

A Guide to the Robinson Family Papers, 1684-1915

Robinson Family Papers, 1684-1915.
1684-1915.



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Biographical/Historical Information

Christopher Robinson arrived in Virginia, from England, in approximately 1668. He quickly established himself at a plantation called "Hewick," named after his family's Hewick estate in England. Descendants of Christopher Robinson soon became influential landholders, tobacco traders, and political leaders in the colony. Christopher Robinson's great-grandson, Christopher IV, took the side of the Crown during the American Revolution, accepting a captain's position with the Queen's Rangers. After Britain's defeat in America, Christopher of the Queen's Rangers relocated to Canada where he served the royal government in various capacities. Charles W. Robinson descended from this "Hewick" line of the Robinson family. In addition to members of the Robinson family, notable names discussed in the collection of documents include: Richard Corbin, Ralph Wormeley, Albert W. Woods, H. Farnham Burke, Lyon G. Tyler, Letitia Cornwallis, J. H. Coombe, Thomas Jefferson, King George III, General Robert Porteus, John Maynard, Edmund Pendleton, John Graves Simcoe, Robert Rogers, "Mr. Dinwiddie," John Wentworth, Fletcher Norton, and George Wythe.

Scope and Content Information

Original seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth-century manuscripts, official documents, sketches, and photographs, as well as copies of original letters and documents relating to Charles W. Robinson and his ancestors. The bulk of the material relates to Charles W. Robinson's efforts to trace and register his family pedigree with London's Herald's College.

Index Terms

Family Names:

Robinson family.

Persons:

Burke, H. Farnham (Henry Farnham), 1859-1930.

Corbin, Richard, ca. 1708-1790.

Cornwallis, Letitia.

Coombe, J. H.

Maynard, John.

Norton, Fletcher, 1716-1789.

Pendleton, Edmund, 1721-1803.

Porteus, Robert.

Rogers, Robert, 1731-1795.

Simcoe, John Graves, 1752-1806.
Tyler, Lyon Gardiner, 1853-1935.
Wentworth, John.
Woods, Albert W.
Wormeley, Ralph.
Wythe, George, 1726-1806

Subjects:

American loyalists--Canada.

Corporate Names:

Queen's Rangers, 1776-1781.

Geographical Names:

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1781.
Virginia-- Genealogy.

Arrangement

All items are bound in two volumes, Original Family Papers Virginia and Canada 1684-1798 and Family History Papers I: Records, Wills, Lawsuits, Herald's College Correspondence, etc., with board covers accented with leather bindings.

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Volume I: Family history papers: records, wills, lawsuits, Herald's College correspondence, etc.

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Robinson family genealogy 1495-1854. Signed by Albert Woods, Herald's College, London.

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Concerns the genealogy of the Virginia branch of the Robinson family.

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H.F. Burke, Herald's College, London, to C.W. Robinson, Ealing, 26 March 1914.

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Scope and Content

Concerns outstanding debt owed for research.

H.F. Burke, Herald's College, London, to C.W. Robinson, Ealing, 28 March 1914.

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Scope and Content

Concerns the letter of 26 March.

H.F. Burke, Herald's College, London, to C.W. Robinson, Ealing, 4 November 1914.

Page 767

Scope and Content

Concerns pedigree research.

H.F. Burke, Herald's College, London, to C.W. Robinson, Ealing, 13 May 1915.

Scope and Content

Concerns a scheduled meeting.

Note, 19 May 1915.

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Scope and Content

Explanation of pedigree research information obtained from H.F. Burke during May 1915.

Note, 28 January 1916.

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Scope and Content

Explanation of pedigree research information obtained from H.F. Burke during January 1916.

C.S. MacInnes, Toronto, to C.W. Robinson, Ealing, 31 March 1915.

Page unnumbered

Scope and Content

Concerns a portrait of Peter Robinson with newspaper article from The Peterborough Daily about Peter Robinson's public life.

