

Canadian Quaker Archives and Library

E. H. Marion Cronk Fond

Title

E. H. Marion Cronk Fond

Accession Number

2006 – 1

Dates of Creation

1799 – 1980's

Immediate Source of Accession

The Fond was acquired by the Canada Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends from Gordon Moran on behalf of Edith Hilda Marion Cronk (1910 -) in 2006.

Physical Description

1.8 m of textual records and a few photographs in 6 boxes and one large plastic tote.

Scope and Content

Fond consists of business debt notes and receipts, correspondence, account books, diaries, school notes, genealogical works, photographs, Quaker printed documents and other records of successive generations of the Hughes, Cronk and Bowerman families. The material is divided in five folders.

It should be noted that the material was found in a very scrambled state and was assembled through careful chronological sorting.

The Bowerman folder contains:

- Two journals and letters of Sam Hughes, his father Job Hughes and his sisters Amy and Abigail about Quaker matters, emigration and the challenges of settlement.
- The business of Gideon Bowerman from 1799 till his death in 1811 and his estate matters as conducted by his brothers and executors Johnathan and Stephen Bowerman.
- Other notes and receipts continue to the 1840's involving other members of the Bowerman family. Later business notes are those of John H. Cronk.
- An account book of Gideon H. Bowerman.

The John H. Cronk folder contains;

- Correspondence and notes that date from the 1850's till his death in 1899 about family matters, religion, business, farming and estate matters.

- Correspondence, notes and contracts about the J and J Cronk Lumber Mill in Coboconk, its dissolution in 1862 and the continuing interests until about 1865.
- Some photographs are also included.

The Ogden Family folder contains:

- Correspondence focusing on David Fairchild Ogden, dentist, brother in law to John H Cronk, his work and travel in South America, Japan, Colorado and South America and his estate matters after his death in 1891.
- Correspondence of his father and sister who married John H. Cronk.

The Genealogy folder contains:

- Unpublished and published works by AC Bowerman, WF Bowerman, DB Bowerman and Jane A. Clubb.
- Correspondence about genealogical matters to sisters Marion and Eleanor Cronk and her parents Ethel and Wilford Cronk.
- A few photographs are included in the works of A.C. Bowerman.

The Miscellaneous folder contains:

- Account books, diaries about the business interests of various family members in the 19th century.
- School notebooks of John Hughes Cronk, AC Bowerman and others with poems, history of Palestine and Israel, England and other topics as taught at the Quaker school.
- Two framed items.
- Quaker printed documents include Yearly Meeting Minutes, Canadian Friends volumes, and much assorted Quaker pamphlets and documents.
- Material from the West Lake Meeting and the Methodist Church.
- Personal material of Marion Cronk and her immediate family.

Biographical Sketch

All of the people below are represented in the fond in a significant manner. The Cronk and Bowerman families were active members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Prince Edward County at the West Lake Meeting and Sam Hughes (1785 - ?) was active in the Yonge Street Quaker meeting.

Sam Hughes came to Yonge Street from Pennsylvania with his parents Job Hughes and Elinor Lee. His sisters Amy (1887 – 1863) and Abigail (1780 - ?) married brothers Stephen Bowerman (1773 – 1857) and Judah Bowerman (1779 – 1868) respectively and settled in Bloomfield, Prince Edward County. All were Quakers.

The Bowerman's came from Massachusetts. Icahabod Bowerman (1721 – 1790) and his wife Jane Richmond (1735 – 1797) had a large family and many of the children came to Bloomfield with their mother and settled there. Another brother Gideon Bowerman did very well in business and died in 1811 leaving a large estate that was settled by his brothers Johnathan Bowerman (1759 – 1857) and Stephen Bowerman (1773 – 1857).

