



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - Charles Macdonald fonds (MS-2-42, SF Box 24; SF Box 18, Folders 1-13)

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Charles Macdonald fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	Charles Macdonald fonds
Reference code:	MS-2-42, SF Box 24; SF Box 18, Folders 1-13
Date:	1859-1901 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	18 cm of textual records

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Charles Macdonald was born in Aberdeen in 1828 to Elizabeth and John Macdonald, a builder. He graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 1850, where he distinguished himself as the recipient of the Hutton Prize for the arts curriculum. After receiving his M.A., he studied divinity and became a licentiate in the Church of Scotland, but turned his energies to teaching. Macdonald was at the Aberdeen Grammar School in 1862 when he was selected by the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia as its nominee for the chair of mathematics at the newly re-opened Dalhousie College in Halifax.

Macdonald was a gifted and beloved teacher as well as a popular public speaker, giving lectures on such whimsical topics as “On Fun” as well as more contentious addresses on evolution and education. In 1882 he married Susan Morrow, who died after childbirth one year later. Macdonald did not remarry, raising his son as a single father.

Charles Macdonald passed away in 1901 at the age of seventy-two after contracting pneumonia. In his will he left \$2,000 to buy books for the university library, which prompted a movement among alumni to build a proper library in his honour. The Macdonald Library was built in 1914 and served as the university library until the 1970s.

Custodial history

The materials were accessioned by Dalhousie University Archives in 1970. The custodial history is unknown.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of handwritten and printed sermons and lectures and an open letter to the Chancellor of the University of Halifax (1877). It also includes a convocation address (1870) and the order of service for Macdonald's funeral (1901).

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

There are no access restrictions on these materials. All materials are open for research.

Conditions governing use

Materials created by Charles MacDonald are in the public domain. Materials do not circulate and must be used in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room.

Related material

See MS-1-Ref Box 72, Folders 31-32 for related material.

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Dalhousie University. Board of Governors.
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Clergy (subject)
- Correspondence (subject)
- Dalhousie University--Lectures and Addresses (subject)
- Dalhousie University--People (subject)
- Lectures and lecturing (subject)
- Nova Scotia--History--19th century (subject)

- Nova Scotia--History--20th century (subject)
- Personal archives (subject)
- Professors (subject)
- Speeches, addresses, etc. (subject)
- Universities and colleges--Faculty (subject)
- Sermons, English--Canada (subject)
- Aberdeen (Scotland) (place)
- Edinburgh (Scotland) (place)
- Halifax (N.S.) (place)

Collection holdings
