

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
ARCHIVES**

FINDING AID #9

1875 UNION COLLECTION

50 Wynford Drive.
Toronto, Ontario
M3C 1J7

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

Fax: 416-441-2825

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

1875 Union Collection

Introduction

This collection consists of approximately 5cm. of publications, correspondence and other papers relating to the union of the four Presbyterian denominations in the Dominion of Canada in 1875. The records cover the period 1873-1879.

Related material may be found in the records of James Croil, the Rev. Robert Campbell and other individuals involved in the 1875 union and the Montreal dispute. Other related records are the Acts and Proceedings of the four uniting denominations and the Acts and Proceedings of the (continuing) Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland, 1875-1898.

The records were deposited by the Session of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, in 1973.

The records were re-catalogued by Elspeth Reid in February 1989.

This finding aid is listed as FA-1875.

Historical Sketch

The union of 1875 brought together the Canada Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces and the Synod of the Maritime Provinces of British North America in connection with the Church of Scotland, to form the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A number of ministers and members declined to join the Presbyterian Church in Canada, notably the Rev. Gavin Lang and St. Andrew's Church in Montreal. Ten ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland formed a Synod in Montreal which claimed to be the legitimate continuation of the denomination. In defence of this claim, the Synod brought legal cases disputing the ownership of property in the Quebec courts. Similarly, a group of congregations in the Maritimes declined to enter the union and maintained the claim to be the legitimate denomination in connection with the Church of Scotland.

Scope and Contents Note

This collection consists of approximately 5cm. of publications, correspondence and other papers relating to the union of 1875 and to the dispute between the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the (continuing) Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland. The records are arranged in chronological order.

File No.	Date	Description
1973-1050-1-1	1873-1878	Montreal union dispute Printed material relating to dispute by minister and members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Connection with the Church of Scotland, Montreal. Includes: <u>Rev. Gavin Lang and Union</u> n.d.; 8pp. <u>Presbyterian Union: A Help to the Intelligent Discussion of the Question</u> by an Elder; 1873; 29pp.

1875 Union Collection

To the Members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connexion with the Church of Scotland and especially to the members and adherents of St. Andrew's Church (Church of Scotland) Montreal Hugh Brodie; 1875; 8pp.

The Pretensions exposed of Messrs. Lang, Burnet & Co. to be the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland Rev. Robert Campbell; 1878; 33pp.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| 1973-1050-1-2 | 1874-1875 | Legislative Dispute
Printed petitions, draft bills and correspondence relating to dispute over union in the legislatures of Quebec and Ontario |
| 1973-1050-1-3 | 1874-1875 | Correspondence of James W. Croil
Includes correspondence from W. Snodgrass, John Cook, George Bell and MacKerras concerning union negotiations |
| 1973-1050-1-4 | 1874 | Extract Minute of Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland
Relates to decision to send a deputation to the Church of Scotland to explain the position on union |
| 1973-1050-1-5 | 1875 | Report of James Croil to Dr. W. Snodgrass
Relates to the progress of legislation on union at the House of Assembly, Quebec |
| 1973-1050-1-6 | 1875 | Extract Minute of Synod of the Maritime Provinces in Connection with the Church of Scotland
Approval of union |
| 1973-1050-1-7 | 1875 | Act of Union (3 copies) |
| 1973-1050-1-8 | 1875 | Committee to Mature Measures for the Next General Assembly
Report |
| 1973-1050-1-9 | 1875 | Newsclippings |
| 1973-1050-1-10 | 1879 | Circular: "To the Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada of Connection with the Church of Scotland"
Appeal by Robert Dobie for financial contributions towards the temporalities case in the Quebec courts |