

MS
Coll
140

Fothergill, Charles
Papers, 1795-ca. 1875

The bulk of the papers of Charles Fothergill (1782-1840), naturalist, politician, author, printer and publisher, were presented to the University of Toronto Library in 1980 by Mr. George Fothergill and the Royal Ontario Museum. Many of Charles Fothergill's notebooks had been deposited in the Museum Library by Mr. J.H. Fleming, and by the author's descendants. Prominent among the latter were: Miss Mary Clendenan, Miss C. Helen Fotheringham, Miss Dora Atkinson, Miss Mary Fothergill Reid, Mrs. G.M. Hall, Charles J. Fothergill, Charles Theodore Fothergill and Mr. Justice G.A. McGillivray. The Museum generously donated these volumes to the Thomas Fisher Library in 1980 when Mr. George Fothergill presented his large collection to that institution. The Fisher collection had as its nucleus one volume donated by Douglas S. Robertson In 1965.

The collection includes correspondence both private and public, diaries, natural history notebooks, a few sketches, and scrapbooks. Much of the material pre-dates Fothergill's arrival in Upper Canada in 1816. Some of the family correspondence continues for over 30 years after Fothergill's death in 1840.

Extent: 53 items.

Approx. 5 metres.

Biography:

Charles Fothergill was born at York, England, in 1782, into a prominent Quaker family. His father, John Fothergill, an ivory and comb manufacturer, was the nephew of Dr. John Fothergill, the well-known botanist and entomologist; and his mother, Mary Anne (Forbes) Fothergill, was the sister of Charles Forbes, an author. Devoted to natural history from childhood, and spurning his father's efforts to interest him in his business, Charles at the age of 17 published *Ornithologica Britannica*. *The Wanderer*, his next publication, appeared in 1803. He spent most of 1805 in northern Yorkshire collecting material for a history of Yorkshire; and part of 1806 on the Orkney and Shetland Islands on a similar project. However, he only was able to have an introductory *Essay* published, although he employed several prominent engravers including Bewick and Thurston to prepare plates, from his drawings.

In 1811 Fothergill married Charlotte Nevins of Larchfield, near Leeds. Despite promises to his father-in-law, a woollen manufacturer, to settle down, to give up his "flighty and romantic" notions, and to support his wife, he was in constant pecuniary difficulties. These arose from his extravagant life-style, his publishing ventures and his stud of race-horses. A fresh start seemed to be indicated, and after exploring various possibilities he emigrated to Upper Canada in 1816. He plunged into the life of the colony, having received a personal grant of land at Rice Lake as well as a grant of land in Monaghan township in the same area, upon which to found a colony.

The colony never materialized. He became the first postmaster of Port Hope in 1817 and a magistrate in 1818. By 1821 he owned a brewery and distillery in Port Hope, and a saw-mill and grist-mill at Scott's Mills (Peterborough). By this time he had over-extended himself, and much of his property was being seized for debt.

At the end of 1821 he 'was appointed King's Printer at York (Toronto). Besides the official *Upper Canada Gazette*, his predecessor had published a newspaper and yearly almanacs. Fothergill gave way to his predilection for publishing, and the *Weekly Register* and the *Upper Canada Almanac* began to rapidly expand under him. This period of his life, which could well have given him a steady income and a stable life style, was like all the rest of his life — stormy. Personal tragedies—the illness and death of his wife and infant son—as well as political and financial problems engulfed him. He grossly overspent on government printing, got into debt, and finally lost the post, although for political reasons and not for inefficiency.

In 1824 he had become member of parliament for Durham riding. In the 1825-26 session he became an outspoken critic of the government, and his dismissal from the post of King's Printer for this reason brought him popular sympathy. However he lacked a cohesive political platform—he opposed the ruling oligarchy but differed in all other matters from the reformers - and he was not re-elected in 1830. In 1831 he moved to Pickering where his second wife's family lived, and invested his remaining money in a scheme to build mills and start a town. Fire struck and destroyed his mills in 1834.

