

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

Finding Aid

Records of The Rev. John Morton 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, 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 Morton family fonds. – 1856-1915. – 1.82 m of textual records (13 boxes). – 29 photographs. – 7 postcards.

John Morton (1839-1912) was a Presbyterian minister, and founder and leader of a mission to Trinidad. He married Sarah Silver, in 1863, with whom he had three sons – Arthur, Harvey and William - and one daughter, Agnes. Morton was born in Nova Scotia, and attended school at Little Harbour, and Albion Mines (Stellarton), before entering the Free Church College at Halifax, in 1855. He graduated in 1861, and in December of that year, was ordained to the charge of Bridgewater. Due to ill-health, he felt a need to leave the Maritimes for the winter, and travelled to Trinidad in 1864. While there, he became interested in the lives of the East Indians, who in the twenty years prior to 1864 had been brought to the island as labour. The East Indians consisted of about 25% of the population, but were largely ignored by the churches on the island. Morton remained in Trinidad for four months but was unable to press the local Presbyterian churches to minister to the East Indians. He brought the matter before the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, which agreed to establish a mission in Trinidad, to be led by Morton. On January 3rd, 1868, he and his wife and daughter arrived in Port of Spain. His mission was originally set up in Iere Village, but in 1871, the family moved to San Fernando. In 1875, they moved back to the Iere area and settled in a town called Princetown. In 1881 they moved north to Tunapuna, where they remained until John Morton died in 1912. While in Trinidad, Morton emphasised education as well as religion, and was active in establishing schools and teaching the East Indians. Through John Morton's help, a teacher's training college was established in San Fernando, as well as a theological training school.

Mrs. Sarah Morton, served with her husband in Trinidad, and following his death, published a book on the life of her husband. Their son, Dr. Arthur Silver Morton was born in 1870 in Iere, Trinidad. Arthur Morton was educated at Queen's Royal College, Port of Spain, and the University of Edinburgh, where he received his M.A. degree and an honours Bachelor of Divinity degree. He moved to Canada in 1896 and was ordained by the Presbytery of St. John, N.B. After serving in three charges in New Brunswick – Shediac, Fairville, and St. Stephen – he lectured in church history at the Presbyterian College in Halifax from 1904-1907. From 1907 until 1912 he lived in England where he conducted research work on the historical geography of the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages. In 1912 he was asked to lecture in church history at Knox College, and in 1914 became Professor of History at the University of Saskatchewan. He published a number of books on Canadian history, including *History of the Prairie Settlement*, and *History of the Canadian West to 1870*. After his retirement from the University of Saskatchewan, he was appointed Provincial Archivist of Saskatchewan. Harvey Morton, also became a minister and was ordained by the Presbytery of St. John in 1897. He also served in Tunapuna, Trinidad for a number of years.

The fonds is arranged into four sous-fonds: the Papers of John Morton; the Papers of Sarah Morton; the Papers of Arthur S. Morton; and the Papers of Harvey S. Morton. The papers of John Morton consist of correspondence, letterbooks, reports, sermons and addresses, and various booklets and pamphlets regarding Trinidad. The papers of Mrs. Sarah Morton (wife of John Morton) consist of correspondence, scrapbooks and clippings concerning John Morton, several photographs and postcards, and the original typescript and research notes for her book "John Morton of Trinidad". The papers of Arthur S. Morton consist of correspondence with friends and family, and genealogical research notes he compiled on the Silver family. The papers of Harvey Morton consists of a small file of correspondence.

Title based on contents of the fonds.

Accession Number: 1973-5009

Some of the material is written in Hindi (these items are noted in the file list).

No restrictions on access.

Some material in this fonds is protected by copyright until January 1st, 2049 (please ask the archivist on staff for clarification). 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 protected material is to be used for any other purpose. Protected material cannot be published without permission from the copyright holder.

Sous-fonds Descriptions

Papers of Sarah Morton. – 1856-1915, predominant 1864-1915. – 78 cm of textual records. – 25 photographs. – 7 postcards.

