

P061 – Fonds Jean-Étienne (Stephen) Fournier

2003 (originals 1886-1908)

[745 electronic images](#)

Biographical Sketch: Jean Étienne Fournier (1852-1929) also known as Stephen by the Anglophone community, was a businessman and the first Mayor of the Town of Sudbury. He was born in Trois-Pistoles Québec. Fournier worked on railway construction at Petawawa before he worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) as the Warehouse Manager at Chalk River.

In 1884, Fournier arrived in Sudbury, and worked as the Postmaster, a position that he held until 1897. He opened the first General Store in Sudbury in 1885, after he resigned from his position as Warehouse Manager with CPR. In the same year, he was elected Reeve of the Township of McKim. When Sudbury was established as a town in 1893, he was elected as Mayor of the town, and was re-elected in 1896. The following year, he worked as Town Clerk. Fournier was an active member of the community. He was a member of the first School Board for public and separate schools in the region (1886-1916), and he was a founding member of Collège Sacré Coeur de Sudbury (1913).

Fournier was married to Vitaline Ouellette (1858-1895), and together they had nine children. Jean Étienne Fournier was remarried in 1898 to Mademoiselle L. Lanthier.

Scope and content: The book of correspondence from Jean Étienne Fournier consists of almost exclusively, his business correspondence. This correspondence highlights activities that took place in the early years in Sudbury. The 749 pages of correspondence also provide insight to the workings of a general store in terms of purchasing and accounts receivable. The numerous letters in the book refer to his role as Postmaster, Warehouse Manager and Insurance Agent. Certain facts and events with regard to the School Board and individual schools are documented.

Notes: Physical Condition: The original is in poor condition. Some of the followings elements are of note: Some pages are missing and not all letters are in chronological order. Page 623.1 is actually page 623 and is dated May 10th 1900 and pages 623.2 and 623.3 contain a letter dated May 11th 1900 and have been inserted before page 624 which contains a letter dated May 12th 1900. Pages 623.2 and 623.3 are actually numbered 354 and 355 respectively. These pages have been added from another correspondence book.

Conservation: Due to the fragile state of conservation of the original, the book of correspondence was scanned.

Original documents were scanned in colour JPEG format. Contrast and brightness settings were adjusted for some pages to make them more readable. Many pages in the original book of correspondence are barely visible but even these pages were scanned.

Immediate source of acquisition: The Jean Étienne Fournier fonds was kept with the Sudbury Historical Society fonds, which was donated by the Sudbury Public Library to Laurentian University Archives in 1998.

Language of material: Somme of the correspondence is in French.

Location of the originals: Laurentian University Archives

Restrictions on access: Only the electronic format is accessible.

Related Material: P112 Fonds du Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario may contain complementary information.