Rachael Bowerman (1810 – 1900), daughter of Judah Bowerman and Abigail Hughes married Peter Cronkhite (1804 – 1851). Their sons Judah Cronk (1828 – 1872) and John Hughes Cronk (1833 – 1899) went into the lumber business together around 1857 in Coboconk and then dissolved their combined business interests in 1862. John Hughes Cronk married Marilla Berthena Ogden (1838 – 1911) in 1857. Marilla was the daughter of Dyer S Ogden and Nancy Sheldon. Marilla had brothers George Sheldon Ogden (1849 - ?) and David Fairchild Ogden (? – 1891).

David Fairchild Ogden, unmarried, became a dentist and settled in Bolivia, Japan, Colorado and South America. He was a voluminous letter writer and left a complicated estate in the hands of executor John Hughes Cronk. Wilford Cecil Cronk (1873 -1956), son of John and Marilla Cronk continued as executor after his father died in 1899.

Wilford Cronk married Ethel Maude Bowerman (1879 – 1961), daughter of Stephen Job Bowerman (1848 – 1909) and Elizabeth Lucas (1850 – 1939). Stephen Job Bowerman is a grandson of Stephen Bowerman and Amy Hughes and son of Gideon Hughes Bowerman (1818 – 1887) and Mary Christy (1822 – 1897). Albert C Bowerman (1850 - ?) was a brother of Stephen Job Bowerman. Wilford Cronk was the executor of Stephen Job Bowerman’s estate.

Wilford and Ethel Bowerman had two daughters Eleanor Elizabeth Cronk (1909 – 1964) and Edith Hilda Marion Cronk (1910 -), both unmarried.

Finding Aid

Note to researchers: The letters and notes have been assembled into meaningful folders, however all textual material from any period should be checked as the division lines are not clear cut.

Digital Images

An * indicates the item has been digitally photographed and stored on a CD.

The number of images for those folders that are photographed are:

1-1	100	1-10	118	6-4	65
1-2	10	5-1	44	6-6	182
1-3	109	5-3	18	6-25	50
1-4	46	5-4	202		
1-5	57	5-5	79		
1-6	40	5-7	186		
1-7	55	6-1	39		
1-8	84	6-2	102		
1-9	278	6-3	36		

Box 1 (18 cm)

Note: The Bowerman Folder comprises notes, letters, indentures, account books that were likely assembled by Stephen Bowerman and Amy Hughes and passed down to their son Gideon H Bowerman. Stephen's brothers Gideon and Jonathan figure prominently in this folder as well.

1-0 Inventory and CD discs

1. Copy of the Inventory and Finding Aid.
2. CD disks of the images that have been made.

1-1 *Bowerman: Notes 1800 – 1809

1. 20 business notes mostly involving Stephen Bowerman.
2. Two hand sewn account books, author not stated.

1-2 *Bowerman: Undated Notes

1. 11 early undated business notes.

1-3 *Bowerman: Notes 1810 - 1819

1. 4 parts of a hand sewn account book, author not stated.
2. The property of Rachel Bowerman, poems, two dated 1815 and 1799 may have been copied later. (16 x 20 cm)
3. 1815 inventory of Nathaniel White.
4. 1812 minute.
5. 1810 indenture.
6. 78 business notes.

1-4 *Bowerman: Notes 1820 – 1829

1. 4 Stephen Bowerman indentures
2. 2 Gideon Vincent indentures
3. 45 business notes.
4. Nathan Osbourn, prisoner, letter to Simeon Washburn, 1824

1-5 *Bowerman: Notes 1830 - 1839

1. 2 Stephen Bowerman indenture.
2. One Simeon Washburn judgment.
3. 85 business notes.

1-6 *Bowerman: Notes 1840 – 1849

1. 1 indenture
2. Green book, property of Eleanor Bowerman, poems written by friends and cousins to her 1848 – 1857.
3. 1849 letter from Mary Jennings.
4. 1 sheet Stephen Bowerman accounts
5. 23 business notes.

1-7 *Bowerman: Notes - Gideon Bowerman 1799 – 1810

1. Gideon Bowerman business notes prior to his death in 1811.
2. 10 lengthy business contracts.
3. 50 business notes.

1-8 *Bowerman: Notes - Gideon Bowerman Estate 1811 – c1840

1. Inventory of the late Gideon Bowerman; Jonathan and Stephen Bowerman executors.
2. 10 lengthy pieces about estate matters.
3. 70 business notes.

