The Law Society of Upper Canada Archives

Robert Alexander Harrison fonds

PF150

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Biographical Sketch

Robert Alexander Harrison was born on August 3rd, 1833, in Montreal, Lower Canada. He was educated at Upper Canada College and Trinity College in Toronto. Harrison was called to the Bar in 1855 after articling with the Toronto law firm of Robinson and Allan. At the beginning of his career, from 1854 to 1859, Harrison served as Chief Clerk of the Crown Law Department in Toronto. He then went into private practice with James Paterson, and later formed the firm Harrison, Osler and Moss, after Paterson’s death. Harrison served as a Toronto alderman in 1867 and as MP for Toronto West in the House of Commons from 1867 to 1872. An active member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, Harrison served as a bencher from 1871 to 1878. Harrison served as Chief Justice of Ontario, Court of Queen's Bench, from 1875 to 1878. Utilizing his experience as a jurist, he authored a number of educational texts and contributed to various periodicals and newspapers. In addition to his legal career, Harrison was a director of the Royal Canadian Bank, the Life Association of Scotland, and the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway. Robert Alexander Harrison died on November 1st, 1878, in Toronto.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The letters in this fonds were presented to the Law Society by Barbara Goodfellow, granddaughter of Robert Alexander Harrison (second Chief Justice of Ontario) in 1979.

Scope and Content

1878

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