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**THE REVEREND JAMES WILSON (1828-1905) AND FAMILY**

**MG 29, C 126**

**Finding Aid No. 866 / Instrument de recherche no 866**

Prepared in 1973 by Michele Corbett and  
revised in 1986 by Patricia Birkett of  
the Pre-Confederation Archives.

Préparé en 1973 par Michèle Corbett et  
révisé en 1986 par Patricia Birkett de  
la section des archives antérieures à  
la Confédération.

**Canada**

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MG 29 WILSON, Rev. James (1828-1905) and Family. Presbyterian Minister,  
C 126 Lanark, Ont.

Originals, n.d, 1853-1970. 132 pages. Finding Aid No. 866.

The Reverend James Wilson, M.A. (1828-1905) was a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and was probably educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen. He was ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in 1856 and served for three years as a missionary under the Colonial Committee in Nova Scotia. After his return to Scotland, he was for a short while minister of Maxwelton Chapel in Dumfries. He emigrated to Canada and officiated briefly in St. Joseph Street, Montreal. In June 1862 he succeeded the Reverend Thomas Fraser as minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lanark, Ontario. He was pastor there for thirty years and afterwards pastor emeritus. After his retirement in 1892, his grateful congregation allowed him to buy the manse for \$450. He died on 30 August 1905 at the age of 77. In 1908, his widow sold the manse to the Roman Catholic parish of the Sacred Heart.

All the material in this unit came either directly or indirectly from the daughter of the Rev. James Wilson, Miss Hilda Wilson (1903-1978) of Ottawa. The greater part of the material was acquired by the Public Archives of Canada in 1972. It was originally catalogued as the Wilson Family Papers (MG 24, I 162) and various photographs, postcards and books acquired at the same time were transferred to the Photography, Picture and Library Divisions of the Archives. In 1986 a few miscellaneous items which the National Museum of Man had received from Hilda Wilson were transferred to the Public Archives of Canada. Once again, some items were transferred to the Photography, Picture and Library Divisions but five additions to the collection were retained in the Manuscript Division. At that time the unit was retitled and catalogued in its present location.

Finding Aid No. 866 provides a descriptive list of the documents.

The collection includes four sermons (one in Latin) and business papers, such as land deeds and stock certificates, relating mainly to the affairs of the Rev. James Wilson (1828-1905). Of particular interest are the records of Wilson's investments in land in Manitoba, which include a letter of advice from J.B. McLaren, 3 February 1882. Other material which relates to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lanark, Ontario, includes land documents, subscription lists for special church expenses, a printed statement of accounts for 1891, and kirk session minutes, 1871, regarding the disciplining of Janet Gemmill for false accusations that Daniel and Elizabeth McCurdy had milked cows not their own. Some newspaper clippings relating to the Rev. James Wilson, to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and to the early history of Lanark, etc., are also included.

June 1986  
J.B. Birkett

*J.B.B.*

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Social/Cultural

ACR's 73/241  
56/253

THE REVEREND JAMES WILSON (1828-1905) AND FAMILY

(MG 29, C 126)

<u>Place &amp; Date</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Pages</u>
7 June 1853	John Raeside Gemmill, Printer, Lanark, Ont. and his wife Isabella	Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland in Lanark Township, Ont.	Indenture selling town lot No. 37 on the west side of Argyle Street in Lanark, Ont., to the church for a church, manse and burial ground.	1-3
<u>/1854/</u>	Members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lanark		Agreement to pay the amounts subscribed for repairs and improvements to the church (incomplete)	4-5
n.d.			List of subscriptions for benches, stove and stovepipes, and for painting Session House.	6-7
n.d.			List of subscriptions for stove, stovepipes, benches and lamps for Session House and for painting.	8
13 Feb. 1855	Rev. James Wilson	Members of Marischall College, Aberdeen, Scotland	Exegesis. Sermon and prayer in Latin, with Greek quotations.	9-31
6 April 1867	Rev. James Wilson		Sermon on Revelation 20:1-3	32-47
n.d. <u>/between 1862 and 1892/</u>	Rev. James Wilson, M.A. Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Lanark		"Some Phases of Religious Fanaticism." Outlines of a discourse on 2 Kings 10:16 printed for private circulation (Print. 2 copies)	48-55

