A Guide to the

Dr. Cluny Macpherson *fonds*

COLL - 002

Arranged & Described by

Greg Walsh

Updated by

Stephanie Harlick

Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive
Health Sciences Library
Memorial University of Newfoundland
31 October 1999
Cluny Macpherson (1879-1966), physician and soldier, was born 18 March 1879 in St. John’s, Newfoundland, one of two sons (one brother, Harold) born to Campbell Macpherson and Emma Duder. He completed his early schooling at Methodist College in St. John’s and then continued his education at McGill University in Montréal. There, Macpherson earned his degree in Medicine (1897-1901), and at the same time volunteered with the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, of which the Newfoundland Branch came to be known as the Grenfell Mission. Upon graduation from McGill, Dr. Macpherson began his medical career at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

In the following year Dr. Macpherson returned to Newfoundland to join Dr. Wilfred Grenfell’s Labrador Mission, and was placed in charge of the hospital in Battle Harbour, Labrador. He also served as magistrate for the area. Dr. Macpherson remained there until 1904, when he returned to St. John’s to begin private practice. Dr. Macpherson also received government commissions during this time, such as in 1909 when he went to the southwest coast to fight a smallpox epidemic. Dr. Macpherson also continued his involvement with the International Grenfell Association (IGA), eventually serving as a director of both the IGA and the Grenfell Association, Newfoundland. He also played a key role in the development, structuring and operation of the Seamen’s Institute (later called the King George V Institute), another Grenfell project.

Dr. Macpherson was involved with the St. John Ambulance Association, which led to the creation of the St. John Ambulance Brigade with three divisions in St. John’s. When World War I broke out, members of the Ambulance Brigade enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment. Macpherson organized these people into an Ambulance Unit, which continued throughout the war. Macpherson himself enlisted on 21 September 1914, at the rank of captain (the same year that he became a director of the family business, The Royal Stores). He was appointed Principal Medical Officer, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, went overseas in March 1915 and later appointed Major on 7 August 1915. He served in France, Belgium, Egypt, Salonica and was eventually transferred to Gallipoli where he acted as an advisor on poisonous gas, which the Allies feared Germany was about to use there. He used a German helmet taken from a captured prisoner to fashion a canvas hood with transparent eyepieces that was treated with chlorine-absorbing chemicals. In doing so, he invented the gas mask, now used by millions of military troops around the world.

Following injury in Egypt, Macpherson returned to Newfoundland, October 1916, and served as Director of Medical Services for the Militia. He was appointed a member of the first War Office Committee on poisonous gases, and also director of medical services for Newfoundland during World War I. He was demobilized on 9 September 1919 at the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.
Dr. Macpherson played a continual role in the medical profession, in capacities such as President of the St. John’s Clinical Society and the Newfoundland Medical Association. He was vice-president of the Newfoundland St. John Ambulance Association in 1937, and later became assistant commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade overseas. He was Chairman of the Commissioners-In-Lunacy, which instituted periodic inspections and an appeal mechanism for patients at the Lunatic Asylum (now the Waterford Hospital). Dr. Macpherson was also the Registrar of the Newfoundland Medical Board. After Confederation with Canada (1949), he became a member of the Medical Council of Canada (1949 onwards) and from 1954 to 1955 he was the second Newfoundlander to serve as President, the first being the founder of the council itself, Sir Thomas Roddick, who was born in Harbour Grace in 1846. Dr. Macpherson was also Honorary President of the St. John Ambulance Association during World War II.

Cluny Macpherson received many honours and awards in his lifetime. He was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (1918); Honorary President of the Newfoundland Council of the St. John Ambulance (1953); Honorary Vice-President of the Newfoundland Council of Canadian Red Cross (1953); member of Medical Council of Canada (President 1954-1955); elected a Fellow of the British Royal College of Surgeons (1955); invested as a Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem (1913); reclassified as Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, 1913; elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (14 January 1957); and was awarded an honorary degree by Memorial University (1962). He was also Honorary President of the Clan Macpherson Association of Canada and Honorary Vice-President of the parent association.

