The Colonel John Butler Heritage Committee fonds

RG 659

Brock University Archives

Creator: Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy

Extent: 10 cm of textual records
38 photographs

Abstract: Fonds contains material related to the activities of the Colonel John Butler Heritage Committee, a sub-committee of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy.

Materials: Correspondence, minutes, programs, photographs, news clippings, reports, genealogical material.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Chantal Cameron

Last updated: July 2018

Terms of use: The Colonel John Butler Heritage Committee fonds is open for research.

Use restrictions: Current copyright applies. In some instances, researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the Brock University Archives before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library’s usual procedures unless otherwise specified.


Acquisition info.: Material was donated by Elizabeth Oliver-Malone in July, 2018.
Administrative History:

The Colonel John Butler Heritage Committee was a sub-committee of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, a group dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage and quality of the Niagara-on-the-Lake homes and atmosphere. The Committee was formed after a developer made plans to build over the site of the Butler family homestead. This prompted a mandated archeological excavation, which was performed in 1999. The excavation uncovered the foundation of the Butler homestead and numerous artifacts. As a result, the Conservancy exerted pressure on the developer and the Town to preserve the lots identified as being historically significant, and began fundraising to purchase them. One lot was given to the Town by the developer and made into a park, while the other affected lot remained in the possession of the owner, undeveloped. The site could not be developed under the Ontario Heritage Act, but a successful purchase agreement with the owner could not be negotiated. Eventually, an agreement was reached in 2016 with the help of Town Councillor Betty Disero and Committee member Elizabeth Oliver Malone, and the lot was purchased with funds raised by the Committee and the Town. The newly purchased lot became part of the adjoining park, which was officially opened in 2008 and known as the Colonel John Butler Homestead Park. A cairn and bust of John Butler were erected in the park in 2009.

Scope and content:

Fonds contains material related to the activities of the Colonel John Butler Heritage Committee. Materials include administrative papers such as correspondence, minutes, and agreements. Other materials pertain to the Butler homestead site and include reports, photographs, news clippings, land documents and programs. The remaining material concerns Butler’s Rangers history and genealogical material about the Butler family.

Organization:

The fonds was arranged into 3 series:

- Series I: Administrative, 1997-2018
- Series II: Butler Homestead Site, 1985-2017
Inventory:

Series I: Administrative, 1997-2018

1.1 Correspondence, 1999-2017. Contains general correspondence sent and received by the Colonel John Butler Heritage Committee. Several letters are written by Committee members Laura Dodson and Elizabeth Oliver Malone. Issues discussed in the correspondence include the excavation of the John Butler homestead site; concerns a developer sold the lot containing the homestead remains; letters from Ruth Abernathy, who sculpted a bust of Colonel John Butler; a property appraisal of Lot 64 (comprising part of the Butler historic site); and efforts by the Committee to purchase Lot 64.

1.2 Minutes, 1997-2018. Contains some minutes of the St. Andrew’s Glen Archaeological Committee; minutes of the Col. John Butler Heritage Fund Committee; minutes of the John Butler Homestead Site meeting (July 7, 2005); reports to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy from the Col. John Butler Heritage Fund and Park Committee; and handwritten and typewritten notes outlining the history of the Butler homestead site and efforts to preserve it.

1.3 Agreements, 2007, 2017. Contains an invoice from Jon Jouppien for transporting stone for the Col. Butler Homestead Memorial Cairn, including conditions of the proposed work and a diagram of the cairn; and an agreement between the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Home Owners Association of St. Andrew’s Glen and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, 2017.

Series II: Butler Homestead Site, 1985-2017

1.4 Programs, 2006-2017. Contains a program for “A Celebration of Heritage”, special council meeting of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, April 5, 2006 (featuring the Butler Homestead site); the Valiants Memorial Ceremony, November 5, 2006 (featuring a bust of Colonel John Butler in Ottawa); the official opening of the Colonel John Butler Homestead Park (2008); Canada Day 2009 (Friends of Fort George), including the unveiling of the Col. John Butler bust; and an itinerary of a plaque unveiling at Butler Park, 2017.

1.5 Reports, 1999-2016, n.d. Contains a report to the Planning Advisory Committee, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, re: the St. Andrew’s Glen/Blythwood Group archaeological lands (1999); a summary of the Committee’s activities and concerns prepared for a meeting with government officials Lew Holloway, W. Walker and Clive Buist (2000); a summary of details pertaining to the site of the Colonel John Butler Homestead (n.d.); background of events, data, etc., relevant to Lots 64, 65, 66, and 67 in St. Andrew’s Glen, homestead site of John Butler;
and a report to the Corporate Services Advisory Committee, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, re: Lot 64, St. Andrew’s Glen subdivision.


1.7 Promotional material, 1999, n.d. Contains a brochure about the archaeology and history at the Colonel John Butler Site (1999); a fundraising form asking for contributions to the Colonel John Butler heritage fund; and a flyer advertising historic Butler’s Rangers prints for sale to raise money for the Col. John Butler Heritage Park.


1.9 Maps & Plans, 1968, 2007, n.d. Contains a photocopied plan of the lots in the Township of Newark, by Thos. Ridout, 1811; photocopies of a Plan of Niagara by A. Gray; and a photocopied plan of the St. Andrew’s Glen subdivision in Niagara-on-the-Lake (part of lot 206), 2007. Also contains an indenture between Bordeaux Farms Limited and Cosmar Holdings Limited re: part of lot 206 in the Township of Niagara.

Photographs

1.10-1.11 Cairn & Plaques, 2007-2009, n.d. Contains photographs of a bust of Col. John Butler sculpted by Ruth Abernethy and the cairn on which it was placed. Also contains photographs of several plaques that were mounted on the cairn which provide information about John Butler, his homestead, the search for the remains of the homestead, and a list of people who helped preserve the site.


1.13 Other photographs, n.d. Contains prints of sketches used to raise money for the park, including a sketch of the Butler homestead, and an officer and a sergeant in
Butler’s Rangers. Also includes photographs of John Butler and Catherine Bradt’s home in Johnstown, N.Y., and post cards of Fort Johnson, the fortified home of Sir William Johnson.

**Series III: Butler’s Rangers history/Butler family history, 2002-2008, n.d.**

1.14 Replica buttons, n.d. Replica buttons from the clothing of a Mohawk Warrior during the War of 1812, and a Private of Butler’s Rangers during the American War of Independence.

1.15 Butler’s Rangers History, 2002-2008, n.d. Contains articles and news clippings about John Butler and Butler’s Rangers, including *The Story of Butler’s Rangers, or why Canadians aren’t Americans* by Hans Werner, and a letter by Joy Ormsby, Official Historian of Niagara-on-the-Lake, to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, requesting that Col. John Butler be designated as of National Historic Importance.


1.17 Copies of original Butler documents, 1784-1819. Contains a photocopy of John Butler’s will and copies of letters between John Butler and Joseph Brant from the Weir Collection at Riverbrink.

**Related material:**