

**University of Toronto Archives and
Records Management Services**



**William Dale Family
Records
B2002-0017**

**Garron Wells
February, 2003**

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Biographical note**William Dale**

William Dale was born October 1, 1848 in Yorkshire, England and came to Canada with his father, brothers and sister in 1857. He attended St. Mary's Grammar School and Upper Canada College before entering University College at the University of Toronto in 1867. He graduated as gold medalist in classics, history and mathematics in 1871. He returned to study for his Master of Arts degree which he received in 1871. From 1874 to 1879 he taught at various high schools in Ontario and Quebec and then retired to his farm in St. Mary's where he divided his time between reading and farming. In 1884, Professor Maurice Hutton, Chair of Classics at the University of Toronto hired Dale as a lecturer in Latin literature and Roman History and as registrar for University College and the School of Practical Science. He was appointed Associate Professor in 1892.¹ During the next eleven years Professor Dale also became an active member of the YMCA of University College and the Classical Association. He was also the founder and first Secretary of the University College Alumni Association. In an 1892 speech to the association, Dale "attacked the governing policies of the university and the benefits accruing to the University College as less than satisfactory...Dale complained in his speech about the exclusion of Canadians from the position of Chairs of departments, a policy which he hailed as injurious in the extreme to Canadian scholarship..."².

Prof. Dale is most remembered as the man dismissed from the University of Toronto by the provincial government in 1895. This action was taken after Prof. Dale published in the *Globe and Mail* (February 9, 1895) his criticism of the government's decision to appoint Prof. George Wrong as head of the History department, a position Dale and other faculty felt others were more qualified. Dale charged that the appointment of Wrong had more to do with Wrong being the son-in-law of the Honorable Edward Blake (Chancellor of the University) than his academic qualifications. Outrage over Prof. Dale's dismissal resulted in the Student Strike of 1895 led by William Lyon Mackenzie King. In response, the Ontario Government appointed a Royal Commission on the Discipline in the University of Toronto in April 1895. The final report of the Commission on April 27, 1895 absolved the University of any appearance of wrong-doing.

Following his dismissal, Dale was offered a one-year post at Queen's University to replace Prof. Fletcher in the Classics Department. It was during the term of 1895-1896 that Dale met Florence Frederika Ryckman (b. June 29, 1876; d. Aug. 17, 1971) in his sophomore Latin class. Five years later, they would marry. From 1896-1906, Prof. Dale taught during the winter at McMaster University in Toronto and served on the Senate of the University of Toronto from 1896 until his death from a heart attack on February 16, 1921.

When not teaching, Dale devoted his time to farming in Blanshard township and his home in nearby St. Marys. It was here that he and his wife Frederika raised their four children:

¹ UTA P78-0021 (07). Calendar of the University of Toronto, 1893-1894, p. 68

² Robert M. Wilhelm, "William Dale: Toronto's cause célèbre" Paper read to the A.P.A. Convention, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Dec. 30, 1984, p. 16 in B2002-0017/008

Margaret (b. March 9, 1905. d July 26, 1972.), Douglas (b Oct 4, 1906. d.ca 1990) ,Frances (b Sept. 6, 1908. d. October 6, 2001), and Emmaline (b. Dec 30, 1912 d. 2000). Margaret Dale won the Second Edward Blake Scholarship in Classics Proficiency awarded by the University of Toronto to honors matriculation students. Like her father, she studied the Classics at University College and graduated in 1927. Like her sister, Frances, she went on to teach high school Latin and English. She died in 1972 as a result of a car accident.

Florence Frederika Ryckman Dale

Florence Fredericka Ryckman was born June 29, 1876, the eldest daughter of Emmaline Edmond Baird and Reverend Edward Bradshaw Ryckman, minister of the Second Methodist Church in Kingston, Ontario. According to notes by Frances Dale on the newspaper report of Fredericka's birth, her name was to be Jessie Alexandra. Apparently, this "was found out when mother applied for birth certificate at age 70." She met William Dale during her sophomore year at Queen's University where she was a Honour English and History major student and he was lecturing in the Department of Classics following his dismissal from the University of Toronto. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1898.

