

## Slade fonds. - 1807 - 1861. - 84 cm textual material.

### *Administrative history*

The Slade family were merchants of Poole and Newfoundland. John Slade of Poole established in Newfoundland in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The business was originally headquartered at Twillingate, moving later to Fogo and expanding north to Battle Harbour. Slade's chief agent at Fogo and only son, John Slade Jr., died of smallpox in 1773, and John Slade's four nephews were brought into the business. When John Sr. died in 1792 his estate was divided among a cousin and four nephews. Robert Slade (1768 - 1833), son of "maltster and brewer" James Slade, acquired a portion of John Slade's estate. Robert had apprenticed as a clerk for his uncle in the counting house at Poole and subsequently worked at Twillingate, becoming manager of John Slade & Company's trade at Battle Harbour.

Robert Slade left John Slade & Company of Poole in 1804 to establish his own business at Trinity. He bought a house there and leased a mercantile premises belonging to John Jeffrey on the west side of the harbour near Hog's Nose. By 1833 the Slade Plantation occupied large premises and wharfs on both shores of Hog's Nose, and at Maggoty Cove, which included a cooperage and a forge. The company owned and operated a number of schooners and was involved in the seal and salt fish fisheries. The firm expanded to Catalina in 1813, Heart's Content in 1817 and Hant's Harbour in 1835. Robert Slade ran the firm from its head office in Poole and employed agents to manage the branch at Trinity. Joseph Gover was manager from 1804 - 1809, William Kelson from 1809 - 1851, Alexander Warren Bremner from 1851 - 1861. The firm went through a number of changes in ownership from 1804 - 1861, which are reflected in the name changes: Robert Slade, 1804 - 1822; Slade and Kelson, 1822 - 1837; Executors of the late Robert Slade Sr. 1837 - 1850; Robert Slade & Company, 1850 - 1861. Robert Slade died in 1833, and five years later, the firm was taken over by his sons, Robert, Thomas and James under the name of the "Executors of the late Robert Slade". Kelson retired in 1851, and from then on the firm was known as Robert Slade and Company. Robert Slade's three sons all died at a young age and Robert Slade & Company went out of business in 1861. Alexander Bremner acquired the premises at Catalina and his son, Alexander W. Bremner, who had managed the firm at Trinity since 1851, bought the Trinity trade.

Source: Administrative History taken from the Guide to the Mercantile Records held at the Maritime History Archive, MUN

### *Custodial history*

The original material in the fonds was collected by Walter G. C. White, founding member and corresponding secretary of the Trinity Historical Society, and William White.

Collection Books, 1840 and 1847 were returned to Trinity Historical Society Archives by Mark Allston formerly of Trinity now of Orleans, Ontario in September 2003.

### *Scope and content*

The fonds consists of original and photocopied records of this important firm's business at Trinity from 1807 - 1861. The most complete series are a set of daily diaries, 1809 - 1852 written by William Kelson, agent for Robert Slade at Trinity. The diaries provide an account of the business as well as providing details on the social life of the town. The fonds also includes account books,

ledgers and fish collection books, which give insight into the various aspects of Slade's mercantile operation, and the independent fishermen with whom he did business. Letter books and correspondence, 1809 - 1858, provide details of the management of the business. The fonds is arranged in three series. Series 1: Financial records, 1807 - 1861; Series 2: Diaries, 1809 - 1852; Series 3: Correspondence, 1809 - 1858.

#### *Notes*

Supplied title based on provenance.

The photocopied material was acquired by Walter White, copied from the original material in the possession of the McGrath's of Trinity and at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL).

Original diaries for 1822 - 1828, 1843 - 1848, and 1848 - 1852 were donated to the Trinity Historical Society by Catherine and Margaret Mcgrath in August of 2005.

Other records of the same provenance are held at the Maritime History Archive (Slade Papers, 1791 - 1852) and the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL).

#### **Series 1: Financial records. - 1807 - 1861. - 33cm.**

Includes photocopies of an account book, and ledgers, 1807 - 1808 and 1820; 7 volumes of collection books for 1840 - 1852; Robert Slade in account with Brooking and Son Co., 1855; Day books, 1856 - 1858; account books, 1857 - 1859; balance due, 1858; cash book, 1861.