In 1902, Dr. Macpherson married Eleanora Barbara Thompson (O.B.E., Dame of Order of St. John of Jerusalem, died 1964), daughter of William Macleod Thompson, Northumberland County, ON; Dr. Macpherson remained in St. John’s until his death on 16 November 1966.

**Custodial history:**
After Cluny Macpherson’s death in 1966, Dr. Ian Rusted retained his personal papers, medical records and office effects. The medical records and office effects were transferred to the Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives and Museum, Cowan Ward, in the Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre in St. John’s. Remaining material was kept in Dr. Rusted’s office at the Health Sciences Centre, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland until transferred to the Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive in October of 1999.
Scope and content:

*Fonds* consists of the personal and professional records created by Cluny Macpherson during his work in the medical profession and his involvement with a variety of individuals and organizations in Newfoundland and abroad. *Fonds* also includes publications relating to the life and activities of Dr. Macpherson. *Fonds* is arranged in the following series:

1.0 Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material, 1914-1991  
2.0 Correspondence and Related Material, 1908-1966  
3.0 Professional Activities, 1910-1966 (*Contains restricted material*)  
4.0 Patient Records, 1956-1962 (*Entire series is restricted*)  
5.0 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991  
6.0 Map and Photographs, 1932-1960  
7.0 Notebooks and Photographs, 1881-[196?]  
8.0 Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, and photographs, 1917-1966

Source of title:  
Supplied title is based on contents of the *fonds*.

Acquisition:  
The papers of Dr. Cluny Macpherson were donated to the Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive by Dr. Ian Rusted, who had custody of the papers following Macpherson’s death in 1966. Dr. Rusted transferred the papers to the Founders’ Archive in October of 1999.

Arrangement:  
When the papers of Dr. Cluny Macpherson arrived at the Founders’ Archive, there was some degree of order present. The files had been previously organized by Dr. Rusted. This formed the framework for further arrangement and description of the collection.

Restrictions:  
Access to some of the materials in this *fonds* is restricted. Such material is clearly marked in the finding aid and will not be available to researchers. For further instruction, contact the archivist.

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Copyright:  
Copyright of the material in this *fonds* is held by the Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive.
Accruals:
Further accruals are expected.

Location:
COLL-002, Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive

Finding aid:
Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive finding aid # 2. File level control

Associated material:
Dr. Cluny Macpherson fonds, Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives and Museum, Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre

Related material:
Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive, Dr. Ian Rusted fonds, COLL-001, file 15.04.009, series 19.0, and file 27.01.001
Series and Sub-Series List:

1.0  Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material, 1914-1991
    1.01  Correspondence concerning Dr. Cluny Macpherson, 1914-1991

2.0  Correspondence and Related Material, 1908-1966
    2.01  Robert “Paddy” Duder Correspondence, 1948-1966
    2.02  John Sparkes Correspondence, 1917-1964
    2.03  James Young Correspondence, 1908-1956
    2.04  St. John’s Municipal Council, 1913-1951
    2.05  Campbell Macpherson Correspondence, Re: Appointment as Lieutenant Governor, 1957-1958

3.0  Professional Activities, 1910-1966
    (Contains restricted material)
    3.01  International Grenfell Association (IGA), 1910-1926
    3.02  King George V Seamen’s Institute, 1911-1959
    3.03  Medical Council of Canada, 1953-1956
    3.04  National Defence College, 1956-1957
    3.05  St. John Ambulance, 1910-1957
    3.06  Commissioners in Lunacy, 1931-1966
    (Contains restricted material)

4.0  Patient Records, 1956-1962
    (Entire series is restricted)
    4.01  Miscellaneous Patient Files, 1956-1962
    RESTRICTED

5.0  Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991
    5.01  Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991

