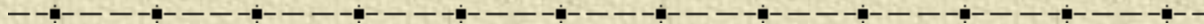


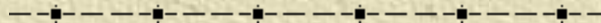


Our Men in Canada
U.S. Consular Offices and Agents in Ontario
1892-1892



by

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Study Overview

- ✦ Component of larger project devoted to U.S. economic and leisure-related activities in Cobourg, Lake Muskoka, and Lake of the Woods regions of Ontario during the late 19th and early 20th centuries
- ✦ Primary Source Material for Study
 - ◆ United States. Department of State. “Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Port Hope, Canada, 1882-1906,” General Records of the Department of State; National Archives at College Park – Archives II, College Park, MD
- ✦ Other Selected Sources Consulted
 - ◆ U.S. and Canadian statistical data
 - ◆ U.S. and Canadian newspaper articles from the period
 - ◆ Government publications, books, and journal articles related to the U.S. Consular Service, Canada-U.S. relations, tariffs
 - ◆ Biographies

Questions Addressed in Study

- (1) What activities did the consular agents perform in their official capacities?
- (2) What types of formal and informal interactions did the agents have with their superiors in Washington, DC?
- (3) How much freedom were the agents given by their superiors in Washington, DC, to make decisions on their own?
- (4) What types of formal and informal interactions did the agents have with their Canadian hosts (e.g., exporters, local residents, government officials)?

U.S. Consular Service

- ✦ Consuls-general
- ✦ Vice-consuls-general
- ✦ Deputy consuls-general
- ✦ Consuls
- ✦ Vice-consuls
- ✦ Deputy consuls
- ✦ Consular clerks
- ✦ Interpreters
- ✦ Marshals
- ✦ Clerks at consulates
- ✦ Commercial Agents
- ✦ Vice-commercial agents
- ✦ Consular agents

Classification of Consular Offices

✦ “Schedule B” (1st class)

- ◆ Fixed salary; *were not allowed* to transact business

✦ “Schedule C” (2nd class)

- ◆ Fixed salary; *were allowed* to transact business

✦ “Not included in Schedules B or C” (3d class)

- ◆ Compensated by fees collected in their offices; *were allowed* to transact business

U.S. Consular Offices in Canada

✦ Consuls-general

◆ Supervised consuls

- Halifax, Nova Scotia; Montreal; Ottawa (later)

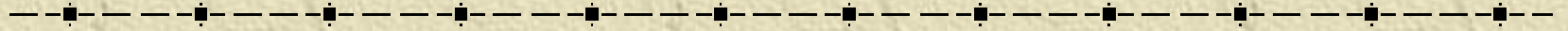
✦ Consular districts

◆ Consulates

◆ Consular agencies

- Situated in localities in which some consular business transacted but not enough business to require a full consulate

Consulates-General, Consulates and Commercial Agencies in Canada as of 1886



Consulates-General

Halifax
Montreal

Consulates

Amherstburg
Bathurst
Belleville
Brunswick
Charlottetown (P.E.I.)
Fort Erie
Gaspé Basin
Guelph

Hamilton
Kingston (Ontario)
Port Sarnia
Quebec
Saint John (New Brunswick)
Saint John's (Newfoundland)
Sherbrooke
St. John's (Quebec)
Three Rivers (Canada)
Toronto
Windsor (Nova Scotia)
Windsor (Ontario)
Winnipeg (British North America)

Commercial Agencies

Brockville
Collingwood
Goderich
Hull
Moncton
Ottawa
Port Hope
Port Rowan
Woodstock
Yarmouth

Consular Officers

✧ Qualifications

- ◆ Oath of office supplied by the Dept. of State
- ◆ Bond

✧ Political appointees

- ◆ Consular-generals and consuls appointed by President with Senate's consent
- ◆ Consular agent's appointed by State Dept. on consul's recommendation

