

# Victoria University Archives

## Finding Aid - Francis Huston Wallace fonds (2186)

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# Francis Huston Wallace fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Victoria University Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Francis Huston Wallace fonds
<b>ID:</b>	2186
<b>Category [alternative]:</b>	Administrators / Faculty personal papers
<b>Date:</b>	1839-1936 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	0.86 m of textual materials 8 Photographs
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Created by JT Jan 25 2019
<b>Note [sourcesDescription]:</b>	United Church of Canada Archives: Finding Aid 3170 - Francis Huston Wallace Fonds. Originally prepared by Mark Van Stempvoort, 1995. Updated by Alex Thomson, 1992, 2000 and by Laura Hallman, 2016.
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	For records relating to Wallace's time as Dean of the Faculty of Theology, see the Faculty of Theology Fonds (Fonds 2022), series 2, subseries 1, Records of Francis Huston Wallace.
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	For additional family correspondence, see the Wallace Family fonds (2817).

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Francis Huston Wallace was educated in a series of private schools, including Upper Canada College in Toronto, where he was head boy in 1868-69. He enrolled in University College, Toronto, the following year. Although he was not impressed with the quality of teaching, he graduated with a first and a gold medal in classics in 1873 and secured an MA a year later. Wallace and his family had assumed that following graduation he would enter Knox College and become a Presbyterian minister. During his second undergraduate year, however, he became greatly distressed about his spiritual condition and his vocation. He agreed with his father as to the absolute necessity of a conversion experience as the foundation of a truly Christian life, but he was deeply depressed by his failure to achieve it. Fortunately, at this juncture he was befriended by several perceptive and sympathetic Methodists. Inspired by their counsel and by participation in Methodist services, he eventually felt "his heart strangely

warmed," as had John Wesley, and he became "gloriously happy in the joy of salvation." Despite his father's anger and grief, Wallace rejected the Westminster Standards, adopted by the Church of Scotland in 1647, and the prospect of becoming a Presbyterian minister. His Methodist friends quickly decided that he would be a valuable recruit for the Methodist ministry, and with their encouragement, he was accepted as a local preacher in 1873. Nathanael Burwash, the founding dean of theology at Victoria College in Cobourg, hinted at an eventual appointment in the college. Wallace enrolled in Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, N.J., in 1873. After graduating in 1876, he proceeded to the University of Leipzig, then a leading institution in biblical studies attended by many foreign theological students, where he spent a year. He would return to Germany in 1911-12 to study at the University of Berlin and, in particular, to enroll in the course offered by the eminent and radical church historian Adolf von Harnack, whom he later privately described as a "Unitarian of the highest type."

Wallace was ordained in the Methodist ministry in 1878 and subsequently appointed to pastorates in Peterborough, Toronto, and Cobourg, positions in which he acquired several prominent lay supporters and the friendship of Samuel Sobieski Nelles and other members of the teaching staff at Victoria College. In 1887 he was appointed professor of New Testament literature and exegesis in Victoria's faculty of theology; he began teaching the following January. Wallace was a member of the faculty until 1920 and its dean from 1900. A respected and committed teacher and administrator, he helped to shape the development of the faculty and the theological outlook of many in the Methodist ministry in Canada, during a period of profound intellectual upheaval - a generation influenced by Darwin's writings, the development of higher criticism in biblical studies, and growing awareness that Christian theology is a transitory construction, as are other forms of human thought. By 1920 Victoria's faculty of theology and the Methodist community in general had come to accept the implications of contemporary biblical scholarship and were probably more distressed by the moral implications of World War I than by arguments about Genesis and prophecy.

At Victoria, from 1892 located in Toronto, this process of adjustment was marked by two controversial incidents and facilitated by Wallace's own approach to biblical studies and his constructive appointments to the faculty. He played no formal part in the first issue, the resignation of his friend and colleague George Coulson Workman in 1891. He concluded, however, that Workman was a Unitarian and therefore unsuited to instruct Methodist theological students. Again, in 1909 his friend George Jackson, newly appointed professor of English Bible, was threatened with dismissal for stating publicly that the account of creation in Genesis is not a historical one. The dispute was resolved through a statement prepared by John Fletcher McLaughlin, Workman's successor, and signed by the entire faculty of theology. It declared that, "so long as our theological professors maintain their personal vital relation to Christ and Holy Scripture, and adhere to the doctrinal standards of our own church . . . they must be left free to do their own work," a position later accepted by the General Conference of the Methodist Church.

