

Donald Graham Fonds

Dates of Creation: 1885-2003, predominantly 1981-2002

Physical Extent: 95.8 cm of textual records and other materials

Biographical History:

Donald Ronald Graham was born in Regina, Saskatchewan on August 3, 1947 to Jim and Marjorie Graham. After he graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a master's degree in history, he worked as an economist for the Saskatchewan Economic Development Board for a couple of years before he accepted the position of the provincial government's Cultural Conservation Co-ordinator in 1970. He married Elaine in 1969 and had two sons, David and Jonathon.

In 1976, Donald moved his family to Victoria, British Columbia on the first leg of their journey to join an agricultural co-operative in Belize. While in Victoria, he saw a job ad and applied to be a lighthouse keeper. By February 1978, Graham was first assigned to Point Atkinson in West Vancouver and then transferred to Lucy Island in Chatham Sound. After a year, he was then assigned to the lighthouse at Bonilla Island in the Hecate Straits. By 1981, however, Graham asked to be reassigned to Point Atkinson where he remained as the light keeper for the next 17 years until his position was finally replaced by an automated light in 1996. Despite the loss of his job, he and his family remained as residents of Lighthouse Park, as his wife was the area's warden.

Graham wrote two books *Keepers of the Light* (1985) and *Lights of the Inside Passage* (1986) that documented the history of lighthouses in British Columbia and revealed many personal and sometimes tragic stories about lighthouse keepers and their families. Both books were well received by the public and eventually garnered him a B.C. Book Award. In recent years, Graham became an outspoken critic of a federal government policy of automating the lighthouses as a cost-cutting measure and was frequently quoted in newspapers defending the tradition of humans staffing lighthouses.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of biographical information, writings, publications, minutes, memorandums, transcripts of interviews, correspondence, newspaper clippings, reports, research notes, reviews, press releases, maps, slides, and photographs.

The fonds consist of 8 series:

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|----------|---------------------------|
| Series 1 | Biographical and Writings |
| Series 2 | Point Atkinson |
| Series 3 | Subject Files |
| Series 4 | "Keepers of the Light" |
| Series 5 | Correspondence |
| Series 6 | Maps |
| Series 7 | Light Stations |
| Series 8 | Photographs and Slides |

Donald Graham Fonds

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title: Based on contents of the records.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Prior to his death from pancreatic cancer on October 8, 2003, his research files and his collection of photographs, maps and sea charts that were used in his books were donated to the Leonard G. McCann Archives at the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

Arrangement: The records have been organized according to either Graham's original filing system or to its overall contents.

Photographs of individual lighthouses and lighthouse keepers and their family members have been removed from their corresponding files and placed in a separate Photographs and Slides series.

Language: The records are in English.

Restrictions on Access: Consult Archivist as some records contain personal information.

Restrictions Governing Publication: None.

Finding Aid: Series level descriptions have been completed along with an item-level listing of the photographs in the fonds. A Box-File list is also available.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Donald Graham Fonds

Series Descriptions

Series 1 *Biographical and Writings*

Dates of Creation: 1986 and 1994-2003

Physical Extent: 5.0 cm

Series consist of Graham's obituary notice published in the October 10, 2003 issue of the *Vancouver Sun*, a certificate of merit from the North Shore Amateur Radio Club, and some samples of Graham's published works.

Series 2 *Point Atkinson*

Dates of Creation: 1936-2003, predominant 1986-2001

Physical Extent: 11.3 cm of textual records

Series consist of records pertaining to the operations and maintenance of the Point Atkinson lighthouse. The records include correspondence, memorandums, minutes of meetings, photocopies of photographs, reports, newsletters and newspaper clippings.

Note: More general information about automation, fog horns and main light can be found in the Subject Files series. Photographs of the fog horn and lighthouses have been removed from this series and placed in the Photographs and Slides series.

Series 3 *Subject Files*

Dates of Creation: 1887-2000

Physical Extent: 21.5 cm of textual records

Series consists of research notes, correspondence, memorandums, newspaper clippings, minutes, reports and transcripts of oral interviews from past lighthouse keepers or family members of lighthouse keepers.

Note: Specific records pertaining to the main light, radio and fog horn at the Point Atkinson lighthouse can be found in the Point Atkinson series while records relating to individual lighthouses spread throughout British Columbia can be found in the Light Stations series, where Graham originally filed them.

Series 4 *"Keepers of the Light"*

Dates of Creation: 1981-1995

Physical Extent: 4.7 cm of textual records

Series consists of incoming correspondence, revised notes, press releases, flyers, newspaper clippings and articles relating specifically to the publication of Graham's first book *Keepers of the Light*.

