

In order to improve access to more of the existing holdings of Western Archives copies of a number of preliminary finding aids are being made available. These preliminary finding aids, some of which were prepared many years ago, vary in degrees of completeness, detail and accuracy. Some provide only basic box listings of the contents of a fonds or a collection, while others provide additional background material. All are intended to be the starting point for access to the records and they should not be considered a definitive source of information on the full nature and contents of the fonds or collection. Questions about the information provided in the preliminary finding aids should be directed to [archives.services@uwo.ca](mailto:archives.services@uwo.ca)

**Reverend William Proudfoot fonds**

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
B4273	Series 1: Journals	1	Journals 1-4	1832-1833
B4273	Series 1: Journals	2	Journals 5-11 (lacks 5)	1833
B4273	Series 1: Journals	3	Transcription of Journals 8? & 9	1833
B4273	Series 1: Journals	4	Transcription of Journals 10 & 11	1833
B4273	Series 1: Journals	5	Journals 12-17 (lacks 12, 14)	1833-1834
B4273	Series 1: Journals	6	Transcriptions of Journals 12-14	1833
B4273	Series 1: Journals	7	Transcriptions of Journals 15-17	1833-1834
B4273	Series 1: Journals	8	Journals 18-23	1834-1835
B4273	Series 1: Journals	9	Transcriptions of Journals 18-20	1834
B4273	Series 1: Journals	10	Transcriptions of Journals 21 & 22	1834-1835
B4273	Series 1: Journals	11	Transcriptions of Journal 23	1835
B4273	Series 1: Journals	12	Journals 24-29 (lacks 27)	1835-1839
B4273	Series 1: Journals	13	Transcriptions for Journals 24-27	1835-1836
B4273	Series 1: Journals	14	Journals 30-31, Toronto Trip Book	1839-1850
B4273	Series 1: Journals	15	Journal #? Transcribed pgs. 1-50	
B4273	Series 1: Journals	16	Journal #? Transcribed pgs. 51-100	
B4273	Series 1: Journals	17	Journal #? Transcribed pgs. 101-150	

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
B4273	Series 1: Journals	18	Journal #? Transcribed pgs. 151-200	
B4273	Series 1: Journals	19	Journal #? Transcribed pgs. 201-250	1834-1835
B4273	Series 1: Journals	20	Journal #? Transcribed pgs. 251-300	1835
B4273	Series 1: Journals	21	Journal ?-31 Transcribed pgs. 301-348	July 1837-1848
B4273	Series 1: Journals	22	Journal 31 Transcribed pgs. 301-348	1846-1848, out of order
B4273	Series 2: Correspondence	1	Correspondence	1814, 1832-1843, 1847
B4273	Series 2: Correspondence	2	(Part of Journal #9?) Correspondence Letters (photocopies)	1833-1843
B4274	Series 3: Notebooks and Copybooks	1	Horace Odes Book and Journal Book	1808
B4274	Series 3: Notebooks and Copybooks	2	Lectures on Luke	1829?
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	1	Sermon, date and place book	1812-1850
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	2	Roll Book	1833-1850
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	3	Sermon Book	1820
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	4	Booklets, Lists, calls, Letters etc.	1814, 1830, 1850; undated
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	5	Proudfoot Marriage Records	1833-1849
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	6	Sermons, Deeds, Sabbath Class etc.	1843, 1849-1850
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	7	Lists of Members, Baptismal records, church roll, etc.	1837-1889
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	8	Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, etc. (photocopies)	1839-1842
B4274	Series 4: Church Records	9	Church School listings, Assessment lists, Clergy Reserves Resolution, Norval's vegetable antibilious bitters cure advert etc. (some typed transcripts, photocopies)	1840-1870
B4274	Series 5: Miscellaneous Documents	1	Mary Proudfoot - Account Book	August 1835 - February 1836

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
B4274	Series 5: Miscellaneous Documents	2	John Talbot Report to the Rev. W. Proudfoot	1836
B4274	Series 5: Miscellaneous Documents	3	Family History - William Proudfoot	1829, 1832, 1840, 1855, 1965
B4274	Series 5: Miscellaneous Documents	4	Miscellaneous Photocopies	1840-1847, 1950-1852, 1870; undated
X1490	Series 5: Miscellaneous Documents	5	Unidentified Store Customer Ledger	1854-1856

INVENTORY OF THE  
  
THE REV. WILLIAM PROUDFOOT PAPERS

Dec/92  
PREPARED BY: KELLY WETERING  
revised COLLEEN THOMSON  
by Aug/94?

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## William Proudfoot Papers

**Dates of creation:** 1808-1915

**Physical Description:** 40 cm. of textual records

### **Biographical History:**

Reverend William Proudfoot was a local minister who was instrumental in securing the establishment of the Presbyterian Church in London. He was born in Scotland in the year 1788, and received his education from Edinburgh University. After his schooling was completed, Rev. Proudfoot was ordained as a minister of the Secession Church of Scotland. In 1813, he accepted the charge of Pitroddie in Perthshire, and served as the minister there for several years. Rev. Proudfoot came to Canada in 1832 as a missionary, and decided to settle here in London, in what was then known as Upper Canada. He flourished in London and established contacts far and wide, both in Upper Canada and in the United States. In August of 1850, Rev. Proudfoot made a journey to Toronto, and it was there that he caught the cold which was ultimately cause his death. He died on January 10, 1851. Perhaps Rev. Proudfoot is best known for a series of diaries which have become a source of a wealth of information about the early days in London and its surrounding areas as well as parts of early Upper Canada.