Sous-fonds consists of the original typescript plus research notes for a book written by Mrs. Morton on her husband entitled "John Morton of Trinidad". The series also consists of correspondence of Mrs. Morton with various family members, primarily her son Arthur S. Morton; scrapbooks and clippings on the life and work of John Morton; photographs of people and places in Trinidad; and a few postcards. The draft, or original typescript, version of Mrs. Morton's book, which was published by William Briggs, consists of 8 chapters and follows the life of John Morton. Several files of research notes created by Sarah Morton in writing her book also exist. The scrapbooks consists of 6 three-ring binders which contain clippings, letters and mementoes documenting the life of John Morton, and are arranged chronologically. The photographs in this series include pictures of various teachers and children in Tunapuna, a few pictures of Mrs. Morton, and pictures of churches and other buildings in Tunapuna. The postcards are of various buildings in St. Lucia.

Papers of John Morton. – 1861-1914. – 52 cm of textual records.

Sous-fonds consists of letters, reports, journals, sermons, addresses and other material documenting the work and life of John Morton – a missionary and educator of the East Indian people of Trinidad. Daily journals maintained by Morton exist for the years 1867-1873, 1875-1876, 1891, and 1900. Letter-books also exist for the years 1874-1875, 1877-1885, 1887, 1890-1893, 1900, and 1903. These letter-books also contain various reports written by Morton on his work in Trinidad. A few financial records also exist, including a book of stipends for the years 1861-1868, and a book of household expenditures, for 1863-1876. The series also contains various reference books and pamphlets presumably used by Morton, including a dictionary of English and East Indian words, a Hindi Hymn Book, the First Catechism in Hindi, and the Hindi First Book. A few personal mementoes of Morton, including his doctoral diploma and a scroll commemorating his Jubilee, are also included in the series.

Papers of Arthur S. Morton. – 1905-1914. – 38 cm of textual records. – 4 photographs.

Sous-fonds consists of correspondence and genealogical research notes of Arthur S. Morton. The correspondence includes letters received by Arthur S. Morton from his mother (1906-1914), his father (1908-1911), his brothers – Harvey Morton (1907-1911) and William Morton (1907-1910) – and his sisters-in-law (1906-1914). Other correspondence includes letters received from various friends and relatives over the period 1905-1914, including John Currie, Douglas Mollison, members of the Payzant family, A.J. Wm. Miles, Bertha Burleigh, G.S. Campbell, Louis and Agnes Silver, Gwendoline Sandham, and Robert Falconer. The genealogical research notes consist of work conducted by Arthur S. Morton on the Silver family (his mother's family). The photographs in the sous-fonds were sent to Arthur Morton by one of his brother's or by his sister, and are of his nieces and nephews. One of the photographs includes a picture of John Morton.

Papers of Harvey Morton. – 1894-1911. – 1 cm of textual records.

Sous-fonds consists of ten letters received by Harvey Morton from his mother, his sister Agnes, his brother Arthur, and from his father-in-law, J.G. Forbes. The letters were written in 1894 (one letter), 1895 (four letters), 1907 (one letter), 1909 (two letters), and 1911 (one letter). The last letter is undated.

PAPERS OF MRS. SARAH MORTON

Sarah Morton's scrapbooks

1973-5009-1-1	[-1876]	Binder #1
1973-5009-1-2	1876-1880	Binder #2
1973-5009-1-3	1880-1881	Binder #3
1973-5009-2-1	1886-1890	Binder #4
1973-5009-2-2	1891-1900	Binder #5
1973-5009-2-3	1901-1912	Binder #6

Letters received by Sarah Morton

1973-5009-3-1	1911	Letters received by Mrs. Sarah Morton from her son, A.S. Morton
1973-5009-3-2	1912-1913	Letters received by Mrs. Sarah Morton from her son, A.S. Morton
1973-5009-3-3	1895-1896	Letters received by Mrs. Sarah Morton from her children
1973-5009-3-4	1915	Farewell Addresses to Sarah Morton
1973-5009-3-5		Sarah Morton – Collected Notes on St. Lucia

Sarah Morton's research notes re: "John Morton of Trinidad"

1973-5009-3-6	[191-?]	Extract and Transcripts, 1869
1973-5009-3-7	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1870
1973-5009-3-8	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1871
1973-5009-3-9	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1872
1973-5009-3-10	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1873
1973-5009-3-11	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1874
1973-5009-3-12	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1875
1973-5009-3-13	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1877
1973-5009-3-14	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1878
1973-5009-3-15	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1880