1-9 Bowerman: Sam Hughes

1. *One journal marked No. 5 by A.C. Bowerman, 1838
2. *One journal marked No. 4 by A.C. Bowerman who noted that “probably written 1837” with two loose notes included.
3. *22 letters by Sam Hughes 1835 – 1857
4. *Poem by Hester Ann Rogers, undated.
5. *Booklet “Sarah Webster” by Sam Hughes, undated.
6. *An Epistle to my Friends in Mariposa by Sam Hughes, 1845.
7. *Two copies of a printed booklet “Last Will and Testament” of Sam Hughes, 1856.
8. California Register, V1, 1900, 1; “Some of the Hughes Family”.

1-10 *Bowerman: Gideon H. Bowerman Account Book 1847 – 1870

1. Account Book likely created by Gideon Hughes Bowerman (1818 – 1877) son of Stephen Bowerman and Amy Hughes. Over 126 pages with the last pages covered in cartoon newspaper clippings.
2. Writing Book, Hallowell UC, Gideon Bowerman, 1834 – 1835, poems.

1-11 *John H. Cronk: Photographs

1. Unidentified woman.
3. Glass plate positive of a large group of people.
4. Tin type of young girl.
5. Horse and buggy.
6. Mounted 8x10 of Genesee YM
7. 4.5 x 6.5 of Genesee YM 1871
8. Mounted 8 x 10 Hicksite meeting House, Bloomfield, Genesee YM.
9. Mounted on tissue, two photographs of Stephen Bowerman and Amy Hughes.

1-12 John H. Cronk: Unidentified items

1. Undated notes, page remnants, undecipherable pages.

Box 2 (18 cm)

Note: The material in the Bowerman Folder likely passed on to Stephen Job and Albert C Bowerman, sons of Gideon Hughes Bowerman. Stephen Job Bowerman’s daughter, Ethel

Maude Bowerman, married Wilford Cronk who was the son of John Hughes Cronk. John Hughes Cronk Folder is the largest Folder in the fonds.

2-1 John H. Cronk: 1850 – 1859

Note: John H Cronk was trained as a teacher and appears to have had one or two schools but eventually he moves to Coboconk and runs a saw mill with his brother Judah.

1. Bound hand written school notebook titled “Notes on Education From Normal School, 1854”
2. 2 cm of letters up to 1859 but not related to the Coboconk saw mill business.

2-2 John H. Cronk: Coboconk 1857 – 1859

1. 2 cm of business notes and letters related to the J& J Cronk Saw Mill and sometimes called the Bowerman and Cronk Saw Mill at Coboconk, Ontario.

2-3 John H. Cronk: Burnet River Bridge

1. 1 cm of plans, contract and letters related to the building of the bridge at Burnt River, Ontario.

2-4 John H. Cronk: Coboconk 1860 – 1862

1. 2 cm of business notes, letters, shanty reports, account sheets and logging records related to the saw mill operation.

2-5 John H. Cronk: Coboconk Dissolution 1862

1. Dissolution papers, records and letters related to Judah and John Cronk dissolving the business after a falling out.
2. JH Cronk, Coboconk, account book, 1860 – 1862, (10 x 16 cm)

2-6 John H. Cronk: Coboconk 1862 to about 1865

1. 2 cm of papers to wind up the business.
2. Records related John H Cronk as post master, school trustee and fence viewer.
3. JH Cronk account book, 1864 – 1865, Coboconk, (12 x 19 cm)

2-7 John H. Cronk: 1860 – 1869

1. 3 cm of letters mostly dated after 1865 when he returns to Hallowell from Coboconk. A few business notes.

2-8 John H. Cronk: 1870 – 1879

1. 3 cm of letters and business notes mostly from Athol and Picton.

Box 3 (18 cm)

3-1 John H. Cronk: 1880 – 1889

1. 5 cm of letters and business notes mostly from Hallowell.

