

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

Finding Aid

Records of The Rev. William Proudfoot and Family

50 Wynford Drive.
Toronto, Ontario
M3C 1J7

Telephone: (416) 441-1111
1-800-619-7301

Fax: 416-441-2825

Web: <http://www.presbyterian.ca>

Catalogued by: Bob Anger, January 1999

Notes on using the Finding Aid

First consult the fonds description (fonds being an archival term used to denote the whole of the records created by a specific individual or family and held within an archives). The fonds description includes a biographical sketch of the individual or family that created the records, a scope and content note which briefly describes the records within the fonds (this generally starts with "Fonds consists of..."), and several notes at the bottom, which provide information on access restrictions and copyright restrictions.

Some finding aids also provide series descriptions on subsequent pages which further describe the records within the fonds.

After reading these descriptions consult the file list and notify an archivist of the individual files you wish to view.

Fonds Description

Proudfoot family fonds. – 1809-1903. – 1.49 m of textual records (12 boxes).

William Proudfoot (1788-1851), and his son John J.A. Proudfoot (1821-1903) were both Presbyterian ministers in the London, Ontario area. William Proudfoot was raised in Scotland, and received his education in Arts and later Theology at the University of Edinburgh, before being licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1812. He was called to minister at Pitrodie, Scotland, and remained there until 1832. On August 27th, 1832, he was sent to Upper Canada by the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church in Scotland. Upon arriving in Canada, he settled in London, Ontario and extended his missionary labours across south-western Ontario. As well as a missionary, William Proudfoot was also Clerk of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas (1834-1843), the Missionary Synod of the Canadas (1846-1850), and the United Associate Presbytery of London (1843-1850). Due in part to the shortage of ministers in Upper Canada, Proudfoot was also strong proponent of a locally-educated and cultured ministry, and strongly felt that the most effective way in reaching the local settlers of Upper Canada was through the training of local ministers. After many years of persuasion and correspondence, he founded Divinity Hall in London, in 1844. William Proudfoot was the only professor at that time, and taught philosophy, classics and theology. In 1850, the Hall moved to the University of Toronto.

J.J.A. Proudfoot (1821-1903) was born in Pitrodie, Scotland, and came to Upper Canada as a teenager with his father. He graduated from Divinity Hall in 1848 and was ordained and inducted as minister for the congregation of Downie and Blanchard, near London, Ont. He remained in this charge until 1852, when he was called as minister of the First Presbyterian Church, London, where his father had been minister before him. In 1867 he began lecturing at Knox College, Toronto, in homiletics and pastoral theology, and later in Church government. He lectured at Knox College until his retirement in 1901, and passed away in 1903.

The fonds consists of the records of William Proudfoot and his son, John J. A. Proudfoot. These records have been arranged into the following six series: 1. Correspondence; 2. Sermons and other writings; 3. Lectures and notes; 4. Daily Journals; 5. Miscellaneous papers of William Proudfoot; and 6, Miscellaneous papers of John J.A. Proudfoot. Series 1, 2, and 3 each contain records of both William Proudfoot and J.J.A. Proudfoot. Series 4 consists solely of papers of John J.A. Proudfoot. The records in this fonds document a variety of aspects relating to early religious and secular life in the south-western portion of Upper Canada during the mid-1800s, and document the activities of both William and John Proudfoot as Presbyterian ministers, Clerks of the Presbytery of London, and professors of theology. Papers created or accumulated by both William Proudfoot and John Proudfoot in their capacities as administrative officials of the church have been removed from this collection and re-housed with the official papers of the church (based on whether they are Presbytery, Synod or Assembly records). A file list of this material is included within this finding aid.

Title based on contents of the fonds.

Accession Number: 1973-5010

Some lectures and sermons of William Proudfoot are written in shorthand.

No restrictions on access.

The material in this fonds is protected by copyright until January 1st, 2004. A single copy of items in the fonds may be made for purposes of research and private study. Authorization must be obtained from the copyright holder if the material is to be used for any other purpose. The material cannot be published without permission from the copyright holder.

A finding aid with series descriptions and file lists is available.