1973-5009-3-16	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1881
1973-5009-3-17	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1882
1973-5009-3-18	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1883
1973-5009-3-19	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1884
1973-5009-3-20	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1885
1973-5009-3-21	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1886
1973-5009-3-22	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1887
1973-5009-3-23	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1888
1973-5009-3-24	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1889
1973-5009-3-25	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1890
1973-5009-3-26	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, [ca. 1890-1909]
1973-5009-3-27	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1891
1973-5009-3-28	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1892
1973-5009-3-29	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1893
1973-5009-3-30	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1894
1973-5009-4-1	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1895
1973-5009-4-2	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1896
1973-5009-4-3	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1897
1973-5009-4-4	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1898
1973-5009-4-5	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1899
1973-5009-4-6	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1900
1973-5009-4-7	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1902
1973-5009-4-8	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1909
1973-5009-4-9	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts (fragile), 1909
1973-5009-4-10	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1910
1973-5009-4-11	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1911
1973-5009-4-12	[191-?]	Extracts and Transcripts, 1912
1973-5009-4-13	1912	Clippings re: death of John Morton

Original Typescript of Sarah Morton's book, "John Morton of Trinidad"

1973-5009-4-14	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 1 Typescript
1973-5009-4-15	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 2 Typescript
1973-5009-4-16	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 3 Typescript
1973-5009-5-1	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 4 Typescript
1973-5009-5-2	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 5 Typescript
1973-5009-5-3	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 6 Typescript pp. 423-490 (402)
1973-5009-5-4	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 6 Typescript pp 491-584
1973-5009-6-1	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 7 Typescript pp 505-680
1973-5009-6-2	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 7 Typescript pp 681-789
1973-5009-6-3	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 8 Typescript pp 790-853
1973-5009-6-4	[191-?]	"John Morton of Trinidad" Chapter 8 Typescript pp 854-936

Photographs and postcards

1973-5009-6-5	[188-?] – [190-?]	Photographs and postcards
---------------	-------------------	---------------------------

PAPERS OF JOHN MORTON

Correspondence, reports and journals

1973-5009-7-1	1871, 1885	Financial records concerning the building of a church in San Fernando
1973-5009-7-2	1861-1876	Stipends and household expenditures
1973-5009-7-3	1888	Booklet of Baptisms and Communicants
1973-5009-7-4	1871-1873	Daily Journals
1973-5009-7-5	1867-1870, 1895	Daily Journals
1973-5009-7-6	1876, 1885	Daily Journals
1973-5009-7-7	1891, 1900	Daily Journals
1973-5009-7-8	1874-1875	Letters, reports and accounts

1973-5009-7-9	1877-1892	Letters, reports and accounts
1973-5009-8-1	1891-1893	Letters and reports
1973-5009-8-2	[ca.1899]-1912	Miscellaneous Letters and reports
1973-5009-8-3	[ca.1890]	John Morton: Copy Letter Book
1973-5009-8-4	1900-1903	John Morton: Copy Letter Book
1973-5009-8-5	1887	Letterbook
1973-5009-8-6	Jan. 1889 – Apr. 1890	Correspondence, K.J. Grant to John Morton (17 letters)
1973-5009-8-7	Dec. 1888 – June 1890	Correspondence, Rev J.P. Cropper to John Morton
1973-5009-8-8	[189-?]	Correspondence
1973-5009-8-9	1895-1896	Letters received by John Morton from his children

Booklets and pamphlets

1973-5009-9-1	1894	Pamphlet of questions and answers on Trinidad
1973-5009-9-2	1912	Hindi First Book, published by the Canadian Mission Press, Tunopuna
1973-5009-9-3	[189-]-[190-]	Booklets on Industry in Trinidad
1973-5009-9-4	[190-?]	Booklets written in Hindi
1973-5009-9-5	1908	First Catechism in Hindi, published by the Canadian Mission Press
1973-5009-9-6	1913	Booklet – Law Terms in English and Hindi by John Morton
1973-5009-9-7	1912	Hindi Hymn Book compiled by John Morton
1973-5009-9-8	1914	Booklet – A Garland of Prayers (2 nd Edition), written by Mrs. Sarah Morton
1973-5009-9-9	[188-?]-[190-?]	Booklet of English and Hindi words and translations
1973-5009-9-10	[ca. 1873]	Booklet of English words from Scriptures with Foreign (Hindi?) equivalents

