



## Dalhousie University Archives

### Finding Aid - George Lawson fonds (MS-2-159)

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# George Lawson fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Dalhousie University Archives
<b>Title:</b>	George Lawson fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	MS-2-159
<b>Date:</b>	1854-1895 (date of creation)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Physical description:</b>	7 cm of textual records (35 folders)

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

George Lawson was born 12 October 1827 at Newport, Scotland, to Alexander Lawson and Margaret McEwan. He was married first to Lucy Stapley (d. 1871) of Edinburgh, with whom he had two daughters. In 1876, five years after Stapley's death, he married Caroline Matilda Knox, née Jordan, in Halifax. Lawson was initially apprenticed to a solicitor, but was moved to study the natural and physical sciences at the University of Edinburgh. He received his DPhil from the University of Giessen and moved to Canada in 1858 to take up an appointment as professor of chemistry and natural history at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. During his time at Queen's he founded the Botanical Society of Canada (1860). In 1863 Lawson left Queen's to join the newly reorganized Dalhousie College as professor of chemistry and mineralogy, where he introduced laboratory work and field trips into his classes. Lawson lectured at the Halifax Medical College, helped to organize the Technological Institute of Halifax (1877), and was an avid supporter of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science (later the Nova Scotian Institute of Science). He was a charter member of the Royal Society of Canada, serving as its president in 1887–1888, and was involved in overseas organizations such as London's Royal Horticultural Society. Lawson died of a stroke in 1895.

### Custodial history

Fonds was acquired in two accessions (1972 and 1977). Custodial history is unknown.

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## Scope and content

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Fonds comprises off prints of Lawson's papers (1854-1894), a handwritten catalogue of Lawson's library, handwritten botanical observations (1891), a published program of a course of botany lectures, published testimonials (1874), and an obituary (1895).

## Notes

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### Title notes

### Arrangement

Fonds includes one series containing the bulk of the records, which are offprints. Files are arranged chronologically.

### Restrictions on access

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

### Conditions governing use

Materials do not circulate and must be used in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room.

### Related material

For correspondence between Lawson and Robert Bell, his former student and replacement as professor of chemistry and natural history at Queen's University, see the Robert Bell fonds (MS-2-361).

Alexander G. Russell's notes on Lawson's chemistry lectures can be found in the Alexander G. Russell fonds (MS-2-380).

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

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## Access points

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- Dalhousie University. Board of Governors.
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Botany--Study and teaching (subject)
- Catalogs (subject)
- Chemistry--Study and teaching (subject)
- Faculty papers (subject)
- Natural history--Study and teaching (subject)
- Offprints (subject)
- Personal archives (subject)
- Professors (subject)

- Universities and colleges--Faculty (subject)
  - Halifax (N.S.) (place)
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## Collection holdings

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### Series: Offprints

Title: Offprints

Date: 1854-1898 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series includes offprints of articles written by George Lawson.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records (30 folders)

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### File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 8 - On Aphis avenae

Title: On Aphis avenae

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 8

Date: [18-?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 8 pages

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### File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 9 - Remarks on the distinctive characteristics of Canadian spruces, species of Picea

Title: Remarks on the distinctive characteristics of Canadian spruces, species of Picea

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 9

Date: [18-?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 12 pages

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### File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 11 - On the occurrence of “Cinchonaceous glands” in Galiaceae and on the relation of that order to Cinchonaceae

Title: On the occurrence of “Cinchonaceous glands” in Galiaceae and on the relation of that order to Cinchonaceae

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 11

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Date: 1854 (date of creation)

Physical description: 9 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 12 - On the structure of Victoria regia**

Title: On the structure of Victoria regia

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 12

Date: 1855 (date of creation)

Physical description: 3 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 13 - Papers read to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh**

Title: Papers read to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 13

Date: 1858 (date of creation)

Physical description: 17 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 14 - Remarks on Lepas Anatifera**

Title: Remarks on Lepas Anatifera

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 14

Date: 1858 (date of creation)

Physical description: 3 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 15 - Some accounts of plants collected in the countries of Leeds and Grenville, Upper Canada, in July 1862**

Title: Some accounts of plants collected in the countries of Leeds and Grenville, Upper Canada, in July 1862

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 15

Date: 1863 (date of creation)

Physical description: 12 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 16 - Note on *Lemania variegata* of Agardh**

Title: Note on *Lemania variegata* of Agardh

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 16

Date: 1863 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 17 - Synopsis of Canadian ferns and filicoid plants**

