

Nova Scotia Archives

Finding Aid - Jotham Blanchard McCully fonds (2001-025)

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Jotham Blanchard McCully fonds

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Summary information

Repository: Nova Scotia Archives
Title: Jotham Blanchard McCully fonds
ID: 2001-025
Date: 1862-1867 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Jotham Blanchard McCully was born on 19 January 1819, the son of William McCully and Elizabeth (Arnold) of Debert. He resided in Truro and married Isabelle McConnell on 27 July 1844; they had 10 children. He is believed to have been an engineer by profession, and was involved in several attempts to locate treasure on Oak Island in the mid-19th century. In 1845 he became manager of operations of the Truro Company, formed to raise money for the treasure hunt by selling shares. The company began digging in 1850, but by 1851 had run out of funds and ceased operations. In 1861 McCully was corporate secretary of the newly-formed Oak Island Association of Truro, which was able to raise a large sum of money. With a work force of 63 men and 33 horses, the Association made several attempts to solve the problem of water flooding in the “money pit”. McCully wrote of these attempts in the *Liverpool Transcript*, 16 October 1862. The work was unsuccessful, however; the money ran out and the company folded in 1864. In 1866 McCully participated in a third company, the Oak Island Eldorado Company [Halifax Company], which again raised funds and continued operations. But it also failed and closed down in 1867. McCully died in Truro on 9 September 1899 at age 80.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of several letters and other items accumulated by Jotham McCully as secretary of the Oak Island Association during its attempts to locate treasure on Oak Island from 1862 to 1863. The letters are all written to McCully from engineers and officials at the money pit site, describing problems encountered during the drilling, and also from several shareholders describing potential financial problems. Fonds also includes documents concerning an Oak Island Association meeting in Truro in 1864, and plans and a report from engineers on how to stop the flooding of water in the money pit in 1867.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Robert E. Pollard in 2001.

Arrangement

Arranged in chronological order.

Alternative form available

Available on microfilm 23,563

Restrictions on access

The originals are restricted and researchers should use the microfilm version.

Finding aids

"Item list available.":<http://novascotia.ca/archives/lists/jotham-blanchard-mccully-fonds.pdf>

Related material

Related records on the hunt for Oak Island treasure are found in R.V. Harris fonds - MG 1 vol. 337-390; 1542; microfilm reel 12,188 / Robert Norwood fonds _ Accessions: 1987-480, 1987-481, 1991-447; Textual records: MG 1, Vol. 1592D and SMI material: Fc2151-2153 / Reports on meetings of the Oak Island Association are found in the Novascotian, 1863 [Jan. 12, p. 2; April 27, p. 3; May 25, p.3; Aug. 24, p. 3.]

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
2001-025/001-01	Item - Record of work on Oak Island notebook	30 August 1862 - 30 March 1863		
2001-025/001-02	Item - Record of work on Oak Island notebook	1 September 1862 - 25 March 1863		

2001-025/001-03	Item - List of amounts due for wages of Oak Island labourers and a summary of liabilities	[1863]
2001-025/001-04a	Item - Letter from G.I. Farish <u>Note:</u> Correspondence sent to McCully re: progress of digging on Oak Island, state of company finances, list of stockholders	11 December 1862
2001-025/001-04b	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence sent to McCully re: progress of digging on Oak Island, state of company finances, list of stockholders	17 December [1862]
2001-025/001-04c	Item - Letter from R.B. Brown to J.B. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence sent to McCully re: progress of digging on Oak Island, state of company finances, list of stockholders	19 December 1862
2001-025/001-04d	Item - List of stockholders <u>Note:</u> Correspondence sent to McCully re: progress of digging on Oak Island, state of company finances, list of stockholders	19 December 1862
2001-025/001-04e	Item - Letter from R.B. Brown to J.B. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence sent to McCully re: progress of digging on Oak Island, state	20 December 1862

