



## Dalhousie University Archives

# Finding Aid - James De Mille and family fonds (MS-2-21)

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# James De Mille and family fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Dalhousie University Archives
<b>Title:</b>	James De Mille and family fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	MS-2-21
<b>Date:</b>	1834-1942 (date of creation)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Physical description:</b>	15 cm of textual records (21 folders). - 3 photographs.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Author and educator James De Mille was born 23 August 1833 in Saint John, New Brunswick, the third child born to Loyalists Nathan Smith De Mille and Elizabeth Budd. De Mille was educated at the Saint John Grammar School, Horton Academy and Acadia College. During 1850-1851 De Mille toured Europe and Britain with his brother, Elisha. He received an MA from Brown University, Rhode Island, in 1854. In 1858 he married Elizabeth Ann Pryor, daughter of Dr. John Pryor, first president of Acadia College. Together they had three sons and one daughter.

De Mille worked briefly in Cincinnati before returning to Saint John. From 1856-1860 he and a partner ran a bookstore there, a venture that left De Mille in debt; shortly thereafter he began teaching classics at Acadia College. In 1865 he moved to Halifax, where he taught history and rhetoric at Dalhousie University and became well known for his love of Latin and the outdoors. He remained at Dalhousie until he died of pneumonia in 1880.

De Mille was a prolific and popular writer in the later nineteenth century. He began writing for magazines and journals while studying at Brown. Many of his books were published serially in American magazines such as Harper's, before being published as monographs. His humorous historical romances, adventures and mysteries often reflected his early travels abroad, as did his first book, *Martyrs of the Catacombs*, published in 1864. He also wrote a series of adventure stories for boys set in the Annapolis Valley, which drew heavily on his experiences at Horton Academy, a textbook entitled *The Elements of Rhetoric*, and the spiritually-themed poem *Behind the Veil*, which was published posthumously.

### Custodial history

Some records were donated by Arthur Burpee in 1983; other accessions were made in 1970 and 1972 with unknown custodial histories.

## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of records created and collected by the De Mille family, including Arthur De Mille, Anna De Mille, Nathan De Mille, Elisha Budd De Mille, Frederick E. De Mille, and Alfred De Mille. Materials include scrapbooks and journals, correspondence, business papers, photographs, and literary manuscripts by James De Mille.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Arrangement

Files are listed according to their physical order. Arrangement was imposed by the processing archivist.

### 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. Materials may be under copyright. Contact departmental staff for guidance on reproduction.

### Related material

See also the Lawrence Burpee fonds (MS-2-175).

### Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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## Access points

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- Dalhousie University
  - Graphic material (documentary form)
  - Textual record (documentary form)
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- Canadian literature (subject)
  - Correspondence (subject)
  - Fiction (subject)
  - Manuscripts (subject)
  - Personal archives (subject)
  - Poetry (subject)
  - Saint John (N.B.) (place)
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## Collection holdings

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### **File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 1 - Journals of Elisha Budd De Mille**

Title: Journals of Elisha Budd De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 1

Date: 1850-1851 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains 3 journal booklets.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

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### **File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 2 - Correspondence of Nathan De Mille**

Title: Correspondence of Nathan De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 2

Date: 1849-1865 (date of creation)

Physical description: 18 pages

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### **File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 3 - Vessel Papers and miscellaneous business papers**

Title: Vessel Papers and miscellaneous business papers

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 3

Date: 1840-1855 (date of creation)

Physical description: 5 pages

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### **File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 4 - Correspondence of James De Mille**

Title: Correspondence of James De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 4

Date: 1868-1890 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains letters from James De Mille to Alfred De Mille and Ralph De Mille. File also contains letters from James De Mille to his publisher, Harper and Brothers.

Physical description: 9 pages

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### **File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5 - Poetry manuscripts**

Title: Poetry manuscripts

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5

Date: 1879-1932 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains several published and unpublished copies of James De Mille's poem, "Maiden of Quoddy, " as well as De Mille's notes on a visit to his alma matter, Brown University. File also contains a handwritten poem titled, "Behind the Veil," and an untitled handwritten and illustrated poem.

Physical description: 45 pages

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### **Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 1 - Sympathy**

Title: Sympathy

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 1

Date: [1879] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of one handwritten poem, titled, "Sympathy."

Physical description: 1 page of textual records

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### **Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 2 - Notes on the anniversary exercises at Brown University**

Title: Notes on the anniversary exercises at Brown University

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 2

Date: June 17, 1879 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of James De Mille's account of the anniversary festivities at Brown University.

Physical description: 15 pages of textual material

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**Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 3 - Notes on the anniversary exercises of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Brown University**

Title: Notes on the anniversary exercises of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Brown University

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 3

Date: June 17 1879 (date of creation)

Physical description: 15 pages of textual records

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**Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 4 - Behind the Veil**

Title: Behind the Veil

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 4

Date: [1879] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item contains a handwritten poem, titled, "Behind the Veil."

Physical description: 13 pages of textual records

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**Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 5 - Sweet Maiden of Quoddy**

Title: Sweet Maiden of Quoddy

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 5

Date: [1879] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of a typewritten copy of a poem titled, "Sweet Maiden of Quoddy." The poem is typed on Dalhousie University crested stationery.