Title: Synopsis of Canadian ferns and filicoid plants

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 17

Date: 1864 (date of creation)

Physical description: 32 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 18 - Botanical science : record of progress**

Title: Botanical science : record of progress

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 18

Date: 1864 (date of creation)

Physical description: 14 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 19 - Monograph of Ranunculaceae of the Dominion of Canada and adjacent parts of British America**

Title: Monograph of Ranunculaceae of the Dominion of Canada and adjacent parts of British America

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 19

Date: 1869 (date of creation)

Physical description: 36 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 20 - Inaugural lecture delivered at opening session of the Medical faculty of Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N.S.**

Title: Inaugural lecture delivered at opening session of the Medical faculty of Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N.S.

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 20

Date: 1870 (date of creation)

Physical description: 15 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 21 - The East Indian Herbarium of King's College, Windsor**

Title: The East Indian Herbarium of King's College, Windsor

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 21

Date: 1878 (date of creation)

Physical description: 11 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 22 - Notice of new and rare plants**

Title: Notice of new and rare plants

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 22

Date: 1882 (date of creation)

Physical description: 8 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 23 - On the northern limit of wildgrape vines**

Title: On the northern limit of wildgrape vines

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 23

Date: 1884 (date of creation)

Physical description: 8 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 24 - On the Canadian species of the genus Melilotus**

Title: On the Canadian species of the genus Melilotus

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 24

Date: 1885 (date of creation)

Physical description: 10 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 25 - Remarks on the flora of the northern shores of America ; with tabulated observations made my F.F. Payne on the seasonal development of plants at Cape Prince of Wales, Hudson Strait, during 1886**

Title: Remarks on the flora of the northern shores of America ; with tabulated observations made my F.F. Payne on the seasonal development of plants at Cape Prince of Wales, Hudson Strait, during 1886

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 25

Date: 1887 (date of creation)

Physical description: 6 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 26 - Presidential address: from the proceedings and transactions of the Royal Society of Canada**

Title: Presidential address: from the proceedings and transactions of the Royal Society of Canada

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 26

Date: 1888 (date of creation)

Physical description: 13 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 27 - On the Numphaeaceae**

Title: On the Numphaeaceae

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 27

Date: 1888 (date of creation)

Physical description: 25 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 28 - On the present state of botany in Canada, with suggestions as to promising lines of investigation, and a proposal for united effort in systematic observation throughout the several provinces and territories**

Title: On the present state of botany in Canada, with suggestions as to promising lines of investigation, and a proposal for united effort in systematic observation throughout the several provinces and territories

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 28

Date: 1891 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 29 - Notes for a flora of Nova Scotia**

Title: Notes for a flora of Nova Scotia

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 29

Date: 1891 (date of creation)

Physical description: 26 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 30 - Notice of a shower of fibrous substance at Gainsville, Florida**

Title: Notice of a shower of fibrous substance at Gainsville, Florida

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 30

Date: 1893 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 31 - Remarks on some features of the Kentucky Flora**

Title: Remarks on some features of the Kentucky Flora

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 31

Date: 1897-1898 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 32 - Address to the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, read at the opening meeting of session, 1894-95**

Title: Address to the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, read at the opening meeting of session, 1894-95

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 32

Date: 1894 (date of creation)

Physical description: 24 pages

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**Series: Personal papers of George Lawson**

Title: Personal papers of George Lawson

Date: 1874-1895 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series includes personal and research papers of George Lawson, including a catalogue of his library, testimonials, research materials regarding botany, and an obituary notice.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 10 - Program of a course of lectures on botany at the Royal Circus Institution for the Education of Young Ladies**

Title: Program of a course of lectures on botany at the Royal Circus Institution for the Education of Young Ladies

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 10

Date: [18--?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 8 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 7 - Catalogue of Lawson's library**

Title: Catalogue of Lawson's library

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 7

Date: [18--?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 33 - Testimonials in favour of George Lawson**

Title: Testimonials in favour of George Lawson

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 33

Date: 1874 (date of creation)

Physical description: 19 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 34 - Botanical observations**

Title: Botanical observations

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 34

Date: 1891 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains handwritten notes on various botanical observations.

Physical description: 18 pages

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**File: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 35 - Obituary notice of the late George Lawson published in the proceedings of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science**

Title: Obituary notice of the late George Lawson published in the proceedings of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science

Reference code: MS-2-159, SF Box 25, Folder 35

Date: 1895 (date of creation)

Physical description: 10 pages

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