

Hastings County Historical Society

THE WILLIAM NISBET PONTON (1856-1939) FONDS FINDING AID

FONDS # 10

CR-2504

**Prepared by Kurtis Munnings, Gerry Boyce, Ruth Boyce, Luella Parkhurst,
Mary Jane Throop and other volunteers of the Society**

Revised to May 10, 2006

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	<u>Pages</u>
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
INTRODUCTION TO THE PONTON COLLECTION by Gerry Boyce	4
PART ONE: MILITARY	5
1. Fifteenth Battalion Argyll Light Infantry	
1.1 Band	
1.2 Correspondence	
1.3 Financial Statements	
1.4 Inspection Reports	
1.5 Inventory	
1.6 Medal Applications	6
1.7 Naming of A.L.I.	
1.8 Order Books	
1.9 Out-of-town events	
1.10 Rifle Association	
1.11 Sergeants' Mess	
1.12 Service Rolls	
1.13 Telegrams	
2. Belleville Rifle Range	
3. Bicycle Corps	
4. Canadian Patriotic Fund	7
5. Deseronto Militia Company and Cadet Summer Camp	
6. Discharge and Pension Documents	
7. 49 th Hastings Rifles	
8. Infantry Tests and Military Schools	
9. Invitations	
10. Militia Headquarters, Ottawa	8
11. Philatelic Items	
12. Queen Victoria's Jubilee, 1897	
13. The Red Cross	
14. School for the Deaf, Belleville (Institute for the Deaf and Dumb)	9
15. South African War	
16. World War One and "Wrinkles"	
17. Miscellaneous/Additional	

Pages

PART TWO: CIVILIAN	10
1. Family Papers	
2. Family Accounts	11
3. Belleville Industrial Committee	
4. Land and Estate	12
5. Legal (probably from his law practice)	13
6. Programs and Invitations	
7. Miscellaneous Correspondence	14
8. Miscellaneous Business	

APPENDICES

- A. Accession List of the Ponton Fonds compiled by Gerry Boyce with suggestions for cataloguing (2001)
- B. Finding Aid for the Ponton Collection in the National Archives of Canada
- C. Copies of some relevant pictures in the Hastings County Historical Society Picture Archives
- D. Notes by Kurtis Munnings on suggestions (many implemented) for amalgamating the various Ponton files into a single collection: including detailed list of contents (on backs of Accession List sheets) for several of the Ponton files not amalgamated.

LOCATION OF MATERIALS

The materials in CR-2504 are filed in 120 filing folders (plus appendices) housed in 11 archival boxes.

Box Number	File Numbers
1	1 - 11
2	12 - 23
3	24 - 36
4	37 - 39
5	40 - 53
6	54 - 72
7	73 - 93
8	94 - 101
9	102 - 108
10	109 - 126 and Appendices

INTRODUCTION TO THE PONTON COLLECTION and this Finding Aid by Gerry Boyce

Col. William Nisbet Ponton was born in Belleville, Ontario, and educated at Upper Canada College, the University of Toronto, and Osgood Hall. He practised law in Belleville and was prominent in legal, political, business, military, and fraternal circles.

Ponton was the grandson of William Hutton, distinguished farmer, educator, author, politician and civil servant. Both men resided in Sidney Cottage on the Trent Road (Dundas Street West) in Sidney Township. The farmstead is now in the City of Belleville).

The papers in this collection were largely donated by his widow, Enid Ponton (later to become Mrs. George B. Zimmele) and the estate at various times throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Some items were turned over to the Society as recently as 2006 by individuals to whom Ponton family members (or friends) had given them.

Other papers from the Ponton Homestead were donated to the National Archives of Canada and like institutions, with the result that closely related items are often found in two or more institutions. For that reason, the Finding Aid for the Ponton Collection in the National Archives of Canada is included in Appendix B at the end of this Finding Aid.

Because the materials in the Hastings County Historical Society's Collection arrived over a period of several years, and because parts of the collection were catalogued at different times, materials are found in several locations in the Society's archives. Consult the Accession List of the Ponton Fonds compiled by Gerry Boyce for a detailed listing.

This inventory was largely compiled in the fall of 2004 by Kurtis Munnings, a third-year Loyalist College General Arts student as part of a work placement program. Kurtis worked with several boxes of papers previously identified as CR-2504. These were mostly of a military nature, although civilian papers were also present. Kurtis incorporated into this collection some related items that had been catalogued separately and notes were placed in the emptied file folders to indicate that these related items were now part of this larger collection.

