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GORDON AND SANDILANDS FAMILY PAPERS

MG 25 # 201

Finding Aid 497 / Instrument de recherche 497

Prepared in 1974 by J. Lambert
Pre-Confederation Section

Préparé en 1974 par J. Lambert
Section des archives antérieures
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INTRODUCTION

The Gordon and Sandilands papers are largely a record of the activities of George and Charles Gordon and of George and George M. Sandilands, with occasional documents relating to other members of both families.

George Gordon (fl.1790-96) was Captain-Lieutenant of the 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons and subsequently Lieutenant-Colonel of the 29th Regiment. He was admitted Burges and Freeman of Elgin in 1790 and of Inverness in 1792. In 1793 he was an Inspector of Foreign Corps, and in 1795-96 Deputy Inspector General. In 1823 an instrument of Sasine was issued in favour of the Lord Advocate of Scotland as compensation for money intromitted by Gordon while Deputy Inspector General.

Robert Gordon (d. 1853) served in China in the 37th Grenadiers. He died shortly after receiving a commission as Adjutant-General in the Fort St. George Military Department, India.

Charles Gordon (fl.1827-1855) pursued a military career in the native infantry in the East Indies beginning in 1827. Commissioned in 1837 as Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General in the Fort St. George Military Department, he retired from that position in 1853. The following year he received a commission as major in the 13th regiment of Native Infantry.

George Sandilands (fl. 1800-1814) was Captain of Fort Charlotte, Lucia, in 1800 and of the Edinburg Militia in 1810. In 1814 he became Collector of Customs for the port of Dunbar and Commissioner of the Exchequer Court of Scotland.

George M. Sandilands (1823-1887) son of George Sandilands married Jane Francis Charlotte Gordon. He was a merchant in Scotland and later in Penang as well as representative for Penang on the Straits Council. He appears to have established a relatively close personal relationship with the Sultan of Johore.

Mrs. George M. Sandilands and several sons and two daughters emigrated from England to California where the daughters met, and later married, in Canada, John L. and George Davie. The latter was General Manager of the Davie Shipbuilding Company of Lauzon, Quebec.

As the connection between the two families was only established in the time of George M. Sandilands, the organization of the collection reflects, for the most part, their separateness. Finding aid 497 is a descriptive list of the documents.

It should be noted that the collection has been divided into two volumes on the basis of the size of the document. The finding aid indicates which series is in which volume.

The papers were donated to the Public Archives of Canada in 1974 by Mrs. Marcel Fortier, a descendent of the families.

GORDON AND SANDILANDS FAMILY PAPERS

I. GORDON FAMILY

A. Commissions, 1793-1854. (vol. 2).

1. Commission to George Gordon as Captain-Lieutenant of the 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons. 1 January 1793.
2. Commission to George Gordon as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 29th Regiment of Light Dragoons, 16 March 1798.
3. Commission to Charles Gordon as Ensign of Infantry, 8 June 1827.
4. Commission to Charles Gordon as Ensign in the British Army in the East Indies, 30 January 1828.
5. Commission to Charles Gordon as Lieutenant in the Army in the East Indies, 29 May 1832.
6. Commission to Charles Gordon as Lieutenant in the 13th Regiment of Native Infantry, 13 March 1832.
7. Commission to Charles Gordon as Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General of the Army, 17 November 1837.
8. Commission to Charles Gordon as Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General to the Madras troops, 5 February 1839.
9. Commission to Charles Gordon as Brevet Captain in the Army 12 January 1841.
10. Commission to Charles Gordon as Captain the Army in the East Indies, 22 May 1841.

11. Commission to Charles Gordon as Captain of a Company in the 13th Regiment of Native Infantry, 3 January 1843.
12. Commission to Charles Gordon as Major in the British Army the East Indies, 10 July 1854.
13. Commission to Charles Gordon as Major in the 13th Regiment of Native Infantry, 31 October 1854.