✧ British subjects often filled subordinate positions

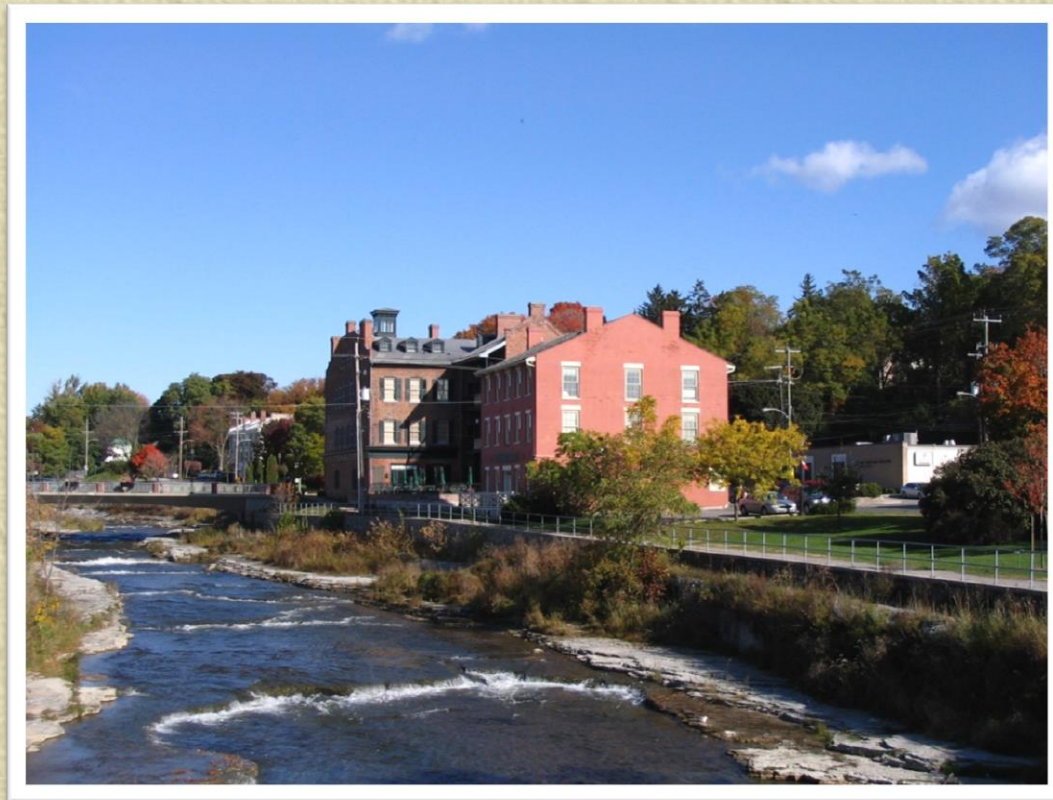
✧ Widely varying degrees of expertise

Selected Consulates and Commercial Agencies in Southern Ontario, 1886



Source: Google Maps

Port Hope, Ontario



Port Hope Commercial Agency

- ✦ Commercial agency of the “**third class**”
 - ◆ Agency could transact business
 - ◆ Agent compensated via fees collected by the agency
- ✦ One subordinate office => Cobourg
- ✦ Other consular offices in vicinity:
 - ◆ Peterborough (27 miles to north)
 - ◆ Belleville (approx. 52 miles to east)

Communications between Port Hope and Washington, DC

✦ Means of Communications

- ✦ Written dispatches
 - 3 to 4 days to reach intended recipient
- ✦ Telegraph (urgent messages)
- ✦ Telephone (later development)

✦ “Circulars”

✦ *Regulations Prescribed for the Use of the Consular Service of the United States*

- ✦ Directives related to content, format, and transmission of official consular correspondence

Port Hope Consular Activities

- ✦ Issuance of consular certificates for all shipments over \$100
- ✦ Compile reports and respond to other requests for information from U.S. Dept. of State
 - ◆ Agriculture, immigration, use of American refrigerators
- ✦ Processing of pensions
- ✦ Canadian emigration (e.g., review of names, etc.)
- ✦ Notary services (mostly at Cobourg office)

Problems at Port Hope Consular Officers

-
- ✦ Jurisdictional & personality issues
 - ◆ “Egg wars” (\$30): Port Hope vs. Belleville
 - Rev. Dutcher vs. Col. Strong
 - Compensation based upon fees collected
 - ◆ Close proximity of consular offices, esp. in southern Ontario
 - ✦ Shippers and importers evading tariff regulations
 - ◆ Lack of coordination between U.S. governmental agencies
 - ✦ Repeated reclassification of consular offices

Conclusion

- ✦ Port Hope Commercial Agency capable of providing useful information and services to clientele
- ✦ Positive aspects of Agency often overshadowed by jurisdictional and other disputes

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