A quiet, firm, but tolerant scholar, Wallace believed that the New Testament is "all alive with the experiences, difficulties, struggles, antagonisms, heresies, arguments, appeals, eloquence of the men and times to whom Jesus Christ spake." Historical study enabled Christians better to understand "the living realities of the Bible and of Christian experience." Wisely and perhaps deliberately, he left public controversy to others. His preaching was scholarly and balanced, and he welcomed changes in the role of the church. Wallace did not neglect his duties as a minister. He was a strong advocate of the establishment of the deaconess order in the Methodist Church and an effective supporter of union with the Presbyterian and Congregational churches, achieved in 1925. His home was a hospitable place where he welcomed each generation of students. Above all, he strove to make Victoria's "work in theology equal in scholarship to that of the very best institutions on this continent." He left his colleagues and his students with a "memory of good words and good deeds" that would help constructively to shape the college's role in theological education.

Wallace was married in 1878 to Joy Wilson, the daughter of Bishop Edward Wilson of New Jersey. She died in 1918. His eldest son, Edward Wilson Wallace, was a missionary to China and became Chancellor of Victoria University. His daughter Muriel taught in Peterborough, Ontario and at Bloor St. Collegiate Institute, and his son, Paul, was a professor of English at Lebanon Valley College, Pennsylvania. Two other children, Dorothy and Polly, died at an early age.

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## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of mostly personal papers divided into the following series: Studies (1863-1872); Ministry (1871-1926); Finances (1863-1936); Autobiography (1873-1921); Memorabilia (1883-1933); Family Correspondence (1839-1930).

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Immediate source of acquisition

Transferred from the United Church of Canada Archives - June 2018.  
2018.07V

### Finding aids

- Finding Aid 3170 from the United Church of Canada Archives is available on request.
- Photographs described in the Photograph Database. See links in applicable Series and Files: <http://archival-photos.vicu.utoronto.ca/>

### Related material

United Church of Canada Archives - <https://www.archeion.ca/francis-huston-wallace-fonds>

### Accruals

No further accruals expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

## Access points

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs and art (documentary form)

## Series descriptions

### Series 2186-1: Studies

Date: 1862-1873 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of papers relating to Rev. Wallace's Studies.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual materials

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
2186-1-2018.07V1-1	File - Class Schedules	1865 1864 1863		
2186-1-2018.07V1-2	File - Exercises on Historical/ Geographical Subjects	1864		
2186-1-2018.07V1-3	File - Compositions [2 notebooks]	1865		
2186-1-2018.07V1-4	File - Student Compositions	1866		
2186-1-2018.07V1-5	File - Examination Papers: "Invasion of Russia by Napoleon", "Patriotism", "The Late Prince Consort"	June 1886 December 1865 n.d.		
2186-1-2018.07V1-6	File - Notes for six debates	1865		
2186-1-2018.07V1-7	File - Notes for ten debates	1867		
2186-1-2018.07V1-8	File - Notes for two debates	n.d.		
2186-1-2018.07V1-9	File - Notes for debate: "Was Cromwell a patriot?"	February 1869		
2186-1-2018.07V1-10	File - Pamphlet: "Methodical Guide to the Daily Reading of the Scriptures" by Rev. F. Barker, London	1867		
2186-1-2018.07V1-11	File - Certificates of matriculation into Faculty of Arts, University of Toronto	1869		
2186-1-2018.07V1-12	File - Notebook	1870		
2186-1-2018.07V1-13	File - Address: "Doctrinal Difficulties," John III: 1-21	May 30, 1871		
2186-1-2018.07V1-14	File - Address: Acts XVI: 31	September 1871		
2186-1-2018.07V1-15	File - Address: Acts XVI: 31	n.d.		

2186-1-2018.07V1-16	File - Address Notes: YMCA; Watchnight Services; Acts XVI: 31	Dec 31, 1872 July 2, 1872 n.d.
2186-1-2018.07V1-17	File - Essay: "Story of Niagara" [gained the College McMurrich Medal]	1873

### Series 2186-2: Ministry

Date: 1871-1926 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of papers relating to Rev. Wallace's ministry.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
2186-2-2018.07V1-18	File - Record of sermons, addresses, lectures, etc.	1871-1926		
2186-2-2018.07V1-19	File - Articles - 2 parts: "A Plea for the Study of Classics," V.P. Journal. (Science Association, Victoria University)	January 1884 December 1883		
2186-2-2018.07V1-20	File - Notes: Student Volunteer Convention, Nashville	1906		
2186-2-2018.07V1-21	File - Church Calendar for American church in Berlin [F.H. Wallace preached]	November 27, 1910		
2186-2-2018.07V2-1	File - General Correspondence	1922 1902 n.d.		
2186-2-2018.07V3-10	Item - Cambridge Edition of Greek New Testament with handwritten notes	n.d.		

