

Donald Graham Fonds

Donald Graham fonds.-1885-2003 and [n.d.], predominant 1981-2002.
95.8 cm of textual records and other materials.

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. 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.

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: Biographical and Writings; Point Atkinson; Subject Files; "Keepers of the Light"; Correspondence; Maps; Light Stations; and Photographs and Slides. 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.

No further accruals are expected.

File list available.

Series Description

Biographical and Writings Series.-1986 and 1994-2003.
1 file folder.

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.

Point Atkinson Series.-1936-2003, predominant 1986-2001.
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.

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.

Some restrictions apply, primarily containing personal information. Please consult with the librarian or archivist about these restrictions.

Subject Files Series.-1887-2000.
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.

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.

"Keepers of the Light" Series.-1981-1995.
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*.

Correspondence Series.-1985-1989 and 1994-1997.
7.3 cm of textual records.

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

Maps and Charts Series.-[n.d.]
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.

Light Stations Series.-1859-2003 and [n.d.]
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 Manuel Hannah to B.C. Police. The architectural drawing is a site plan for the Dryad Point Lightstation dating to April 12, 1962.

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.

Photographs and Slides Series.-1880-2001 and [n.d.].

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 Lightstations, Newfoundland Lightstations, Geographic Location, Ships and Miscellaneous. Photographs of a lighthousekeeper's ledgers and a letter written by Manuel Hannah have been left in their original file in the Lightstations Series, where Graham originally filed them.

File List

Box 1

Biographical and Writings Series

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

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

Subject Files Series

- 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 and 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)

Box 3

- 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)

“Keepers of the Light” Series

- 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)

Correspondence Series

- 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

Maps and Charts Series

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

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])

Box 5

- 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

- 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

- 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)

Photographs and Slides Series

BC Coast Lightstations:

Active Pass. –1880, [1885], [1968], 1940-1950, and 1980.
 19 photographs: b&w; 20.4 x 25.5 cm or smaller.
 3 negatives.

Addenbrooke Island.-1970 and [n.d].
 8 photographs: b&w; 16.5 x 23.9 cm or smaller.

Albert Head.-[193-] and 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 and 1967.

3 photographs: b&w; 13.6 x 23.9 cm or smaller.

Cape Beale.-1917, 1934, 1969, 1970, 1979 and [n.d.].

15 photographs: 13 b&w and 2 color; 13.9 x 24.3 cm or smaller.

Cape Mudge.-1898, 1915 and [n.d.].

9 photographs: 8 b&w and 1 color; 20.2 x 24.6 cm or smaller.

3 negatives.

Cape St. James.-1914 and [n.d.].

10 photographs: b&w; 25.6 x 20.4 cm or smaller.

1 negative.

Cape Scott.-1980 and [n.d.].

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], [19-], 1912, 1934, 1986, 1997 and [n.d.].

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, [193-], 1963, 1978 and [n.d].
6 photographs: b&w; 20.9 x 24.4 cm or smaller.

Discovery Island.-1908, 1930-1940, 1951 and [n.d].
9 photographs: b&w; 20.2 x 24.7 cm or smaller.

Dryad Point.-1902, 1914, 1918 and 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.-1900-1914, 1946, 1955, 1989 and [n.d.]
20 photographs: b&w; 22.4 x 18.1 cm or smaller.
1 negative.

Estevan Point.-1920-1940, 1969 and [n.d].
36 photographs: 30 b&w and 6 color; 20.3 x 12.1 cm or smaller.

Entrance Island.-1920-1950, 1965, 1978, 1981, 1983 and [n.d].
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.-[prior 1926], [198-], 2001 and [n.d].
8 photographs: 3 b&w and 5 color; 23 x 18.3 cm or smaller.

Gallows Point.-1977 and [n.d].
5 photographs: b&w; 17.3 x 23.7 cm or smaller.

Green Island.-1906 and [n.d].
10 photographs: b&w; 20.3 x 25.5 cm or smaller.

Ivory Island.-1905, [194-], 1980 and [n.d].
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, [193-], 1937 and [n.d].
13 photographs: b&w; 24.8 x 20.1 cm or smaller.
1 negative.

Langara Island-Forsyth Family.- [1913-1918], 1914 and 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 and [n.d.].
21 photographs: color; 10.1 x 15.2 cm.
6 negative strips.
19 color slides.

Lucy Island.-1926, 1980 and [n.d.].
5 photographs: b&w; 13.4 x 24.3 cm or smaller.
1 negative strip.

Merry Island.-1968, [1984] and [n.d.].
9 photographs: 6 b&w and 3 color; 20.3 x 24.6 cm or smaller.

Nootka.-1920, 1934, 1985 and [n.d.].
8 photographs: 6 b&w and 2 color; 25.5 x 20.3 cm or smaller.

Pachena.-1907, 1930 and [n.d.].
11 photographs: 8 b&w and 3 color; 20.4 x 25.6 cm or smaller.

Pine Island.-[1920], 1963 and [n.d.].
11 photographs: 7 b&w and 4 color; 24.3 x 19.7 cm or smaller.

Point Atkinson.-1977, 1994 and [n.d.].
27 photographs: 2 b&w and 25 color; 19.8 x 25.4 cm or smaller.
2 negative strips.

Pointer Island.-1902, 1940, 1980 and [n.d.].
6 photographs: 19 x 24 cm or smaller.

Porlier Pass.-1938 and [n.d.].
4 photographs: 22.4 x 19.7 cm or smaller.

Portlock Point.-[after 1921] and [n.d.].
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] and [n.d.].
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, 1935, [194-] and 1964.
13 photographs: b&w; 17.9 x 22.9 cm or smaller.

Sheringham Point.-1930 and 1977.
7 photographs: 6 b&w and 1 color; 25.6 x 20.4 cm or smaller.

Sisters Rocks.-1902, [192-], [193-], 1932, 1964 and [n.d.]
12 photographs: b&w; 20.3 x 25.5 cm or smaller.

Trial Island.-1978 and [n.d.].
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 and [n.d.].
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 Lightstations:

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-] and [n.d.].

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.

Miscellaneous:

Miscellaneous.-1918, 1963 and [n.d.].

5 photographs: b&w; 22.3 x 30.4 cm or smaller.

1 negative.