B. Correspondence, 1840-1858 (Vol. 1).

1. Letter from Richmond to Lord Elphinstone introducing Charles Gordon, 2 September 1840.
2. Letter from the Quarter-Master General at Fort St. George to Charles Gordon thanking him for 16 years service in the office, 14 May 1853.
3. Letter to Charles Gordon (signature of author - illegible) transmitting Gordon's commission from the East India Company as a major, 15 August 1855.
4. Letter of 11 May 1858 from Lord Torpichen [] to George Gordon? [] expressing regret at not being able to attend the recipients marriage.

C. Miscellaneous papers, 1790-1853 (Vol. 1).

1. Elgin Burges Ticket in favour of George Gordon, 12 January 1790.
2. Inverness Burges Ticket, in favour of George Gordon, 30 October 1792.

3. Certified examination of accounts of George Gordon, Inspector of Foreign Corps for the period 1793-1795. Dated 27 May 1818.
4. Instrument of Sasine in favour of Sir William Rae, Lord Advocate of Scotland, 1 October, 1823.
5. Certified examination of accounts of Geroge Gordon as Deputy Inspector General of the Foreign Corps, for the period 1795-1796. Dated 8 July 1828.
6. General Orders, 29 October 1853, announcing the death of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Gordon.
7. Passport of Charles Gordon, 12 July 1858.
8. Poem, n.d. "On the death of the Duke of Gordon".

II. SANDILANDS FAMILY

- A. Commissions, 1800-1814. (Vol. 2).
 1. Commission to George Sandilands as Captain of Fort Charlotte, Lucia, 28 June 1800.
 2. Commission to George Sandilands as Captain in the Edinburgh Regiment of Militia, 3 February 1810.
 3. Commission to George Sandilands as Collector of Northern Light Duties, 2 November 1814.
 4. Commission to George Sandilands as Commissioner of the Exchequer Court, 3 December 1814.

B. Correspondence, 1839-1952, n.d. (Vol. 1).

1. Letter from H. Paul [?] to G.M. Sandilands, 5 March 1839. Sends a song to Mrs. Sandilands. Passes on information from Adam Sandilands concerning the history of the Sandilands family. Song enclosed.
2. Letter from the Sultan of Johore to Mrs. Sandilands, 4 December 1887. Expressions of condolence of the death of her husband. Major McNair; the Purvises.
3. Letter from Lee Phee Yeow, 14 December 1887. Expressions of condolence on the death of her husband. The letter provides some indications of the career of G.M. Sandilands in Penang.
4. Letter to [Foster] from his father, London. Date obliterated but 19th century. Announcing birth of a daughter.
5. Letter from William G. Chisholm to Mrs. Marcel Fortier, 3 June 1952. Report of research undertaken on her grandfather. John Gordon Sandilands, Lord Torphichen.

C. Miscellaneous papers. 1835-1887 (Vol. 1).

1. Report card issued by the College of Edinburgh, 1 April 1835 to George Sandilands.
2. A poem presented by [H. Paul ?] to Mrs. Sandilands, 3 January 1843.
3. Receipt issued to George Sandilands admitting him as a member of the Merchants House of the City of Glasgow, 11 December 1865.

4. Newspaper clipping re: death of George M. Sandilands, from Penang Gazette, 2 December 1887.

III. NEWSPAPERS. 1842, 1887 (Vol. 2).

1. Edinburg Evening Courant, 3 September 1842.
2. Penang Gazette, 2 December 1887, from which was clipped a notice of the death of George M. Sandilands.
3. Singapore Free Press, 3 December 1887, containing a notice of the death of George M. Sandilands.
4. The Strait Times, 5 December 1887, containing a notice of the death of George M. Sandilands.

IV. PHOTOGRAPHS, n.d. (Vol. 1).

V. MISCELLANEOUS, 1949, 1951, n.d. (Vol. 1).

1. Guide for Singapore Merchant Seamen, 1949.
2. Birth Certificate of Ida Mildred Sandilands, 2 July 1957.
3. Genealogical notes, Sandilands family, n.d.
4. Two crests.