Letters, 1910-1913.

Page unnumbered

Scope and Content

Miscellaneous correspondences from Herald's College, London to C.W. Robinson listing fees owed for the research and registry of Robinson family pedigree.

Volume II: Original Family Papers: Virginia and Canada, 1684-1798.

Introduction.

Page 1

Scope and Content

C.W. Robinson's explanation of the book's contents of original family papers from the "Hewick" Robinsons and how he came to possess them.

Papers Concerning Christopher Robinson III of Hewick.

Memorandum, 1880.

Page 3-6

Scope and Content

Further explanation of family papers contained within, how the Robinsons established themselves as landholders in Virginia, Robinson family participation in the American Revolution. Includes one color and one black and white sketch of Hewick, Virginia.

Map.

Page 8

Scope and Content

Map of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland showing Robinson Creek and area near Urbanna, Virginia where "Hewick" stood (Middlesex County).

Pedigree.

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Scope and Content

Rough sketch of Robinson family of Virginia as descended from Christopher Robinson, first immigrant to America.

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Scope and Content

Listing of contents as compiled by C.W. Robinson.

Will of Christopher Robinson I, c. 1700.

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Scope and Content

Portion of the will of Christopher Robinson I, written by Edmund Pendleton.

Map, 2 December 1684.

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Scope and Content

Shows the 660 acres of land owned by Christopher Wormeley in James City County showing roads and waterways.

Account, 1727-1731

Page 41

Scope and Content

Money paid to and from Hewick, England, by Christopher Robinson.

General Robert Porteus, Yorkshire, England, to Christopher Robinson, Rappahannock River, Virginia, 26 November 1750.

Page 43

Scope and Content

Business accounts and transactions enacted by Porteus as Robinson's agent at Hewick, England.

Will of Christopher Robinson III of Hewick, 6 December 1751.

Page 47-49

Scope and Content

Wills estate in England to brother John Robinson, estate in Virginia (Hewick) to daughter Judith Robinson, estate in Virginia (Grange) to daughter Mary.

John Maynard, London, to Christopher Robinson III, 20 April 1762.

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Scope and Content

Concerns the Yorkshire estate, shipping tobacco from America. Includes copy of letter from John Maynard to Captain Brookes.

Account, 1764-1765.

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Scope and Content

Concerns duties, freight and shipping costs on tobacco rendered to Christopher Robinson III.

Account, 1765-1766.

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Scope and Content

Concerns rents owed and paid by tenants on Hewick, England, to Christopher Robinson III.

Receipt, July 1770.

Page 63

Scope and Content

Quarterly Royal Land Tax paid by Hewick, England, 5p 6s 1d.

Graham Frank(?) to Christopher Robinson(?), 13 February 1765.

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Scope and Content

Concerns a theft attempt at Hewick, England, other Hewick business.

Graham Frank to Christopher Robinson(?)

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Scope and Content

Concerns the house at Bedford, England, proposed sale of property. Mentions Bishop Robinson. Letter is mutilated.

Graham Frank(?), London, to Christopher Robinson(?), 23 July 1765.

Page 81-84

Scope and Content

Concerns purchase of Parker lands, management of Hewick, England.

Graham Frank to Christopher Robinson, near Urbanna in Middlesex County, Virginia, c. 1760.

Page 86-89

Scope and Content

Concerns Robinson's estates in London, arranging to bring water to the fields from the river, tenants' grievances, general upkeep of fences and barns.

Graham Frank, London, to Christopher Robinson, near Urbanna in Middlesex County, Virginia, 2 May 1776.

Page 90-96

Scope and Content

Concerns Hewick, England, planting oak trees, tenants and rent collection, general upkeep, fence dividing Robinson's and Lord Devonshire's lands, Virginia stock holdings.

Graham Frank(?), London, to Christopher Robinson(?), Virginia, 20 December 1766.