During the last ten years of his life, he succeeded in publishing an essay on the *Quadrupeds of North America* and in having another on *The Migration of Salmon in the Rivers Tributary to the St. Lawrence* read at the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec in 1835. He also attempted, with William (Tiger) Dunlop and William Rees, to found a Literary and Philosophical Society of Upper Canada. This did not come about, at least not under his aegis, nor did his plan for a Lyceum of Natural History and the Fine Arts. His last venture was the setting up in 1837 of a newspaper, *The Palladium of British America*. Under the nominal ownership of his son, Charles Forbes Fothergill, the *Palladium* attacked the influence of the Family Compact. The paper seems to have folded in May 1839, and Fothergill, having liquidated most of his Pickering assets in this venture, died penniless in 1840. His natural history collection was destroyed by fire not long after his death, and most of his surviving paintings have since disappeared. A few landscapes, chiefly of Rice Lake, are the property of the Canadiana Gallery, Queen's Park.

He was survived by his second wife, Eliza (Richardson) Fothergill, his sons George A. and Charles F. by his first marriage, and four sons and two daughters by his second.

See also Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 7, 317-321

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

- Vol. 1. Diary, and other notes. 1799-1804. ([2], 306, [2] p.)
Includes; Diary, April 1799 (p. 7-48); "Scotch journey, Sept. 1800" (p. 51-115); Diary, April-Sept. 1804 (p. 170-289 and inverted on pages lettered A-Z, a-t); some transcripts of letters; natural history notes, quotations etc.
- Vol. 2 Occasional memoranda and remarks. 1797-1811. ([2], 35, [67] p.)
Includes: "account of birds shot by C.F.", 1797-1800; stud accounts, 1809; grocery lists and prices, Dec. 1808-Aug. 1810; etc.
- Vol. 3 Drawings of birds, butterflies, etc. 1800-1812. (46 plates, part col.)
Plates 1, 11 (dated 1812), 32, 35 and 39-41 are wanting.
Verso of plate 28 is dated March 22, 1800.
Also includes: portraits, a Chinese pagoda, 4 cathedrals.
Two notes are inserted at front authenticating the artist, one by J.H. Fleming, the other by J.L. Baillie.
- Vol. 4 Some collections and sketches, made towards a natural and civil history of Yorkshire. Vol. 1st. [ca. 1810] (24, [1], 25-173, [37] p. illus.)
Includes some clippings, some printed material; index.
- Vol 5-8 References & quotations from books & other authorities of celebrity necessary for my intended work intitled Sketches, general, descriptive & scientifick, &c. &c. Vols. 1-4. 1804-16. (4 v. illus., coats of arms)
Vol. 4: pages 33-34 and 111-112 are wanting. Vol. 4 includes: On the breed and management of bloodhorses.
- Vol. 9 Itinerary to York & Flamborough. 1805. (155, [23] p. illus., 1 col.).
Covers: May 18-June 28, 1805 (days 1-42). Includes: notes about birds; index.
- Vol. 9a Itineraries, confessions, &c. &c. 1805. (8 p.)
Covers: June 29-Aug. 14 (days 43-88)
- Vol 10-11 Notes for a tour to the north-western dales of Yorkshire. 1805. (2 v. illus., col. coat of arms)
Covers: Aug. 15-Dec. 25, 1805 (days 89-221)
Vol. 2: pages 107-108 are wanting, p. 85-86 and 109-110 are mutilated; inverted at end are notes on various subjects.
Vol. 1 includes index.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

- Vol 11a A.D. 1806. (9-21, [13] p.)
Covers: Jan. 6-10 (days 233-237); followed by [15] p. of miscellaneous notes
- Vol. 12 Zoological descriptions and comments. Vol. 1st. 1805. ([4], 260 p.)

