

FINDING AID 1

FONDS 1
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FONDS

Accession Number 78.001C
Accession Number 78.131C

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FONDS. – 1800-1839, 1883. – 7 cm of textual records and 1 microfilm reel : positive.

The Church was organized in the United States in 1784. This denomination sent preachers to Nova Scotia (1785 to 1800), to Montreal (1802 to 1820) and Quebec City (1803 to 1812), and officially to Upper Canada in the winter of 1789-1790--first through its New York Conference, then from 1810 to 1824 through its Genesee Conference, and from 1824 to 1828 through its Canada Conference. In 1828 the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada was established. In 1821 the Genesee Conference established a committee to consider the matter of evangelism to the Aboriginal People and contacts were made with the Six Nations Reserve on the Grand River. In 1822 Alvin Torry was designated missionary to the Aboriginal People in Canada; in 1824 the Canada Conference Missionary Society was organized; and in 1828 William Case accepted the post of General Superintendent of Indian Missions of Upper Canada.

Fonds consists of photocopies of: Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference correspondence, reports, and addresses relating to Canada, 1816-1836, 1883; microfilm copy only of journals of New York Conference, 1800-1839; photocopies of Genesee Conference records: correspondence, reports, and statements concerning Upper and Lower Canada, 1810-1823, correspondence and reports concerning American circuits and missions to the Aboriginal People, 1810-1833, records re Cazenovia Wesleyan Seminary, 1823-1839, report of Committee dealing with negotiations with Canada Conference, 1832; minutes of Conference of Preachers in Nova Scotia, 1801 (all of above 78.131C). This fonds also consists of the original minutes of the Canada Conference Annual Conferences, 1824-1828 (78.001C--see also copies field below).

Originals of General and Genesee Conference records in Drew University Library, Madison, New Jersey; originals of New York Conference journals in New York Public Library; original of Canada Conference report, 1832, in the George Arents Research Library at Syracuse University. Canada Conference records also exist as photocopies and microfilm copy on 1 partial reel (78.001C) : positive.

Those records which are copies are not to be reproduced without the permission of the relevant American repository. Use only photocopies or microfilm copy of Canada Conference records; originals are fragile.

See Appendix for detailed scope and content and administrative history.

See also Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada fonds (5/1) for appendix to minutes of the Canada Conference Annual Conferences, 1824-1828.

Acc.	Box-File-Item	Title	Date(s)
1978.131C	1-1	Correspondence, reports, addresses concerning Canada, 1816-1836	1816-1836
	1-1-1	An address from William Black and William Bennett, delegates of the British Methodist Connection to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church suggesting withdrawal of the American preachers from Lower Canada in return for withdrawal of the British preachers from Upper Canada. Dated Baltimore, May 19, 1816. 3 pages and cover	1816
	1-1-2	Copy of a letter written by William McKendree to the "private and official members, Trustees etc. of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lower Canada" asking them to acquiesce in the withdrawal of the American missionaries from Lower Canada in favour of British Wesleyan missionaries. Dated Alexandria D.C., October 16, 1820. 2 pages and cover	1820
	1-1-3	Copy of Bishop William McKendree's letter to William Case "on our affairs in Canada." Dated Alexandria D.C., October 16, 1820. A similar letter was sent to Henry Ryan. 4 pages and cover	1820
	1-1-4	Copies of various letters to the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church concerning the arrangement with the British Wesleyan Conference regarding Upper and Lower Canada. Dates 1820 and 1821. 4 pages.	1820-1821
	1-1-5	Jabez Bunting to John Emory. Dates London, August 26, 1820. The letter concerns affairs of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada and resolution of outstanding difficulties with the British.	1820
	1-1-5a	John Emory to the Bishops of Methodist Episcopal Church assembled at Augusta, Georgia concerning affairs of the Church in Canada. Dates Annapolis, Maryland, February 13, 1822. 3 pages and 2 covers.	1822
	1-1-6	Report of the Committee appointed to deal with the petition of the Canada Conference requesting independence from the American Church. Dated Pittsburgh, May 12, 1828. Signed N. Bangs, Chairman. 2 pages and cover.	1828
	1-1-7	Report of the committee on the claims of the Canada Conference on the New York Book Concern. D. Ostrander, Chairman. 1832. 2 pages.	1832
	1-1-8	Result of the vote of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the Canadian Claims on the New York Book Concern. Dated Cincinnati, Ohio, May 6, 1836. G. Sherman, Secretary. 2 pages and cover.	1836
	1-2	Addresses	1883

