

<b>Title:</b>	Letters to Reverend William Proudfoot, 1823, 1842-1843, 1846		
<b>Creator:</b>	John Porteous, Walter Mitchell and John Jennings		
<b>Dates of Material:</b>	April 6, 1823; Sept. 13, 1842; Aug. 14, 1843 and Aug. 1, 1846	<b>Record Group Number:</b>	RG 555
<b>Summary of Contents:</b>	<p>4 letters including:</p> <p>A 2 ½ page letter addressed to The Editor of the <i>Presbyterian Magazine</i>, care of [illegible], London, C.W. The writer describes the Village of Chippawa and its location in Ontario. He writes that there are many people there of Scotch [Scottish] descent. He says that a congregation was formed and 39 names were on the roll. The letter is from J.P. [John Porteous] with an added note from Wm. Porteous. The letter is from St. Catharines. There is one postmark – St. Catharines, April 6, 1823</p> <p>A 1 ½ page letter addressed to Rev. W. Proudfoot, Ed. Of <i>Presbyterian Mag.</i>, London, C.W. This letter is from Walter Mitchell in St. Catharines. He sends a list of peoples' names and the amounts that they have paid toward the <i>Presbyterian Magazine</i>. Mr. Mitchell is acting as an agent for the magazine. This letter has 1 postmark – St. Catharines, Sept. 13, 1842</p> <p>A 2 page letter addressed to Rev. W. Proudfoot, London, C.W. This letter is from John Jennings of St. Catharines. The writer claims that he is ill but he makes plans to meet Reverend Proudfoot in Toronto in order to go to a meeting in Rochester. The writer expects that Reverend Proudfoot will preach in Rochester. The letter has 1 postmark – St. Catharines, Aug. 14, 1843.</p> <p>A 2 page letter addressed to The Rev. Professor Proudfoot, London, C.W. from John Porteous of St. Catharines. The writer says that he will not preach in Detroit. He says that the people of Detroit are expecting Mr. Dalrymple [who was sent as a missionary to Canada from Scotland in 1846] and also, he doesn't want to leave his congregation for 2 Sabbaths. The letter has 2 postmarks – St. Catharines, August 1846 [this postmark is very faint] and Hamilton, August 2, 1846.</p>		
<b>Physical Description / Condition:</b>	<p>All letters are handwritten.</p> <p>The 1823 letter has slight tears along the fold and a tear where the letter was sealed.</p> <p>The 1842 letter has some slight stains on the front and a tear where the letter was sealed.</p> <p>The 1843 letter is discoloured and has a few holes which do not affect the text.</p>		

	<p>The 1846 letter is in good condition with a slight tear where the letter was sealed.</p>
<p><b>Administrative/ Biographical Sketch</b></p>	<p>William Proudfoot was born on May 23, 1788 near Peebles, Scotland. He studied at Lanark Grammar School and the University of Edinburgh. In 1807, he entered the Associate Synod of Scotland's Divinity Hall at Selkirk. In 1812, he was licensed by the Associate Presbytery of Edinburgh and was ordained at Pitrodie the next year. He was forced to apply for a missionary position in Canada. He set off on his journey in 1832 and settled in London, Ontario where he bought a 200 acre farm. He organized congregations and preaching stations in his area.</p> <p>His first sermon was given in a schoolhouse near the fork of the Thames. As Proudfoot was in the process of building the United Presbyterian Church on York St., his congregation met in a nearby Methodist meeting house. The United Presbyterian Church opened in 1836 and stood until 1859 when burned down. Its replacement opened in 1862 at Clarence and Dufferin Streets. It was named the First Presbyterian Church.</p> <p>Proudfoot and his colleagues founded the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas in connection with the United Associate of Synod of the Secession Church in Scotland. He did preaching tours through Upper Canada and created more congregations. In January of 1843, he founded the <i>Presbyterian Magazine</i> for which he was the editor and chief contributor. In 1844, he opened a divinity school in London while still maintaining his pastoral duties. The college never had more than 4 students at a time and in 1850, the church decided to move the seminary to Toronto. Proudfoot died in 1851 and his son succeeded him as a pastor in London.</p> <p>John Porteous was born in 1812 in Scotland. He was sent to Canada as a missionary in 1841. He was the pastor at the church at Beverly [most of Beverly Township has been absorbed by Flamborough], Ontario from 1847-1876. He died in 1896 in Galt, Ontario.</p> <p>John Jennings was a Presbyterian clergyman who was born on Oct. 8, 1814 near Glasgow, Scotland. He was ordained in 1838 to be a missionary in Canada. He served in that capacity from 1838-1839 for the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas. On July 9, 1839, he was inducted as a minister of the United Associate Church in Toronto which later became the Bay Street Church. He remained there until March of 1874. He served as a member of the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada and was a member of the senate of the University of Toronto as well as a trustee of the Toronto Grammar School.</p>

