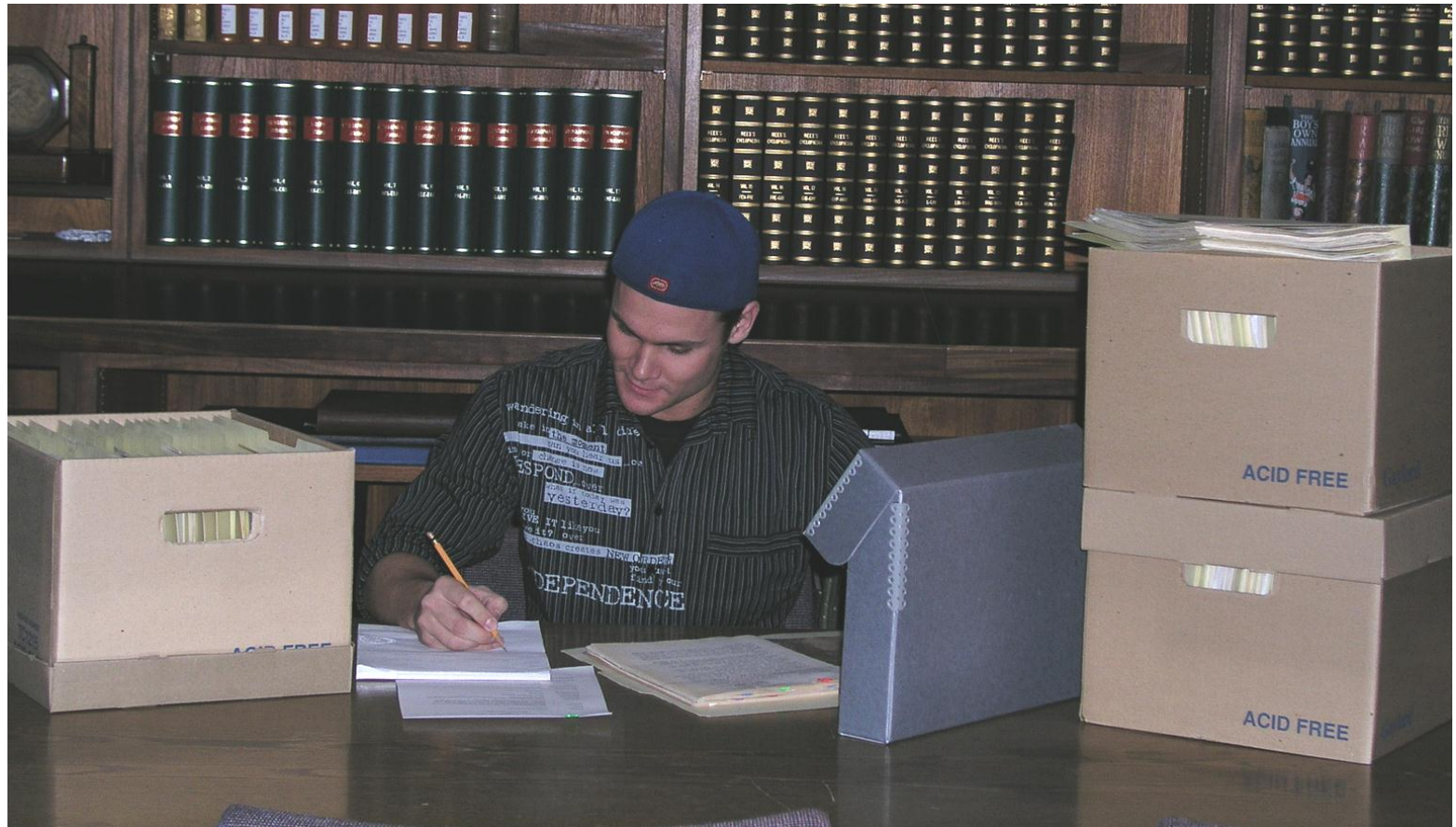
Thomas Clark L^{ieut} Col
David Lewis Major
John Gysler Capt.
James Mackinnon Capt.
John Ross Capt.
James Lyons Ensign
Abner Bowman Lieut.
Gilbert M. McKim Quartermaster
John McGowan Ensign
Abner Campbell Capt.
John Couche Ensign
Nicholas Smith Jun^r

I Certify that the
Officers who have
here subscribed the
oath took it before
me at Chippewa
4th Sept. 1812
Thomas Dickson
M^{aj}

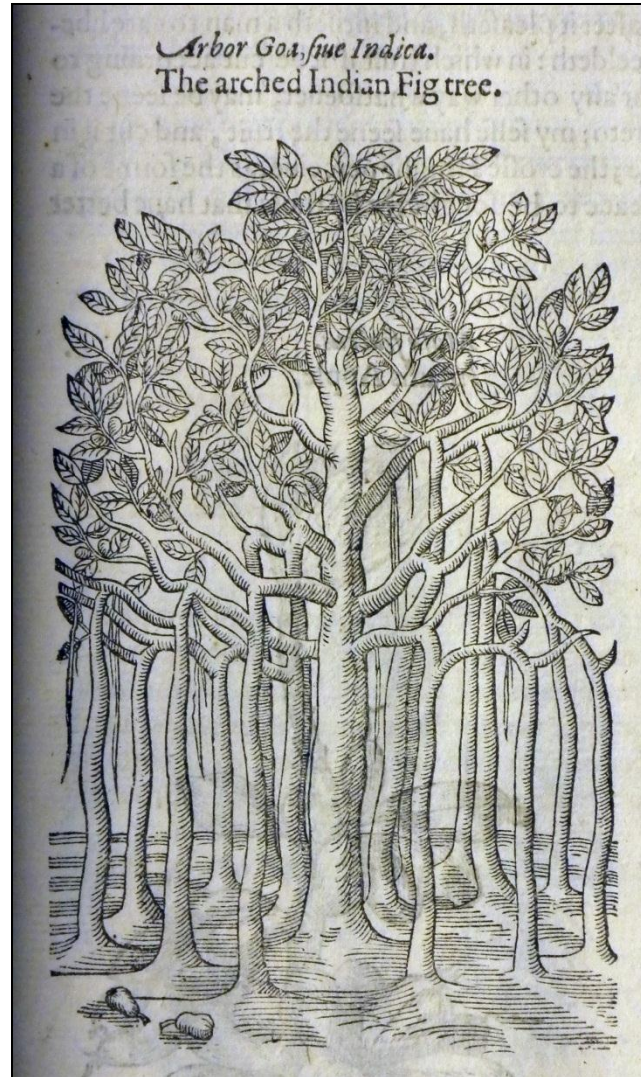
2. Chances are there is something that you can use



3. Everyone is welcome



I love it when a plan comes together



Questions?

Sources

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