Records of William Proudfoot are also located in the J.J. Talman Regional Collection at the University of Western Ontario, as well as at the London Room at the Central Branch of the London Public Library. The London Room also holds records of John J.A. Proudfoot. The Archives of Ontario has a list of marriages and baptisms performed by William Proudfoot between 1835 and 1850, in their Church records collection (F 978).

Series Descriptions

Correspondence. – 1832-1901. - 39 cm of textual records.

Series consists of letters received by William Proudfoot and J.J.A. Proudfoot. The series is arranged into two sub-series, both of which are arranged alphabetically according to the last name of the sender, or according to the location (town or village name) from which the letter was sent. Much of the correspondence deals with matters relating to the Presbytery of London, as a result of William Proudfoot's, and later J.J.A. Proudfoot's, responsibilities as Clerk of the Presbytery (this being the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas until 1843, the Presbytery of London of the Missionary Synod, from 1843-1847, the Presbytery of London of the United Presbyterian Church of Canada, from 1847-1861, the Presbytery of London of the Canada Presbyterian Church, from 1861-1875, and the Presbytery of London of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, after 1875). The letters, therefore, document a variety of aspects relating to early church management and administration, as well as the life of early church officials. In a broader way, the letters also document life in the south-western portions of Upper Canada (later Ontario) during the 1800s.

Two indexes exist for sub-series #1 (see Appendix A). The one is an index by location, while the other is an index by name or correspondent. An item-level listing exists for sub-series #2 (see Appendix B)

Sermons and other writings. – 1809-[ca. 1900]. - 37 cm of textual records.

Series consists of sermons and sermon notes written by William Proudfoot and John J.A. Proudfoot. Most of the sermons written by William Proudfoot date from the 1820s, while he was minister in Pitrodie, Scotland. However, two sermons exist – one written in 1809, the other in 1811 - from when he was still in theological school. Many of the sermons of William Proudfoot are written in an early version of shorthand. The sermons of John Proudfoot date from 1849 to circa 1900, and cover both his early ministerial work in Blanchard and Downie, and his later work as minister at the First Presbyterian Church in London, Ontario.

A file list is available for this series.

Lectures and lecture notes. – 1841-1901. - 30 cm of textual records.

Series consists of lectures and lecture notes written by William Proudfoot and by J.J.A. Proudfoot. William Proudfoot was Professor at Divinity Hall in London, Ontario, and J.J.A. Proudfoot was lecturer in Homiletics, Pastoral Theology and Church Government at Knox College. The lectures of William Proudfoot cover the years 1841-1846, with a majority of the lectures being from 1845-1846. The lectures are primarily based on various chapters and verses in the Bible, including 34 lectures on the 1st and 2nd Epistles to the Corinthians, and a number of lectures on the book of Romans. The lectures and notes written by J.J.A. Proudfoot generally fall into three categories: Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, and Church Government. Additional topics include: the office of Ruling Elder, ordination, apostolic succession, systematic theology, and various lectures on bible chapters and verses.

A file list is available for this series.

Daily Journals. – 1848-1903. - 24 cm of textual records.

Series consists of the daily journals of J.J.A. Proudfoot for the years 1848-1903. A number of gaps exist in the series, however, including the years 1849-1852, 1861-1863, 1866, 1870, 1874, 1878-1886, 1889-1892, and 1894. The journal entries briefly outline J.J.A. Proudfoot's daily activities, such as visitations with members of the congregation, church meetings and functions attended, his professorial work, financial expenditures, general comments on the weather and home and garden work.

File list is available for this series.

Miscellaneous papers of William Proudfoot. – 1814-1850. - 9 cm of textual records.

Series consists of various documents and writings of William Proudfoot, including; forms of service for marriages and baptisms; an address written by William Proudfoot on reasons for publishing the Presbyterian Magazine along with a prospectus and list of subscribers for the magazine; an address to the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada on behalf of the Missionary Synod of the Secession Church; an address given by William Proudfoot to students entering their second session at Divinity Hall. The series also consists of a chart of appointments made by Synod (in Scotland), 1812 to 1813; a booklet on the Principles of the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church, printed in 1831; a call by the congregation of Coupar Angus, Scotland, 1814; and a book consisting of the minutes of the Pitrodie Auxiliary Bible Society (1815), the accounts of school boarders (1819-1825); and a marriage register for 1833-1835.