Donald Graham Fonds

Series 5 Correspondence

Dates of Creation: 1985-1997

Physical Extent: 7.3 cm of textual records

Series consists of incoming correspondence from personal friends and admirers of Graham's books.

Series 6 Maps and Charts

Dates of Creation: [n.d.]

Physical Extent: 26 maps: photocopies; 26.5 x 16.3 cm or smaller

Series consists of a variety of maps and charts pointing out the location of lighthouses scattered throughout the province as well as documenting the province's extensive northern and southern coastlines, inlets and harbors. The series include 5 maps of lighthouses located in broad geographic areas (Northern BC, Southern BC, "The Northern Lights," "The Inside Passage" and the North and South Coasts) while the remaining 21 maps are of lighthouses on specific islands (Merry Island, East Point, Discovery Island, Active Pass, Chrome Island, Portlock Point, Sisters Island, Cape Mudge, Ballenas Island, Porlier Pass, Scarlett Point, Pulteney Point, Egg Island, Pine Island, Lucy Island, Pointer Island, Ivory Island, Green Island, Addenbroke Island, Langara Island, and Triple Island). All of the maps in this series were used by Graham and published in his books.

Series 7 Light Stations

Dates of Creation: 1859-2003

Physical Extent: 49.5 cm of textual records; 4 photographs: b&w; 21.5 x 13.6 cm; 1 architectural drawing

Series consists of records pertaining to individual lighthouses located throughout British Columbia's northern and southern coasts. The records include research notes, newspaper clippings, correspondence, memorandums, and log or diary entries of former lighthouse keepers. The photographs are of account ledgers and a letter written by Mannuel Hannah to B.C. Police. The architectural drawing is a site plan for the Dryad Point Lightstation dating to April 12, 1962.

Note: Records pertaining to more general information about lighthouses in British Columbia can be found in the Subject Files Series while records pertaining to the Point Atkinson lighthouse can be found in the Point Atkinson Series. Photographs of individual lighthouses and lighthouse keepers and their family members found in this series have been removed and placed in the Photographs and Slides series.

Donald Graham Fonds

Series 8 Photographs and Slides

Dates of Creation: 1880-2001

Physical Extent: 492 photographs: 405 b&w and 87 color; 21.4 cm x 26.4 cm or smaller;
19 slides: color; 12 negatives; 9 negative strips

Series consist of black and white photographic prints, colored photographic prints, negatives, and colored slides depicting various lighthouses in British Columbia, lighthouse equipment, the dedication ceremony declaring Point Atkinson as a National Historic site, former lighthouse keepers and their families, and several ships, including the *Valencia*, *Coloma*, *Estevan*, *Estevan* and *Alexander Mackenzie*.

The photographs have been organized and filed by subject—BC Coast Light stations, Newfoundland Light stations, Geographic Location, Ships and Miscellaneous.

Photographs of a light housekeeper's ledgers and a letter written by Mannuel Hannah have been left in their original file in the Lightstations Series, where Graham originally filed them.

BC Coast Light stations:

- Active Pass. 1880-1980; 19 photographs: b&w; 20.4 x 25.5 cm or smaller; 3 negatives.
- Addenbrooke Island. 1970. 8 photographs: b&w; 16.5 x 23.9 cm or smaller.
- Albert Head. [193-]-1978. 4 photographs: b&w; 15.6 x 23.8 cm or smaller; 1 negative.
- Amphitrite Point. [n.d.]. 1 photograph: b&w; 11.4 x 7.7 cm.
- Bare Point. 1930. 2 photographs: b&w; 7.5 x 11.4 cm and 5.3 x 8 cm.
- Barret Rock. [n.d.]. 2 photographs: b&w; 16.5 x 11.3 cm 11.3 x 16.5 cm.
- Boat Bluff. [n.d.]. 1 photograph: b&w; 12.7 x 9 cm.
- Ballenas Island. [n.d.]. 8 photographs: b&w; 20.3 x 24.6 cm or smaller.
- Brockton Point. 1935-1967. 3 photographs: b&w; 13.6 x 23.9 cm or smaller.
- Cape Beale. 1917-1979. 15 photographs: 13 b&w and 2 color; 13.9 x 24.3 cm or smaller.
- Cape Mudge. 1898-1915. 9 photographs: 8 b&w and 1 color; 20.2 x 24.6 cm or smaller; 3 negatives.