Nevertheless, the researcher is advised to consult the Historical Society's Master Card Catalogue and the Ponton Accession List, since some Military items and many Civilian items were not included in Kurtis' efforts to consolidate the collection.

It is the Society's hope that a future researcher (or researchers) will complete the integration and cataloguing of the complete collection (including the many individual files in the "Canadiana Room Collection" and prepare a biography of Col. W.N. Ponton.

PART ONE: MILITARY

1. 15th Battalion Argyll Light Infantry

File Name	Date	File No.	Description
15 th Battalion Band	1895-1901	1	Documents regarding the Bugle Band. Includes requests for the band, arrangements for falling in for parades, contract with I.O.O.F Band, etc. <i>See also CR-497-1 for Band's appearance with visiting military bands</i>
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1879-1895	2	Correspondence including letters relating to Battle of Batoche
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1896	3	Correspondence including request for 5 cannon and gun carriages: 3 for harbour area and 2 for Court House, to be used for ornamental purposes; also Dominion Day Program
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1897	4	Correspondence including reference to cannon for Belleville
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1898	5	Correspondence
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1899	6	Correspondence
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1900	7	Correspondence –Part 1
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1900	8	Correspondence – Part 2
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1901	9	Correspondence – Part 1 including note from Mackenzie Bowell
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1901	10	Correspondence – Part 2
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1902	11	Correspondence including references to “alleged reported remarks” in The Intelligencer
15 th Battalion Correspondence	1903-1916	12	Correspondence including draft letter to Mackenzie Bowell and letter from The Earl of Dundonald
15 th Battalion Correspondence	N.D.	13	Undated Correspondence
15 th Battalion Financial Statements	1879-1907	14	Financial records of the 15th Battalion, including financial records relating to military activities of Ponton 's military activities and the 15th Battalion, with receipts, requests for funds, statements of payments to Belleville Boys in the South African campaign, bank records, etc.
15 th Battalion Inspection Reports	1880-1900	15	Inspection reports regarding the 15th Battalion and the Boys Brigade of Canada.
15 th Battalion Inventory Lists	1880-1901	16	Inventory lists regarding clothing, rifles, ammunition, rods, bayonets, swords, belts, slings knapsacks bottles, lights, etc.

File Name	Date	File No.	Description
15 th Battalion Medal Applications – Fenian Raids	1896-1902	17	1866 Veteran Association Medal applications regarding the Fenian Raids of 1867 for: Corporal William Brown, William Black, William Earl, Lauren Thomas, Rev. Daniel Daly, William Clarke, Dave Gerow, Samuel Taft, Alfred Taft, etc. <i>See also CR-2130 for James Marshall medal.</i>
15 th Battalion Medal Applications:	1901-1902	18	Medal applications regarding Long Service Medals.
15 th Battalion: Naming	1896	19	Documents concerning how the 15 th Battalion became known as the Argyll Light Infantry.
15 th Battalion Order Book	1897 – 1899	20	15 th Battalion Order book for F Company.
15 th Battalion Order Book	1899 – 1900	21	15 th Battalion Order book from 1899
15 th Battalion Out Of Town	1896-1901	22	Documents regarding the 15th going to Peterborough, Niagara, Buffalo and Rochester: equipment requests to transportation, etc.
15 th Battalion Rifle Association	1880-1905	23	Documents regarding the Rifle Association meetings and letters regarding grants for the Rifle Association. Also included is a poster regarding the Rifle Associations Annual Match in 1900.
15 th Battalion Sergeants' Mess	1895-1901	24	Sergeants mess meeting minutes and letters referring to meetings in the sergeant's mess. Also one program regarding the "2 nd Annual Assembly" [Ball] in the Sergeant's Mess on New Year's Eve, 1896.
15 th Battalion Service Rolls	1895-1913	25	Lists of active Militia of Canada. One list of the 15 th Battalion's Commanding Officers from 1862 to 1913.
Telegrams	1898-1901	26	Telegraphs that could not be put into specific categories. Telegraphs are very vague and difficult to decipher.

2. Belleville Rifle Range

Belleville Rifle Range	1896-1903	27	Letters and documents referring to building a new and better shooting range. Letters requesting supplies and funds for new Shooting Range. Correspondence between contractors and Ponton regarding construction to take place at Shooting Range. One particular group of letters referring to George A. Parrott who was angry with the Militia because his house was being hit by bullets from the Rifle Range.
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Note: A Plan of the Rifle Range is found as "F-440-Belleville-1896: Belleville Rifle Range" in the Society's Map and Plan Collection.