After a six year courtship, she and William Dale were married on April 10, 1901 at the Wall Street Methodist Church in Brockville. She was 25 and William Dale was 53. Her father, Rev. E. B. Ryckman performed the ceremony. For the first ten years of their marriage they lived on the Dale farm near St. Marys. In 1911 they moved, with their three children to the large Second Empire style house on Ontario Street. When William Dale died in 1921, Fredericka was left alone to raise their four children, Margaret, William Douglas, Frances and Emmaline.³ Following his death, she sold the Dale farm, and in the years to come, sent Margaret and Frances to the University of Toronto... In addition to raising her four children, Mrs. Dale was involved in the St. Mary's United Church, the Women's Missionary Society and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was a charter member of the Queen Alexandra Women's Institute and a former members of the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary. According to her obituary *Queen's University Alumni Review* March-April 1972, "she was part of the first group in the area to become interested in the problems of the mentally retarded, an interest she retained throughout her life."⁴

She lived in the family house in St. Marys until her death on August 17, 1971 at the age of 95.

Frances Dale

Frederika Frances Dale was born on Sept. 6, 1908. In 1926 she attended University College at the University of Toronto and graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree on June 6, 1930. While studying the Classics she also pursued her keen interest in 'physical training', a pursuit

³ Robert McKay Wilhelm, "William Dale – *Delicta Maiorum*: An Ancient Roman on the battlefield at the University of Toronto". P. 10, footnote 48 ; *Montreal Daily Witness*, April 12, 1901. B2002-0017/008

⁴ UTA B2002-0017/008

that she would maintain throughout her life. At University she was on the women's baseball and basketball teams, was president of the Baseball Club in her third year, and was a member of the Classical Association and the Players' Guild. She also found time to be Vice-president of the Executive for her graduating year and was Head Girl of Queen's Hall, the College residence.⁵

She then attended Ontario College of Education and after graduation in 1931 was teaching high school in Goderich, Ontario. In 1934 she began teaching at Stratford Collegiate Institute. Her keen interest in physical training led her to travel to England and Europe during the 1930's to study physical training. After World War II she continued to travel at home and abroad, making trips to Europe in 1949, 1954, 1964 and 1973. She retired from teaching at Stratford Collegiate in 1971. She remained in the family home in St. Mary's which her father had purchased in 1911 until 1996, when she moved to the Kingsway Nursing Home. She died on October 6, 2001 in St. Marys, Ontario.

⁵ *Torontonensis*, 1930, p. 31

Scope and Content Note

Records [textual; publications; graphic]; 1868-1986 ;1.18 metres

Access: Open

This accession documents the life and times of William Dale, professor of classics and Roman history, his wife and his children, primarily Margaret and Frances Dale. This family's papers consist of three sous-fonds: the papers of Prof. William Dale, the papers of his wife, Frederika (Frieda) Ryckman Dale, and the papers of their daughter, Fredericka Frances Dale. The records in this accession provide an important historical resource on academic life at the University of Toronto as seen through the eyes of a controversial faculty member in the 19th century, and by two students in the early 20th century.

The William Dale sous-fonds documents through diaries, essays, speeches, teaching and lecture notes the academic achievements and contributions of this 19th century former professor of classics and Roman history at the University of Toronto and two other universities. William Dale's contribution to the development of the curriculum of study in Classics has been described by Robert Wilhelm: "Together, Maurice Hutton and William Dale were responsible for transforming the miscellaneous Classical Curriculum of University College into a course of study that exhibited greater rigor and careful selection of the readings. Dale appeared to have been the guiding force and influence behind the changes in the classics curriculum; his journals showed him working out the details of the courses and the readings and making comparisons between the curriculum at Toronto and the course of study at Oxford."

