

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

Finding Aid

Records of The Rev. John Jennings

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Catalogued by: Bob Anger, December 1998

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

John Jennings fonds. – 1842-1873, predominant 1842-1852. - 7 cm of textual records.

John Jennings (1814-1876) was minister at Bay Street Presbyterian Church, Toronto, Ontario. Born in Scotland in 1814, he graduated from St. Andrew's University and was ordained a minister of the United Presbyterian Church. He left Scotland for mission work in Canada in 1838, and was inducted as pastor at Bay St. Presbyterian Church (at that time a congregation within the Secession Church) in July 1839. Jennings also travelled throughout Upper Canada preaching in isolated parts of the province. He also took a large interest in education and served as Trustee of the Grammar School, as a member of the Senate of the University of Toronto, and he served on the Counsel of Public Instruction. He passed away on Feb. 25th, 1876.

Fonds consists of thirty-four sermons written and delivered by John Jennings, a dedication address given at the opening of the Bay Street Presbyterian Church in Toronto on December 30th, 1848, and a diary maintained by Jennings while on a trip overseas. Thirty-three of the sermons are hand-written in a version of shorthand which is partly readable, and delivered between 1842 and 1852. The other sermon is a printed booklet of a memorial sermon for Miss Margaret MacDonald, given by Jennings at the Bay Street Church, Toronto in 1868. The dedication address given by Jennings at the opening of the Bay Street Church is also in partial shorthand. The diary is of a trip taken by Jennings between May 31st and September 8th, 1873, primarily to Scotland, but also to mainland Europe as well. The diary was written in pencil and is very difficult to read. A typescript of the entries in the diary has been created.

Title based on contents of the fonds.

Accession Number: 1973-5013

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 a file listing is available.

Session Books of the United Secession Church (later Bay St. Presbyterian Church) which were originally part of the John Jennings fonds have been removed and arranged with other records of the Bay St. congregation. The Archives of Ontario holds a collection of licenses for marriages performed by John Jennings at Toronto, 1841-1875 (see Marriage records collection F982 at the Archives of Ontario).

File List

1973-5013-1-1	1873	Diary of John Jennings
1973-5013-1-2	Transcribed [196-?]	Typescript of John Jennings Diary
1973-5013-1-3	Photocopied [196-?]	Photocopy of John Jennings Diary
1973-5013-1-4	1868	Printed memorial sermon for Miss Margaret MacDonald, given by John Jennings, 1868
1973-5013-1-5	1842-1852	Sermons of John Jennings, 1842-1852
1973-5013-1-6	1848	Dedication Address given by John Jennings at the opening of Bay St. Church, Toronto, 1848