### Series 2186-3: Finances

Date: 1863-1936 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of financial documents.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
2186-3-2018.07V2-2	File - Cash account notebook	1863		
2186-3-2018.07V2-3	File - Cash account notebook	1867-1871		

2186-3-2018.07V2-4	File - Cash account notebook	June 1876 - December 1884
2186-3-2018.07V2-5	File - Cash account notebook	January 1885 - December 1900
2186-3-2018.07V2-6	File - Correspondence and papers concerning finances, will, distribution of personal belongings	1927-1936
2186-3-2018.07V12-5	File - Account book	1930-1931
2186-3-2018.07V12-5	File - Copy of Great Souls at Prayer	1909-1918

### Series 2186-4: Autobiography

Date: 1873-1921 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of reminiscences of Rev. Wallace.

Physical description: 13 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
2186-4-2018.07V2-7	File - Autobiographical sketch: "How the Lord hath led me" (account of spiritual journey to conversion)	October 27, 1873		
2186-4-2018.07V2-8	File - Reminiscences: "Memories: A Family record," Vol. I	1921		
2186-4-2018.07V2-9	File - Reminiscences: "Memories: A Family record," Vol. II	1921		
2186-4-2018.07V2-10	File - Reminiscences: "Memories: A Family record," Vol. I	1921		
2186-4-2018.07V3-1	File - Reminiscences: "Memories: A Family record," Vol. II	1921		
2186-4-2018.07V12-4	File - Notebook/Diary	1867-1869		

### Series 2186-5: Memorabilia

Date: 1871-1933 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of scrapbooks.

Physical description: 21 cm of textual records

Physical condition:

Many of the scrapbooks are fragile and brittle. Handle with care.

Publication status:



Published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
2186-5-2018.07V3-2	File - Reminiscences about Dorothy Wallace [F.H. Wallace's daughter]	n.d.		
2186-5-2018.07V3-3	File - Printed Verse: "Gems," by Muriel and Edward Wallace [F.H. Wallace's children]	1894 n.d.		
2186-5-2018.07V3-4	File - Afternoon tea invitation cards for Mrs. Wallace [children's drawings on reverse]	1896-1897 n.d.		
2186-5-2018.07V3-5	File - Magazine: The Go Home Rattler, V. I, nos. 1, 2	August 1901		
2186-5-2018.07V3-6	File - Scrapbook of dried plants, currency, cloth, etc	n.d.		
2186-5-2018.07V3-7	File - Correspondence about funeral, memorials, etc, of F. H. Wallace	1930-1933		
2186-5-2018.07V3-8	File - Essay by Edward Wilson: "The Advantage of a Collegiate Education" [F.H. Wallace's father-in-law]	n.d.		
2186-5-2018.07V3-9	File - Miscellaneous items of Muriel J.W. Wallace [F.H. Wallace's daughter]	1890s - 1930s		
2186-5-2018.07V4-1	File - Scrapbook of newspaper clippings: "Bibline Vol. A", personal and family	October 5, 1871 - 1897		
2186-5-2018.07V4-2	File - Scrapbook of newspaper clippings: "F", theology and religion in general; personal and family	March 1883 - Feb 1930		
2186-5-2018.07V4-3	File - Scrapbook of newspaper clippings: "G" prominent men; personal and family	1883		

### Series 2186-6: Family Correspondence

Date: 1839-1930 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of family correspondence (some relating to his son Paul's experience overseas in World War I).

Physical description: 43 cm of textual records

8 Photographs

Note:

See the Wallace Family fonds (Fonds 2187) for additional family correspondence.

Finding aids:

Photographs described in the Photograph Database: <http://archival-photos.vicu.utoronto.ca/>

Related material:

See also the United Church of Canada Archives, Edward Wilson Wallace Fonds (3173) for family correspondence: <https://www.archeion.ca/edward-wilson-wallace-fonds>

Publication status:

Published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
2186-6-2018.07V5-1	File - Correspondence: Robert Wallace	1839-1904		
2186-6-2018.07V5-2	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1860s-1889		
2186-6-2018.07V5-3	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1890-1900		
2186-6-2018.07V5-4	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1901-1906		
2186-6-2018.07V5-5	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1907-1909		
2186-6-2018.07V6-1	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1910		
2186-6-2018.07V6-2	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1911		
2186-6-2018.07V6-3	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1912-1913		
2186-6-2018.07V6-4	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1913		
2186-6-2018.07V7-1	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1914-1915		
2186-6-2018.07V7-2	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	January - June 1916		
2186-6-2018.07V7-3	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	July - December 1916		
2186-6-2018.07V7-4	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1917		
2186-6-2018.07V7-5	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	January - March 1918		
2186-6-2018.07V8-1	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	April - December 1918		
2186-6-2018.07V8-2	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1919		
2186-6-2018.07V8-3	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1920-1930		
2186-6-2018.07V15-1	File - F.H. Wallace address book	ca 1914-1921		