His diaries record not only his daily academic and personal activities, but also his impressions, observations and opinions on local and national events, religion, politics, books, and education. They are fairly complete from his student days prior to entering the University of Toronto, through his undergraduate and graduate years (1873), his first teaching experiences, particular at the English High School in Quebec City to 8 of his 11 years as Lecturer and Associate Professor in the Department of Classics (1884-1892). They are especially rich in documenting the operation of the University in general and the Dept. of Classics in particular. Dale wrote essays, lectures and speeches that went largely unpublished. Many of these manuscripts are contained in this sous-fonds, often heavily annotated by his daughter Frances as she organized his papers.

Complementing the William Dale sous-fonds are the papers of his wife, the former Frederika (Frieda) Ryckman whom he met while teaching at Queen's University following his dismissal from the University of Toronto in 1895. This sous-fonds consists almost entirely of correspondence from William both before and after their marriage in 1901, and from her children and other family members following his death in 1921. The courtship letters from William Dale document not only his love and their relationship, but also his academic and farming activities. Following their marriage, the correspondence describes his

activities while on trips to Toronto to teach at McMaster, the local activities in St. Marys and the surrounding farming community when he attended to their farm. The letters are also filled with his discussions of their relationship, family members and the birth of their children. Following Dale's death in 1921, the correspondence is almost entirely from her two eldest daughters, Margaret and Frances. Records relating to the other children, William Douglas and Emmaline, are sparse, consisting mainly of a few letters from Margaret and Frances and press clippings on birth and marriage. The letters from Margaret and Frances are a rich resource of information on the day to day activities of two female university students living in Toronto in the 1920s. The daughters kept their mother regularly informed on social activities, the weather, lectures and impressions of professors, and their friends. Following this series of correspondence are files of personal documents relating more generally to the Dale and Ryckman families. Included are Mrs. Dale's diary of her trip with her daughter Frances to Europe in 1934, her marriage certificate, educational diplomas and a file of correspondence between the Dale children during the 1920's.

The final sous-fonds consists of the papers of Frances Dale. The first three series of diaries, correspondence and University of Toronto materials complement the sous-fonds of her parents. The diaries especially complement the correspondence in sous-fonds 2 since they provide the day to day record of her experience at the University of Toronto, her early career as a high school teacher and her enduring interest in physical education for women. The trip diaries of 1934 and 1936 are filled with her impressions of shipboard travel, the places and people she saw and met and provide a glimpse of life in pre war Europe. Unfortunately there is no diary of her trip of 1939 to Europe immediate prior to World War II. The bulk of the correspondence concerns her research on her father William Dale begun in the 1950's and which continued into the late 1980's. This research prompted her to undertake the typing of transcripts of her father's unpublished essays and these will be found in Series 4. During the 1970's several academics contacted her regarding her father's life, especially the event of his dismissal in 1895. Series 5 contains the draft manuscript of the play by James Reaney entitled "The Dismissal" which was undertaken during the University of Toronto's sesquicentennial celebrations. Robert Wilhelm, a former student of Frances Dale, used the Dale papers to write a number of papers on Prof. Dale, one of which was published?... Manuscripts of these works are also found in this sous-fond.

Frances Dale was also an avid amateur photographer documenting her European trips, family and friends. Individual prints and negatives, as well as a scrapbook provide a unique insight into travelling during the 1930's. She also collected pictures of her university days, and members of her family as she conducted her research.

Sous Fonds 1**William Dale****Series 1****Diaries and personal papers**

.10 metres; textual

1868-1906

This series contains five diaries kept by William Dale from his student days (1868) through several years as professor of classics at the University of Toronto (1892). In his article on William Dale, Robert Wilhelm states “In the pages of these journals, all of which deserve publication, we obtain an amazingly intimate picture of his feelings and thoughts on life, religion, politics, his studies, the books he has read and his views on education.”⁶

This series also includes a file (07) of two pieces of correspondence - a letter of december 11, 1888 from A. M. Bascom, a “friend of father’s in Uxbridge re father’s faith and B’s advice to him to get married”⁷ and an invitation to Prof. and Mrs Dale to attend convocation conferring an honorary degree on the Duke of Cornwall, Oct. 11, 1901. (For the bulk of correspondence by Dale to his wife Frederika Rykman Dale see Sous-fonds 2, Series 1) Another file (08) contains a Farm Book of expenses (1897-1906) maintained by Dale while farming his property near St. Marys, Ontario.