6.0  Map and Photographs, 1932-1960
    6.01  Map, 1932
    6.02  Photographs, 1957-1960

7.0  Notebooks and Photographs, 1881-[196?]
    7.01  Notebook # 1, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, [190?-196?]
    7.02  Photographs in Notebook # 1, 1881-[19-]
    7.03  Notebook # 2, Dr. Cluny Machpherson, 1936-1961
    7.04  Photographs in Notebook # 2, 1914-[between 1942 and 1946]

8.0  Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, and photographs, 1917-1966
    8.01  Correspondence and other material, 1917-1966
### Series and Sub-series Description

#### 1.0 Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1914-1991

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<td>Correspondence, 7 April 1971 - 27 March 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.01.002</td>
<td>List of volumes from Newfoundland Medical Association Archives presented to Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, 1 May 1970</td>
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<td>1.01.003</td>
<td>Address to Rotary Club concerning Macpherson and Bell families. Address researched, written, and read by Ian Rusted, 22 August 1974</td>
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<td>1.01.004</td>
<td>List of office effects stored in Old Fever Hospital (Stores Section), Forest Road, St. John’s, (2 copies), 7 February 1979</td>
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<td>1.01.005</td>
<td>Cluny Macpherson’s nomination to become a member of Patriotic Commission of Newfoundland, 1914</td>
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<td>1.01.006</td>
<td>Biographical data concerning Cluny Macpherson collected by Ian Rusted</td>
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<td>1.01.007</td>
<td>Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce certificate of fellowship, London, England, 14 January 1957</td>
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<td>Member of the Order of the Good Time (Nova Scotia), [19-]</td>
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<td>Coat of Arms, 1956</td>
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#### 2.0 Correspondence and Related Material, 1908-1966

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<td>2.01.002</td>
<td>Correspondence from Duder, 31 May 1951 – 29 May 1966</td>
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<td>Newspaper articles re: Robert Duder</td>
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<td>Speech given by Robert Duder at a meeting of the Registrars of the Universities of Quebec and Ontario, 26 November 1956</td>
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<td>Postcard from Robert Duder, 6 July 1948</td>
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<td>2.02.002</td>
<td>Correspondence from Sparkes, 28 August 1917 – 18 May 1964</td>
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<td>2.02.002a</td>
<td>Correspondence from Sparkes, 28 August 1917 – 18 May 1964</td>
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<td><strong>RESTRICTED</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.02.003</td>
<td>Newspaper articles re: John Sparkes, 1949-1963</td>
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2.02.004  Correspondence from and biographical information on John Sparkes, 1958

2.03  **James Young Correspondence, 1908-1956**

2.03.001  Correspondence to Young, 23 January 1922 - 29 November 1955
2.03.001a  Correspondence to Young, 23 January 1922 - 29 November 1955  
**RESTRICTED**
2.03.002  Correspondence from Young, 26 November 1908 - 11 May 1956
2.03.002a  Correspondence from Young, 26 November 1908 - 11 May 1956  
**RESTRICTED**
2.03.003  Articles written by James Young, plus the Seventh Supplement to The London Gazette, 21 May 1918-6 October 1951
2.03.004  Newspaper article in the Times re: James Young, 1943

2.04  **St. John’s Municipal Council, 1913-1951**

2.04.001  Correspondence to council, 26 September 1922 - 27 January 1951
2.04.001a  Correspondence to council, 26 September 1922 - 27 January 1951  
**RESTRICTED**
2.04.002  Receipt for horse and carriage taxes, 1 January 1917
2.04.003  Permit to install oil burning units and gas tanks, 2 February 1951
2.04.004  Handwritten notes regarding council activities, 1913
2.04.005  Newspaper articles Re: St. John’s City Council from *The Daily News*, 1913
2.04.006  “Regulations respecting stables, cow-sheds, etc., within the city,” [19-]
2.04.007  City of St. John’s Appraisement of Property form, 14 October 1950