3-2 John H. Cronk: 1890 – 1899

1. 4 cm of letters mostly from Wellington

3-3 John H. Cronk: Undated

1. 0.5 cm of undated letters.

3-4 John H. Cronk: Miscellaneous

1. 1 cm of printed matter found among the material and often relating to business matters.

3-5 John H. Cronk: Stephen Job Bowerman c. 1910

1. 1 cm of letters, notes relating to the estate of Stephen Job Bowerman who died 1909. His son-in-law, Wilford Cecil Cronk, was the executor.

3-6 Ogden Family: 1850 – 1859

Note: John H. Cronk married Marilla Burthena Ogden in 1858. There is extensive correspondence between Ogden family members and the above couple.

1. 1 cm of letters.

3-7 Ogden Family: 1860 – 1869

1. Lengthy partnership agreement and diary between JH Cronk and DS Ogden. 1866 – 1871
2. 1 cm letters

3-8 Ogden Family: 1870 – 1879

1. DS Ogden estate account with JH Cronk, 1874.
2. Some letters.
3. 2 dentist advertisements for DF Ogden in Spanish.

3-9 Ogden Family: David F. Ogden 1880 – 1889

1. 3 cm letters many between JH Cronk and DF Ogden from Bolivia, Brazil, Japan, Colorado.
2. DF Ogden dental practice account book, Yokohama, Japan, 1887.

Box 4 (18 cm)

4-1 Ogden Family: David F. Ogden 1890 – 1891

1. 4 cm letters between JH Cronk and DF Ogden from South America, and then to South Africa where DF Ogden died in 1891.
2. Section of Capetown newspaper, The Cape Times, with obituary of DF Ogden dated May 28, 1891.

4-2 Ogden Family: David F. Ogden Estate 1891 – 1892

1. 4 cm correspondence about the death and estate. John H Cronk is the executor.
- 4-3 Ogden Family: David F. Ogden Estate 1892 – 1900**
1. 4 cm correspondence about the estate and after the death of John H Cronk in 1899 Wilford C Cronk becomes the executor.
- 4-4 Miscellaneous: West Lake Meeting**
1. Rules of West Lake Meeting 1854
 2. Piece of a page from 1867 Quarterly Meeting in Canada.
 3. JH Cronk letter 1861 to West lake Meeting.
 4. 2 cm of material relating to the 1881 separation.
- 4-5 Miscellaneous: Methodist Church Material**
1. 0.5 cm of printed material.
- 4-6 Miscellaneous: Marion Cronk Family (Modern)**
1. 1.5 cm of mixed records of the Cronk family; land records, story as remembered by Ethel Bowerman Cronk, some certificates.
- 4-7 Miscellaneous: Marion Cronk Papers**
1. 1.5 cm of personal papers mostly from Marion's school days and later at Ontario Ladies College.

Box 5 (18 cm)

- 5-1 *Genealogy: D. B. Bowerman**
1. Bound "Notes on the Family and genealogy of Bowerman" by DB Bowerman, undated, typed. A few notes included.
- 5-2 Genealogy: W.F. Bowerman**
1. 0.5 cm letters from WF Bowerman, Salt Lake City all dated 1936 regarding family history.
- 5-3 Genealogy: Jane Clubb**
1. 1.5 cm extensive letters from Jane Clubb, California, from 1940 to 1943.
 2. *A 16 page Lucas family history.
- 5-4 *Genealogy: Albert C. Bowerman Papers (part 1)**
- Note: 2 cm of material from AC Bowerman that was unbound and scrambled but held inside the remaining board covers from an empty account book. The large boards are in Box 6 with an identifying note.
1. Genealogical notes by Gilbert Cope, West Chester, Pa, 6mo., 1887, 28 pages.
 2. 1 loose old photo
 3. Photographic copy of 1727 memorial of Thomas Bowerman.