The final item is the testimonial presented to Dale by Classical Association of University College on Feb. 20, 1895 following his dismissal by the University. It is signed by members of the Association.

Diaries:

Box /001

(01) Nov. 15, 1868 – July 26, 1870

(02) –(03) October 1, 1871 – August 22, 1881

(04) May 24, 1877 – June 19, 1879 compiled while rector of the English High School, Quebec City

(05) March 6, 1884 to April 12, 1884, also contains notes entitled “Canadian and American History – Annals”

(06) June 30, 1879 – April 8, 1892

Box/009 Testimonial, 1895

Series 2**University Education**

.04 metres; textual

1870-1873

This series consists of two files containing his diplomas for Bachelor of Arts (1871) and Master of Arts (1873) degrees from the University of Toronto, and essays written for courses of study in political science.

/001 (09)-(10)

⁶ Robert McKay Wilhelm, “William Dale – *Delicta Maiorum*: An Ancient Roman on the battlefield at the University of Toronto”. P. 21 B2002-0017/008

⁷ Ms notation by Frances Dale on front of envelope

Series 3 Essays and Presentations

.10 metres; textual

1879-ca1914 and undated

This series contains manuscripts of unpublished essays, speeches and lectures prepared by Dale. His only publication was "Rome's Greatness – Caesar's Character – Lucretius" which appeared in *Queen's Quarterly* 4 (1896) (pp 227-231). The manuscript has not been traced, although other essays on Roman history in this series may have been the basis for this article. Typed transcripts of many of these essays prepared by Frances Dale will be found in /008 (06-(08).

/002

- (01) The attitude of the average man to the Church
- (02) A wonderful century
- (03) The study of classics; Matriculation
- (04) Tennyson and His Age; [The importance of history]
- (05) Canadian History – lecture to the YMCA Quebec city, March 4, 1879
- (06) Christianity as the greatest civilization force in Western World... - lecture to university students. Nd.
- (07) On the reading of books – lecture to Classical Association University of Toronto ca 1895
- (08) Early Roman History
- (09) Classical Scholarship or the Unity of Knowledge
- (10) The growth of the empire [June, 1897]
- (11) Historical reading – speech to the 'people of North and South Easthope' [1900]⁸
- (12) Anglo-saxons and their superiority in political freedom
- (13) Ancient Rome and modern England
- (14) Canada in 1760; Europe and America; [fragile]
- (15) The study of a language
- (16) The political attitude of Horace – lecture to Classical Association of Ontario, April 21, 1897
- (17) University College and the Faculty of Arts in the University of Toronto – address to the U of T. Alumni Association; draft of letter to the Honorable T. M. Gibson, M.P.P., Provincial Secretary Dec. 19 [1890's]; notes for letter to Chancellor of the University.

Series 4 Teaching and lecture notes

.16 metres; textual

[ca 1884-1895]

This series contains lecture notes for various courses taught by Prof. Dale, presumably at the University of Toronto, in his position as Lecturer and Associate Professor of Latin and Roman History in the Department of Classics at University College. Files relate to Roman History lectures for third and fourth year students, notes on Livy, Cicero *Academica*, Caesar, Lucretius, Aristotle's *Ethics* (with exam questions), and Ancient Greek and Roman History (with exam questions).