Sermons and Addresses

1973-5009-10-1	1889-1909	John Morton – Sermons and addresses
----------------	-----------	-------------------------------------

1973-5009-10-2	[188-?]-[190-?]	John Morton – Sermons and addresses
1973-5009-10-3	1900	Speech to the General Assembly, Halifax
1973-5009-10-4	[191-?]	Article – A. Guyacleen, Trinidad
1973-5009-10-5	[190-?]	Address - “Upheavals of the People. Carnival and Hossie”
1973-5009-10-6	1912	Farewell Address to John Morton
1973-5009-10-7	1910	John Morton: World Missionary Conference Commission. Questions & Answers
1973-5009-10-8	[before 1909]	Booklet of Historical notes regarding various clergy

Clippings and mementos

1973-5009-10-9	1890	John Morton’s doctoral diploma from Halifax Presbyterian College
1973-5009-10-10	1912	Clippings from the Mirror (Trinidad) re: the Jubilee of the Ordination of John Morton
1973-5009-10-11	1912	Address from the Trinidad Presbytery on John Morton’s Jubilee

PAPERS OF ARTHUR S. MORTON

A.S. Morton’s research notes on the Silver family

1973-5009-11-1	[191-?]	A.S. Morton’s research notes on the Silver family
1973-5009-11-2	[191-?]	A.S. Morton’s research notes on the Silver family
1973-5009-11-3	[191?]	A.S. Morton’s research notes on the Silver family
1973-5009-11-4	1910	A.S. Morton’s research notes on the Silver family

Booklets and personal mementos

1973-5009-11-5	[189-]	Booklets and personal mementos of A.S. Morton
----------------	--------	---

Letters received by A.S. Morton

1973-5009-12-1	1907-1909	Letters received by A.S. Morton re: business affairs
1973-5009-12-2	1906-1914	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his sister-in-law
1973-5009-12-3	1907-1909	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his brother William Morton
1973-5009-12-4	1907-1911	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his brother Harvey

1973-5009-12-5	1908-1911	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his father John Morton
1973-5009-12-6	1906-1907	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his mother, Mrs. Sarah Morton
1973-5009-12-7	1908	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his mother
1973-5009-12-8	1909	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his mother
1973-5009-12-9	1910	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his mother
1973-5009-12-10	1911	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his mother
1973-5009-12-11	1912	Correspondence between A.S. Morton and his mother Mrs. Sarah Morton re: illness and death of John Morton
1973-5009-12-12	1913	Letters received by A.S. Morton regarding the A.H. Mconnachie
1973-5009-13-1	1913	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his mother
1973-5009-13-2	1914	Letters received by A.S. Morton from his mother
1973-5009-13-3	1907-1909	Letters to Arthur S. Morton from John Currie
1973-5009-13-4	1908-1913	Letters to Arthur S. Martin from Douglas Mollison
1973-5009-13-5	1907-1909	Letters to Arthur S. Morton from his Aunt, Frances Payzant and the Payzant family
1973-5009-13-6	1907-1909	Letters to A.S. Morton from his cousin, Bertha Burleigh
1973-5009-13-7	1907-1909	Letters to Arthur S. Morton from A.J. Wm. Myers
1973-5009-13-8	1907-1909	Letters to A.S. Morton from G.S. Campbell
1973-5009-13-9	1907-1911	Letters to A.S. Morton from Louis Silver and Agnes Silver
1973-5009-13-10	1908-1909	Letters to A.S. Morton from Gwendeline Sandham
1973-5009-13-11	1908-1909	Letters to A.S. Morton from Robert Falconer
1973-5009-13-12	1905-1910	Letters to A.S. Morton from various friends
1973-5009-13-13	1907-1908	Miscellaneous letters received by A.S. Morton

Photographs and postcards

1973-5009-13-14	1911	Envelope with 4 photographs sent to A.S. Morton from one of his brothers or his sister
1973-5009-13-15	1907-1909	Postcards received by A.S. Morton

PAPERS OF HARVEY MORTON

1973-5009-13-16	1894-1911	Letters received by Harvey Morton from various family members
1973-5009-13-17	1896	Letters received by Harvey Morton from his mother
1973-5009-13-18	1894, 1895, 1908	Miscellaneous Morton family correspondence