4. Postcard of Bowerman's Nose.
5. Tissue paper with two old photo's of Bowerman's Hill, included in 6 below.
6. Document, typed copy on tissue, titled "The Bowerman Family of Canada, Descendants of Ichabod Bowerman of Dutchess Co. NY 1783 – 1796 by Albert C Bowerman, MB, Bloomfield, Can, July 1904". Over 140 pages with some pages missing. Likely unpublished.

5-5 *Genealogy: Albert C. Bowerman Papers (part 2) – loose pages

1. 0.8 cm of loose material that was included in the above material.

5-6 Genealogy: Albert C. Bowerman – Bull Family

1. Two tissue copies of "Genealogical List of the Bull family of the County of Prince Edward, Ont", 16 pages each.
2. One printed copy of the above as published by the Ontario Historical Society, undated.

5-7 *Genealogy: Albert C. Bowerman – Job Hughes

1. 2 cm, typed tissue copy of manuscript titled: Job Hughes, Quaker – Pioneer (1805), Together with a brief collection of historical data concerning the Foulke-Hughes families of Pennsylvania, and Canada; By Dr. A.C. Bowerman of Bloomfield Ont. for publication. Dated 3th Dec 1900 and after. Likely unpublished.
2. Large sheet of notes on Hughes and Foulke found separately from the above document.

5-8 Genealogy: Levi Vincent Bowerman

1. Typed copy of Family Records written by my grandfather Levi Vincent Bowerman about 1904 by MY Williams, 15 pages.
2. Typed copy titled; 11mo. 2 1870 by Vincent Bowerman, Some Account of events of my father. Stamped J.P. Williams, Picton, 7 pages.

5-9 Genealogy: Marion Cronk Letters

Note: Marion Cronk, her sister Eleanor, and their mother Ethel all received and wrote letters about Bowerman genealogy.

1. 3 cm of letters to Marion and Eleanor about family history. Many contain genealogical information.

5-10 Genealogy: Mrs. Wilford (Ethel) Cronk Letters

1. 1 cm of letters to Ethel (Bowerman) Cronk about family history. Many contain genealogical information.

5-11 Genealogy: Wilford Cronk Letters

1. 0.5 cm memoirs by Wilford Cecil Cronk.
2. Content of "grandmother Cronk's Bible" copied by W.C. Cronk, 1947.

Box 6 (32 cm)

Note: Box contains textual material in book format.

Items 1 through 20 are small and are in a shoe box inside the larger box.

6. Miscellaneous:

1. *Dyer S Ogden account book, 1867 – 1870.(11 x 16 cm)
2. *Leather covered account book, 1870/71, many contracts of putting a stallion to a mare. (13 x 9 cm)
3. *Dyer S Ogden account book, 1872 (8 x 13 cm)
4. *Account book 1871 – 1882, appears to be John H Cronk handwriting.(11 x 17 cm)
5. Canadian Pocket Diary 1875, extensive diary, author not identified, (7 x 10 cm).
6. *J. G. Lucas, 1878, diary and accounts, voting results, fence viewer notes for 1879, DF Ogden letter dated March 22/3 1859 to his brother and sister was found in this book. (10 x 16 cm)
7. Black recipe book, unnamed author, 1873 – 1954. Many clippings inserted.(10 x 16 cm)
8. Black recipe book, with clippings. 1927 only date found. (10 x 16)
9. Two Pierces Memorandum books 1883 and 1884 with notes in handwriting of John H Cronk. Notes on 1881 separation and used till 1892. (9 x 15 cm)
10. Colonial bank of New Zealand, 1887, John Cronk, bank entries, inventory of WNO Lundy, 1891 memo to Boulder, Colorado; 1892 Wellington Prep Mtg Finance Comm., notes (10 x 16 cm)
11. 4 books of cheque stubs, 1876 – 1889, appears to be John H Cronk's handwriting.
12. New Zealand pocket Diary, 1889, diary of trip from New Zealand to San Francisco, hand writing of JH Cronk. (10 x 16 cm)
13. John H Cronk , Standard Bank of Canada book, 1890 - 1891 and cancelled cheques 1893/4. (9 x 14 cm)
14. Burlington Route Memoranda, 1890 only date found. In handwriting of JH Cronk. (7 x 13)
15. Small book titled R. H. Traver Detroit used as account book 1894, John H Cronk.(5 x 10 cm)
16. Black account book, likely WC Cronk, 1909 and stories that mother tells at bedtime, 1920. (12 x 19 cm)
17. Account Book titled The Metropolitan Bank and stamped Lakeside Canning Co. Account of the history of Sicily.(12 x 18 cm)
18. Black notebook appears to be a school exercise book c 1908. (12 x 19 cm)
19. Bundle of West Lake financial records from the 1960's.
20. Box of 4 x 5 negatives titled Velox.
21. Book of poetry 1863; attendees at Yearly meeting 1888 Bloomfield signed. (18 x 21 cm)