3. Bicycle Corps

Bicycle Corps	1896-1900	28	Documents regarding the Bicycle Corps and a relay from Windsor to Ottawa. Also included are letters discussing the effectiveness of the Bicycle Corps and a scenario for a "party of Cyclists intending to get through a defence of Outposts & Sentries and take City of Belleville."
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4. Canadian Patriotic Fund

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Canadian Patriotic Fund	1900	29	Correspondence

5. Deseronto Militia Company

Deseronto Militia Company	N.D.	30	Newspaper article regarding the formation of a Deseronto Company for the Militia and 1903 Annual Report for the Dept. of Militia and Defence (see p. 65 for report of Gentleman Cadets of R.M.C. in summer camp at Deseronto)
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6. Discharge & Pension Documents

Discharge and Pension Documents	1895-1906	31	Documents regarding discharge and pension applications and acceptance of applications.
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7. 49th Hastings Rifles

Battalion Order Book	N.D.	32	Battalion Order Book with no date, begun by Sgt. W. Watts. Book is empty except for 2 pages of shorthand.
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8. Infantry Tests and Military Schools

Infantry Tests and Military School	1879-1901	33	Applications for military school. Acceptance to military school. Infantry tests from 1893-1899.
Infantry Tests and Military School	1917	34	One notebook containing notes from the Toronto School of Musketry.

9. Invitations

Invitations	1896-1912	35	Invitations to Ponton and the 15 th Battalion to a variety of events including the Queen's birthday celebration and a "contest and special exhibition on flight."
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10. Militia Headquarters, Ottawa

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Militia Orders	1879-1880	36	Extracted from "The Canada Gazette"
Militia Orders	1897-1901	37	Most fastened in binder; a few loose
Militia Orders	1899	38	Orders from the Militia headquarters from 1899 – Part 1
Militia Orders	1899	39	Orders from the Militia headquarters from 1899 – Part 2
Militia Orders	1900	40	Orders from the Militia headquarters from 1900 –Part 1
Militia Orders	1900	41	Orders from the Militia headquarters from 1900 – Part 2
Militia Orders	1901	42	Orders from the Militia headquarters from 1901 – Part 1
Militia Orders	1901	43	Orders from the Militia headquarters from 1901 – Part 2
Militia Regulations and Orders	1901, 1904, 1907	44	Published as Supplements to The Canada Gazette: Regulations and Orders (1904) and Pay and Allowances (1907)
Militia Orders	1908	45	Orders from the Militia headquarters from 1908
Militia Blank Forms	N.D.	46	Blank target practice forms, clothing inspection forms, appointment forms, medical certificate forms, store forms, etc.

11. Philatelic Items

Postal Items	1896-1903	47	Empty envelopes from 1896-1903
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12. Queen Victoria's Jubilee

Jubilee	1897	48	Several documents regarding the Queens Jubilee celebration and Ponton.
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13. The Red Cross

Red Cross	1895-1900	49	Documents regarding the creation of the Red Cross in Canada. Letters to Ponton referring to him as the Vice President of the Red Cross for Ontario. One booklet outlining the rules and regulations of the Red Cross in Canada from 1896. <i>File includes some items from CR-664</i>
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14. School for the Deaf [known as Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, 1907]

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
School For The Deaf	1907	50	Letters regarding a connection between the Rifle Association and the school for the deaf. A proposal to get deaf men doing target practice.

15. South African War

South Africa – Boer War	1879-1904	51	All documents relating to the South African – Boer War. Includes letters regarding deceased soldiers, applications to go to the war, letters referring to end of the war celebrations, Militia Order for organization of Regiments for South African Service, etc. <i>See also File #14 for information on payments to soldiers.</i>
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See also files such as CR-2159-4 for letters from South Africa, etc.

16. World War One and “Wrinkles”

Posters	N.D.	52	1. Letter from R.D. Weller to Col. Ponton re: military service 2. “Wrinkles” Wall posters for the war published by Gale & Polden, Aldershot, England.
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17. Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Pamphlets & clippings	1885? 1893 1893 1896 1911 1917 W.W.I	53	1 Newspaper clipping: “Battle of Batoche” 2. Brigade Camp – boats Bay of Quinte 3. Military Camp – Kingston 4. “Infantry Drill” Pamphlet 5. War of 1812 Memorial 6. “When the War was Won” Pamphlet 7. “The White Comrade”, Pamphlet 8. “In Flanders Fields”.
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PART TWO: CIVILIAN