	of company finances, list of stockholders	
2001-025/001-04f	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence sent to McCully re: progress of digging on Oak Island, state of company finances, list of stockholders	22 December 1862
2001-025/001-05a	Item - Letter from R.B. Brown to J.B. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: progress of digging new pit, transport of equipment, workmen's wages, other financial issues, list of stockholders	5 January 1863
2001-025/001-05b	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: progress of digging new pit, transport of equipment, workmen's wages, other financial issues, list of stockholders	7 January 1863
2001-025/001-05c	Item - Letter from Charles S. Sterns to Mr. James McNaught <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: progress of digging new pit, transport of equipment, workmen's wages, other financial issues, list of stockholders	17 January 1863
2001-025/001-05d	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u>	19 January 1863

	Correspondence to McCully re: progress of digging new pit, transport of equipment, workmen#s wages, other financial issues, list of stockholders	
2001-025/001-05e	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: progress of digging new pit, transport of equipment, workmen#s wages, other financial issues, list of stockholders	23 January [1863]
2001-025/001-05f	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: progress of digging new pit, transport of equipment, workmen#s wages, other financial issues, list of stockholders	26 January 1863
2001-025/001-06a	Item - Letter from W. Gormley <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems with digging, more money required; dissatisfaction with progress	7 February 1863
2001-025/001-06b	Item - Letter from W. Gormley <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems with digging, more money required; dissatisfaction with progress	9 February 1863
2001-025/001-06c	Item - Letter from R.B. Brown to J.B. McCully <u>Note:</u>	20 February 1863

	Correspondence to McCully re: problems with digging, more money required; dissatisfaction with progress	
2001-025/001-06d	Item - Letter from G.I. Farish <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems with digging, more money required; dissatisfaction with progress	16 April 1863
2001-025/001-07a	Item - Statement of account of the Oak Island Company to Thomas Mitchell and the Chebucto Foundry <u>Note:</u> Miscellaneous documents	26 May 1863
2001-025/001-07b	Item - Halifax list of assessment paid on stock in Oak Island Association <u>Note:</u> Miscellaneous documents	4 July 1863
2001-025/001-07c	Item - Arbitration bond between T. Mitchell and the Oak Island Association <u>Note:</u> Miscellaneous documents	23 July 1863
2001-025/001-09a	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems managing stock information and suggestions for stopping water in the money pit	[1863]
2001-025/001-09b	Item - Letter from W. Gormley to Mr. J.B. McCully <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems managing stock information and suggestions	1 September 1863

	for stopping water in the money pit	
2001-025/001-09c	Item - Letter from A. O. Creighton <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems managing stock information and suggestions for stopping water in the money pit	3 September 1863
2001-025/001-09d	Item - Letter from A. O. Creighton <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems managing stock information and suggestions for stopping water in the money pit	5 September 1863
2001-025/001-09e	Item - Letter from A. O. Creighton <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems managing stock information and suggestions for stopping water in the money pit	8 September 1863
2001-025/001-09f	Item - Letter for G.I. Farish <u>Note:</u> Correspondence to McCully re: problems managing stock information and suggestions for stopping water in the money pit	7 September 1863
2001-025/001-10a	Item - Copy of an oath to be sworn at a meeting <u>Note:</u> Miscellaneous corporate documents.	1864
2001-025/001-10b	Item - Notice of meeting sent from I. Birrell to Mr. McCully <u>Note:</u>	22 August 1864

	Miscellaneous corporate documents.	
2001-025/001-10c	Item - Copy of a resolution of the Oak Island Association <u>Note:</u> Miscellaneous corporate documents.	22 August 1864
2001-025/001-11a	Item - Plan of borings on Oak Island / drawn by John Browne <u>Note:</u> Plans	1867
2001-025/001-11b	Item - Plan for Stopping the Water Drain on Oak Island / Charles Ross <u>Note:</u> Plans	1867
2001-025/001-11c	Item - Report to Directors of the Oak Island Company from John Browne re: his attempt to find treasure in the money pit the preceding two months and his conclusion the there is no treasure <u>Note:</u> Plans	1867