A file list is available for this series.

Miscellaneous papers of John J.A. Proudfoot. - 1842-1901. - 10 cm of textual records.

Series consists of various documents created or accumulated by John Proudfoot, including: several copies of Knox College examinations in Systematic Theology, Homiletics, Church Government, and Pastoral Theology; two notebooks on student attendance and texts prescribed; several financial statements of stipends received by J.J.A. Proudfoot; two booklets, one received from The Rev. Charles Chiniquy entitled "The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary", and the other entitled "Father Chiniquy and the St. Anne Mission"; copies of the January and March 1899 editions of the Homiletic Review; a draft of a letter of resignation by John Proudfoot as lecturer at Knox College, 1901; a letter of congratulations to John Proudfoot on celebrating his jubilee; a news clipping of a meeting of the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church at which John Proudfoot gave an address, 1868; a journal of Bible Class activities, 1849; and a booklet on the history of the Avonbank Presbyterian Church, 1848-1898.

A file list is available for this series.

File List

Correspondence of Wm. and J.J.A Proudfoot

Sub-series #1 (see Appendix A for an index to this sub-series)

1973-5010-1-1	1841-1859	Correspondence "A"
1973-5010-1-2	1832-1888	Correspondence "B"
1973-5010-1-3	1843-1894	Correspondence "C"
1973-5010-1-4	1838-1876	Correspondence "D"
1973-5010-1-5	1843-1846	Correspondence "E"
1973-5010-1-6	1841-1880	Correspondence "F"
1973-5010-1-7	1845-1888	Correspondence "G"
1973-5010-1-8	1834-1873	Correspondence "H"
1973-5010-1-9	1839-1858	Correspondence "I"
1973-5010-1-10	1839-1876	Correspondence "J"
1973-5010-1-11	1834-1874	Correspondence "K"
1973-5010-1-12	1847-1860, 1896	Correspondence "L"
1973-5010-2-1	1836-1873	Correspondence "M"
1973-5010-2-2	1834-1890	Correspondence "Mc"
1973-5010-2-3	1849-1876	Correspondence "N"
1973-5010-2-4	1843	Correspondence "O"
1973-5010-2-5	1834-1886	Correspondence "P"
1973-5010-2-6	1834-1880	Correspondence "R"
1973-5010-2-7	1838-1890	Correspondence "S"
1973-5010-2-8	1832-1860	Correspondence "T"
1973-5010-2-9	1876	Correspondence "U"
1973-5010-2-10	1845-1876	Correspondence "W"
1973-5010-2-11	1841	Correspondence "X-Y-Z"
1973-5010-2-12	1845, 1853	Envelopes without letters

Sub-series #2 (see Appendix B for an item-level listing for this sub-series)

1973-5010-3-1	1846, 1885-1886	Correspondence "A"
1973-5010-3-2	1832-1886	Correspondence "B"
1973-5010-3-3	1835-1890	Correspondence "C"
1973-5010-3-4	1843-1886	Correspondence "D"
1973-5010-3-5	1843-1890	Correspondence "E"
1973-5010-3-6	1837-1896	Correspondence "F"
1973-5010-3-7	1845-1880	Correspondence "G"
1973-5010-3-8	1842-1901	Correspondence "H"
1973-5010-3-9	1846-1860	Correspondence "I"
1973-5010-3-10	1840-1849	Correspondence "J"
1973-5010-3-11	1843	Correspondence "K"
1973-5010-3-12	1846-1895	Correspondence "L"
1973-5010-3-13	1841-1881	Correspondence "M"
1973-5010-3-14	1832-1885	Correspondence "Mc"
1973-5010-3-15	1849, 1854	Correspondence "N"
1973-5010-3-16	1834-1890	Correspondence "P"
1973-5010-3-17	1844-1877	Correspondence "R"
1973-5010-3-18	1833-1886	Correspondence "S"
1973-5010-3-19	1837-1864	Correspondence "T"
1973-5010-3-20	1890	Correspondence "U"
1973-5010-3-21	1846-1886	Correspondence "W"
1973-5010-3-22	1840-1848	Correspondence "X-Y-Z"

