

Name: _____

Date: _____

Newmarket Museum



MEMO TO MUSEUM STAFF:

As you know, we have been creating an exhibit at the Newmarket Museum called "Canadian Women During the 18th and 19th Centuries." Thank you to all staff for your helpful contributions of inspiring women, as well as artifact suggestions.

Our new exhibit will include displays on:

- **Rose Fortune:** First female police officer in Canada.
- **Lady Aberdeen:** President of the National Council of Women of Canada (1893-99).
- **Emily Pauline Johnson:** Mohawk poet and published author.
- **Dr. Emily Stowe:** First female doctor in Canada.
- **The Famous Five:** Women suffragettes who fought for Canadian women to become "persons" and have the right to vote.

We also want to include some artifacts about everyday working women, specifically women in factories. *The museum has recently been given two old letters that were allegedly written by girls working at the Newmarket Paper Mill in the 1840s.* Early tests dating the age of the ink used to write the letters suggests that one, or both, letters may be fakes.

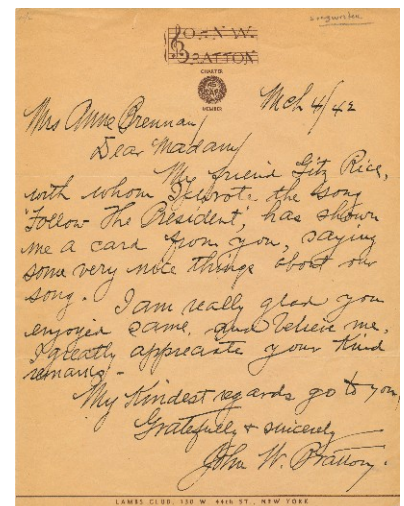
As experts in the field of Canadian history, I would like you to **read through the copies of both letters** (the originals are obviously being kept safe) and **decide whether or not they are real.** You can **report your results** using the attached form.

I look forward to hearing your results.

Yours sincerely,

K. Kukurudza

Museum Director





Letter One:

November 1, 1840

Dear Mother,

You will perhaps be surprised to hear from me so soon but I do not write on my own account. I must come right to the point as I am in a great hurry. Sarah Merrill has been sick several weeks but is now recovering. She had an accident at the factory, an issue with one of the boilers. She was very badly injured. She wishes for me to send word that the worst is over and that the doctor said that she will be able to return to her daily schedule in a matter of a fortnight.

The owners of the factory have been quite terrible about the whole thing, they refuse to pay her wages and are still asking her to pay her weekly board. With the recent pay cuts, poor Sarah can hardly be expected to oblige. Will you please ask her Father to send a few dollars as soon as he can, I believe the exact amount she owes is \$4.68.

The girls at the factory became inflamed last week when it became known that males working at the shoe-making factory down the street make as much as six cents more than we do each week. Six cents, imagine! There is talk of protests, and the girls meet each night at the boarding house to write letters to the editor of the newspaper. We will not stand for our low pay and long days any longer. And we will not stand for hard-working girls like Sarah being injured due to shoddy machinery.

I will let you know how things progress, Mother. Please do give my message to Sarah's family, and tell them that she sends her love.

Your Emeline



Letter Two:

Newmarket
June 13, 1847

Miriam,

I have got home. I arrived on the 5th and found my friends all well but I feel as lonesome as can be, for my part I had rather be in Lowell and be rung up every morning than to be here at home. I have not seen any one since I have got home, I shall be very glad when I get in the mill again. I am happy because the pay has gone up there and we all feel very well-treated. When the machines broke down last week the foreman placed a call in an' it was fixed straight-away, so we did not miss any time at all and were paid for the full day.

The boarding house is well, very chatty of course with all the girls. We have a nice, long two-hour break for dinner and this makes the workday feel nice and short. All in all, the work is easy and I have no cause to complain. Much better than working on a farm, I think. This way, I get paid as much as any man.

I want to hear from you soon as you receive this letter. I hope you will be as punctual about writing as I have been and that is all required of you. Please excuse all the writing errors. Write soon.

Yours with respect,
H.C. Warren



Report on Artifacts

TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM (please leave in her "In Bin").

Date:	Museum Staff: <i>(Your name)</i>
Letter One: From Emeline	Letter Two: From H.C. Warren
Realistic Details:	Realistic Details:
Cause for Concern:	Cause for Concern:
Final Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Real Artifact <input type="checkbox"/> Fake	Final Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Real Artifact <input type="checkbox"/> Fake