

# **Thomas and Emma Crosby Fonds**

An Inventory

in

The Library of the University of British Columbia  
Special Collections and University Archives Division

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**Title: Thomas Crosby and Emma Crosby Fonds****Dates of Creation: 1862-1927****Physical description: 50 cm of textual records, 368 photographs, 4 sketches****Biographical sketch:**

Rev. Thomas Crosby was born in Pickering, Yorkshire, England in 1840 and in 1856 came to Canada with his parents, the family settling near Woodstock, Upper Canada. He left Woodstock in 1862, landed in Victoria in the same year and was sent to Nanaimo to take charge of an Indian school. After travelling extensively on the B.C. coast, he took up work in the Chilliwack area in 1869. In 1871 he was ordained a minister in the Methodist Church of Canada and obtained a furlough in 1873 to travel to Ontario and married Emma Jane Douse from Barrie, Ontario, on April 30, 1874.

They travelled to Port Simpson in 1874, which Rev. Crosby used as a base of operations for 23 years of missionary work in the region. The work required much travel and he received a missionary ship, called the Glad Tidings, to assist him in his work in 1889. Thomas and Emma Crosby moved to Victoria in 1897 as he began a term as President of the British Columbia Methodist Conference. After his term was completed he moved to Sardis, the scene of his earlier work. He was superannuated in 1907 and moved to New Westminster. In failing health, he moved to Vancouver and passed away in 1914.

**Scope and Content:**

The fonds consists of the incoming and outgoing correspondence of Rev. Thomas Crosby and his wife, Emma Douse Crosby, manuscripts, documents, printed material, photographs, and sketches pertaining to missionary work and family life. The correspondence includes letters written and received by Rev. Crosby on behalf of the Port Simpson people relating to land issues and letters written by Emma Crosby to her mother during her early years at Port Simpson. The photographs include activities at Port Simpson.

**Source of supplied title proper:**

Title based on contents of fonds.

**Immediate source of acquisition:**

Donated by Helen Hager, August 13, 1999.

**Arrangement:**

Material was kept in the Crosby family throughout the decades in various bundles and placed into a general order prior to being donated. Files relating to native peoples' matters were separated from familial correspondence prior to donation.

**Restrictions:**

No restrictions were placed on access.

**Accruals:**

There may be further accruals.

## Series Descriptions

### 1. Biographical information series.

Series consists of a file relating to the births and deaths in the family and a list of highlights in the career of Rev. Thomas Crosby. For further biographical information, see clippings in box 3-1.

### 2. Correspondence series - Native Peoples' issues. 1881-1887.

41 items.

Series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence including minutes of meetings of the Port Simpson people regarding land issues and their relationship with the Hudson's Bay Company, Kincolith Indians, surveyors, Indian agents, and the federal government, 1876-1887.

### 3. Correspondence series - Thomas Crosby. 1874-1912.

14 items.

Series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of Thomas Crosby including letters congratulating him on the Fiftieth Anniversary of his ministry, 1862-1912.

### 4. Manuscripts series - Thomas Crosby. n.d.

14 items.

Series consists of manuscripts that include essays and notes that could have been used for sermons, biographies and plays about his life, his collections, and a Pledge book with the names of the people of Port Simpson.

### 5. Correspondence series - Emma Douse Crosby. 1862-1927.

175 items.

Series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence with family and friends including incoming correspondence on the death of her husband and outgoing correspondence with her mother during her early years at Port Simpson, 1874-1880.

### 6. Manuscripts series - Emma Douse Crosby. n.d.

2 cm.

Series consists of her essays and notes and comments written to her by her friends.

### 7. Document series. 1868, 1912.

2 items.

Series consists of documents to Thomas Crosby and Emma Douse commending them on various achievements.

**8. Printed material series. 1702-1995.**

50 cm.

Series consists of newspaper clippings, books, pamphlets, articles, and other items relating to Rev. Thomas Crosby and missionary work.

**9. Photograph series. Ca.1860's-1900's.**

368 items.

Series consists of two albums and loose photographs of family and friends as well as photographs of Port Simpson, native people in the area, and missionary activities.

**10. Sketches series. 1899.**

4 items.

Series consists of native peoples' scenes by J.E. Laughlin in [1899].