Sermons and other writings

1973-5010-4-1	1809	Wm. Proudfoot – Sermon
1973-5010-4-2	1811	Wm. Proudfoot – Sermon delivered at Glasgow Presbytery, July 14 th , 1811
1973-5010-4-3	1814, 1818	Wm. Proudfoot – Sermons (written in shorthand)

1973-5010-4-4	1815-1832	Wm. Proudfoot – Sermons
1973-5010-4-5	[ca. 1816]	Wm. Proudfoot – Sermons
1973-5010-4-6	[ca.1822]-[ca.1832]	Wm. Proudfoot – Sermons
1973-5010-4-7	1828-1829	Wm. Proudfoot – Book of Sermons (written in shorthand)
1973-5010-4-8	1829-1830	Wm. Proudfoot – Book of Sermons (written in shorthand)
1973-5010-4-9	[182-?]	Wm. Proudfoot – Sermon Booklets (written in shorthand)
1973-5010-6-1	1868-1885	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on Isaiah
1973-5010-6-2	1876-1889	J.J.A. Poudfoot – Sermons based on Mark
1973-5010-6-3	1871-1889	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on 1 and 2 Corinthians
1973-5010-6-4	1874-1887	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on Romans
1973-5010-6-5	1869-1887	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on Philipians
1973-5010-6-6	1869-1888	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on Ephesians
1973-5010-6-7	1879	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on Mathew 26:36-40
1973-5010-6-8	1872-1887	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on John
1973-5010-6-9	1881	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermon on Hebrew 10:12-18
1973-5010-6-10	1880-1887	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Sermons based on James
1973-5010-6-11	1870-1885	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-6-12	1871-1885	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-6-13	1871-1885	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-6-14	1871-1889	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-6-15	1876-1888	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-7-1	1849	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermon
1973-5010-7-2	1875-1895	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-7-3	1871-1887	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-7-4	1878-1900	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-7-5	1889	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-7-6	1866-1899	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-7-7	1898-1899	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons

1973-5010-7-8	[ca.1850]-[ca.1900]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous Sermons
1973-5010-7-9	[ca.1850]-[ca.1900]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Articles and other writings (file 1)
1973-5010-7-10	[ca.1850]-[ca.1900]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Articles and other writings (file 2)
1973-5010-7-11	[ca.1850]-[ca.1900]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Articles and other writings (file 3)
1973-5010-7-12	[ca.1850]-[ca.1900]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Articles and other writings (file 4)

Lectures and lecture notes

1973-5010-4-10	1841-1845	Wm. Proudfoot – Lectures
1973-5010-5-1	1845-1846	Wm. Proudfoot – Lectures
1973-5010-8-1	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture and article: The Office of the Ruling Elder
1973-5010-8-2	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture and notes: The Office of the Ruling Elder
1973-5010-8-3	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture: Intellectual Improvement and the Means of Attaining it
1973-5010-8-4	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture: Ordination
1973-5010-8-5	1879	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Apostolic Succession
1973-5010-8-6	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lectures on Systematic Theology
1973-5010-8-7	[ca. 1875]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Pastoral Theology
1973-5010-8-8	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Pastoral Theology
1973-5010-8-9	1891-1892	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Pastoral Theology
1973-5010-8-10	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: The Nature of Church Power
1973-5010-8-11	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Church Government
1973-5010-8-12	1887	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Church Government (file 1)
1973-5010-8-13	1887	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Church Government (file 2)
1973-5010-8-14	1893	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Church Government
1973-5010-8-15	1895	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Church Government
1973-5010-8-16	1895-1896	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Copies of lectures on Church Government and Homiletics printed for students

1973-5010-8-17	[ca. 1897]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes: Church Government
1973-5010-8-18	1897	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lectures on Church Government
1973-5010-8-19	1848-1867	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lectures on various Bible chapters and verses
1973-5010-9-1	[187-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lectures on Homiletics
1973-5010-9-2	1896	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lectures on Systematic Homiletics
1973-5010-9-3	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous lecture notes
1973-5010-9-4	[188-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous lecture notes
1973-5010-9-5	1884, 1898	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous lecture notes
1973-5010-9-6	1891	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Lecture notes (to be revised)
1973-5010-9-7	1899-1901	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous lecture notes
1973-5010-9-8	1897-1898	J.J.A. Proudfoot – Miscellaneous lecture notes