“My green book” (cf. Itinerary to York & Flamborough, p. 87). Pages 51-52 are mutilated. Includes: index.
“A table of the diameters, periods, &c. of the several planets of the solar system” ([1] leaf) laid in.
- Vols 13-14 A voyage to the Northern Isles of Great Britain; comprehending the Orkneys, Shetland, Fula, and Fair Isle. 1806. (2 v.) (later reworking)

mfm dup 814
reel 1 neg &
pos
Covers: May 12-19 (inverted at end of v. 1); May 20-July 5 (at front of v. 1); July 7-30 (in v. 2)
Vol. 2 also includes notes on various subjects written ca. 1827-30; e.g., The Manitoo or Mon-e-too; An essay on the forest trees of the Canadas; An essay descriptive of the quadrupeds of British North America; etc.
- Vol 13a Thurso, May 9-10, 1806 (p. 49-60); South Ronaldsha, May 11, 1806 (p. 65-68) (later reworking) (in box with v. 13)
mfm dup 814,
reel 2
- Vol 14a Diary (continued): Sept. 8-19, 1806 (days 129-140), (p. 17-24) (original diary) (in box with v. 14)
mfm dup 814,
reel 2
- Vol 15 Anecdotes and reflections, on the manners; customs; opinions; amusements; virtues; vices; government, political & religious; arts; sciences; &c. &c. of the people of Great Britain and Ireland. 1806-1810? (201 p.)

Includes clippings, and thus. (1 col.) and portraits from printed sources; index.
- Vol 16 Some account of Charles Fothergill’s stud of horses. Vol. 2nd. 1810-1834. (119, 45 p.)
- Vol 17 Various accounts. 1796-1799

Includes (besides financial accounts) accounts of: birds shot, fish caught, books read, goods sent off, goods sold, etc.
Also: drafts of introduction to “Private memoirs”.
- Vol 18 Memoirs. 1800. ([7] leaves. col. coat of arms)
Includes: Introduction only.

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- Vol 19 Voyage from Liverpool to Quebec. 1816. (103 p.)
Covers: July 6-Sept. 6.
Inverted: drafts of 2 title pages “Important serious considerations on the state of man” and “Sketches & notices towards a natural & civil history of Yorkshire”; Excursion to Sheriff Hutton ... Oct. 1803 (p. 1-51); diary “continued from Vol. 1” Sept. 17 (1804)-Dec. 1806 (p. 57-178) Copy of a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department to the gov. of Canada, authorising him to grant a certain quantity of land to C.F., May 1816 (p. 192); etc.
- Vol 20 Canadian researches chiefly in natural history. vol. 1st. 1816-1821. (371 p. illus., part col.)
“Materials for a natural history of the world.”
- Vol 21 A few notes made on a journey from Montreal through the Province of Upper Canada in Feb. 1817. 1817. (97 p. illus.)
mfm dup 323
Covers: Feb. 8-March 6, 1817.
Includes (inverted): information from Mr. Pillet of the Lake of the Two Mountains concerning animals, birds and rattlesnakes; a short account of a trip to Niagara and vicinity, April 7-14, 1817; “Gallery of Indian portraits, scenery, dresses, arms, &c.”
Also includes: “Apparent interposition of Providence” (p. 93-96).
- Vol 22 Sketches towards a natural history of the British Empire. Vol. 1 containing Memoirs and illustrations of British zoology. Vol. 2, containing Researches into the natural history of the British possessions in North America. 182-? ca. 1835. (68, 39 p. illus.)
(Rough notes)

Preceded by: draft of t.p. “Vol. 2 containing researches into the natural history of the two Canadas and British North America.
Vol. 3 containing the Australasian researches in natural history”; and “An account of stock taken into C. Fothergill’s new store at Toronto (Township of Hope U.C.)” 1817-1818 ([24] p.)
Inverted: draft of t.p. “Pursuits of natural history in various parts of the British Empire”; orders sent to various firms, 1817- 1819; text.
Some pages mutilated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