Page 99-115

Scope and Content

Concerns quarrels with tenants over upkeep of Hewick, England and disputes over hunting rights with neighboring landowners

Graham Frank and (?)Bickerton, London, to Christopher Robinson, Virginia, 21 December 1767.

Page 117-118

Scope and Content

Concerns the sale of Hewick, England with estimated value of 16,000 pounds.

Petition.

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Scope and Content

Concerns Richard Corbin and Ralph Wormeley, executors of Christopher Robinson III's (deceased) holdings in Virginia.

Robert Cary and Co., London, to Richard Corbin and Ralph Wormeley, Virginia, 24 May 1770.

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Scope and Content

Concerns the execution of Christopher Robinson's will. Fletcher Norton, speaker for the House of Commons possible purchaser of Hewick, England.

Robert Cary and Co., London, to Richard Corbin and Ralph Wormeley, Virginia, 4 March 1772.

Page 126-129

Scope and Content

Concerns the sale of Hewick, England to Speaker of the House of Commons, Fletcher Norton, by Act of Parliament.

Robert Cary and Co., London, to Richard Corbin and Ralph Wormeley, York River, Virginia, 24 August 1772.

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Scope and Content

Concerns the sale of Hewick, England to Fletcher Norton, Speaker of the House of Commons, for 16,000 pounds.

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Scope and Content

Concerns expenses incurred in passing 9 June 1772 Act of Parliament for the sale of Christopher Robinson's Hewick, England.

Christopher Robinson to Richard Corbin, 4 August 1767.

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Concerns money owed Christopher Robinson for the estate of Peter Robinson.

Receipt, 21 June 1769.

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Signed by P.W. Claiborne for money paid by David Ker on behalf of Christopher Robinson for the education of Peter Robinson's son.

Account, 1767-1768.

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Scope and Content

Concerns money owed by Christopher Robinson to John Craine for tailoring services rendered.

Account, 1768.

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Scope and Content

Concerns money owed by Christopher Robinson to James Mills for medical services rendered.

Account, 1769.

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Scope and Content

Concerns the purchase of slaves and stock by Richard Corbin and Ralph Wormeley as acting guardians of Christopher Robinson IV.

Edmund Pendleton, Edmundsburg, to Richard Corbin, Laneville, King and Queen County, Virginia, 15 July 1786.

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Scope and Content

Concerns money owed to the estate of Christopher Robinson.

Subseries 2: Papers concerning Christopher Robinson of the Queen's Rangers (Loyalist Hussars)

Account, 1740-1749.

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Concerns money owed by Peter Robinson (d. 1765) to John Robinson (d. 1787).

Account book, 1777.

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Scope and Content

Monthly record of financial exchanges recorded by John Robinson of Middlesex County, Virginia.

Accounts (fragments), 1775-1777.

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Scope and Content

Eight receipts of notes of purchases made by John Robinson of Middlesex County, Virginia including one receipt for the hire of two slaves (1777).

Letter from David Ker, 22 June 1765.

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Scope and Content

Concerns payments owed to an unidentified account. Mentions "Mr. Dinwiddie".

Receipt, 26 September 1765.

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Scope and Content

Concerns payment for wine purchased by Beverley Robinson.

Royal warrant, 18 February 1780.

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Scope and Content

Authorization for John Dessen to raise two battalions of soldiers for England's Regular Troops to be used for the duration of the American Revolution. Signed by Robert Rogers.

Royal commission, 26 June 1781.

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Scope and Content

Naming Christopher Robinson IV to the post of Captain of the Queen's Rangers in New York under Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe.

Beverley Robinson, Northlake(?), to "My Dear Daughter," 3 July 1784.

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Scope and Content

Concerns family matters, sending tea, mentions grandchildren.

Royal commission, 1 June 1792.

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Scope and Content

Appoints Christopher Robinson IV to the post of "Inspector of the Woods, Reserves, and all Rents and Profits of the Crown" in Upper Canada. Signed by John Graves Simcoe.