Donald Graham Fonds

- Cape St. James. 1914. 10 photographs: b&w; 25.6 x 20.4 cm or smaller; 1 negative.
- Cape Scott. 1980. 4 photographs: b&w; 24.4 x 19.
- Capilano. [n.d.]. 2 photographs: b&w; 7.9 x 11.4 cm and 7.6 x 10.6 cm.
- Carmanah. [1899]-1997. 10 photographs: 5 b&w and 4 color; 20.4 x 25.5 cm or smaller.
- Chatham Point. 1979. 1 photograph: b&w; 7.4 x 11.3 cm.
- Chrome Island. 1930-1978. 6 photographs: b&w; 20.9 x 24.4 cm or smaller.
- Discovery Island. 1908-1951. 9 photographs: b&w; 20.2 x 24.7 cm or smaller.
- Dryad Point. 1902-1980. 6 photographs: b&w; 20.4 x 25.5 cm or smaller.
- East Point. [n.d.] 6 photographs: b&w; 19.4 x 24.4 cm or smaller.
- Egg Island. 1900-1989. 20 photographs: b&w; 22.4 x 18.1 cm or smaller; 1 negative.
- Estevan Point. 1920-1969. 36 photographs: 30 b&w and 6 color; 20.3 x 12.1 cm or smaller.
- Entrance Island. 1920-1983. 12 photographs: 8 b&w and 4 color; 15.7 x 23.8 cm or smaller.
- Fiddle Reef. 1917-1960. 3 photographs: b&w; 18.6 x 22.8 cm or smaller.
- Fisgard. [190-]-2001. 8 photographs: 3 b&w and 5 color; 23 x 18.3 cm or smaller.
- Gallows Point. 1977. 5 photographs: b&w; 17.3 x 23.7 cm or smaller.
- Green Island. 1906. 10 photographs: b&w; 20.3 x 25.5 cm or smaller.
- Ivory Island. 1905-1980. 6 photographs: b&w; 20.3 x 24.7 cm or smaller.
- Kains Island. 1941. 2 photographs: b&w; 7.3 x 11.1 cm.
- Kains Island. Warren Family. [n.d.]. 6 photographs: b&w; 12.6 x 8.7 cm or smaller.
- Langara Island. 1914-1937. 13 photographs: b&w; 24.8 x 20.1 cm or smaller; 1 negative.

Donald Graham Fonds

- Langara Island. Forsyth Family. 1913-1933. 8 photographs: b&w; 23.2 x 14.5 cm or smaller.
- Langara Island. Kinnear Family. [after 1945]. 12 photographs: b&w; 10.1 x 15.2 cm or smaller.
- Lawyer Island. [n.d.]. 2 photographs: 25.5 x 18.1 cm or 12.7 x 9 cm.
- Lennard Island. 2001. 21 photographs: color; 10.1 x 15.2 cm; 6 negative strips; 19 color slides.
- Lucy Island. 1926-1980. 5 photographs: b&w; 13.4 x 24.3 cm or smaller; 1 negative strip.
- Merry Island. 1968-[1984]. 9 photographs: 6 b&w and 3 color; 20.3 x 24.6 cm or smaller.
- Nootka. 1920-1985. 8 photographs: 6 b&w and 2 color; 25.5 x 20.3 cm or smaller.
- Pachena. 1907-1930. 11 photographs: 8 b&w and 3 color; 20.4 x 25.6 cm or smaller.
- Pine Island. [1920]-1963. 11 photographs: 7 b&w and 4 color; 24.3 x 19.7 cm or smaller.
- Point Atkinson. 1977-1994. 27 photographs: 2 b&w and 25 color; 19.8 x 25.4 cm or smaller; 2 negative strips.
- Pointer Island. 1902-1980. 6 photographs: 19 x 24 cm or smaller.
- Porlier Pass. 1938. 4 photographs: 22.4 x 19.7 cm or smaller.
- Portlock Point. [192-]. 9 photographs: b&w; 18.1 x 23.1 cm or smaller.
- Prospect Point. [n.d.]. 1 photograph: b&w; 5.3 x 7.8 cm.
- Pulteney Point. 1905-[1925]. 8 photographs: b&w; 25.5 x 20.4 cm or smaller.
- Race Rocks. [n.d.]. 3 photographs: b&w; 5.5 x 7.8 cm.
- Sandheads. 1970. 1 photograph: b&w; 7.7 x 11.5 cm.
- Scarlett Point. 1930-1964. 13 photographs: b&w; 17.9 x 22.9 cm or smaller.