- Vol 23-24 Copies of letters written by Charles Fothergill to various persons. 1811-1837.
- Vol. 1: from the year 1811 to 1828. Vol. 2: from the year 1829 (to [1837])
Includes indexes.
In packet at end of v. 2; typescript of biographical notice of Fothergill by Bernard Thistlethwaite "extracted from *The Naturalist*, no. 784, May, 1922".
Vol. 2 has title: Rough copies of letters
Some letters in other hands.
- Vol 25
mfm dup 858 Memoirs and illustrations of natural history in various parts of the British Empire. ca. 1830-ca. 1837. (523 p. illus.)
Includes: some printed matter; index; various drafts of the t.p.
- Vol 26 Descriptions and remarks in British zoology. 1807-1816. (369 p.)
Includes: some printed matter (also illus.); index.
Preceded by: sporting, gardening, stud and nature notes, 1807-1805; "domestic Concerns (incl. 1 col. illus.) 1803-1804
- Vol 27 Commonplace book. 180-? (283 p.)
- Contains quotations from various sources.
Preceded by t.p. and preliminary matter: Bell's common place book form'd generally upon the principles recommended and practised by Mr. Locke. London, J. Bell, 1790.
- Vol 28 Natural history notes. 1839-1840. (p. 6-146)
- Vol 29 Cash book. 1801. (chiefly blank pages)
Contains: distances of English towns from Weymouth to London; dates of arrival (?) at English towns; poem "My heart it heav'd, down stole the bar".
Also: some accounts from 1849.
Signed on back cover by Caroline Amelia Fothergill.
- Vol 30
mfm dup 814,
reel 2 Various drafts and notes for a history of the Northern Isles of Great Britain. ca. 1807-ca. 1811. (loose pages)
Some pages mutilated.
- Vol 31-32 Bewick, Thomas, 1753-1828. History of British birds. Newcastle, 1804. (2 v. illus., part col.)
Interleaved; with numerous notes, additions and corrections in MS. by Charles Fothergill.
Vol. 1: t.p., p. 34, 19-22 and 337-342 wanting; p. 335-336 mutilated.
Vol. 2: all before p. xiii (incl. t.p.), p. 233-234, 393-394 and 399-400 wanting.

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- Vol 33 Trees and shrubs of North America, particularly Upper Canada. 1830's?
(p. 33-40, 53-56, 61-64, 73-76, 87-98, 103-106)
Some pages mutilated
- Vol 34 John Fothergill's autograph book, Friends Seminary. 1857-1858.
- Vol 35 Household accounts, Whitby. 1865-1874.
- Also includes: draft of letter from John J. Fothergill to the warden and Council of the County of Ontario asking for the appointment as treasurer of the County, Jan. 27th 1874; Article of agreement made Jan. 20th 1866 between George A. Fothergill and Thomas Fields.
- Box 36-37 Empty
- Portfolios. Loose Sketches by Charles Fothergill and others, removed and placed in Box 49
Also includes some drawings from printed sources.
- Two sketches are shelved in the Map Case.
- Box 38 Pattern card book.
Unused except for first part and these leaves have been torn out
- Vol 39-42 Fothergill, Charles. History of my own times. 4 v.
(Large scrapbooks of clippings, each with its own title-page. Apparently originally a set of 138 volumes). ca. 1800-1825.
- Interleaved with holograph notes (most pages mutilated): Birds that are common to both England and the two Canadas as discovered by C.F.
- Vol 39A v. 1 Geography and topography
- Vol 39B v. 8 Natural history, natural philosophy
- Vol. 40A v. xiv. Agriculture; rural affairs.
- Vol 40B v. 28 Antiquities
- Vol. 41A v. cxxii Valuable receipts.
- Vol. 41B v. cxxxiv Miscellaneous.
- Vol. 42 v. cxxxviii Illustrations.

