

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
ARCHIVES**

**FINDING AID #6**

**PRE-1875 CHURCHES:  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA  
"FREE CHURCH"  
(1844-1861)**

50 Wynford Drive.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M3C 1J7

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

Fax: 416-441-2825

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

### **Introduction**

This collection consists of approximately 25 cm of minutes, publications and other records of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, 1844-1861.

Related records may be found at the United Church Archives. Other related records are in the material is in the records of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.

This collection was re-catalogued by Elspeth Reid in February 1989.

The finding aid is listed as FA-PCOFC.

### **Historical Sketch**

The Presbyterian Church of Canada was formed in 1844 as a result of the Disruption of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland. The denomination is frequently referred to as the Free Church, both by historians and by contemporary churches and individuals, although the denomination itself never officially used the term. The Presbyterian Church of Canada joined with the United Presbyterian Church of Canada (Accession #1973-1043) to form the Canada Presbyterian Church (Accession #1973-1045) in 1861.

The 1844 Disruption in Canada followed the 1843 Disruption of the Church of Scotland which produced the Free Church of Scotland. The 1843 Disruption centred on the issue of patronage in the call of a minister to a congregation. The Free Church of Scotland argued that the church should be established and supported by state funding but should not be under state control. In Canada this was only a theoretical issue as the Presbyterian churches were not established but loyalties to the different groups in the Church of Scotland - the "Moderates" who remained in the Established Church and the "Evangelicals" who formed the Free Church - raised the issue. The Canadian Disruption was triggered by visits by the Rev. Robert Burns and other representatives of the Free Church of Scotland seeking support in the colonial churches. The argument which was used by the Free Church supporters in Canada was that the church should no longer be connected with a Scottish church but instead should be an independent denomination - hence the rejection of the name "Free Church". In practice, however, the Presbyterian Church of Canada established close links with the Free Church of Scotland while the continuing Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland maintained its links with the Church of Scotland.

### **Archival Arrangement**

This collection contains approximately 25 cm of minutes, publications and printed records of the Presbyterian Church of Canada along with some collected printed materials relating to the 1843 Scottish Disruption. The records are arranged in chronological order.

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<b>File No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
1973-1046-1-1	1638-1846	Collected documents concerning the Scottish Disruption <u>The Protestation of the Noblemen, Barrons, Gentlemen, Borrowes, Ministers and Commons, Subscribers of the Confession of Faith and Covenant</u> Edinburgh, 1638; 12pp. <u>Reasons for a General Assembly</u> Edinburgh 1638; 9pp. <u>Report from the Committee to whom the Petition of the Commissioners of the general Assembly of the Church of Scotland and also the Petition of James, Earl of Morton and others, was referred</u> 1760; 130pp. concerns heritors and patronage <u>The Axe Laid to the Root of Patronage or the Right of the Church in particular congregations to appoint and elect their own pastors and elders, clearly manifested from Scripture</u> John Owen, D.D.; Dumfries, 1837; 55pp. <u>Protest of the Free Church of Scotland, 1843</u> <u>The Sole and Supreme Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ over the Church explained and vindicated being a lecture expository of the principles which led to the recent disruption of the Church of Scotland</u> Rev. Alexander Duff, D.D.; Edinburgh 1844; 47pp. <u>Sustentation Fund of the Free Church. Address by Dr. Chalmers</u> 1845; 81pp. <u>The Principle of Free Inquiry and Private Judgement and its special importance in the present times</u> Robert S. Candlish D.D.; Edinburgh 1846; 28pp.
1973-1046-1-11	1844	<u>An Appeal to the Ministers and Members of the Presbyterian Church under the Jurisdiction of the Synod of Canada on the Question of adherence to the Church of Scotland as by Law Established</u> Rev Henry Esson Montreal, 1844; 51pp.
1973-1046-1-7	1845-1848	Sustentation Fund Circulars and statistics

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1973-1046-1-2	1846	<u>Was the Recent Disruption of the Synod of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland Called For? An Address to the Presbyterians of Canada who still support the Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland</u> John Bayne (?) Published at the Request of the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada; Galt, 1846; 83pp.
1973-1046-1-3	1846	<u>Supplement to the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Records, second Edition: Abstract of Returns of Queries issued by Order of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada</u>
1973-1046-1-13	1847	College Committee Circular appeal for funding for College
1973-1046-1-12	1850 Nov.	Agency Committee Circular relating to funding for Knox's College and sustentation of the ministry
1973-1046-1-4	1851	Overture to Synod for Presbytery of Hamilton Concerns students signing the Confession of Faith
1973-1046-1-5	1854	Letter from Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland Concerns Rev. Alex Kemp, minister at Bermuda
1973-1046-1-6	n.d. (c.1855 ?)	Memorandum concerning the Clergy Reserves [No provenance identifiable]
1073-1046-1-14	1857	Board of Publication <u>Palestine or The Holy Land from the earliest period to the present time</u> Rt. Rev. M. Russell; 1857; 504pp.
1973-1046-1-8	1857	Statistical and Financial Statement of the Presbyterian Church of Canada
1973-1046-1-9	1858	Statistical and Financial Statement of the Presbyterian Church of Canada
1973-1046-1-10	1861	<u>Digest of the Minutes of Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada with a Historical Introduction and an Appendix of Forms and Procedures</u> Rev. Alex F. Kemp Montreal, 1861; 474pp.

1973-1067

1859

Printed minutes of the Joint Committee in Union of the United Presbyterian Church and the "Free" Presbyterian Church of Canada.  
August 18/1859

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Acts and Proceedings

1842-1850	Minutes of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada Includes pre-disruption minutes (bound volume)
1844-1856	Minutes of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada (bound volume)
1843-1856	Abstracts of Minutes of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada Includes pre-disruption minutes (bound volume)
1845-1855	Minutes of Synod (bound volume)
1855-1861	Minutes of Synod (bound volume)
1857-1860	Minutes of Synod (bound volume)
1857-1861	Minutes of Synod (bound volume)
1861	Minutes of Synod