Donald Graham Fonds

- Sheringham Point. 1930-1977. 7 photographs: 6 b&w and 1 color; 25.6 x 20.4 cm or smaller.
- Sisters Rocks. 1902-1964. 12 photographs: b&w; 20.3 x 25.5 cm or smaller.
- Trial Island. 1978. 3 photographs: b&w; 10.2 x 16.1 cm or smaller.
- Triple Island. [n.d.]. 23 photographs: 21 b&w and 2 color; 18.9 x 24 cm or smaller.
- Triple Island. Gordon and Jean Odlum. 1944. 5 photographs: b&w; 12.6 x 8.9 cm or smaller.
- Triangle Island. 1914-1918. 12 photographs: b&w; 22.9 x 18.3 cm or smaller.
- Village Island. 1963. 1 photograph: b&w; 7.6 x 11.3 cm.

Newfoundland Light stations:

- Cape Norman 1995. 3 photographs: color; 10.2 x 15.3 cm.
- Ferrole Point 1995. 4 photographs: color; 10.2 x 15.3 cm.

Geographic Locations:

- Prince Rupert. 1918. 2 photographs: b&w; 11.1 x 16.4 cm.

Ships:

- Alberni. [n.d.]. 1 photograph: b&w; 9.4 x 6.3 cm.
- Coloma. [n.d.]. 1 photograph: b&w; 20.3 x 25.5 cm.
- Estevan. 1925-[193-]. 3 photographs: b&w; 11 x 6.4 cm and 7.2 x 11.4 cm.
- Alexander MacKenzie. [n.d.]. 1 photograph: b&w; 23.7 x 18.1 cm.
- Soquel. [n.d.]. 1 photograph: b&w; 20.3 x 25.5 cm.
- Valencia. [n.d.]. 3 photographs: b&w; 8.5 x 10.7 cm or smaller; 1 negative.

Donald Graham Fonds

Miscellaneous images 1918-1963. 5 photographs: b&w; 22.3 x 30.4 cm or smaller; 1 negative.

Donald Graham Fonds

Box / File List

Box 1 Series 1 Biographical and Writings

1-1 Obituary Notice, Certificate and Writings (1986 and 1994-2003)

Series 2 Point Atkinson Series

- 1-2 Costs and Revenue [1993]
- 1-3 Destaffing and Automation (1986-1997)
- 1-4 Environment (1989-2000)
- 1-5 Environment Site Assessment (1996-2000)
- 1-6 Fog Horn (1966, 1974 and 1995-2002)
- 1-7 Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office [1999]
- 1-8 Lighthouse Keepers (1936-1972, predominant 1962-1972)
- 1-9 Main Light (1949-1996)
- 1-10 National Historic Site (1993-1996)
- 1-11 Radio (1941 and 1991)
- 1-12 Weather Reports (1984 and 1990-1995)
- 1-13 West Vancouver Historical Society (1951 and 1991-2003)
- 1-14 West Vancouver Parks (1996-2001)

Box 2 Series 3 Subject Files

- 2-1 William Patrick Anderson (1898-1916, predominant 1985-1986)
- 2-2 Canadian Red Cross Society (1921-1923 and 1981)
- 2-3 Fog Horns—Automation (1991-1996)
- 2-4 Fog Horns—History (1971-1997)
- 2-5 Fog Horns—Other Stations (1997-1998)
- 2-6 General Background—BC Lighthouses (1887-1893 and [1981])
- 2-7 General Background—BC Lighthouses (predominant 1898-1902, 1936-1976)
- 2-8 Legislation for the Protection of Heritage Lighthouses (2000)
- 2-9 Lighthouse Board [n.d.]
- 2-10 Light Technology (1928, 1949 and 1978)
- 2-11 Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission (1996)
- 2-12 Captain James Gaudin (1950)
- 2-13 “Northern Lights” Lighthouses (1908, 1948, 1982 and 1997)
- 2-14 Gordon Odium (1961-1978)
- 2-15 Oral History—Interview with Devina Baines (1965)
- 2-16 Oral History—Interview with Frances Brown (1965)
- 2-17 Oral History—Interview with Archie Georgeson (1965)
- 2-18 Oral History—Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Georgeson (1966)
- 2-19 Oral History—Interview with Geraldine Hulbert (1966)
- 2-20 Oral History—Interview with Frances Morrison (1962 and 1981)
- 2-21 Oral History—Interview with Various Individuals (1976 and 1981)
- 2-22 “The Organizer” Newsletter (1983)