Acc.	Box-File-Item	Title	Date(s)
	1-2-1	Address from the Methodist Church, Canada to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Dated Belleville, September 19, 1883	1883
	1-3	Genesee Conference. Correspondence, reports, and statements concerning Upper Canada, 1810-1823	1810-1823
	1-3-1	Letter of John Shea, Steward of the Methodist Society in Quebec, to Bishop Francis Asbury. Dated Quebec, May 12, 1810	1810
	1-3-2	Letter of Joseph Sawyer to the Bishops and members of the Genesee Conference. Dated Matilda, July [2], 1810. Sawyer.	1810
	1-3-3	Letter of Darius Dunham to the Bishops and members of the Genesee Conference. Dated June 17, 1815 (no place). Dunham conveys a resolution of the Hallowell Circuit to the Conference requesting a return of the American preachers. 1 page and cover.	1815
	1-3-3a	Letter of Elias Pattis to the Genesee Conference relative to his "wornout preacher" status with the Conference. Dated Yonge (Yonge township, Leeds County?), June 16, 1815. 2 pages and 2 covers.	1815
	1-3-4	Memorial addressed to the Bishops and Genesee Conference meeting at Elizabethtown, U.C. arising from a meeting held at Ernestown, U.C., June 14, 1817. The memorial concerns separation of the Canadian circuits from the Methodist Episcopal Church and originated with a faction later to separate and from the "Republican Methodist" sect. 3 pages and cover. Signatures.	1817
	1-3-5	"Report of the Committee appointed to examine into the state of our Church in the Provinces of Canada." Submitted to the Genesee Conference, 1817. Signed M. Pearce, H. Ryan, W. Case, T. Madden. J. Heustis, A. Prindel. The report cites the trouble being caused by the British Wesleyan missionaries invading the Methodist Episcopal circuits in Montreal, Cornwall, Matilda and Kingston. The statement is made that services had been held regularly in Cornwall for twenty-five years prior to this by Methodist Episcopal ministers. 3 pages and cover.	1817
	1-3-6	Report of the Committee appointed to examine the above "Report..." [1817]. Agitations reported from various circuits because of the claims of British Wesleyan preachers. Signed W. Case, H. Ryan, M. Pearce, J. Soule. 4 pages and cover.	1817
	1-3-7	Statement of William Case and William Barlow relative to conditions in Montreal Methodism. Addressed to the Genesee Conference, 1818. 3 pages and cover.	1818

Acc.	Box-File-Item	Title	Date(s)
	1-3-8	Letter of David Culp to the Bishops and members of the Genesee Conference requesting a superannuated relationship because of poor health. Dated York U.C. June 17, 1819. 2 pages and 2 covers.	1819
	1-3-9	Letter of William Brown to the "President and Members" of the Genesee Conference meeting at Niagara, U.C. July 20, 1820. In 1819 Brown was granted "location" by the Conference through error. He requests that he be granted "superannuated" status instead. 2 pages and cover.	1820
	1-3-10	Statement of William Barlow to the Genesee Conference relative to his ministerial status. Dated Canadaigua, July 13, 1821. 2 pages and cover.	1821
	1-3-11	Letter of William Brown stating that he may be unable to attend the Genesee Conference meeting and that he has no claims on the funds. Dated Elizabethtown, U.C. June 28, 1821. 2 pages and 2 covers	1821
	1-3-12	Genessee Conference Missionary Society report for 1823. Reference to the missions on the "Grand River," Indian missions.	1823
	1-3-13	William Brown to the Bishops and Ministers comprising the Genesee Conference. His wife has died and he has no claims on the funds of the Conference. 1 pages and cover.	
	1-4	Genesee Conference. Correspondence and reports concerning American circuits, 1810-1833	1810-1833
		The file consists of letters from preachers serving on circuits of the Conference within the United States, reports of Committees of the Conference and financial statements. There is the report of a "Committee appointed to prepare a course of study suitable from candidates for the Ministry" (ca. 1831?) which is of some significance. Scattered references to Upper Canadian circuits are found in some of the reports.	
	1-5	Genesee Conference. Indian Missions, 1821 (2 items)	1821
	1-5-1	Letter of Thomas McKenney to the Genesee Conference. Dated Georgetown, D.C., May 14, 1821. This letter concerns policy of the American Congress towards missions and mission schools amongst the Indian Tribes. 7 pages.	1821
	1-5-2	Memorial of the Genesee Conference to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States re the annual grant of ten thousand dollars towards schools for Indians. Dates Paris, New York, July 25, 1821. Signed by William Case, Secretary of the Conference. 1 pages and 2 covers.	1821

Acc.	Box-File-Item	Title	Date(s)
	1-6	Genesee Conference. Cazenova Seminary, 1823-1836 The file (14 items) consists of subscription lists, reports, resolutions, financial statements and correspondence relating to the purchase of the courthouse at Cazenovia, New York for conversion into an academy to be owned and operated by the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. No student lists	1823-1836
	1-7	Report of Committee on negotiations with Canada Conference, 1822 Photocopies	1822
	1-8	Minutes of Conference of Preachers in Nova Scotia, 1801 Photocopies	1801
	1-9	Annual reports of Genesee and Oneida Conferences, 1829-1839	1829-1839
	MR	Journals of New York Conference, 1800-1839	1800-1839
1978.001C	1-1	Methodist Episcopal Church. Canada Conference. Minutes (Use photocopy of microfilm copy only)	1824-1828

APPENDIX

The Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1810 from the Pennsylvania and New York Conference. It covered western New York state, Upper Canada and the south shore of Lake Erie included in the state of Pennsylvania. Upper Canada continued in this Conference until the formation of the Upper Canada Conference in 1824.

Quebec City was included in the Genesee Conference until 1812 and Montreal until 1820. After these dates, the British Wesleyan Missionary Society took over these circuits.

The collection consists of photocopies of papers of the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church which are located at the Rose Memorial Library, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. The papers are divided into four sections

1. Papers relating to Canada 1810-1823 (11 items)
2. Papers relating to American Circuits of the Conference committee reports 1810-1823 (48 items)
3. Indian missions 1821 (2 items)
4. Caznovia Wesleyan Seminary 1823-1836 (14 items)

There is an additional collection of Genesee material at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. This material has yet to be organized.

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