2.05  **Campbell Macpherson Correspondence, Re: Appointment as Lieutenant Governor, 1957-1958**

2.05.001  Correspondence, 1957
2.05.002  Correspondence, 1958
3.0 Professional Activities, 1910-1966
(Contains restricted material)

3.01 International Grenfell Association (IGA), 1910-1926

3.01.001 Correspondence, 12 February 1910 - 8 March 1926
3.01.002 IGA Institute Committee meeting minutes, 22 February & 22 April 1926

3.02 King George V Seamen’s Institute, 1911-1959

3.02.001 Correspondence, 3 June 1911 - 24 October 1958
3.02.002 Balance Sheet and expenses (2 copies), 31 December 1919
3.02.003 Profit and Loss Account for year ending 31 December 1919
3.02.004 Superintendent’s Report on Operations for month of December 1919
3.02.005 Trial Balance after closing December 31st, 1919, 20 February 1920
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3.02.006 Publicity pamphlet - King George V Seamen’s Institute, 1913
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3.03 Medical Council of Canada, 1953-1956

3.03.001 Correspondence, 30 July 1953 - 10 August 1956

3.04 National Defence College, 1956-1957

3.04.001 Course X Administration Bulletin No. 6, Overseas Tour, 1956-1957

3.05 St. John Ambulance, 1910-1957

3.05.001 Correspondence, 22 May 1913 - 23 January 1957
3.05.002 St. John Ambulance biographical information on Dr. Macpherson, [between 1955 and 1965]
3.05.003 Investiture procedures for Knights (2 copies)
3.05.004 Appointment certificates, 7 May 1912 - 2 December 1913
3.05.005 Honorary Life Membership certificate, 22 December 1910
3.05.006 Newspaper articles Re: Cluny Macpherson and St. John Ambulance
3.06 Commissioners in Lunacy, 1931-1966
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3.06.001 Correspondence, 20 November 1931 - 1 September 1966
3.06.001a Correspondence, 21 July 1958 – 27 September 1962
3.06.002 Minutes of Meeting of Commissioners in Lunacy, Topsail Road branch, St. John’s, Newfoundland, 27 March 1963
3.06.003 Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases Lunacy report for January 1957 and survey of resident population, 22 June 1961
3.06.004 Pamphlet - Official opening of Carbonear Red Cross Community Hospital, 21 October 1957
3.06.005 Newspaper article, Re: Mental Hospital, 4 September 1966
3.06.006 Correspondence, 1 December 1957 - 22 February 1966
3.06.007 Death certificates for mental patients, 1932-1965
3.06.008 List of patients, 1957

4.0 Patient Records, 1956-1962
(Entire Series is restricted)

4.01 Miscellaneous Patient Files, 1956-1962
(Entire Series is restricted)

4.01.001 Patient records, notes, x-ray reports, 1956-1962

5.0 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991

5.01 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991

5.01.001 Excerpt from The Fighting Newfoundlander: A History of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, by Colonel G.W. Nicholson, 1964
5.01.002 Newspaper article, “Macpherson’s Gas Mask Invention was Grace Under Wartime Pressure,” Sunday Telegram, 20 January 1991
5.01.003 “In Retrospect” from Dalhousie Medical Journal, by T. Marrie. A report of an interview with Dr. Macpherson before his death in 1966, March 1967
5.01.004 “A Bad Night in the Straits of Belle Isle,” by Cluny Macpherson (taken from his unpublished notebook, # 2), [between 1941 and 1943]
5.01.005 “Labrador, 1890,” Notes of lecture given by Dr. Ronald Rompkey, 6 March 1991

6.0 Map and Photographs, 1932-1960

6.01 Map, 1932
6.01.001 “Map of Saint John’s, Newfoundland from plans and actual surveys,” by W.P. Ryan, City Engineer, 1932. Map contains annotations and locations of various city buildings and sites

