

(L.W.S)

Matter carried on interesting  
correspondence concerning  
George M. Dawson

with Geoffrey Leech  
(She gave him painting of M.D.S.)

Don Thomson

Letter 1965-82  
1113 Kenilworth

Crescent -  
Ottawa

K2C 1Z4

Dear Maudsley,

Prof. Peter R. Eakin

John Andreasson

Anne Bgeet.

Alicie Johannsen

Edgar Andrew Collard

Howard Tipper - Geological Survey

G.S. Andrews - Surveyor General

Kaye Lamb - Dominion Archivist

J.M. Harrison - Geological Survey

Morris Zaslav - Western Univ.





Energy, Mines and  
Resources Canada

Science and Technology

Énergie, Mines et  
Ressources Canada

Science et Technologie

*L. W.S. sent a copy  
of book to Mr. Teepee  
as a gift. AB.*

May 10, 1976

Your file    Votre référence

Our file    Notre référence

Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal, 109,  
P.Q.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Recently I visited Dr. G.B. Leech in Ottawa and had occasion to glance through your delightful book, "The Life and Letters of George Mercer Dawson". I would very much like to obtain a copy of this book as I have spent over thirty years with the Geological Survey literally following in his historic footsteps. Dr. Leech advised me to write to you to inquire where I might purchase a copy.

Since I started work with the Geological Survey over 30 years ago I have worked in the central part of British Columbia where G.M. Dawson laboured many years. I have traced his journeys from Tatlayoko Lake to the Blackwater River, from Fort McLeod to Fort St. James, from the Coast along the Skeena River to Babine Lake. Much of this travel was in a manner reminiscent of Dawson's mode, by pack horse. It was and is constantly a source of amazement to me how he was able to carry out his explorations in the short time available to him and to contribute so much to our country and to our profession. I learned many years ago that I might occasionally question his theories but never his facts. He was indeed an observer without peer. Like so many that have followed him, I have come to respect, even idolize, him. Although small of stature, he was indeed a towering giant whose shadow still touches much of our work. In this way he built his own memorial and puts his imprint on present and future geologists in British Columbia.

My purpose in trying to obtain a copy of your book is for my own edification first. Secondly I wish to present it to the small library we have in our Vancouver office. Here it would be read by many familiar with his work, by members of the mining community and by students from University of British Columbia where the geological club - the Dawson Club - honours his name.

I would greatly appreciate knowing where I might purchase a copy of your book. I would also like to compliment you on your achievement in writing this book - it is a valued contribution to our profession

..... 2/

Geological Survey of Canada  
100 West Pender, Vancouver

Commission géologique du Canada  
100, ouest, rue Pender, Vancouver



CANADA

**DOMINION ARCHIVIST  
AND  
NATIONAL LIBRARIAN**



and to the exploratory history of our nation.

*Howard W. Tipper  
June 1876*

*Re Howard W. Tipper  
B.D.P.*

Yours truly,

*Howard W. Tipper*

Howard W. Tipper



to the exploratory history of our nation.

Mr. Tipper letters  
June 1976

Re L.W.S. book on  
G.M.D.

Yours truly,

Howard W. Tipper

Howard W. Tipper





Energy, Mines and  
Resources Canada

Énergie, Mines et  
Ressources Canada

Science and Technology

Science et Technologie

June 29, 1976

Your file    Votre référence

Our file    Notre référence

Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge,  
Cedarbrae,  
233 Hamilton Street,  
Almonte, Ontario

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Just this past week I returned from the Queen Charlotte Islands to a pleasant surprise - your letter and your book, a most gracious and valued gift. Already there is a waiting list amongst my colleagues for a chance to peruse it and gain a glimpse of the character of G.M. Dawson. This portrait of his character is, I think, the theme you have so skillfully portrayed. I am deeply grateful for your kindness.

As I mentioned, I have just returned from the Queen Charlotte Islands where Dawson made a memorable contribution. As we searched the inlets and islands where he explored nearly 100 years previously, I couldn't help feeling again the respect I have for the man. His description of the Haida Indians is, in many ways, still applicable for they are a proud and handsome race, the aristocrats of the West Coast native people.

Your gift to me will be shared with many geologists and I can only reiterate my sincere appreciation. I hope I shall be able to visit you in Almonte when I hopefully will be in Ottawa this coming fall.

Sincerely,

Howard W. Tipper



Dear Dr Leech - copy July 30/75

Your visit the other evening was such a pleasure, for it seemed a long time since our last meeting -

The receiving of that beautiful book was a most exciting and memorable occasion for me, and I was so pleased that you were the one to present this fine gift to me.

I was glad to hear that you liked the little book on George Dawson and it was most interesting that you were so quickly able to recommend it -

Thank you for sending me Dr Jastrow's address, I must write him a little note soon - He is a remarkable man -

I hope if you, or you or your wife are ever driving this way, that you will stop off here, there will always be a cup of tea awaiting you, and we could have some further conversation.

