



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - Thomas McCulloch collection (MS-2-40)

Generated by the Archives Catalogue and Online Collections on September 18, 2018

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Thomas McCulloch collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	Thomas McCulloch collection
Reference code:	MS-2-40
Date:	1801 - 1843, 1955 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	10 cm of textual records. - 3 reels of microfilm. - 1 photograph : b&w glass plate ; 7 x 5 cm.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Thomas McCulloch was a Presbyterian minister, author, and educator. He was born in 1776 in Fereneze, Scotland to Michael and Elizabeth McCulloch and was raised in a prosperous, intellectual environment engendered by a community of highly-skilled textile workers. He graduated in logic from Glasgow University in 1792, started medical school, and continued independent studies in languages, politics, and church history before training as a minister at the General Associate Synod in Whitburn. In 1799 he was ordained, assigned a presbytery in Stewarton (near Glasgow, Scotland), and married Isabella Walker, with whom he eventually had nine children.

Four years after his appointment in Stewarton, McCulloch requested an assignment in North America. He was intended for Prince Edward Island, but in 1804 he was inducted into the Harbour Church in Pictou, Nova Scotia. In 1806 he opened a school in his house, a first step toward his dream of establishing a non-sectarian institute of higher education in Nova Scotia. He had helped to establish Pictou Academy by 1818, where he served as principal. Although an academic success, with a fine collection of scientific instruments and a distinguished library and natural history collection, from its beginning the academy was under political and financial pressure.

In 1824 McCulloch resigned from the ministry to concentrate his efforts on teaching and educational reform. He remained at Pictou until 1838, when he became the first president of Dalhousie College as well as Professor of Logic, Rhetoric, and Moral Philosophy. McCulloch's belief in the importance of mathematics, natural philosophy, and the physical sciences was integral to his understanding of a liberal education and he gave public lectures in chemistry, established a museum of natural history at Dalhousie, and continued to pursue insect collecting. He also wrote on theology and politics and composed popular satirical stories, including *The Stepsure Letters*. McCulloch passed away on September 9, 1843 after a short illness.

Custodial history

Custodial history is unknown. Items were likely accumulated from different sources and combined by archives staff.

Scope and content

Collection contains both original records and reproductions of materials related to Reverend Thomas McCulloch. Items include a glass plate etching of McCulloch, microfilm copies of his books, a sample of his shorthand, a ticket to a lecture given by McCulloch, and correspondence. The collection also includes a microform copy of a thesis written by a Dalhousie student about McCulloch.

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.

Related material

See the Thomas McCulloch, Jr. fonds (MS-2-41) for materials created and compiled by McCulloch's son.

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Status description:** Final
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Access points

- Dalhousie University

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - Textual record (microform) (documentary form)
 - Books (documentary form)
 - Correspondence (documentary form)
 - Photographs (documentary form)
 - Education--Nova Scotia (subject)
 - Nova Scotia--Authors (subject)
 - Nova Scotia--History--19th century (subject)
 - Nova Scotia--History--20th century (subject)
 - Personal archives (subject)
 - Theses (subject)
 - University presidents (subject)
 - Authors (subject)
 - Halifax (N.S.) (place)
 - Pictou (N.S.) (place)
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Bibliography

Buggey, Susan and Gwendolyn Davies. "McCulloch, Thomas." Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online. University of Toronto/Universite Laval, 2000. <http://www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=37661&query=mcculloch>>.

Collection holdings

Item: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 10 - Etching of Reverend Thomas McCulloch

Title: Etching of Reverend Thomas McCulloch

Reference code: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 10

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

Scope and content:

Item is a glass plate of an etching of Rev. Thomas McCulloch, D.D.

Physical description: 1 photograph : b&w glass plate ; 7 x 5 cm

Item: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 14 - Sample of short hand notes by President Thomas McCulloch

Title: Sample of short hand notes by President Thomas McCulloch

Reference code: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 14

Date: June 14, 1801 - June 18, 1801 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a single sheet of paper, folded to form four pages, excerpted from a diary or journal. The excerpt is a sample of shorthand notes taken by Thomas McCulloch relating to sermons.

