

YUKON ARCHIVES TEXTUAL RECORDS TRANSCRIPT

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File Title: [Two letters from J.B. Tyrrell to his daughter Mary Dalton]  
Transcriber: Cataloguer  
Note: This transcript is provided to assist with accessibility of the original records. It is not a substitute for consulting the original records. Information in square brackets [ ] provided by Archivist.

**Abstract**

Two letters from Joseph Burr Tyrrell to his daughter Mrs. Mary Dalton, March 1957, while she was visiting her daughter, Mrs. M.E. Auckland, in Whitehorse, Yukon. Both are typed on Tyrrell's personal letterhead.

The letters mention reminiscences of Tyrrell's time (pre-1907) in Yukon. One memory involves Colonel Sam Steele dispensing justice. Another involves the springtime flowers blooming in Dawson City.

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14 WALMER ROAD  
TORONTO, CANADA

March 18th, 1957.

Dear Mary:

I was glad to receive your letter of March 25<sup>th</sup><sup>1</sup> and to know you are having an interesting time in the Yukon.

Probably I may have known some of the persons you mention but I am afraid I have a bad memory for names. In fact when I had a Company of the "Guards" in Ottawa I used to have to take photographs of them to remember who was who.

However, I think I do remember Mr. Dempster, Ex R.C.M.P, who was there with Colonel Steel [Steele]. I knew Colonel Steel [Steele] very well, and he treated me with the greatest of kindness, although without any particular favoritism. He made a wonderfully just Magistrate for the Dawson District during the first years I was there.

I remember a Frenchman coming into my house one day and I said to him that it was some little time since I had seen him, and he replied that just that morning he had been at the Police Court before Colonel Steel [Steele] on the charge of shooting a dog. I asked him why he shot the dog and he said he didn't shoot it but had carried a gun through the town, which he should not have done, and as the dog was found dead he was fined \$50.00. I asked him if he paid the fine and he said "certainly, I should not have had the gun." Nobody seemed to have any doubt about the justice of Colonel Steel's [Steele's] decisions.

Give my kindest regards to any old Klondikers who were in the Yukon before 1906, as we would doubtless have know [known] each other if we were to meet, but I am afraid there is not much chance of our doing so now.

Tell Edith I am sitting in the sun-soom [room] stirring my tea with one of the Yukon spoons which they sent me for Christmas.

Love to all of you, from,

Your affectionate Father,

[signed] J.B. Tyrrell

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<sup>1</sup> Letter is dated March 18, yet Tyrrell states he received Mary's letter of March 25.

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14 WALMER ROAD,  
TORONTO.

March 25th, 1957.

My Dear Mary:

It just occurred to me that when I was in Dawson in the Springtime I often went up the hillsides that were exposed to the sun and about the middle of April I usually found some early flowers in bloom. Now that would be several hundred miles north of Whitehorse, so I think the hill and mountain sides there which are exposed to the sun this year will probably have flowers blooming on them in April, and you would probably be able to see them if you took the opportunity to go see them,- and I think it would be well worth your while to stay long enough to seem them up there.

At the moment we have a wonderful bunch of McIntosh blossoms just bursting into bloom which give promise of a bumper crop in that particular variety anyway.

Hoping you are enjoying your visit and will come back to us refreshed and better for you trip, with love,

Your affectionate father,

[signed] J.B. Tyrrell

[end of transcript]