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eyes - but they will not be so lasting - I have
been informed that the Regiment is to proceed to
England immediately - once more Adieu

Mrs. Maria Hamilton
not to be opened till
the 1st of Feb

1540

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This letter was a wedding present to my Great-Great Grandmother Maria Hamilton from her Grandmother Hannah Jarvis. The significance of this letter is indicated on the outside specifying "not to be opened ^{at all} on the lake" and its worth is self-evident.

Peter Gupomin
Halifax
February 1979

London April 27th 1840

My Dear Maria

You are about entering into a new line of life - you have chosen the Army - which separates you from all your Relations - you will travel and see the world perhaps more than you would wish - you will meet many temptations and more temptors if possible - let not flattery swerve you from your duty - you will receive plenty of it - never suffer yourself to be alone in the company of a man who has dared to insult you - one look from you - if properly given - will be more powerful than an hundred words - never argue with a villain - let your own conduct be so determined that it may be seen you have full confidence in yourself - if you complain to your husband of any one, he must notice it - then follows a duel - therefore you endanger his life which ought to be dear to you - never be tempted to play any game for money - it will lead you into many difficulties - remember if you do wrong, that the disgrace does not fall on you alone - your husband - children, brothers, sisters & friends all suffer - such conduct I trust you have too much pride and good sense to follow - the fate of Mrs. Stuart should be a warning to you - her sisters still feel the blow as long as they live - few men will like to enter into a frail family - In the Army are many moral good men & women

and also many who are deficient in every thing that is good - I hope in God that your lot is cast in the first Class - that love and affection has been your guide - and that you have well considered the solemn promise you are to make in the presence of your God - that it is to be performed in every situation - in sickness, death - affluence - want - in sunshine or cloudy weather - still it must be your duty to be a faithful wife to him & him only have you sworn before God to obey & love. Remember the fourth Commandment keep it Holy - let God be your first consideration - next your Husband - if you see he dislikes you to talk familiarly with any gentleman - treat them with politeness but draw off by degrees - some men cannot bear to have their Wives noticed too much by other men - avoid rousing that green-eyed monster - once roused it is always ready to start up on all occasions - just or unjust - Show the world that you respect your Husband and that you expect others to do the same - never call him by his Christian name in company or before servants - for in so doing you gives others the habit to do the same - which is dis-respect - My Dear - Love see I do not like in company - I always think that so much sweet before the world - has its bitter behind the curtain - your Husband is your Protector & legal advisor - never deceive him in any case - let your ac-

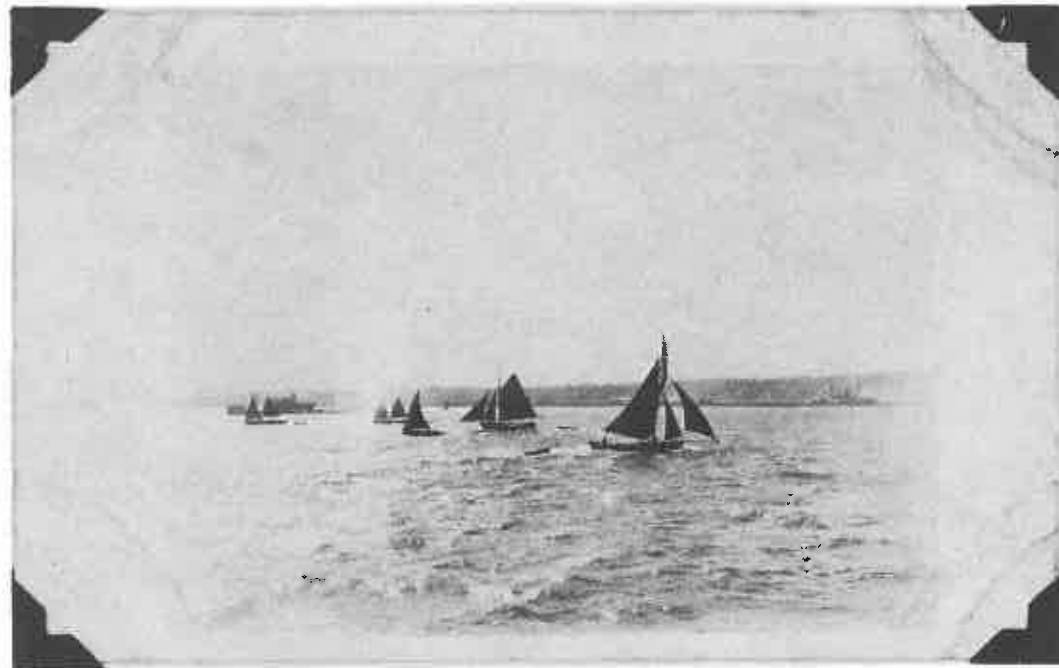
tions be open to him - take his advice in all things - except to do evil - never do any thing that will give him pain - of all things have no confidants either man or woman - but your Husband - all others will sooner or later betray you - if he is a man of Honor & sees or knows you confide in him he will shame you the more - and will trust you in return - never spend money before you consult him - if he has nothing but his Pay it will require a good economy to keep out of Debt - if he has plenty it is probable that he will allow you sufficient to satisfy a reasonable woman - it is better to be under the mark, that in case of any disaster there may be a residue for relief.

My dear Child when once you quit Canada - you and I will never meet in this world - I hope we may in the next - Remember your old grandmother - she did the best she could for you while under her care - she hopes she instilled into your heart the seeds of Religion and that you will keep the Sabbath day Holy
farewell - Hannah David
* A due attention to your dress and appearance - is necessary but avoid finery it belongs not to a lady - it is adopted by the frivolous - I mention your clothes & those of your Husband shows a truly wife - stockings I think you can do well - and housekeeping you have had some experience in improve yourself in whatever you have been taught at school particularly in Drawing - and let your reading be such as will improve your mind - say history - Poets only occur

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Acknowledgements

Eye Level gallery
1672 Barrington Street
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The Canada Council
The Nova Scotia Dept. of Recreation