### **Custodial History:**

Members of The Proudfoot family eventually turned over the Reverend's personal papers and documents to local historian and businessman, Leslie Robb Gray. This collection of papers was to be disposed of at Mr. Gray's direction. Though some of the materials remained in Mr. Gray's possession, the balance was deposited at Knox College in Toronto. Rev. Proudfoot's journals were deposited here at Western. Microfilm versions of the collection have been deposited at the London Public Library, UWO, and the Ontario Archives. The microfilming project was part of a program to film Ontario's land, municipal and church records and it was sponsored by the Ontario Historical Society. Mr. Gray was the originator of this plan.

### **Scope and Content:**

The collection is broken down into five series; Journals, Correspondence, Notebooks and Copybooks, Church Records and Miscellaneous. The journals deal with his life in Canada, materials for his life in Scotland are few. Rev. Proudfoot's original journals as well as the materials dealing with the church are core to this collection. Also included is an account book held by his daughter Mary, who married a shopkeeper from St. Thomas, personal correspondence, sermon books and notebooks.

There are no restrictions on these papers.

File lists are available.

A large number of Proudfoot papers have been deposited in Knox College Archives. The Leslie Robb Gray Papers may also be consulted for additional Proudfoot materials

## **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

### **Series 1: Journals**

Dates of creation: 1832-1850

Physical description: 15 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series contains handwritten diaries which provide a daily account of the activities in Rev. Proudfoot's life. This series also includes notes taken on his journey to Toronto and his short residence there. Towards the end of his life, he became less consistent in keeping these journals up-to-date and gaps are apparent in volumes 30 and 32. Also of note are typewritten transcriptions of many of these journals.

### **Series 2: Correspondence**

Date of creation: 1814-1915

Physical description: 1.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and content:

Series contains letters written to and letters written by Rev. Proudfoot through the course of his career. Most have an ecclesiastical nature, but some are personal, written to close acquaintances, and reveal some details of his personal life. The earliest one, dated 1814, concerned reasons outlining why he should be sent to minister to a new village in Scotland.

### **Series 3: Notebooks and Copybooks**

Dates of creation: 1808, 1829?

Physical description: 8 cm. of textual records

Scope and content:

Series contains two notebooks and one copybook. One notebook is penned in presumably an early form of shorthand, and has not been deciphered as of yet. The other is a book entitled Lectures on Luke. The third is a hand written copybook of Horatian Odes, that dates from Rev. Proudfoot's days in Scotland.

### **Series 4: Church Records**

Dates of creation: 1812-1850

Physical description: 12 cm. of textual records

Scope and content:

Series consists of various documents connected to Rev. Proudfoot's church and its related activities. Included are the following; roll books of the congregation, accounts of places and dates of sermons, in Canada and Scotland, sermon and lecture books, records of congregational contributions to the church, marriage registers and baptismal records. Most of these documents are photocopies of the original.

**Series 5: Miscellaneous Documents**

Dates of creation: 1835-1915

Physical description: 3.5 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series contains one ledger book held by Mary Proudfoot that pertains to the store she ran with her husband in St. Thomas, a printed report of a government committee by John Talbot to Rev. Proudfoot, an obituary of Rev. James Skinner from the London Free Press and a letter by Robert Proudfoot, one of Rev. Proudfoot's sons which outlines a brief family history.

*genealogical - birth dates  
info. not found elsewhere*

## FILE LISTS

### Series 1: Journals

- #1: Journals 1-4, 1832-1833
- #2: Journals 5-11, 1833
- #3: Journals 12-17, 1833-1834
- #4: Journals 18-23, 1834-1835
- #5: Journals 24-29, 1835-1839
- #6: Journals 30-31, Toronto trip book, 1839-1850

### Series 2: Correspondence

- #1: Correspondence, 1833-1847
- #2: Letters, 1833-1843

### Series 3: Notebooks and Copybooks

- #1: Horace Odes Book, nd. & Journal Book, 1808
- #2: Lectures on Luke, 1829?

### Series 4: Church Records

- #1: Sermon Date and Place Book, 1812-1850
- #2: Roll Book, 1833-1850
- #3: Sermon Book, ca.1820
- #4: Booklets, Westminster Lists and Bethal Church(Proofline) Lists, call to Cupar Angus, Scotland, letter certifying Rev. Proudfoot ordination, call to English Settlement Church, Subjects of examination at London District Grammar School, 1850, letter from John Prince and the marriage certificate of Rev. William Sutherland and Margaret Robb.
- #5: Photocopies of Proudfoot Marriage records.
- #6: Photocopies of John Proudfoot's sermons, deed of land Dundas near Ridout, Prospectus, the Presbyterian Magazine, Lists of William Proudfoot's Sabbath Class 1843 and a request of St. Mary's people for a minister.
- #7: Photocopies of Revised Roll of First Presbyterian Church, London, Lists of members, Proudfoot's U.P. Church, London, 1833, Heads of families, Westminster Tp.(possibly 1833), a call from Proof Line to William Proudfoot, Baptismal records of Rev. J.J.A. Proudfoot, St. Mary's 1848 and a call from London to William Proudfoot.
- #8: Facts concerning the Presbyterian Church in London, Roll of United Associate Congregation(U.P. Church) 1842, call to English Settlement and Proof Line Churches, 1833 and Baptisms.
- #9: Church School listings, Assessment list, Township of Westminster, May 11, 1843 and miscellaneous items.

**Series #5: Miscellaneous**

#1: Ledger and Acount Book of Mary Proudfoot

#2: Family History, 1829, 1855, 1865 and 1915

#3: John Talbot Report, 1836