22. Albert C Bowerman school note book, 1863/4. (19 x 22 cm) School book, Palestine and Israel; English history, Chemistry, S J Bowerman 1861 and 1864. (18 x 21 cm)
23. School book, SJ Bowewrman, 1861, Palestine, Israel, English history, Chemistry, Physical Geography.
24. School book, Canadian History; accounts 1869 – 1880; Farm Journal 1870 – 1878; Sales 1870 – 1881; Sales and Crops 1881 – 1884. (17 x 21 cm)
25. *Grist Book 1886, mill records to July 1887. (16 x 20 cm.
26. First day School minute book dated 1891 – 1894, Bloomfield. (17 x 27 cm)
27. Friends Literary Circle, 1886 – 1888; First Day School minutes 1887/90; Charlotte Talcott “Curious Minds” (21 x 27 cm)
28. Exercise Book, used to paste clippings of weddings and obituaries. 1896 – 1941 (17 x 21 cm)
29. Statutes of Ontario Canada 1902 used as a book for pasting in clippings. Many death notices, articles, poems, etc. (17 x 25 x 8 cm thick)
30. Photo album with brass clip of old unidentified photographs. (16 x 12 x 5 cm)
31. Bookkeeping Notes, date and author not identified. (22 x 28 cm)
32. Blue school book, Eleanor Cronk, poems, (18 x 25 cm)
33. Lesson plans and evaluation, 1896, possibly Ethel Bowerman. (18 x 23 cm)
34. Empty leather account book wallet. One note included dated 1835.

Box 7

7. Miscellaneous

35. Framed poem The Ship’s Bottom-Roof House, 1948.
36. Framed memorial to Flora Cronk who died 1859, aged 1 year.
37. Account book covers that held the notes of A.C. Bowerman (30 x 36 cm)
38. One bundle of modern Quaker material of mixed topics; capital punishment, economy, Argenta, etc.
39. Diploma, rolled up, of Marion Cronk graduating from Ontario Ladies College, 1930.
40. One large file of letters, records of West lake cemeteries, mostly 1950 and 1960’s. Also West Lake Exec Mtg accts 1920’s.
41. Children’s Friend periodical, 1876
42. The Canadian Friend, 26 various volumes, 1935 – 1990.
43. Canada Yearly Meeting Minutes, 31 copies of various years, 1889 – 1999, mostly 1950’s.
44. A green West Lake Executive Minute Book, 1955 – 1962.
45. Discipline CYM, 1903.
46. Peace Study Outline, undated.
47. A Hundred Years of Quaker Education in Canada, AG Dorland, 1942.
48. Study Draft, Book of Christian Discipline of CYM, 1964.
49. Study Draft, Book of Christian Discipline of CYM, 1965.
50. Cut out article, OHS, Dec 1990.

51. OHS, Papers and Records, V42, 1
52. Genealogical Index to the Records of CYM, 1988
53. Bundle of printed fliers, tracts, pamphlets.
54. Bundle of non Quaker religious material.
55. Bundle Canadian Friends Services Com., 1971
56. Bundle Religious Soc Friends cards

Notes

The Archives Committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting wishes to acknowledge the work of Randy Saylor who prepared this Finding Aid.