## File List

### Box/Folder

### Biographical Information Series

1-1

**Correspondence Series – Native Peoples’ Issues 41 items 1881 – 1887**

1-2	Thomas Crosby to D.V. Lucas	28 June 1882
	Thomas Crosby to D.V. Lucas	20 Nov. 1882
1-3	Correspondence regarding relationships between the Tsimishan and Kincolith Indians 8 items	1885-1886
	List of supplies and a command to the people of Port Simpson by Moses Kinow	25 Mar 1885
	Letter to Hon. A.C. Elliott from John Ryan, Adolphus Calvert and James Haywood on behalf of the Tsimshians	4 April 1885
	Letter to I.W. Powell regarding potlach activities (unidentified signature)	27 Feb. 1886
	Letter to Sir (Indian Department) (unsigned) Letter is critical of certain actions of the Tsimshians.	6 July 1886
	Letter to Sir John Macdonald on behalf of the Tsimshian Indians (unsigned and undated). It is a reply to the letter of 6 July 1886.	n.d.
	Letter “To the Gov.” regarding Judge Elliot and Native peoples cases before him. Unsigned and undated.	n.d.
	Fragment regarding potlaching and the opinion of Judge A.C. Elliott. Unsigned and undated.	n.d.
	Acknowledgement of a letter sent to the Department of Indian Affairs	24 Sept 1886
1-4	Letters to the Editor, Victoria Colonist (3)	1885
	Letter to the Editor from (?), J. Ryan, A. McMillan and M. Johnson of Port Simpson	27 April 1885
	Letter to the Editor unsigned from, “eight leading men of Port Simpson.”	21 May 1885
	A copy of the above letter, incomplete	21 May 1885
1-5	Letter to Sir John Macdonald on behalf of Port Simpson signed by A. Dudoward, R. Wilson, P. Price, (Swanson), H. Price, W. Kelly, Peter Mills, and Janus Wright, 5p.	2 (?) 1886
1-6	Letter to The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, from Thomas Crosby	26 May 1882
	Appended to the above letter:	20 Sept 1876
	Speech (hand-copied) of Lord Dufferin at Victoria, B.C.	
	D.V. Lucas to Thomas Crosby	27 July (188?)
	Letter to I.W. Powell, Agent of Indian Affairs, Victoria, from the Native Peoples Council, Port Simpson, regarding the dividing line between their reserve and the Hudson’s Bay Company.	8 Mar 1883
	Letter from I.W. Powell to Rev. Thomas Crosby	22 Sept 1882

	Letter from I.W. Powell to Joseph (Nrash-wah-mac) and others	18 Nov 1882
	Letter from members of the Kispach-ah'-lots tribe at Port Simpson to I.W. Powell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Victoria, regarding land property dispute over what is reserve land and what is the property of the Hudson's Bay Co.	4 Nov 1882
	Letter from I.W. Powell to Thomas Crosby regarding Hudson's Bay Co. lands at Port Simpson	16 Sept 1879
1-7	Minutes of a meeting of the Port Simpson people with J.W. McKay, Indian agent, 16 pages hand-written, and marked as pages 52-67	8 Dec 1883
1-8	Letter from William S. (Jemmett) surveyor to the Dominion to the Chiefs of Port Simpson	8 Nov 1886
	Letter from William S. (Jemmett) to the Chiefs of Port Simpson	Nov 1886
	Chiefs of Port Simpson to W.J. (Jemmett)	6 Nov 1886
	(Four Native people, witnessed by Thomas Crosby) to W.J. (Jemmett)	6 Nov 1886
	Indian Council of Port Simpson to Captain W.J. (Jemmett) regarding land claims	20 May 1886
1-9	A meeting of Council and leading men of Port Simpson to protest a survey by Mr. Trutch, 1 page	6 June 1887
	Hand-written note regarding the Victoria Colonist and a comment from G.M. Sproat to G.M. (Grant)	10 May 1882
	Letter from David Legaic, Native person homeowner, to Mr. Hall	14 Jan 1887
	Letter from R.H. Hall, Hudson's Bay Co. to Paul Legaic	10 Dec 1886
	Letter from R.H. Hall to Arthur Wellington Clah informing him that he is building a house on property that is not part of the Indian Reserve	15 Dec 1885
	Letter from A.W. (Clah) to Mr. Hall replying to a letter sent to him on 15 Dec 1885	14 Jan 1887
	Letter from I.W. Powell to Thomas Crosby	23 Aug 1882
1-10	Letter from the people of Port Simpson (6 signatories) to P.O'Reilly, B.C. Land Commissioner regarding land requests	14 Aug 1882
	Letter from the people of Port Simpson (5 signatories) to P. O'Reilly regarding land requests	14 Aug 1882
	Letter on behalf of Port Simpson people to P.O'Reilly	14 Aug 1882
	Letter from people of Port Simpson (18 signatories) to P.O'Reilly regarding land requests	14 Aug 1882
	Letter from I.W. Powell to Rev. Thomas Crosby	27 Sept 1881

