

*Description and Finding Aid*

**GEORGE WILLIAM ALLAN FONDS**

**F2077**

Prepared by  
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2015

## **GEORGE WILLIAM ALLAN FONDS**

### **Dates of creation**

1857-1897

### **Extent**

7 cm of textual records

### **Biographical sketch**

George William Allan, administrator and politician, was born 9 January 1822 in Little York, Upper Canada (now Toronto, Ontario). He was the son of William Allan and Leah Tyreer Gamble. Allan was educated privately and at Upper Canada College, Toronto. He spent a portion of 1837, the year William Lyon Mackenzie led a rebellion in Upper Canada, as a private in the "Bank Rifle Corps." He then finished his studies at Upper Canada College and decided to pursue law, passing his examinations in 1839. He was articled to the office of Gamble and Boulton in Toronto and was called to the bar of Upper Canada in 1846. Before entering into practice, he travelled abroad, through Europe, parts of Africa, Syria, the Middle East, Turkey, and Greece.

Allan was deeply involved in the political life of the City of Toronto, serving as Mayor in 1855. He presided over a number of institutions including the Royal Canadian Institute, the Toronto Conservatory of Music, the Historical Society, the Ontario Society of Artists, and the Horticultural Society of Toronto. From 1877 to 1901, Allan served as Chancellor of Trinity College and from 1867 to 1901 he was a Senator (Speaker 1888-1891), sitting as a Conservative. He was a great collector of art and historical objects. In 1848 he bought the entire collection of one hundred paintings that Paul Kane had created on his travels throughout the West. In 1858, Allan donated a portion of land in Toronto to the Toronto Horticultural Society. It later became Allan Gardens.

Allan married Louisa Robinson, daughter of Sir John Beverley Robinson, then Chief Justice of Upper Canada, on 16 April 1846. Louisa Allan died in 1852 while the couple was in Rome. In 1857, Allan married Adelaide Harriet Schreiber at St. James Church, Piccadilly, England. They had seven children: Maude, George William, Mary Adelaide, Charles S., Arthur Campbell, Frederick Gamble Bingham, and Audrey Elizabeth Schreiber. George William Allan died on 24 July 1901 in Toronto.

### **Scope and content**

Fonds consists of an illuminated testimonial from Trinity College and a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings about Allan, Trinity College, and the taking of York. It includes papers associated with Allan's duties as Chancellor of Trinity College and some personal papers.

### **Notes**

*Acquisition history:* Materials accrued in two accessions.

*Arrangement:* Materials remain in the original order.

*Restrictions on access:* None.

*Terms governing use and reproduction / publication:* Public domain.

**Provenance access points:** Allan, George William, 1822-1901

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**Location / File Listing:**

<b>FOLDER/UNIT TITLE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>END DATE</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>BOX/ FILE #</b>
Scrapbook	1857	1889	Scrapbook containing newspaper clippings about George Allan and Trinity College. This scrapbook also contains a handwritten account of the taking of York in 1812, extracted from manuscripts of John Strachan.	1-1
Invitation and addresses	1859	1894	Invitation to a ball at Buckingham Palace, June 1858; Trinity convocation 1894 pamphlet and address, 1895 convocation address; cartoon sketch.	1-2
Testimonial book	1897	1897	Bound testimonial to Allan from the members of Convocation in black and red appliquéd fabric sleeve, by A.H. Howard, R.C.A.	1-3