

**Accession 3744**  
**Owen family papers**  
**Series Descriptions**

**Series 1: Holland family papers. - 1766-1848. - .01 m. of textual records**

The series consists of a few legal papers and correspondence to Samuel Holland and to his son John F. Holland, primarily concerning land transactions.

Title based on content of the series.

Series is comprised of Items 3 - 12 of the Item listing

**Series 2: Thomas Owen papers. - 1817-1860. - .09 m. of textual records**

This series is comprised of the personal and business papers of Thomas Owen. These include some family correspondence as well as official papers such as land documents and commissions and letters of appointment. Other correspondence relates to his mercantile business and includes letters, accounts, reports on vessels, bills of lading, etc. Many letters are from others involved in the shipping business such as Thomas Hughes, James Peake, James Johnson, Samuel Cunard and W. & C. Murdoch. Included in this series are a few papers relating to the Cambridge family.

Title based on the provenance of the series

**SEE ALSO Series 5 for Thomas Owen's career as Postmaster General**

These papers are located as follows:

Cambridge papers: Items 17-21

Official papers: Items 25-39, 42-45, 47

Family correspondence: Items 74-82, 84-89

Business correspondence: Items 642-657, 666-674, 676-702, 704-728

**Series 3: L.C. Owen papers. - 1790, 1848-1912. - .12 m. of textual records**

This series is comprised of the official papers and family correspondence of L.C. Owen as well as papers relating to his political career and to the various business enterprises in which he was involved such as the PEI Railway, banking, and steamship companies. The series is comprised of 6 subseries as follows:

1. Official papers
2. Correspondence
3. Political papers
4. PEI Railway
5. Bank records
6. Steamship company records

Title based on provenance of the series

**SEE ALSO Series 5: Post Office, and Series 7: Welsh and Owen**

**Subseries 1: Official papers. - 1848-1879. - .01 m. of textual records**

This subseries is comprised primarily of appointments and commissions of L.C. Owen along with a power of attorney and promissory note, land documents and agreements of other parties.

Title based on the contents of the subseries

These papers comprise Items 40-41, 46, 48-73

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**Series 3: L.C. Owen papers. - 1790, 1848-1912. - .12 m. of textual records Cont'd**

**Subseries 2: Correspondence. - 1790, 1875-1912. - .02 m. of textual records. - 1 photograph**

This subseries consists primarily of correspondence from William Owen, (L.C. Owen's son), and from cousins, nieces and nephews, particularly Beatrice Owen and Ethel Hughes-Jones to Lemuel Cambridge about family matters. There is also a small amount of correspondence relating to L.C. Owen's shipbuilding enterprise in the 1840s, a photograph of and letters concerning a Treasury Note from the Island of St. John, 1790 and letters from A.W. Doughty, Dominion Archivist re. a donation by Owen..

Title based on contents of the subseries

These letters comprise Items 90-92, 94-139, 362, 658-665, 367-374

**Subseries 3: Political papers. - 1866-1876, 1897-1899. - .02 m. of textual records**

This subseries is comprised primarily of correspondence to and from L.C. Owen during his time as Premier of Prince Edward Island re. political concerns and his political career. A number are from his political colleagues or officials such as Lieutenant-Governor Hodgson, T.H. Haviland, David Laird, and Louis Henry Davies concerning current matters such as the legislature, elections, education, the railway, and the lunatic asylum.. Others are petitions for roads, lands, assistance or appointments.

Title based on the contents of the subseries

These papers comprise Items 470-526

**Subseries 4: Prince Edward Island Railway. - 1874-1876, 1886. -.01 m. of textual records**

This subseries is comprised of telegrams, letters, memoranda and accounts related to the building of the Prince Edward Island. Some of the correspondence is with Thomas Swinyard, Federal Government Engineer on the project.

Title based on the contents of the subseries

These papers comprise Items 527-544

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**Series 3: L.C. Owen papers. - 1790, 1848-1912. - .12 m. of textual records Cont'd**

**Subseries 5: Bank records - 1878-1902. - .01 of textual records**

This subseries contains annual reports, general statements and balance sheets for the Union Bank of P.E.I., the Merchant's Bank of P.E.I., the Bank of Prince Edward Island and the Bank of Ottawa.