##### 1.01 Account books, 1807 - 1808, 1857 - 1858.

Records the expenses and income of the business.

1.01.001 Account book, 1807 - 1808

1.01.002 Account book, 1857 - 1858

##### 1.02 Ledger index and Ledgers, 1807 - 1820.

Ledgers contain individual accounts of persons doing business with the merchant. The accounts records debit and credit on each account.

1.02.001 Ledger index, 1807 - 1808

1.02.002 Ledger, 1807 - 1808 (part 1 of 3)

1.02.003 Ledger, 1807 - 1808 (part 2 of 3)

1.02.004 Ledger, 1807 - 1808 (part 3 of 3)

1.02.005 Ledger, 1820

##### 1.03 Collection books, 1844 - 1852.

Records the amount of dry fish, seal blubber, seal pelts, train oil etc. received at the business from the fisherman and the amount it was worth. Items were collected at Trinity, Catalina, Heart's Content and Hant's Harbour.

- 1.03.001 Collection book, 1840
- 1.03.002 Collection book, 1844
- 1.03.003 Collection book, 1845
- 1.03.004 Collection book, 1846
- 1.03.005 Collection book, 1847
- 1.03.006 Collection book, 1851

1.04 Robert Slade and Co. in account with Brooking and Sons Co., 1855.

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1.05 Day books, 1856 - 1858.

A record of the sales to each customer, listing the name, what was purchased and the cost.

- 1.05.001 Day book, 1856 (same as Grieve and Bremner 6.20 Debt Book).
- 1.05.002 Day book, 1857 - 1858

1.06 Balance Due, 1844, 1858.

Lists the names of people and the amount of money that is due to the business. (Same as Grieve and Bremner 6.16.001 Cooperage account book, 1875 - 1884).

1.07 Cash book, 1861.

The amount of cash that is collected each day for each item that is sold. (Same as Grieve and Bremner 6.09.001 Account book, 1870 - 1871).

Location: Mercantile Records Box 1, bound volumes are on the shelf.

**Series 2: Diaries. - 1809 - 1852. - 52 cm.**

The Slade diaries contain a day to day account of Slade's business at Trinity, as well as general information on the state of the fishery, shipping, weather and comings and goings in the community. Sometimes entitled "Remarks" and at other times "Occurrences", the diaries were kept by William Kelson, the manager for the company at Trinity from 1809 - 1851. The series includes a complete set of photocopied diaries from 1809 - 1852, and six original volumes, 1822 - 1828, 1827 - 1829, 1835 - 1839, 1839 - 1843, 1843 - 1848, and 1848 - 1852.

- 2.01 Oct 25, 1809 - Jan 1, 1810
- 2.02 Jan 2, 1810 - Jan 10, 1811
- 2.03 Jan 11, 1811 - Jan 5, 1812
- 2.04 Jan 6, 1812 - Jan 1, 1813
- 2.05 Jan 2, 1813 - Jan 6, 1814
- 2.06 Jan 7, 1814 - Jan 4, 1815
- 2.07 Jan 5, 1815 - Dec 30, 1815
- 2.08 Jan 10, 1816 - Jan 8, 1817

Location: Mercantile Records Box 1.

- 2.09 Jan 9, 1817 - Jan 9, 1818
- 2.10 Jan 10, 1818 - Jan 11, 1819
- 2.11 Jan 12, 1819 - Jan 04, 1820
- 2.12 Jan 5, 1820 - Dec 31, 1820
- 2.13 Jan 1, 1821 - Jan 4, 1822
- 2.14 Jan 5, 1822 - Jan 1, 1823
- 2.15 Jan 2, 1823 - Jan 2, 1824
- 2.16 Jan 3, 1824 - Jan 2, 1825
- 2.17 Jan 3, 1825 - Jan 6, 1826
- 2.18 Jan 7, 1826 - Jan 1, 1827
- 2.19 Jan 2, 1827 - Jan 1, 1828
- 2.20 Jan 2, 1828 - Dec 31, 1828
- 2.21 Jan 1, 1829 - Jan 1, 1830
- 2.22 Jan 2, 1830 - Jan 1, 1831

Location: Mercantile Records Box 2.