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- Box 43 v. Anecdotes and biographies (partially disbound,
ovs label missing. In box)
- Box 44 Portfolio of clippings on sports.
ovs Scrapbook compiled by Florence H. McGillivray (1864-1938) Containing
clippings about the Fothergill-McGillivray connection, accounts of Florence
McGillivray's work as an artist.
- Item 45 Fothergill, Charles. *Quadrupeds of North America*. 1830. Manuscript.
Microfilm of original in Blacker Library, McGill University
- Box 46 Henry, Alexander, d. 1814. Journal. (Portions of Alexander Henry's journal
copied from the original by Charles Fothergill). 9 folders
- Box 47 Correspondence and miscellaneous documents
- Box 48 Family correspondence (personal)
- Includes additional accession of 1 long ALS with envelope from Charles
Fothergill to Charlotte Nevins, his fiancé, 1810, written at York and sent care
of her brother, Pim Nevins, pleading with Charlotte to declare her love in spite
of her father's reservations.
- Donated to the Fisher Library January 15, 2007, by Mary L. Struthers in
memory of E. Mary Struthers.
- Note from *DCB*:
- "In 1811 Fothergill married Charlotte Nevins, daughter of a Quaker woolen
manufacturer near Leeds, after an ardent courtship which succeeded despite (or
perhaps because of) her father's condemnation of him as 'flighty and
romantick.' Fothergill claimed to be a profligate no longer, but he was
constantly afflicted by financial troubles arising partly from his literary
projects and partly from disastrous business deals, mainly connected with his
stud. In 1813 he began to study medicine at Edinburgh but had to flee to the
Isle of Man to avoid arrest as a debtor. Here, after a last attempt to publish his
'Northern Isles,' he turned to agriculture, but his farming investment (financed
by loans wheedled from his relations) was wiped out at once by the collapse of
agricultural markets at the close of the Napoleonic Wars."
- Box 49-50 Drawings, mainly by Charles Fothergill. (Removed from Portfolios in Box
Ovs 36/37)
- Box 49 Various drawings by Charles Fothergill, mainly British

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1. Pencil drawing of a harbour. Hillside labelled "Hill of Brassay." (Brassay Sound, Shetland, was visited by Fothergill in 1806).
2. Incomplete pencil drawing of a castle on a coast
3. Landscaping for a mansion with notes by C.F. Rough pencil sketch.
4. Watercolour drawing (incomplete) of seashore and rock formations, with figure of a man. Instructions for completion on verso.
5. Pencil drawing, rocky landscape and sea.
6. Pencil portraits of Eugene Aram, Elias Hoyt, and the dog Camele, 1798.
7. Pencil portrait: "Old Penrose. Aetat 96."
8. Pencil outline of rough landscape.
9. Pencil drawing of a house obscured by trees.
10. Pencil drawing of a gate and a stile.
11. Pencil sketch of a crags. Quick sketch of owl and church window on verso.
12. Quick pencil sketches of mountains and rocks, on both sides of paper.
13. Pencil drawings of various tree forms • More recent drawing of a wash-stand on verso.
14. "Southwell palace. Drawn Sept. 1, 1802."
15. Pencil drawing of reclining nude. Carefully shaded.
16. Pencil and watercolour of knights in combat.
17. "Sketch of storks & a Dutch farm between Helvoets & Rotterdam, 30th of April, 1803." Watercolour.
18. Oil on canvas of a hunter with gun and dog.

Box 49

Sketches by Fothergill which can-be definitely tied into his account of his trip through Yorkshire, 1805

1. "Ancient monument of a Saxon chief found in Wensley Church yard. 31 Oct., 1805. C.F." Pencil and wash.
2. "Middleham from the east C.F. Aug. 28 [1805] Pencil and water-colour, incomplete. (See Diary of Charles Fothergill edited by Paul Romney, p.98.)
3. "Facsimile of a remarkably fine specimen of ancient painting on glass in ye Church at Grunton in Swaledale. C.F. Oct. 5, 1805." Watercolour and India ink, of St. George and The Dragon.
4. "Sketch of the ruins of a chapel in Ravensworth Castle, Yorks. Oct. 20, 1805. C.F." (See Diary of Charles Fothergill edited by P. Romney. p. 186.)
5. "Remains of Tanfield Castle, Yorks. A sketch. Aug. 2, 1805." Pencil drawing. On verso, sketch of crypt and altar. (See Diary of Charles Fothergill, edited by P. Romney. p. 92.)
6. "Aysgarth." Pencil drawing, partially finished in water-colour. (See Diary of Charles Fothergill edited by P. Romney. p. 180.)
7. Unnamed pencil drawing of a village, obviously of Wensley. (See Romney, p. 174). This is the background of the aquatint of "The little rail of Wensley.