Petition, 17 October 1792.

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Scope and Content

Transferring power of attorney from Peter Russell to Christopher Robinson IV for the power to lease and/or collect rents on certain properties on the River Cabaraqui, Upper Canada.

Petition, 4 April 1793.

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Scope and Content

John Wentworth, Surveyor General of the Woods, Nova Scotia naming Christopher Robinson IV as his deputy in Upper Canada.

Christopher Robinson IV, Kensington, Upper Canada, to Robert Robinson, Digby, Nova Scotia, 6 July 1793.

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Concerns Christopher's post as deputy of the Woods.

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Fees owed by Christopher Robinson IV for the education of his sons.

Peter Russell, Niagara, to Christopher Robinson IV, Kingston, Upper Canada, 1 November 1792.

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Scope and Content

Concerns the sale of Cabaraqui mills.

D.W. Smith, Survey General's Office, Niagara, to Christopher Robinson IV(?), 21 April 1790.

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Scope and Content

Concerns Smith's public account.

Peter Russell, Niagara, to Christopher Robinson IV, Upper Canada, 26 April 1794.

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Scope and Content

Concerns mills being built along the Cabaraqui River, possibility that the seat of government will move to York (Toronto).

Royal commission, 22 July 1794.

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Scope and Content

Appoints Christopher Robinson IV, Kingston, Upper Canada to the position of Royal Attorney and Advocate. Signed by William Mayne and initialed by John Graves Simcoe.

William Mayne to Christopher Robinson IV, Kingston Upper Canada, 26 July 1794.

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Concerns license to practice law in the Royal Courts.

Christopher Robinson IV to Governor John Graves Simcoe, 5 November 1795.

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Scope and Content

Concerns Robinson's apprehension about his 4 April 1793 commission by John Wentworth.

Peter Russell, Newark, to Christopher Robinson IV, 26 May 1793.

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Scope and Content

Concerns Robinson's "indisposition."

Peter Russell to Christopher Robinson IV, 28 February 1795.

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Concerns Robinson's recovery from illness.

Indenture, 29 August 1796.

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Appoints Christopher Robinson IV as Representative of the residents of Addington and Ontario Counties.

Deed, 22 July 1797.

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Concerns the Sale of land in Murray Township, Upper Canada owned by Christopher Robinson IV to Thomas Spencer of Canadague, New York.

Court notes, 26 April 1797.

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John Ferguson v. David Palmer over 100 pound debt.

Contract, 3 May 1798.

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Between Christopher Robinson IV, Kingston and Jacob Shepherd Clay, Herkimer County making Clay a six month laborer paid in money and/or land upon the end of service.

Contract, 3 May 1798.

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Scope and Content

Between Christopher Robinson IV, Kingston and John Smith, Albana County, New York making Smith a six month laborer paid in money and/or land upon the end of service.

Contract, 24 July 1798.

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Scope and Content

Between Christopher Robinson and John Woodward and David Bennet engaging Woodward and Bennet to construct Robinson a house on his York, Upper Canada farm.

Bill, 29 August 1798.

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Scope and Content

For 6 pounds owed by Christopher Robinson to Jacob Clayton for the digging and construction of a foundation and chimneys.

Receipt, 9 August 1796.

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Scope and Content

6p 10s 6d paid by Christopher Robinson to John Woodward and David Bennet for the construction of Christopher Robinson's house.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Christopher Robinson to Thomas Markland for various goods purchased.

Bill, 1794-1795.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Christopher Robinson to Thomas Sparham, surgeon, for services rendered.

Bill, 1796-1797.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Christopher Robinson to Donald McDonell for goods purchased.

Bill, 1797.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by William Keiting to Christopher Robinson for legal services rendered

for money owed by William Kaiting to Christopher Robinson for legal services rendered.

Receipt, 16 July 1798.