<u>Place &amp; Date</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Perth, Ont. 12 May 1868	James Thompson, Sheriff of Lanark County, Ont.	Rev. James Wilson Minister of the Church of Scotland, Lanark, Ont.	Indenture of sale for Lot No. 34, on the west side of Argyle Street, Lanark village, purchased at public auction by Wilson. With copy of related writ for payment of damages, etc., to Luce Casgrain Panet by the executors of the estate of the late James Mair.	56-61
Toronto, Ont. 3 March 1866				
Lanark, Ont. 7 & 13 May 1871			Kirk Session minutes regarding examination of a scandal caused by Janet Gemmill's false statement that Elizabeth McCurdy had milked James Drysdale's cows.	62-65
London, England 23 Feb. 1875	Civil Service Cooperative Society		Invoice for items sent through Mr. A.J. Corlis of New York.	66-67
Nelsonville, Man. 26 Aug. 1881	John Linn Nelson, Yeoman	Rev. James Wilson, Lanark, Ont.	Indenture selling village lots Nos. 5, 15, and 16, in Block 11, in Nelsonville (in north west quarter of Section 35, Township 3, Range 6 west of the principal meridian in Manitoba).	68-72
Nelsonville, Man. 3 Feb. 1882	J.B. McLaren	<u>Rev. James</u> Wilson	Letter advising and explaining procedures in connection with buying land in the area as an investment.	73-74
Lanark, Ont. 13 Jan. 1892	J.H. Bothwell, Chairman; John McLean, Treasurer; John Manahan, Secretary, St. Andrew's Church, Lanark		Statement of Accounts for Year ending 31 December 1891. With list of contributors and contribu- tions to the Rev. James Wilson's stipend. (Print)	75-78

<u>Place &amp; Date</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Perth, Ont. 30 June 1892	Peter McLaren et al., Trustees and Managers of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	Rev. James Wilson	Lease of the Manse and adjoining property at a rental of one shilling per year for as long as he desires, upon his retirement from the ministry. (2 copies: Manuscript 6 pages; type- script 6 pages)	79-90
Lanark, Ont. 7 July 1893	Peter McLaren et al., Trustees and Managers of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	Rev. James Wilson, retired Presbyterian Minister	Indenture of sale of the Manse and adjoining property.	91-94
Lanark, Ont. 14 Sept. 1893	William Smith of Lanark, Ont., and his wife Janet	Elizabeth Agnes Donaldson, wife of James Weir Donaldson of Lanark, Gardener	Indenture of sale of part of Lot 2, Concession 3 and Lot 27 on the north side of South Street in the Village of Lanark.	95-100
Perth, Ont. 19 Aug. 1896	The Facer Solid Steel Car Wheel Co. of Perth, (Limited)	Rev. James Wilson, Lanark	Stock certificate for two \$100 shares.	101-102
Lanark, Ont. 8 Nov. 1899	Rev. James Wilson	Peter Anderson, farmer Mayville, North Dakota	Indenture of sale of north-west quarter of Section 25 and the south half of the south-west quarter of Section 36 in Township 9, Range 2, west of the First Principal Meridian, Manitoba. (2 copies)	103-112
Lanark, Ont. 27 Oct. 1900	Rev. James Wilson	Leslie Ironside, cattle dealer, Winnipeg, Man.	Indenture of sale of north-west quarter of Section 25 and the south half of the south-west quarter of Section 36 in Township 9, Range 2, west of the First Principal Meridian, Manitoba. (2 copies)	113-122
5 Aug. 1911	International Assets, Limited	Mrs. Etta Drysdale	Stock certificate for 20 \$25 preference shares.	123-124
n.d.			"Memories of Pioneers and Early Settle- ment Days Still Revered in Lanark Village and Middleville." (Newspaper clippings)	125

<u>Place &amp; Date</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Pages</u>
n.d.			"Dr. Bain Funeral Sermon Republished this Week." Account of the funeral, 1889, of the late Rev. Dr. Bain, a former pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, including the sermon preached by the late Rev. James Wilson, Lanark. Reprinted, post-1905, by <u>The Courier</u> . (Newspaper clippings)	126-128
n.d.			Obituary of the Rev. Dr. Robert J. Drysdale, Minister of Mt. Hor Presbyterian Church, 1911-1941. (Newspaper clipping)	129
n.d.			Obituary of Margaret Patterson Ferrie Ross, widow of Osgoode Ross of Lanark.	129
n.d.			"George S. Young Buys R.C. Parish House." History of the manse of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lanark, which the grateful congregation sold to the Rev. James Wilson for \$450 at the time of his retirement as pastor and which his widow sold to the Sacred Heart parish in 1908. (Newspaper clipping)	130
27 March 1946			"Of Days Gone By" - Editorial in the <u>Lanark Era</u> relating mainly to the Mair family in Lanark and the recent death of former Congregational minister John Alexander Mair (b. 1871) of Edmonton. (Newspaper clipping)	130
May 1960			Photograph of two <u>pewter</u> chalices.	131
7 Feb. 1970	Jack Jamieson		"Your Antiques. 'Early' pewter scarce." (Newspaper clipping. <u>Toronto Star</u> Syndicate, 1970)	132



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