Physical description: 4 pages of textual records

Item: MS-2-40, SF Box 15, Folder 9 - Letter from Thomas McCulloch to the Senate of the University of Edinburgh

Title: Letter from Thomas McCulloch to the Senate of the University of Edinburgh

Reference code: MS-2-40, SF Box 15, Folder 9

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

Scope and content:

Item is a letter concerning Thomas McCulloch's donation of a North American insect specimen (from Nova Scotia) to the University of Edinburgh, via Professor Jameson, for the university's museum. The letter discusses Nova Scotia's Scottish connections, Presbyterian religion, the Pictou Academy, and the advocates for the conference of honorary degrees on the Honourable Sampson Salter Blowers, the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia; the Honourable James Stewart; and the Honourable Brenton Halyburton.

Physical description: 20 pages of textual records

Item: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 13 - Letter from Thomas McCulloch to Lord Dalhousie

Title: Letter from Thomas McCulloch to Lord Dalhousie

Reference code: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 13

Date: November 4, 1823 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item contains a letter concerning the foundation of Dalhousie College in Halifax, Nova Scotia and the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia.

Physical description: 4 pages of textual records

Physical condition:

There is a hole through all pages of the letter. Otherwise, the letter is still legible.

Item: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 11 - Letter from Sam Cunard to Thomas McCulloch

Title: Letter from Sam Cunard to Thomas McCulloch

Reference code: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 11

Date: September 7, 1815 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a typed copy of a letter from Sam Cunard to Thomas McCulloch concerning students, likely Cunard's sons John, Henry, and Thomas, that Cunard sent to McCulloch in Pictou, Nova Scotia.

Physical description: 1 page of textual records

Item: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 12 - Ticket for Thomas McCulloch's lectures on moral philosophy at Dalhousie College

Title: Ticket for Thomas McCulloch's lectures on moral philosophy at Dalhousie College

Reference code: MS-2-40, SF Box 16, Folder 12

Date: October 20, 1840 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is George Patterson's ticket to McCulloch's lecture.

Physical description: 1 page of textual records

Item: MS-2-40, Reel 1 - Popery condemned by the scripture and the fathers

Title: Popery condemned by the scripture and the fathers

Reference code: MS-2-40, Reel 1

Date: 1808 (date of creation)

Date: 1808 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a microform copy of Thomas McCulloch's book "Popery condemned by the scripture and the fathers : being a refutation of the principal popish doctrines and assertions maintained in the remarks on the Rev. Mr. Stanser's examination of the Rev. Mr. Burke's letters of instruction to the Catholic missionaries of Nova Scotia and in the reply to Rev. Mr. Cochran's fifth and last letter to Mr. Burke, etc."

Physical description: 1 reel of microfilm

Item: MS-2-40, Reel 2 - Popery again condemned by scripture and the fathers

Title: Popery again condemned by scripture and the fathers

Reference code: MS-2-40, Reel 2

Date: 1810 (date of creation)

Date: 1810 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a microform copy of Thomas McCulloch's book, "Popery again condemned by scripture and the fathers : being a reply to a part of the popish doctrines and assertions contained on the refutation, and in the review of Dr. Cochran's letters, by the Rev. Edmund Burke, V.G. Que."

Physical description: 1 reel of microfilm

Item: MS-2-40, Reel 3 - The contribution of Thomas McCulloch to the educational system of Nova Scotia 1803-1843

Title: The contribution of Thomas McCulloch to the educational system of Nova Scotia 1803-1843

Reference code: MS-2-40, Reel 3

Date: 1955 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a microform copy of G.A. Campbell's Bachelor of Education thesis on Thomas McCulloch, completed at Dalhousie University in 1955.

Physical description: 1 reel of microfilm