**Correspondence Series – Thomas Crosby 21 items**

**1874-1912**

**Correspondence – incoming 14 items 1883 – 1912**

1-11	Fiftieth Anniversary of Ministry, 6 letters, 2 telegrams of congratulations	April-May, 1912
1-12	Christmas cards (2)	1908
1-13	(Crosby), Will, nephew	15 Dec 1910
	Pierce, W.H. Port Simpson	20 Dec 1910
	Roberts, A.E.	25 Sept 1911

1-14 Lucas, D.V. 27 Feb 1883

**Correspondence – outgoing 5 letters 1874-1882**

1-15 Mrs. Douse and the family 5 letters 18 May 1874  
n.d. (1877)  
9 Nov 1882  
6 July 1885  
28 June 1886

**Correspondence – general**

1-16 Andrew Wright to Mrs. Mathla, Port Simpson 3 Mar 1896  
Joseph Mather to Miss Sampson, Port Simpson 6 Jan 1897

**Manuscript Series – Thomas Crosby 14 items**

1-17 Pledge book – a list of 106 names, mainly Native peoples, signed below a statement written in a Native peoples language. Jan 1884

1-18 Thomas Crosby – a manuscript, 15 pages, and a typescript, 7 pages, prepared on his life as a missionary in British Columbia. Author unknown. 1914

1-19 Thomas Crosby – a morality play by B.C. Freeman and adapted from the original by Leonard Miller, typescript, 32 pages n.d.

1-20 Notes on Indian work in British Columbia by the Methodists, 1859-1892, 24 pages. Author unknown (C.M. Tate) n.d.

1-21 Notes on missionary work in British Columbia, 12 pages n.d.

1-22 Native peoples tradition – a manuscript on Native peoples' culture on the B.C. coast, author unknown, 21 pages n.d.

1-23 Indian Legends – a typescript, author unknown, 11 pages n.d.

1-24 A catalogue of Thomas Crosby's books. The catalogue included a note: Presented to College, 1908 n.d.

1-25 List of Native peoples' artifacts:  
Indian Curios, collected on the North West Coast of British Columbia and Alaska between the year 1874 and 1894 (prices are marked beside each item) ts., 25 pages, curio collection, ts. 4 pages n.d.

1-26 English-Native peoples dictionary, hand-written notes n.d.

1-27 Miscellaneous notes on religion, four hand-written books n.d.

1-(28-30) Essays, hand written material that could have been used for sermons n.d.

1-31 Reading lesson books, hand-written books in a Native peoples language n.d.

**Correspondence series – Emma Douse Crosby**

**Correspondence, incoming 84 items 1874-1927**

2-1 Wesleyan Female College 1874

2-(2-5)	Two letters from students expressing appreciation for her efforts Letters, telegrams, and sympathy cards from family, friends, and his church pertaining to the passing away of Rev. Thomas Crosby (80)	1914
2-6	Harris, Jessie Scott, R.C. Bob	18 April 1925 1925 16 Oct 1927

**Correspondence, outgoing 90 letters 1867-1926**

2-7	Bertha	4 Mar 1867
2-(8-14)	Mother 65 letters	1873-1880
2-8	1 letter	1873
2-8	16 letters	1874
2-9	10 letters	1875
2-10	11 letters	1876
2-11	8 letters	1877
2-12	8 letters	1878
2-13	4 letters	1879
2-14	7 letters	1880
2-15	Father 2 letters	1883-1885
2-15	Susie 1 letter	1884
2-16	Father 1 letter	16 April 1886
2-16	Susie 2 letters	1890-1891
2-17	Crosby, Grace 14 letters	1920
	Among these letters were two letters written to Grace Crosby by Mary Powell	1918
2-18	Harris, Jessie 4 letters	1926