- 2.23 Jan 2, 1831 - Jan 2, 1832
- 2.24 Jan 3, 1832 - Jan 3, 1833
- 2.25 Jan 4, 1833 - Dec 31, 1833
- 2.26 Jan 1, 1834 - Dec 21, 1834
- 2.27 Jan 1, 1835 - Jan 2, 1836
- 2.28 Jan 3, 1836 - Dec 31, 1836
- 2.29 Jan 1, 1837 - Jan 3, 1838
- 2.30 Jan 4, 1838 - Jan 4, 1839
- 2.31 Jan 5, 1839 - Jan 3, 1840
- 2.32 Jan 4, 1840 - Jan 3, 1841

Location: Mercantile Records Box 3.

- 2.33 Jan 4, 1841 - Jan 4, 1842
- 2.34 Jan 5, 1842 - Jan 4, 1843
- 2.35 Jan 4, 1843 - Jan 3, 1844
- 2.36 Jan 3, 1844 - Jan 4, 1845
- 2.37 Jan 5, 1845 - Jan 2, 1846
- 2.38 Jan 3, 1846 - Jan 4, 1847
- 2.39 Jan 5, 1847 - Jan 2, 1848
- 2.40 Jan 3, 1848 - Jan 2, 1849
- 2.41 Jan 3, 1849 - Dec 31, 1849
- 2.42 Jan 1, 1850 - Jan 9, 1851
- 2.43 Jan 10, 1851 - Jan 3, 1852
- 2.44 Jan 4, 1852 - April 10, 1852

Location: Mercantile Records Box 4.

- 2.45 Nov 21, 1822 - June 17, 1828
- 2.46 Jan 14, 1827 - April 15, 1829
- 2.47 May 30, 1835 - Jan 30, 1839
- 2.48 Jan 31, 1839 - March 13, 1843
- 2.49 Nov 14, 1843 - Nov 25 1848
- 2.50 Nov 26, 1848 - April 10, 1852

Location: Mercantile Records Box 5 and 5a.

**Series 3: Correspondence. - 1809 - 1858. - 7 cm.**

This series includes photocopies of a letter book, 1809 - 1810, chiefly containing letters from William Kelson Sr. the Slade agent or manager at Trinity to the proprietor, Robert Slade at Poole, England; correspondence to Slade and Kelson 1827 - 1828, 1855, 1858; a photocopied letter book containing letters signed Slade and Kelson, which is mainly business correspondence, 1830 - 1831; an "obligation to pay" Benjamin Bugden to Robert Slade, 1835, (met in 1855); a piece of correspondence from Slade and Kelson to Richard Ash, 1840 and a few pieces of original correspondence addressed to Mr. Robert Slade at Trinity, 1847, 1853 - 1855.

3.01 Letter book, 1809 - 1810.

Letters from William Kelson Sr., the Slade agent or manager at Trinity to the proprietor, Robert Slade at Poole, England. The letters contain details of the business that is taking place at Trinity, the state of the premises, the seal hunt and the price of fish.

3.02 Correspondence sent to Slade and Kelson, 1827 - 1828, 1855, 1858.

Various pieces of correspondence that was sent to Slade and Kelson from Alexander Bremner at Catalina, W. Blandford at Greenspond and Garland Laidley of Lisbon concerning various business and the market for cod.

3.03 Business correspondence, 1830 - 1831.

A photocopied letter book containing letters signed by Slade and Kelson to Robert Slade Sr. The letters contain information on the business at Trinity, a list of supplies wanted at Trinity, a list of clerks and servants that were engaged at the business in Trinity, Catalina and Heart's Content..

3.04 "Obligation to Pay," 1835, 1855.

An obligation to pay notice to Benjamin Bugden, Heart's Content for his debt to Slade and Kelson. An indenture dated November 6, 1855 between Benjamin Bugden and Robert and James Slade.

3.05 Correspondence from William Kelson to Richard Ash, Heart's Content, 1840.

3.06 Correspondence addressed to Robert Slade at Trinity, 1847, 1853 - 1855, 1858.

Correspondence originating in Catalina and Lisbon which contains details on the business in Catalina and the markets for cod in Lisbon.

3.07 Correspondence addressed to Robert Slade at Trinity, 1830, 1831.

Location: Mercantile Records Box 5.