⁸ B2002-0017/004 (02) letter, William Dale to Frieda Ryckman, Feb. 28, 1900

Box/002 (18)- (19)

Box /003

Series 5**Photographs**

1868-1920

6 photographs

1 negative

4 engravings

Images consist mainly of portraits of William Dale including one from 1873 when he received his M.A. and several copies of an engraving done in 1920, one year before his death. There is also one group portrait of the General Committee of the University College, Literary and Scientific Society, 1868-1869.

/001P (01) – (07)

/003P (01)

Sous Fonds 2**Florence Frederika Ryckman Dale****Series 1****Correspondence**

.28 metres; textual

1886-1930

This series contains correspondence received by Fredericka (or Frieda) before, during and after her marriage to William Dale and correspondence from her children following the death of her husband in 1921. The letters prior to her marriage predominantly document the period after graduation from Queen's University when she attempted to find employment as a teacher or companion and her courtship by William Dale. The correspondence from William Dale does not begin until January 1900 when she is in Saranac Lake, New York, and after breaking off her engagement to Jack Munro. In addition to describing his growing love for Frieda, William also describes his teaching duties at McMaster University and his family and life in St. Marys.

The correspondence after their marriage indicates that they were frequently separated, with William teaching in Toronto or at the farm in Blanshard Twp while Frieda stayed with her parents in Cornwall or Kingston. From 1905 to his death in 1921, correspondence from her husband and some Ryckman family members concerns the birth of their children, his participation in the local government in St. Marys, farming matters and trips to Toronto. There is a file of condolence letters on the death of William Dale and includes letters from Maurice Hutton, W. S. Milner (University of Toronto), and F. H. Wallace (Victoria College).

From 1923 to 1930, Margaret ("Marnay") and then Frances ("Fran") wrote regularly to their mother while attending the University of Toronto. These letters describe the day to day university life from a woman's perspective – the lectures, residence life, social activities and include impressions of friends and teachers. The letters from Frances should be read in conjunction with her diaries (See Sous fonds 2, Series 1). It should be noted that there are no letters for 1929, and the 1930 letters are mainly from Frances while she worked at Jasper Park Lodge during the months of June to August and from Margaret describing her trip to Europe that same summer.

Box 004 Correspondence 1886-1921

Box 005 Correspondence 1923-1930

Series 2**Dale/Ryckman family**.25 metres; textual, graphic
4 photoprints

1884-1948

This series contains an assortment of documents relating to the Dale and Ryckman families. It includes the diary of Margaret Dale of her trip to Europe in 1930 (see Series 1 above for correspondence), Fredericka Dale's diary of her trip with her daughter, Frances, to Europe in 1934 (for Frances' account see Sous Fonds 3, Series 1, marriage certificate for William Dale and Fredericka Ryckman, education diplomas and other memorabilia of Frederika Ryckman, testimonials for her sister Louise Ryckman, Victoria University Senate resolution

on the death of her father, Rev. E. B. Ryckman in 1916 and correspondence between the Dale children for three years, 1923, 1924 and 1927. There are four portraits included in this series: one of Fredericka Ryckman Dale (1902), two of her father Rev. Dr. Edward B. Ryckman and one of her mother Emmaline Baird Ryckman (ca. 188-)

Box 006 (01) – (07) ; for photographs see /001P(08)-(10).

Sous Fonds 3**Frances Dale****Series 1****Diaries**

.08 metres; textual

1926-1939

Frances Dale's diaries begin in 1926 when she enrolled in her first year at University College at the University of Toronto. The diaries for her University of Toronto years record not only daily events during the academic year, but also names of friends, social events like dances, names and addresses. Later volumes of her diaries document her education at Ontario College of Education and her first teaching positions and summers spent teaching physical education at summer camps. Diaries of her trips to Europe in 1934 and 1936 are also contained in this series.