Physical description: 3 pages of textual records

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**Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 6 - Page from the Canadian Geographical Journal featuring James De Mille's poem, "The Maiden of Quoddy"**

Title: Page from the Canadian Geographical Journal featuring James De Mille's poem, "The Maiden of Quoddy"

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 6

Date: 1932 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 page of textual material

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**Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 7 - Page from Journal of Education featuring James De Mille's poem, "The Maiden of Quoddy"**

Title: Page from Journal of Education featuring James De Mille's poem, "The Maiden of Quoddy"

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 7

Date: 1932 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 pages of textual records

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**Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 8 - Sweet Maiden of Quoddy**

Title: Sweet Maiden of Quoddy

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 8

Date: [1879] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of a typewritten draft of "Sweet Maiden of Quoddy." The poem is marked in ink at the top of page, with the inscription, "Earlier version."

Physical description: 1 page

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**Item: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 9 - Untitled poem by James De Mille**

Title: Untitled poem by James De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 5, Item 9

Date: [1879] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of a handwritten poem, which is illustrated with ink sketches in the margins.



Physical description: 1 page of textual records

Physical condition:

The paper is very brittle.

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 6 - Prose manuscripts**

Title: Prose manuscripts

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 6

Date: [between 1879 and 1932] (date of creation)

Physical description: 42 pages. - 3 photographs

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 7 - James De Mille's chemistry lecture notes from Brown University**

Title: James De Mille's chemistry lecture notes from Brown University

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 7

Date: 1856 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains one notebook with notes from chemistry lectures held at Brown University. The notebook was kept by James De Mille. File also contains a three page letter written by James De Mille.

Physical description: 1 book

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 8 - Miscellaneous papers of James De Mille**

Title: Miscellaneous papers of James De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 8

Date: 1864-1873 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File includes obituary notices of Nathan S. DeMill, a De Mille family pedigree, and a copy of the Dalhousie Gazette, volume 6, number 1 (November 15, 1873. The issue contains an inaugural address by James De Mille.

Physical description: 5 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 9 - Correspondence of Anna De Mille**

Title: Correspondence of Anna De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 9

Date: 1880-1890 (date of creation)

Physical description: 3 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 10 - Manuscripts written by Elisha Budd De Mille**

Title: Manuscripts written by Elisha Budd De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 10

Date: 1850-1851 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains manuscripts to "The State of the Judiciary in the Times of James II" and "Charles Edwards the Pretender."

Physical description: 5 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 11 - Personal correspondence of Alfred De Mille**

Title: Personal correspondence of Alfred De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 11

Date: 1858-1890 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains letters from Alfred De Mille to various members of his family, including his nephew Willie and his uncle Charles. File contains typescript transcriptions of most letters. File also contains three letters from Archibald MacMechan to Alfred De Mille concerning a memoir of James De Mille's life and literary activities. File also contains a "family record" of the "De Mill" family.

Physical description: 102 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 12 - Legal records of Alfred De Mille**

Title: Legal records of Alfred De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 12

Date: 1859-1892 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains various legal records created and accumulated by Alfred De Mille, including the last will and testament of Anthony De Mille, a farm lease agreement, and a bill of sale. File also contains documents filed in the Supreme Court in Equity of New Brunswick and a bond for sale of land from Frederick E. De Mille to Sidney Wood.

Physical description: 12 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 13 - Family records compiled by Alfred De Mille**

Title: Family records compiled by Alfred De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 13

Date: 1852-1868 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains genealogical notes on the De Mille family and handwritten diagrams of the De Mille family pedigree.

Physical description: 20 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 14 - Alfred De Mille's British passport**

Title: Alfred De Mille's British passport

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 14

Date: 1854-1906 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a British passport issued to Alfred De Mille on August 7, 1854. File also contains a two page letter sent to Alfred De Mille on April 24, 1906.

Physical description: 1 booklet

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 15 - Letters from James De Mille to Frederick E. De Mille**

Title: Letters from James De Mille to Frederick E. De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 15

Date: 1853-1865 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains five letters from James De Mille to his brother Frederick E. De Mille. File also contains typescript and manuscript transcriptions of the letters.

Physical description: 10 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 16 - Notebook with obituaries of James De Mille**

Title: Notebook with obituaries of James De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 16

Date: 1880-1925 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a small leather-bound red notebook with newspaper clippings of obituaries of James De Mille and other clippings. The notebook was compiled by Frederick E. De Mille.

Physical description: 1 booklet

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 17 - Bond for sale of land from Frederick E. De Mille to Sidney Wood**

Title: Bond for sale of land from Frederick E. De Mille to Sidney Wood

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 17

Date: April 9, 1892 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a bond for sale of land from Frederick E. De Mille to Sidney Wood of Digby, Nova Scotia. Frederick was acting as the Executor of the Estate of Elizabeth De Mille of Lancaster, New Brunswick. The bond for sale involves a tract of land in Marshall Town, Digby County, Nova scotia. The land is described as " Being bounded on the North by Base line on the East by land of the Heirs of the late Edward J. Budd on the South by Old Saint Mary's Bay Road and on the West by land of the Heirs of the late Grace Stewart containing fifty acres more or less."

Physical description: 3 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 18 - Correspondence of Arthur De Mille**

Title: Correspondence of Arthur De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 18

Date: 1880 (date of creation)

Physical description: 9 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 19 - Inventory of the Estate of A. H. De Mille**

Title: Inventory of the Estate of A. H. De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 19

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains photocopies.

Physical description: 38 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 20 - Notes on James De Mille**

Title: Notes on James De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 20

Date: [19--] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains photocopies only.

Physical description: 11 pages

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**File: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 21 - Scrapbook of newspaper clippings compiled by Fred E. De Mille**

Title: Scrapbook of newspaper clippings compiled by Fred E. De Mille

Reference code: MS-2-21, Box 1, Folder 21

Date: 1866-1900 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains photocopies.

Physical description: 92 pages

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