1. Family Papers

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Family Papers – W.N. Ponton – career and addresses	1901-1914 1930	54	Law Society of Upper Canada certificate; address as President of Ontario Associated Board of Trade (1914); book review in <i>University of Toronto Monthly</i> (1933); Correspondence – Oxford and Cambridge, UK
Family Papers – W.N. Ponton – letters to editor		55	Draft letter to editor re: good services of member W.H. Biggar during legislative session just ended – lists benefits to Belleville
Family Papers – Ponton Family Correspondence	1809-1904	56	family correspondence from 1809-1904, including a notebook prepared by Miss Eliza Ponton with drafts of letters (1814) and French/Geography lessons etc. (1829)
Family Papers – Ponton Family History	1905 1931	57	Documents regarding the Ponton family history. The recorded Ponton family history dates back to the early 1400's. Information on Hutton/Ponton House
Family Papers – Ponton/Hutton Family Wills/Estate Matters	1865-1888	58	Ponton and Hutton family wills and documents regarding estates from 1865-1888 including Mary Hutton and Anna Ponton
Family Papers – Sankey Family	1903-1964	59	Documents regarding the Sankey Family
Family Papers – W.H. Ponton	1814	60	One letter addressed to W.H. Ponton from 1814
Family Papers – W.N. Ponton – May Ponton	1883-1890	61	Correspondence between May Ponton, wife of W.N. Ponton and her husband
Family Papers – Correspondence – Misc.	1963, n.d	62	1. Letter from J.L. Biggar re: Opera House, etc. 2. Ode in the ancient style by S. Rupert Broadfoot, K.C. to the house, “the Ladye Enid”, the Christmas season, the Ghost of Sidney Cottage, etc. 3. Letter from W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist re: purchase of Ponton papers from Mrs. Robert Hyndman, 1963
Family Papers – student notebook	1814-1829 1827	63	Draft letters, French/Geography notes, etc. probably by Eliza Ponton; Inverness Academy note
Family Papers – Ponton's Travel/Journal Address Book	n.d.	64	Journal with miscellaneous notes and addresses, including street address for B.A. Couldery on the Isle of Wight

2. Family Accounts

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Accounts	1869-1879	65	J.W. Ponton account book
Accounts	1880-1892	66	W. N. Ponton accounts
Accounts	1893	67	Ditto
Accounts	1894	68	Ditto
Accounts	1895	69	Ditto
Accounts	1896	70	Ditto
Accounts	1897	71	Ditto
Accounts	1898	72	Ditto
Accounts	1899	73	Ditto
Accounts	1900	74	Ditto
Accounts	1901-1903	75	Ditto
Accounts	n.d.	76	Ditto

3. Belleville Industrial Committee

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Belleville Industrial Committee	1891	77	Miscellaneous documents regarding the Belleville Industrial Committee in 1891.
B.I.C. – Minutes	1891	78	Minutes from meetings of the BIC in Belleville Council Chamber.
B.I.C. – Newspaper Ads	1891	79	Correspondence regarding newspaper ads for the City of Belleville. The ads are trying to get businesses to come to Belleville.
B.I.C. – Railways	1891	80	Several documents regarding a railway from Belleville to Collingwood.
B.I.C. – Brass Works	1891	81	Documents regarding the “Brass Works” company from Montreal opening a factory in Belleville.
B.I.C. – Canadian Copper Co.	1891	82	Documents regarding the Canadian Copper Company from Sudbury starting a business in Belleville.
B.I.C. – W.A. Carson” – Importer and Dealer	1891	83	Documents regarding W.A. Carson opening a factory in Belleville.

File Name	Date	File No.	Description
B.I.C. – Chown Cunningham Co. Ltd. – Stove Manufacturers	1891	84	Documents regarding the Chown Cunningham Coy Ltd. Kingston opening a business in Belleville.
B.I.C. – The Jenckes Machine Co.	1891	85	Documents regarding the Jenckes Machine Co. from Sherbrooke opening a business in Belleville.
B.I.C. – Kelly Axe Co.	1890-1891	86	Documents regarding the Kelly Axe Company from Louisiana opening an axe factory in Belleville.
B.I.C. – Patterson & Corbin Car Manufacturers	1891	87	Documents regarding the company opening a facility to manufacture (street) cars, etc.
B.I.C. – Straw Binder Mfg. Co.	1891	88	Document regarding the Straw Binder MFG Co. from Texas opening a factory in Belleville.
B.I.C. – Tannery	1891	89	Documents regarding a Tannery from Milton opening in Belleville.
B.I.C. – Wartman & Ward MFG Co.	1891	90	Documents regarding the Wartman & Ward MFG Company from London opening a factory in Belleville.
Richelieu Ontario Navigation Co.	1892	90A	Correspondence