Donald Graham Fonds

Box 3 Series 3 Subject Files

- 3-1 Port Alberni Heritage Society and Other Lighthouses (1992-1999)
- 3-2 Public Archives of Canada (1981)
- 3-3 Captain George Edward Livingstone Robertson (1911, 1913 and 1938)
- 3-4 *Valencia* Wreck (1906, 1969-1981 and 1993)
- 3-5 Working Conditions for Lightkeepers (predominant 1926-1955, 1982-1983 and 1986)

Series 4 “Keepers of the Light”

- 3-6 Documentary (1988-1989)
- 3-7 Incoming Correspondence (1981-1995)
- 3-8 Incoming Correspondence and Book Reviews (1982-1985)
- 3-9 Press Releases, Reviews and Articles (1986)
- 3-10 Press Releases and Newspaper Clippings (1986-1987)

Series 5 Correspondence

- 3-11 Incoming (1985)
- 3-12 Incoming (1986)
- 3-13 Incoming (1987)
- 3-14 Incoming (1988)
- 3-15 Incoming (1989)
- 3-16 Incoming (1994-1997)

Box 4 Series 6 Maps and Charts

- 4-1 Maps of BC Islands, Inlets and Coastlines [n.d.]

Series 7 Light Stations Series

- 4-2 Active Pass (1885-1985, predominant 1985)
- 4-3 Addenbroke Island (1941-1942 and 1981-1982)
- 4-4 Albert Head (1939-1940 and 1956)
- 4-5 Amphitrite (1919-1939)
- 4-6 Ballenas (1898-1992)
- 4-7 Bare Point (1908-1940)
- 4-8 Barret Rock [n.d.]
- 4-9 Boat Bluff [n.d.]
- 4-10 Cape Beale (1906-1977 and 1985)
- 4-11 Cape Mudge (1905-1942, 1976, 1996 and 2002)
- 4-12 Cape St. James (1990)
- 4-13 Cape Scott (1965-1971)
- 4-14 Capilano (1925-1969)
- 4-15 Carmanah (1887-1978 and 1991-1996)
- 4-16 Chatham Point (1908-1910 and 1954-1959)
- 4-17 Chrome Island (1913-1967 and 1986)
- 4-18 Discovery Island (1984-[1960] and 1990)
- 4-19 Dryad Point (1962 and [n.d.])
- 4-20 East Point (1886-1967 and [1987])

Donald Graham Fonds

Box 5 Series 7 Light Stations Series

- 5-1 Egg Island (1899-[1963], 1981 and 1986)
- 5-2 Entrance Island (1879-1914, 1972 and 1984 and 2003)
- 5-3 Estevan Point (1908-1990, 1996 and 2003)
- 5-4 Fiddle Reef (1895-1959 and 1981)
- 5-5 Fisgard Island (1859-1961 and 1997)
- 5-6 Gallows Point (1901-1983)
- 5-7 Green Island (1929, 1983 and 1993)
- 5-8 Holland Rock [n.d.]
- 5-9 Ivory Island (1973-1983 and 1999)
- 5-10 Kains Island ([1908]-1925 and 1983)
- 5-11 Langara Island ([19-]-1960, 1983 and 1989)
- 5-12 Lennard Island (1901-1913, 1962 and 1966)
- 5-13 Lucy Island ([1912], 1985 and 1993-1994)

Box 6 Series 7 Light Stations Series

- 6-1 Masset Inlet (1913-1933)
- 6-2 Merry Island (1901 and 1915-1986)
- 6-3 Nootka Sound (1910, 1919-1979 and 2003)
- 6-4 Pachena (1920-1971 and 1989)
- 6-5 Pine Island (1907-1967 and 1987)
- 6-6 Pointer Island (1920-1948, 1987 and 1998)
- 6-7 Porlier Pass (1901-1948, 1965, 1986-1987 and 1996)
- 6-8 Portlock Point (1890-1942, 1960-1964 and 1975)
- 6-9 Prospect Point (1990)
- 6-10 Pulteney Point (1905-1945, 1960 and 1985-1986)
- 6-11 Race Rocks (1889-1977, 1984 and 1995-1997)

Box 7 Series 7 Light Stations Series

- 7-1 Sandheads (1884-1947 and 1978-1995)
- 7-2 Scarlett Point ([1911]-1965, 1986 and 1995)
- 7-3 Sheringham Point (1912-[1948])
- 7-4 Sisters Island (1912-1967 and [199-])
- 7-5 Trial Island ([1898]-1986 and 2001)
- 7-6 Triangle Island (1909-1919, 1963 and 1972)
- 7-7 Triple Island (1914-1969, 1986 and 1990)
- 7-8 Triple Island—Construction (1913-1916)
- 7-9 Triple Island—Construction (1916-1917)