



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - William Young fonds (MS-2-81, SF Box 18, Folder 29)

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William Young fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	William Young fonds
Reference code:	MS-2-81, SF Box 18, Folder 29
Date:	1857-1870 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	1 cm of textual records (1 folder)
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: [Identification of item], William Young fonds, MS-2-81, SF Box 18, Folder 29, Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

William Young was a Nova Scotia businessman, lawyer, and politician. He was born in 1799 in Falkirk, Scotland to John Young and Agnes Renny. In 1814 he moved with his family to Nova Scotia, where he helped to establish John Young and Company, a wholesale dry goods business. He acted as his father's agent in Halifax and New York. In 1815 he formed a partnership with James Cogswell to operate an auction and commission business that lasted until 1820.

Young began an apprenticeship in 1820 with the Halifax law firm of Charles Rufus and Samuel Prescott Fairbanks. The relationship ended in 1823 when Young was accused of sharing Fairbanks' campaign information with his father during John Young's failed bid against Charles Fairbanks in a Halifax by-election. In 1824 he managed his father's successful campaign in a Sydney by-election. He became an attorney in 1825 and a barrister in 1826. In 1834 he and his brother, George, established an insurance business that lasted into the 1850s. He married Anne Tobin in 1830.

In 1832 Young won his first seat in the provincial assembly. The election results were invalidated because of interference from his brother George. In the election of 1836 he ran and won in Inverness County, a seat he held for twenty years. Young was active in the assembly, working with reformers and supporting responsible government. He was a member of a delegation to Quebec City for constitutional discussions with Lord Durham in 1828. He served as speaker of the assembly for many years and as attorney general from 1854 to 1857. In 1859 he ran and won in Cumberland County and served briefly as premier before being appointed chief justice, a position he held until his retirement in 1881.

Young was actively involved in many aspects of Halifax society. He donated books and money to the Citizen's Free Library. He was instrumental in negotiating the land lease for Point Pleasant Park, contributed financially to Dalhousie College, and served as chairman of the college's Board of Governors for thirty-six years (1848-1884). William Young died in Halifax on May 8, 1887.

Custodial history

The materials were accessioned by Dalhousie University Archives in 1971 and 1980. Prior to that, the 1980 accession, which included a book of literary quotations (1860) and a letter from Sir William Young to Judge Thompson and S.L. Shannon (1865), was in the custody of Professor John Willis. The custodial history of the 1971 accession is unknown.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of a book of literary quotations, a letter from Sir William Young to Judge Thompson and S.L. Shannon, a draft of a speech regarding Dalhousie College, a letter from William Young to his parents, and a letter to Charles Young from William.

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

Related material

See also the John Young fonds (MS-2-80) and the George Renny Young fonds (MS-2-212).

Accruals

Further accruals are possible, but not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Young, George Renny, 1802-1853 (subject)

- Young, John, 1773-1837 (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Chief justices (subject)
- Correspondence (subject)
- Families--Nova Scotia (subject)
- Judges--Nova Scotia (subject)
- Lawyers (subject)
- Merchants (subject)
- Notebooks (subject)
- Nova Scotia--History--19th century (subject)
- Personal archives (subject)
- Politicians (subject)
- Premiers (Canada) (subject)
- Speeches, addresses, etc. (subject)
- Halifax (N.S.) (place)

Bibliography

MacLean, R. A. "Young, Sir William." Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online. 2000. University of Toronto/Universite Laval. 11 July 2006 <<http://www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=40041&query=>>;

Collection holdings
