



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - Personal archives of Joseph Howe (MS-2-340)

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Personal archives of Joseph Howe

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	Personal archives of Joseph Howe
Reference code:	MS-2-340
Date:	1846 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	29 pages
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: Identification of Item, Joseph Howe fonds, MS-2-340, Box [box number], Folder [folder number], Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Joseph Howe was a distinguished Nova Scotia politician, civil servant, and journalist. Born 13 December 1804 in Halifax to John and Mary Howe, he was an avid reader who was primarily self-educated. In 1828 he married Catherine McNab with whom he had ten children.

Before entering politics, Howe was a well-known Nova Scotia journalist whose career began in 1827 when he purchased the Weekly Chronicle with a partner and renamed it the Acadian. Shortly thereafter he bought the Novascotian and began writing columns and articles about Nova Scotia, often dedicated to local political happenings. In 1835 Howe was charged with libel for printing a letter harshly criticizing the government but was acquitted when he successfully defended the freedom of the press. Although he sold the Novascotian in 1841 to concentrate on a full-time political career he later returned to journalism for a time in the mid-1940s.

By 1836 Howe had decided to enter the political arena and ran for Halifax in the General Election of that year. His win marked the beginning of a long career as a politician and civil servant which would last almost consecutively until his death in Halifax on 1 June 1873. Howe maintained a dedication to Nova Scotia government reform throughout his career and is remembered for his eloquence and persuasiveness, his objections to confederation, and his attempts to develop a railway system within the region. Between 1836 and 1863 he represented Halifax, Cumberland, Windsor, and then Hants provincially. He also served as Speaker of the House of Assembly; part of the Executive Council in a coalition government; Provincial Secretary and Clerk of Council; Chairman of the Railway Commission; Provincial Secretary; and Premier. He then served as Imperial Fisheries Commissioner before representing Hants as a Member of Parliament from 1867 until he resigned in 1873. In Ottawa he served as President of the Privy Council and Secretary of State for the Provinces before returning to Nova Scotia where he served as Lieutenant Governor until his death.

Custodial history

Materials were accessioned by the Archives in 1978. Custodial history is unknown.

Scope and content

Item is a proposed outline for a work on the struggle for responsible government in Nova Scotia and a related manuscript containing the preface and the first two chapters of History of the Struggle for Responsible Government.

Notes

Title notes

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. Contact departmental staff for guidance on reproduction.

Related material

See the Joseph Howe fonds at the Nova Scotia Archives. For related materials see also the Morse Collection, MS-6-18.

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Full
 - **Status description:** Final
-

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)

- Manuscripts (subject)
 - Personal archives (subject)
 - Politics, Practical--Nova Scotia (subject)
 - Representative government and representation (subject)
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Bibliography

Beck, Murray J. "Howe, Joseph." Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online. 2000. University of Toronto/Universite Laval. 16 November 2006 <<http://www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=39171&query=howe>>; "Who was Joseph Howe?" Government of Nova Scotia. 2002. Government of Nova Scotia. 16 November 2006 <<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/Facts/Howebio.html>>;

Collection holdings

Item: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 35 - Outline of the History of the Struggle for Responsible Government

Title: Outline of the History of the Struggle for Responsible Government

Reference code: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 35

Physical description: 1 page

Item: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 36 - Preface and first two chapters of History of the Struggle for Responsible Government

Creator: Howe, Joseph, 1804-1873

Title: Preface and first two chapters of History of the Struggle for Responsible Government

Title [statRep]: Joseph Howe

Reference code: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 36

Date: [before 1873] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a bound manuscript containing the preface and the first two chapters of History of the Struggle for Responsible Government.

Physical description: 29 pages (1 folder)

Item: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 37 - Outline of The Future of British America

Title: Outline of The Future of British America

Reference code: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 37

Physical description: 1 page

Item: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 38 - Manuscript scraps

Title: Manuscript scraps

Reference code: MS-2-340, SF Box 17, Folder 38

Physical description: 2 pages