Title based on contents of the subseries

These papers comprise Items 545-553

**Subseries 6: Steamship Company records. - 1842-1915. - .05 m. of textual records**

This subseries contains primarily financial statements and accounts of the P.E.I. Steam Navigation Company, the Ocean Steamship Company of P.E.I., the Island Steam Navigation Company, and the Charlottetown Steam Navigation Company. There is also a minute book of the Island Steam Navigation Company, 1883-1895, as well as some miscellaneous correspondence and documents related to the specific vessels *St. George*, *Heather Belle*, *Jacques Cartier* and *Halcyon*.

Title based on the contents of the subseries

These records comprise Items 554-641

**Series 4: William E. Owen papers. - 1901-1916. - .09 m. of textual records**

This series contains correspondence to William Owen from family, friends and miscellaneous individuals and business concerns as well as receipts, statements and correspondence relating to his personal, property and business concerns. A large portion of the correspondence is from his father Lemuel C. Cambridge and his mother Lois. There is also considerable correspondence from his friend Thomas G. Taylor who was a surveyor on the *Gulnare*. Most contain news about family affairs, friends, and events on Prince Edward Island.

Title based on the provenance of the subseries.

These papers comprise Items 140-357, 361, 376-377.

**Series 5: Post Office records. - 1843-1877. - .02 m. of textual records**

This series contains correspondence, accounts, tenders, and miscellaneous items relating to the administration of the postal service during the tenure of Thomas Owen and Lemuel C. Owen as Postmaster General.

Title based on contents of the series

These records comprise Items 413-469

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**Series 6: Welsh and Owen business papers. - 1860-1912. - .72 m. of textual records**

Welsh and Owen was a prominent mercantile business in Charlottetown through the latter half of the nineteenth century. The partners, William Welsh and Lemuel C. Owen, contracted ships to be built in various shipyards across the Island. The largest of these was the L.C. Owen at 527 tons, built in 1868. These vessels were often sailed to England with a cargo or ballast and were then sold in that country. The firm also maintained a small fleet of these vessels to carry on their shipping business. Between 1871 and 1880 Welsh and Owen dominated the shipping business of the Island along with Peake Bros., J. Duncan & Co., and the Longworth family. After 1880 the business, along with other shipbuilding enterprises dwindled even though the firm had diversified into the building of steamships.

The series is composed primarily of correspondence between William Welsh and/or Lemuel C. Owen and other firms with whom Welsh and Owen were doing business. These include Island businesses such as J. Wightman, James Johnston, James Duncan & Co. and McDonald and Westaway as well as foreign firms such as John Pitcairn & Sons, James Kelso, E.C. Gooden, Hatton, Watson & Co., and Silas Pierce and Company. These concern the building or sale of vessels, condition and type of freight, market prices and other shipping concerns. There are also accounts and receipts of the firm as well as accounts, bills of lading, insurance policies, and other information relating to individual vessels. Some estate papers concerning various individuals such as Robert Barker, Mrs. Burnett and Malcolm MacLeod also form part of the series.

Title based on contents of the series.

The series comprises Items 703, 729-2816, 2821, 2825-2870, 2874-2877

**Series 7: Plans . - 1848, 186?, 1900. - 10 plans. - 1 photograph**

This series consists of a spar and rigging plan for an unidentified barque, plans for a wooden screw steamer by Wm . Denny and Brothers, drawings of several steamships on MacNicoll and Co.'s list as well as a photograph of one of these vessels and plans for boarding a vessel. There is also a plan of a block in Charlottetown bounded by Water, Prince, and King Streets.

Title based on contents of the series.

These plans comprise Items 663, 2817-2820, 2822-2824, 2871-2873

**Series 8: Owen/Welsh family memorabilia. - 1871.-1931. - .03 m. of textual records. - 1 photograph**

This series consists of genealogical information, social invitations, death notices and obituaries, locks of the Owen children's hair, and a photograph of Marion Adele Owen in death. There is also some poetry, articles by Dr. C. Owen, information about Australia, an extract from an unidentified log book, notes on Gaelic in the Murray Harbour area, recipes, property papers and miscellaneous correspondence.

Title based on contents of the series.

Series comprises Items 358-360, 363-366, 375-412

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**Series 9:       Miscellaneous collected items. - 1745-1876. - .02 m. of textual records**

This series includes a religious tract from 1745, the Journal of the House of Assembly, 1796-1797, a Court account book, 1810-1819, a sketch of the Battle of Waterloo, list of vessels entered and cleared at Quebec and Montreal, 1833-1835, *The Islander* or *PEI weekly Intelligence and Advertiser*, 11 March 1853, and a copy of the Great Bore Act, 1876.

Title based on contents of the fonds

Series comprises Items 1-2, 13-16, 23-24, 83, 93