Box 006 (08) U. of T. Student diaries, 1926-1930

Box 007 (01) – (03) 1930-1939

Series 2**Correspondence**

.07 metres; textual

1931-1986

Correspondence in this series contains letters written by Frances and received from friends, and family mainly in the 1930s, and correspondence generated as a result of her research on her father, William Dale. Of interest is a file of correspondence of her letters to her mother during her trips to Europe in 1934 and 1936 which supplement her diaries for that same period. There is only one letter for the 1940's and none for the 1960's. Correspondence in the 1950's and between 1973 and 1986 consists mainly of responses from individuals and institutions relating to her research on her father, William Dale. Among the correspondents are archivists, academics and administrators from University of Toronto, Queen's University, and McMaster University, researchers such as Robert Wilhelm and James Reaney who produced works related to her father's life, and Prof. P.G.Cornell, Dept. of History, University of Waterloo, relating to the possible publication of her father's lectures, essays and diaries.

Box 007 (04)-(07)

Series 3**University of Toronto and Gymnastics training**

.03 metres; textual

1930-1939

Frances Dale's primary interest as a student and as a teacher was physical education and training. This series contains correspondence, memorabilia, press clippings, essays and other documents relating to her student days at U. of T. and her ongoing interest in physical education. In particular are two files containing correspondence, notes, essays and clippings documenting mainly her trips to Europe to attend English Scandinavian Summer School in 1934, and the Lingaid in Stockholm with the Liverpool Physical Training College in 1939.

Series 7**Photographs**

1927-1968

262 photographs; 15 cm x 12 cm or smaller
 94 negatives 10 cm x 6 cm or smaller
 20 photographs 15 cm x 20 cm or larger
 1 scrapbook

Photographs document Frances Dale's activities specifically at the University of Toronto, at the Ontario College of Education, her numerous trips abroad during the 1930s and her participation in several physical education schools. This series also contains one formal portrait of Frances Dale taken in 1968 as well as photographs of her sister Margaret and family.

Group portraits of various baseball and basketball teams document Dale's involvement in athletics while a student at University College from 1927-1930. Other portraits show her as a member of the Classical Society, 3T0 Executive and the Queen's Hall House Committee. Snapshots taken by Dale give informal views of residents of Queen's Hall in 1927. There are a few photographs of physical education training at OCE and one panoramic portrait of staff and students for her graduating class 1930-31, as well as a similar panoramic of a 1946 guidance course.

Dale took numerous photographs of her trips to Europe in 1934, 1936, 1938, 1939 and 1940. There is also a scrapbook of her trip to England in 1934. Snapshots document her time at the English Scandinavian Summer School in Sturry, England in 1934 and 1936, her time at Andersskolen, Denmark in 1936, to Europe on the S.S. Normandie in 1938, at the Liverpool Physical Training College in 1939-40 and her participation at the Lingiad in Stockholm in July 1939. Most of the snapshots are identified on the reverse side. Notes usually mention the date, event and identify individuals in the photograph. Some photographs have related negatives. There are also two group photographs documenting her participation in the Canadian Girls in Training Camps in 1946 and 1952.

University of Toronto 1927-1930	/001P(11)-(20) /002P(01)-(05)
Ontario College of Education 1930-31, 1946	/001P(21)-(22) /002P(06) /003P(02),(05)
Goderich Collegiate Institute, 1931-1932	/001P(23)
Trip to Europe 1934 including scrapbook and the English Scandinavian Summer School of Physical Education	/002P(07)-(23) /001P (03)

Trip to Europe 1936 including the English Scandinavian Summer School of Physical Education in Finland and Andelsskolen, Denmark	/002P(24)-(36)
Trip to Europe 1938 on the SS Normandie	/002P(37)-(39)
Trip to Europe in 1939, including Constantine Bay, Cornwall, the Lingiad, Stockholm and Liverpool Physical Training College	/002P (40)-(56) /003P (04)
Liverpool Physical Training College in 1940	/002P(57)-(60)
Kenora Trip and Saskatchewan, summer 1940	/002P(61)-(63)
CGIT Camp, 1946 and 1952	/001P(24)-(25)
Margaret and family, 1940-54	/001P (26)
Portrait of Frances Dale, 1968-1969	/001P(27)