

Victoria University Archives

Finding Aid - Francis Huston Wallace fonds (2186)

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Francis Huston Wallace fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Victoria University Archives
Title:	Francis Huston Wallace fonds
Reference code:	2186
Category [alternative]:	Administrators / Faculty personal papers
Date:	1839-1936 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.86 m of textual materials 8 Photographs
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created by JT Jan 25 2019 Updated by JT Oct 25 2022 Updated by JT Nov 7 2024
Note [sourcesDescription]:	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.
Note [generalNote]:	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.
Note [generalNote]:	For additional family correspondence, see the Wallace Family fonds (2817).

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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.

Scope and content

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).

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

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

2018.07V

Unknown acquisition. Transferred from Historical Collection.

2011.02V

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

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
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	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Notes for Drummondville Grade School debates: "Which has suffered most at the hands of the White man the Indian or Negro." "Which causes most suffering War or drunkenness." "Which is the greater incentive to action, a fear of Punishment or Expectation of reward." "Which causes most injury to a country, a miser or a spendthrift." "Which exerts greatest influence over men love of money or country." "Which has had the best generals during this war the North Or South" "Which was the greatest man Cromwell or Washington."</p>
2186-1-2018.07V1-7	File - Notes for ten debates	1867	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p>

	Notes for Drummondville Grade School debates: "Whether is a Spend-thrift or a Miser more injurious to Society: Draft of my remarks" "Which is the better form of Govn. The British or American" "Which is more useful to man, the Mariner's Compass or the Printing Press?" "Which is more powerful, the Pen or the Sword" [Untitled draft notes for city vs country life] "Which is preferable, A City of a Country Life?" "Will Confederation benefit Upper Canada?" "Is a standing army or Education the better protection to a country?" "Whether did the North South display the better generalship?" "Which is the more desirable life, the Agricultural or the Mercantile?"	
2186-1-2018.07V1-8	File - Notes for two debates	n.d.
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Draft notes for debates, unknown location or date. [Which is more useful, a cow or a horse?] [Regarding money as an influence over man]	
2186-1-2018.07V1-9	File - Notes for debate: "Was Cromwell a patriot?"	February 1869
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Notes for debate at Upper Canada College.	
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

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
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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

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
2186-3-2018.07V2-2	File - Cash account notebook	1863	
2186-3-2018.07V2-3	File - Cash account notebook	1867-1871	
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Also includes: program of studies, 1867; notes of debating club activities; books loaned; etc.		
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	
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes handwritten notes and prayers, 1909-1918, of Johanna (Joy) Wilson Wallace (1854-1918), wife of Francis Huston Wallace.		

2186-3-2011.02V 5-28	File - F.H. Wallace. Power of attorney in favour of Mary Wilson	1909
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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

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
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			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
2186-5-2018.07V3-2	File - Reminiscences about Dorothy Wallace [F.H. Wallace's daughter] <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes a verse by Dorothy Wallace's brother, Edward.	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 <i>Note [generalNote]:</i> Go Home Bay, a cottage community on Georgian Bay, Ontario.	August 1901	
2186-5-2018.07V3-6	File - Scrapbook of dried plants, currency, cloth, etc <i>Scope and content:</i> Dried plants Money used by British prisoners in Germany, 1914-1918 Certificate of \$2 Continental currency, 1777 Cloth from wrappings of (Dr. Taylor's) mummy, Thebes Paper made from bark of a tree by South Sea Islanders <i>Note [generalNote]:</i> This scrapbook was destroyed by the United Church of Canada Archives in 2016. See accession file for further details.	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			
<u>Date:</u> 1839-1930 (date of creation)			
<u>Scope and content:</u>			

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 [generalNote]:

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

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
2186-6-2018.07V5-1	File - Correspondence: Robert Wallace <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes will of Samuel 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 <i>Scope and content:</i> Mostly Joy Wilson Wallace. Also includes, "Family Treasury of the Wallace's of 95 Bedford Road" - kept by Edward Wilson 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 <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters to Edward Wilson Wallace in China and will of F. H. Wallace.	1907-1909	
2186-6-2018.07V6-1	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters to Edward Wilson Wallace in China.	1910	
2186-6-2018.07V6-2	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters to Edward Wilson Wallace in China.	1911	
2186-6-2018.07V6-3	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace	1912-1913	

	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters to Edward Wilson Wallace in China.
2186-6-2018.07V6-4	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace 1913 <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters to Edward Wilson Wallace in China.
2186-6-2018.07V7-1	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace 1914-1915 <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes correspondence of Muriel Wallace and Paul Wallace from Europe at outbreak of World War I.
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 <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes WWI "Canadian Pay Book for use on Active Service" belonging to Paul Wallace.
2186-6-2018.07V7-4	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace 1917 <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes Paul's correspondence from overseas and some photographs..
2186-6-2018.07V7-5	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace January - March 1918 <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes correspondence about Paul Wallace's accident and concussion while serving in WWI.
2186-6-2018.07V8-1	File - Correspondence: F. H. Wallace April - December 1918 <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes correspondence about Joy Wilson Wallace's death.
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