Daily Journals

1973-5010-10-1	1848	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-2	[185-?]	J.J.A. Proudfoot (?) - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-3	1853-1857	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-4	1857	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-5	1858-1860	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-6	1864-1865	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-7	1867-1868	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-8	1868	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-10-9	1868-1869	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-1	1871-1873	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-2	1875-1876	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-3	1877	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-4	1887-1888	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-5	1888	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-6	1893	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal

1973-5010-11-7	1895-1896	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-8	1897-1898	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-9	1899	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal
1973-5010-11-10	1900-1903	J.J.A. Proudfoot - Daily Journal

Miscellaneous papers of William Proudfoot

1973-5010-5-2	1814	A Call to William Proudfoot from the congregation of Coupar Angus, Scotland
1973-5010-5-3	1815-1835	Book including Minutes of the Pitrodie Auxiliary Bible Society – 1815 (front of book); Accounts for school boarders – 1819-1825 (back of book); Marriage register – 1833-1835 (middle of book).
1973-5010-5-4	[ca.1820-1830]	Addresses for baptism and marriage services
1973-5010-5-5	1849-1850	Booklet of Exercises of Theological Seminary
1973-5010-5-6	[184-?]	A prospectus for teaching the Hebrew language
1973-5010-5-7	[ca. 1843]	Prospectus and list of subscribers for the Presbyterian Magazine
1973-5010-5-8	[ca. 1843]	Address and reasons for publishing the Presbyterian Magazine
1973-5010-5-9	[184-]	Address to the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of the Canada from the missionary Synod of the Secession Church
1973-5010-5-10	1850	Address to students entering their second session at Divinity Hall
1973-5010-5-11	1812-1813	Chart of appointments made by Synod from May 1812 to September 1813, Scotland
1973-5010-5-12	1831	Booklet – Summary of the Principles of the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church
1973-5010-5-13	[ca.1834] – [ca.1850]	Various articles, reports and addresses created or accumulated by Wm. Proudfoot
1973-5010-5-14	1842	Diary of Alexander Proudfoot

Miscellaneous papers of John J.A. Proudfoot

1973-5010-9-9	1883-1884	Knox College Examination in Systematic Theology
1973-5010-9-10	1898-1899	Knox College Examination in Homiletics

1973-5010-9-11	1881-1882	Knox College Examination in Church Government and Pastoral Theology
1973-5010-9-12	1878-1883	Notebook on student attendance and texts prescribed
1973-5010-9-13	1884-1892	Notebook on student attendance and texts prescribed
1973-5010-9-14	1849	Financial statement of stipends received by J.J.A. Proudfoot from the congregation of Downie
1973-5010-9-15	1849	Financial statement of money received from the congregations of St. Mary's and Downie
1973-5010-9-16	1851-1871	Financial statements of stipends received by J.J.A. Proudfoot
1973-5010-11-11	1875-1879	Newspaper clippings
1973-5010-11-12	1879	Newspaper clippings
1973-5010-12-1	1871	Census return for J.J.A. Proudfoot
1973-5010-12-2	1867	Booklet received by J.J.A. Proudfoot from The Rev. Charles Chiniquy
1973-5010-12-3	[ca.1872]	Booklet – Father Chiniquy and the St. Anne Mission, Kankalee County, Illinois
1973-5010-12-4	1842	Booklet – “10 th Report of the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society”
1973-5010-12-5	1867, 1868, 1872, 1874, 1875	Booklets – Annual Reports of the French Canadian Missionary Society
1973-5010-12-6	1899	Copies of the Journal “The Homiletic Review”
1973-5010-12-7	1901	Draft of a letter of resignation as Knox College lecturer
1973-5010-12-8	1890	Letter of congratulations to J.J.A. Proudfoot on his jubilee
1973-5010-12-9	1868	News clipping – Meeting of the Synod of Canada Presbyterian Church at which J.J.A. Proudfoot gave an address
1973-5010-12-10	1849	Bible class journal
1973-5010-12-11	1895	Booklet by Miss Mary Laidlaw Proudfoot “17 th Annual Report of the Eight Ward Mission, 36 Charlton St., New York