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Natural History Drawings

1. "The little rail of Wensley. A non-descript. Size of life. Drawn by C. Fothergill on the spot in 1805. Aquatint by F.C. Lewis, an early proof." With accompanying photograph.
(Note the pencil drawing of background for this is no. 7 of the Yorkshire drawing).
2. Another copy. Top cut off.
3. Another copy, glued on a page from a scrapbook. Sepia water-colour drawing pasted on back of page.
4. Water-colour drawing of a bird of prey. Cut out and mounted on sheet of paper.
5. Water-colour drawing of a gull - probably black-backed. Incomplete.
6. Aquatint of a tern with seascape in background.
7. Pencil sketch a waterfowl-- cormorant? merganser? Partially coloured.
8. Water-colour drawings of birds' eggs - kittiwake and. puffin. 1805.
9. Water-colour drawings of birds' eggs - Eleven varieties." All these are of the exact natural size and shape."

See also no. 1 of Canadian drawings.

Box 49

Canadian drawings by C. Fothergill

1. Lynx Canadensis - pencil drawing
2. "Sketch of Table Rock at Niagara as it stood a little before its fall, and. the schooner from Buffalo approaching ... taken from the British side." Pencil drawing.
3. "Sketch of the horseshoe falls at Niagara from Goat Island; with a distant view of the Canadian side ... Incomplete pencil drawing.
4. Sketch of some mountain ranges, traversed by the Red Deer River. Pencil drawing with lengthy prose description.

Drawings by people other than Charles Fothergill

1. Watercolour of a cathedral with houses and. small boats in foreground. Signature illegible.
2. Pencil drawing of 2 horses, North Street, York, 1836. G.W. Fothergill. Watercolours by Elizabeth Fothergill, Charles Fothergill's sister. Copied from paintings of her brother's.
3. "Castle Scalloway, in Shetland, from the North. Charles Fothergill pinxit. Copied by E.F., 1811."
4. "Rocks on The North Western Coast of ye .sublime Fula. Charles Fothergill pinxit. Copied by E.F., 1811."

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5. Untitled painting of a villa, unsigned but almost certainly by Elizabeth Fothergill.

Print of a flower with bulb root, published .by T. Curtis, St. Geo. Crescent,- June 1, 1808.- From Win. Curtis. *Botanical magazine or Flower Garden Displayed*. London, 1787-1826.

Title pages *Ornithologia Britannica seu Avium omnium Britannicarum ... catalogus*. London, printed for The author by J. Dixwell, 1771.

Box 50 Nine drawings in India ink and water colour, believed to be C. Fothergill.

- A) "A View of the Island of Porto Sancto; A View of Bona Vista; A View of the Island of Sal; A North West View of the Isle of Mayo at 5 Leagues distance; A distant view of St. Iago bearing NW3W distance 10 Leagues" watermark "IHS I. Villedary"
- B) "A View of Porta Praya at the Island of St. Iago". inset "Natives of St. Iago"
- C) "A View of the Island of Frio at 5 Miles distance as it appeared off the Point of Cape Frio, on the Coast of Brazil." notes "bearing NNE1/2E."
- D) "A View of the Coast of Brazil from Cape Frio, also the entrance of the River Janeiro"
- E) "Perspective View of the City of St. Sebastian, Rio de Janeiro on the coast of Brazil"
- F) "A North View of the Island of Cobras at Rio de Janeiro; A View of Tristian de Cunha at 8 Leagues dist."
- G) "A View of the Table Land at Cape of Good Hope, Distance 14 Leagues ..."
- H) "A View of Cochin Road on the Coast of Malabar"
- I) "A View of Goa Harbour, and the Fort of Algado on the Coast of Malabar."

Vol 51 Charles Fothergill's Notebook 1811-1817

Related work:

Sci Fothergill, Charles
Pam *Ornithologia Britannica, or, A list of all the British birds ...* York: Printed by
f W, Hick •., 1799. [3], 3-11 p.