**Correspondence – general**

2-19	John Douse to his wife	1 letter	22 July 1862
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**Manuscript Series – Emma Crosby 2 cm.**

2-(20-21)	Dedication books	1874
	Comments written to Emma and signed by her friends	
2-22	Essays and notes	n.d.
2-23	Index to sermons and illustrations	1834

<b>Document Series</b>		<b>2 items</b>	1868, 1912
5-3	A certificate to Emma Douse as a Friend of Literature from the Wesleyan Female College, Hamilton		25 June 1868
5-4	A decorated document of congratulations to Thomas Crosby upon reaching his 50 <sup>th</sup> year of ministerial duties in British Columbia presented on behalf of the Methodist Church of Canada		1912

**Printed Material Series**

**50 cm.**

**1702-1995.**

**Clippings**

- 3-1 Biographical information
- 3-2 Mission ships, mainly the Crosby V
- 3-3 Artifacts
- 3-4 Bella Bella, mainly from The Missionary Outlook, ca. 1885-1900
- 3-5 Historical
- 3-6 Historical
- 5-1 Historical (pasted into a scrapbook)
- 5-2 Historical, including articles

**Books**

Wesley, John, *A Collection of Hymns, for the use of the people called Methodists*, London, John Mason.

Bangs, Nathan, *Vindication of Methodist Episcopacy*, Nathan Bangs and Thomas Mason, 1820.

McDougall, John, *George Millward McDougall, The Pioneer, Patriot and Missionary*, William Briggs, 1888.

McLean, John, *James Evan, Inventor of the Syllabic System of the Cree Language*, Methodist Mission Rooms, 1890.

Emory, Robert, *History of the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, G. Lane & P.P. Sandford, 1844.

Cornish, George, *Cyclopaedia of Methodism in Canada, Volume II*, Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto, 1903.

Howard, Oliver R., *Godships*, The United Church Observer, Toronto, 1984.

Bates, Rev. W., *The Harmony of the Divine Attributes in the Contrivance and Accomplishment of Man's Redemption by the Lord Jesus Christ*, London, 1815.

Dewart, Edward Hartley, *The Canadian Speaker and Elocutionary Reader*, Adam Miller, Toronto, 1868.

Watts, I., *Sermons on Various Subjects, Divine and Moral: With a Sacred Hymn Suited to each Subject, Volumes I and II*. London, 1752.

*When to Trust Jesus*, J.E. Hawkins, n.d.

Howe, John, *The Living Temple; or A Designed Improvement of the Idea that A Good Man is the Temple of God*, Fisher, Son and Co., 1702.

Blair, Hugh, *An Abridgement of Lectures on Rhetorick*, Hill and Moore, Concord, 1822.

MacLeod, Norman, *Good Words for 1868*, Strahan & Co., London.

Bunyan, John, *The Holy War*, Thomas Allman, London, 1839.

*Guide to Anthropological Collection in the Provincial Museum*, Richard Wolfenden, 1909.

*Annual Archaeological Report, 1905*, L.K. Cameron, 1906.

*The Holy Bible*, J. Emory and B. Waugh, New York, 1831.

*The Holy Bible*, John Hagerty, Baltimore, 1812.

*The Missionary Monthly*, Volume III, Number 11, November 1928.

*Dedication Services, Chilliwack United Church*, September, 12, 1954.

*Wesley Hymn Book*.

*Flathead Indians*, two booklets.

### **Pamphlets**

3-7    Methodist Catechisms: A Summary of Christian Doctrine and Bible History  
       Our Indian Missions  
       The Lord's Day Advocate, February 1907

3-8    Boats, Planes and the People of God  
       United Church bulletin, July 22, 1967: Launching of M.V. "Thomas Crosby V"  
       University Hill United Church bulletin, April 28, 1985: Thomas Crosby V  
       The Beaver, June/July 1986  
       Powered Marine Missions, 1984-85 calendar

**Photograph Series  
1900's**

**368 photographs**

**1800's-**

BC 1970/1 - BC 1970/36

Photographs of family and friends: mainly head shots. They have been identified.

BC 1970/37 - BC 1970/108

Photographs of family and friends unidentified.

BC 1970/109 - BC 1970/224 [Box 4]

An album with "Emma" on the cover containing photographs of family and friends, identified and unidentified.