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Scope and Content

Christopher Robinson will pay Sincoe Ketchsin fifty dollars within six weeks.

Receipt.

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Scope and Content

For fifty dollars paid to Sincoe Ketchsin by Christopher Robinson.

Receipt, 12 November 1797.

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Scope and Content

Acknowledgement of three pounds owed to Abner Miles by Colonel Brackenridge, signed by Christopher Robinson.

Note, 2 August 1798.

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Scope and Content

Christopher Robinson will leave Abner Miles with the ten dollars Robinson owes to John Woodward and David Bennet.

Receipt, 23 July 1798.

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Scope and Content

Christopher Robinson will pay James Kemp 10p 3s 2d by 23 August 1798.

Christopher Robinson, York, Upper Canada, to John Robinson, Albany, 26 July 1798.

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Scope and Content

Concerns an order to pay James and Nathan Ruggles 24p 5s 8d.

Bill, 16 June 1794.

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Scope and Content

For court costs due in the case of Powley(?) v. Ashley.

Bill, 24 September 1794.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Ablert Ryckman to James Rivinton for law books.

Bill, 20 August 1794.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Christopher Robinson to Jonathan Hay, shoemaker.

Bill, 22 April 1796.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Christopher Robinson to Robert Maranlay for goods purchased.

Bill, 5 July 1796.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Christopher Robinson to James Richardson for goods and services rendered.

Arrest warrant, May 1797.

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Scope and Content

Charging the sheriff of Kingston to find and hold James Rankin until trial in the case of a plea of debt filed by Alexander Clark. Signed by Christopher Robinson, attorney for the plaintiff.

Court ruling, 1797.

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Scope and Content

Finding in favor of Alexander Clark in the debt case of Clark v. Rankin.

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Scope and Content

For money owed by Christopher Robinson for goods and services rendered by an unknown party.

Letter to Christopher Robinson, York, 8 April 1798.

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Concerns Christopher Robinson's ill health.

Upper Canada Gazette, 10 November 1798.

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Includes announcement of Christopher Robinson's passing on 2 November 1798.

Probate notice, 25 July 1798.

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Scope and Content

Summons to Peter Robinson for payment of debts owed by the estate of Christopher Robinson.

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For taxes paid by the estate of Christopher Robinson.

Petition, 3 November 1798.

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Scope and Content

Esther Robinson's (widow of Christopher Robinson) plea to ease the situation of her destitute family by naming Peter Robinson, eldest son, to the position of a deputy in the province of York.

The General Evening Post, London, 25 April 1738.

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Includes obituary of Christopher Robinson, nephew of Bishop John Robinson.

Letter from Bishop John Robinson, Utrecht, 2 June 1712.

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Scope and Content

Concerns matters of the Queen's army.

Benjamin Robinson, Virginia, to Colonel Beverley Robinson, 7 August 1784.

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Concerns Beverley as benefactor of the Robinson family.

Frederick Robinsion, Thornbury, to John Beverley Robinson, 12 January 1816.

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Scope and Content

Concerns business in the United Kingdom and Frederick's return to Canada.

William Henry Robinson, Bath, England, to John Beverley Robinson, Upper Canada, 28 April 1834.

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Letter of introduction for Admiral Vansittart's sons.

James Sayre, Dorchester Province, New Brunswick, to Esther Benman (sister), York, Upper Canada, 20 July 1816(?)

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Scope and Content

Family news.

James Sayre, New Brunswick, to John Beverley Robinson (nephew), Toronto, Upper Canada, 25 September 1841.

Page 376-378

Scope and Content

Concerns recent events in Canada and family news.

Letter from John Beverley Robinson, Edgewater, New Jersey, 1 April 1921.

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Scope and Content

Concerns the discovery of a document about Beverley Robinson including sketch of Colonel Beverley Robinson's crest.

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Scope and Content

Notarization of a document from Robert Lenox.