4. Land and Estate Papers

File Name	Dates	File No.	Description
Land Papers – Pontons/Huttons	1857-1883	91	Deeds of land and mortgages relating to both the Hutton family and the Ponton family
Land Papers – Huttons	1861-1881	92	Deeds of land and mortgages relating to the Hutton family from
Land Papers – Pontons	1886-1919	93	Deeds of land and mortgages relating to the Ponton family
Land Papers – Clergy Sale Grants	1854	94	One Clergy Sale Grant
Land Papers – Crown Sale Grants	1832-1874	95	Crown Sale Grants
Land Papers – Indian Land	1847	96	Two Indian Sale Grants

File Name	Date	File No.	Description
Land Papers: General	1828- 1869	97	Deeds of land and mortgages
Land Papers: General	1870- 1879	98	Deeds of land and mortgages
Land Papers: General	1880- 1889	99	Deeds of land and mortgages
Land Papers: General	1890- 1899	100	Deeds of land and mortgages
Land Papers: General	1900- 1929	101-1	Deeds of land and mortgage
Land Papers	1903	101-2	Sale of Part of Cricket Field near waterfront

5. Legal Papers

W.N. Ponton's Daily Journal	1884	102	Daily Journal
Legal documents	1866- 1905	103	Miscellaneous – Unsorted
Legal documents		104	Ditto
Legal documents		105	Ditto
Legal documents		106	Ditto

6. Programs and Invitations

Programs – C of C		107 107 A	Chamber of Commerce Events
Programs – Legal		108	Legal events
Programs – Masonic	1910, 1917	109	Programs for Grand Lodge Communications held at Belleville
Programs – Misc.	1896	110 110-A	Miscellaneous activities, including correspondence with the Lennox and Addington Historical Society; Program for Belleville Dominion Day Celebration
Programs – Victoria's Death	1901	111	Obituary Services in Belleville Churches – Christ Church, St. Andrew's, St. Thomas'
Invitations	1888-9	112-1	Ontario Business College and Ramblers Wheel Club
Program	1918	112-2	Victory Peace Service, Belleville, Nov. 11, 1918
Program	1897	112-3	Belleville Forest and Stream Club
Program	1896	112-4	Bridge St. Church (Belleville) Organ Recital – W.H. Dingle

7. Miscellaneous Correspondence and Newspaper Clippings

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
James W. Mackenzie	1816	113	Typed copy of letter
Governor General's Office	1926	114	One letter addressed to Ponton, from the Governor General's Office regarding a lease of land. This letter also mentions medals.
Opera "Said Pasha"	n.d.	115	Alex McDonell of Picton to Ponton proposing to bring Picton's production of the opera to Belleville for Quinte Musical Society, by means of special train from {Picton
Letter to Sylvia	n.d.	116-1	Typed copy of letter telling of riot in Paris, France
L&A Historical Society	n.d.	116-2	Lennox and Addington Historical Society meetings
Toll Roads	1893	116-3	Letter to Belleville Board of Trade from Ont. Board of Trade Re: abolition of tolls
O.S.D.	n.d.	116-4	"Touch Wood", etc.
Alex Robertson	1883	116-5	Certificate appointing him as "Vice Consul of His Hawaiian Majesty for the Port of Belleville"
Misc. Correspond.	1898-1910	116-6	From Registrar Henry Day about apples, grapes, etc.
Benjamin Gilbert	n.d.	116-7	Notes on his life
Newspaper Clippings	1901 etc.	117-1	The <i>Intelligencer</i> vs. The <i>Ontario</i> in Government supply of stores for local regiment, etc.
City Council	1902	117-2	Letter to <i>Intelligencer</i> re: St. Thomas' Church, Belleville

8. Miscellaneous Business and Other Items

Canadian General Electric Co.	1892	118	Special Agent for the Company to Trenton Mayor and Council re: supply of electric service to Trenton
J.G. Squier Sales Book	1923	119	Sales of Coal by this Trenton merchant operating the East Side Coal Yard
Accounts, etc.	1849 1892	120	Miscellaneous, including City of Belleville Financial Statement
Gilbert Parker	1901-1924	121	Banquets to Sir Gilbert Parker
Belleville City Council	1891 1892	122	Miscellaneous correspondence
Boston, Mass.	1630	123	Brochure

File Name	Date	File No.	Description
Letterheads	1892-1909	124	Miscellaneous business letterheads
Advertising		125	Miscellaneous advertising pieces
Bay of Quinte Agricultural Mutual Fire Insurance	1928, 1930	126	Annual Reports