BC 1970/225 - BC 1970/345 [Box 4]

An album containing photographs of family and friends, identified and unidentified.

BC 1970/346 - BC 1970/368 [Oversize]

Photographs relating to Port Simpson, native life in the area and missionaries.

BC 1970/1	Thomas Crosby
BC 1970/2	Thomas Crosby, his mother, father and brother
BC 1970/3	T.H. Crosby, Isabel Crosby, Grace Bolton in Port Simpson, circa 1896
BC 1970/4	Polly Crosby
BC 1970/5	Grace Crosby
BC 1970/6	John and Mary Crosby (to brother John)
BC 1970/7	Mother of Thomas Crosby
BC 1970/8	Gertrude Carrie (age 13 months)
BC 1970/9	Thomas Crosby
BC 1970/10	Mary Crosby (daughter, died 18 months)
BC 1970/11	Thomas Crosby's sister
BC 1970/12	Grace Crosby
BC 1970/13	Jessie and Grace Crosby
BC 1970/14	Eliza Brown, Grandma Crosby's sister
BC 1970/15	T.H. Crosby, Mrs. Crosby and children
BC 1970/16	T.H. Crosby
BC 1970/17	Aunt Susie McKay, Winnie, Fred, Dolly, Frank, Uncle George
BC 1970/18	Gertrude Crosby
BC 1970/19	Thomas Harold Crosby
BC 1970/20	Susie McKay (Deuse), Grama Crosby's sister
BC 1970/21	Grace, Jessie and Gertrude Crosby
BC 1970/22	Emma Crosby (Mrs. Thomas Crosby)
BC 1970/23	Mrs. Jas, Durstrius?
BC 1970/24	Mrs. John Douse (Grandma Crosby's mother)
BC 1970/25	Friend of Emma Crosby
BC 1970/26	Mrs. John Douse (Emma Crosby's mother)
BC 1970/27	Emma Crosby (Mrs. Thomas)

BC 1970/28 McIntosh, Breeze, Julia, Morris and Mabel Fraser  
 BC 1970/29 Friend of Emma Crosby  
 BC 1970/30 Mrs. George Brown and daughter Emmy (Sommerhill)  
 BC 1970/31 John Douse (Grandma Crosby's father)  
 BC 1970/32 David Wilson Carris, Gertrude Katherine Carris  
 BC 1970/33 Frank, Winnie and Dolly McKay  
 BC 1970/34 Mrs. John Douse (nee Milner), mother of Mrs. Thomas Crosby  
 BC 1970/35 Louisa A. Milner (cousin of Mrs. Thomas Crosby)  
 BC 1970/36a Miss Agnes Knight  
 BC 1970/36b Emma Crosby

BC 1970/346 Port Simpson  
 BC 1970/347 Port Simpson  
 BC 1970/348 Lady Dufferin  
 BC 1970/349 Lord Dufferin  
 BC 1970/350 Native women  
 BC 1970/351 Fort Wrangel  
 BC 1970/352 Port Simpson in the distance  
 BC 1970/353 Port Simpson in the distance  
 BC 1970/354 Fort Simpson  
 BC 1970/355 Visit of Dr. Powell, Indian Commissioner  
 BC 1970/356 Church and Home, Port Simpson  
 BC 1970/357 Simpson Church and Mission House  
 BC 1970/358 Fire Hall – Port Simpson  
 BC 1970/359 Girls' House – Port Simpson  
 BC 1970/360 Mission Yacht  
 BC 1970/361 R.H. Hall, H.B. M'gr and Family  
 BC 1970/362 Old Mission, Girls' Home and Family (Miss Hendry, Matron)  
 BC 1970/363 Canoes from Metlakatha Anglican Mission  
 BC 1970/364 Mrs. McFarlane's Home – Fort Mangel, Alaska  
 BC 1970/365 Native Artifacts  
 BC 1970/366 Native Artifacts  
 BC 1970/367 Native Artifacts  
 BC 1970/368 Native Artifacts

**Sketches Series**

**4 items**

**1899**

BC 1970/369 Terrible trip over Straits of Georgia  
 BC 1970/370 Terrible night – Pt. Nanaimo  
 BC 1970/371 Terrible night – Nanaimo  
 BC 1970/372 Medicine Man at his nefarious work