6.02 Photographs, 1957-1960
6.02.001 Medical Council of Canada, 1957-1960 (Cluny Macpherson and J.E. Josephson from Newfoundland) 1960 : b&w ; 13 x 27.5 cm ; no negative
6.02.002 Harold Schlofield in front of Cleveland Museum of Art
October 1957 : col. ; Polaroid ; 7.5 x 7.5 cm ; no negative
6.02.003 Irene Schlofield in front of Cleveland Museum of Art
October 1957 : col. ; Polaroid ; 7.5 x 7.5 cm ; no negative

7.0 Notebooks and Photographs, 1881-[196?]

7.01 Notebook # 1, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, [190?-196?]
7.01.001 Notebook # 1, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, [190?-196?]

7.02 Photographs in Notebook # 1, 1881-[19-]
7.02.001 Photograph, page 98A: Electric Telegraph Company Tarriff form photographed
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7.02.004  Photograph, 146: “Vradd” Christmas Greetings: This is a small boat which crossed the Atlantic. Xmas, 1904, Pappa 1904 : b&w ; 10 x 7 cm ; no negative

7.02.005  Photograph, page 344 1881 : b&w ; 15 x 10.5 cm ; no negative

7.03  Notebook # 2, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, 1936-1961

7.03.001  Notebook # 2, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, 1936-1961

7.04  Photographs in Notebook # 2, 1914-[between 1942 and 1946]

7.04.001-12 Photographs, page 84: Pictures taken from the roof of the Grace Hospital (full descriptions are given in the notebook, pp. 75-83; 85-90) [between 1942 and 1946] : b&w ; 7.5 x 10 cm ; no negatives

7.04.012 Photograph, page 85: At Pleasantville Camp October 1914 : b&w ; 9.5 x 11.5 cm ; no negative

8.0  Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, and photographs, 1917-1966

8.01  Correspondence and other material,

8.01.001  General Correspondence, 1957-1965

8.01.002  General Correspondence, 1945-1966

8.01.003  Government Correspondence, November 1921 and 1960

8.01.004  Masonic correspondence, 5 September 1951

8.01.005  Skuce, Kenneth C. Freemasonry in Newfoundland. St. John’s, Newfoundland, 1948

8.01.006  Correspondence, 1924-1955

8.01.007  Correspondence re the death of Mrs. Macpherson, includes photograph of John McLeod, Provost in the period 1858-1875, telegrams, 1921-1927, 1937-1942, 1961-1964

8.01.008  Personal information, 1962

8.01.009  Correspondence, 1922-1923, 1958

8.01.010  Correspondence, 1947-1949
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8.01.011 Correspondence re: plants and flowers, includes a sample of a dried plant, 1952-1964
8.01.012 Correspondence with Dr. Edward Archibald (Montreal), Professor A.G. Nicholls (Dalhousie University, Halifax), C. A. Forbes (Bonavista), and others, 1922
8.01.013 Correspondence with Dr. Edward Archibald (Montreal), Professor George E. Armstrong (Montreal), paper, abstract and articles by James Young, 1922
8.01.014 McGill Correspondence, 1917-1962
8.01.015 Correspondence, 1961

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8.01.016 McGill Correspondence, 1926-1962
8.01.017 Gower Street Church, 1933-1965
8.01.018 Correspondence, Masonic pamphlets, (includes photographs: 1) ceremony; 2) three women and a baby + negative; 3) Dr. Macpherson + negative); and negatives only: 1) gentleman; 2) 6 of chairs, crests; 3) 3 of unknown; 4) 6 of people and scenery) 1920-1955
8.01.019 District Grant Lodge, 1923-1964
8.01.020 Benevolence, Masonic, 1953-1960
8.01.021 United Church College correspondence, crest and transfers, 1923-1963
8.01.022 Cancer Correspondence, 1922-1951

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8.01.023 Correspondence, 1922
8.01.024 Correspondence, 1957-1960
8.01.025 Correspondence, 1956-1960

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