My best wishes to you as always  
P. W. S.



copy  
Dear Dr Gaslow-

"Cellarbar" Aug 4<sup>th</sup>

Your splendid book "Reading the Rocks" was brought to me last week by Dr Leach - and I can assure you it was an exciting & memorable occasion - when he presented it to me -

It is difficult to express at a time like this how deeply I feel about receiving this beautiful gift from the Author & the Director of the Geological Survey on a subject which has been so close to me & to my family for so many years, and I can assure you it made me feel very happy to have this beautiful volume given to me - and I thank you for your kind thought for me -

It makes me feel quite weak to think of all the research you must have done to gain such a perfect record of the history of the Survey and all its hard working and adventurous men - You certainly have done a magnificent job, and I do congratulate you -

I am looking forward greatly to studying all the excellent maps, and enjoying the historical landscape pictures, as well as observing the succession of portrait pictures and to recognize many of the men which I have either known or heard of - The prints taken of photographs of my Grandfather, father & Uncle George are well chosen & ones that I like.

It seems a long time since you came to visit me in Montreal, when you spent some time on my upper floor looking over papers & letters to do with my Uncle George.



I understand fr Dr Leech that you have been in  
 Suder Ont. - Should you, however at any time  
 be passing this way, please do drop in, as it  
 would be a great pleasure to renew our  
 acquaintance again - I live in Almonte during  
 the summer months and in Trenton in the  
 winter time.

I expect that you are by now at work again  
 on some great new project, which will bear  
 about equal on - I hope however you take time  
 for rest periods between times, for you certainly  
 are a hard worker -

Before closing, I would like you to know  
 that I was especially pleased to have your  
 autograph on the inside cover of my valuable  
 & handsome book, which I shall always prize.

With all kind regards  
 very sincerely

Lors - W.S

Aug 4<sup>th</sup>



Faraway Farm,  
Kellogg Hill Road,  
Weston, Conn.

January 27, 1964

Dearest Mum,

I have at long last finished reading your "Life and Letters of George Mercer Dawson," and I cannot begin to tell you what a thrilling experience it has been. I think it is a most masterly compilation, and that you have done a fabulous editorial job. Your notes, and additions add clarity to the work, giving it the value of a continuous narrative.

I really have no criticism. It stands as a great contribution to Canadian history, and I hope will be appreciated as such. I would like to see in due course a version, in colour for young people, with the material compiled by you used as a guide line for a simple narrative. If you had the inclination or time I would guess you could contribute greatly to a coloured version. If you like I might take a shot at finding out about a young ~~people's~~ peoples' version. We know some people in this line. You might like me to take a shot at a simple narrative, thus keeping the authorship in the family.

I think in addition to doing a work of historical importance, you have also helped to create a legendary figure ~~xxxx~~ ~~of~~ and carved out for Canada a "someone" of whom to be proud, and a hero for the young to emulate.

This seems to be my historical period. On the other side of the family we have the Winslow papers, also a fine compilation, and wonderful editorial job. I was re-reading it last week. It has always fascinated me, and to my great interest, the work "Norwalk" sprung out at me from the page. It was in a letter from the Reverend Edward Winslow, formerly of Braintree, Mass, to Colonel Edward Winslow, formerly Collector of the Port of Boston, and Registrar of Probate of Suffolk County, Boston. In the course of duty he was involved in military expeditions against Fairfield and Norwalk, when both towns were burnt. St. Paul's Church on the green in Norwalk, which we now attend fairly frequently, was burned at that time, and the letter refers to its rector Rev. Jeremiah Leaming.

I was so interested that I read the letter to Father Drake. He told me he would like to read it in church. So yester-



day we all attended in full force on the occasion of the 227th anniversary of the founding of the Church (Founded in 1737, 39 years before the revolution) He read it standing on the Chancel steps, and I must say we all got a great charge hearing him say he was going to read a letter from the Rev. Edward Winslow to Colonel Edward Winslow. I got a great feeling of the continuity of time. How strange that the two clergymen should have been on opposite sides of the struggle, that one should have none the less attempted to help the other. Further, how strange that one relative, the Colonel, should have been concerned with confiscating the priest's cassock, whereas his relative the priest, should have been concerned with getting it back to him. You will find this letter on page 53 of the Winslow papers, and I enclose a typed copy giving the letter, and biographical notes on Leaming, and the two Winslows.

I am enclosing a picture of Gail in the paper. This of course is our big family news. I would be so grateful if you would drop her a little line of pleasure on your receipt of the news.

Miss Gail Simons,  
Woodbridge Hall,  
Mt. Holyoke College,  
South Hadley, Mass.

I have given up smoking. The final news from our medical authorities clinched it!

I got a nice note from Aunt Clare, really she is remarkable.

The house goes along well. I am pleased to say we have new linoleum floors down in Hermitage, our bathroom which was never completed, and over at the Millers. The floors under the toilets rotted out, so we were afraid that someone would go down to China! I also had a carpenter do a lot of little odd repairs, so it feels wonderful to be ship shape.

Apart from that nothing to report. I am feeling better in sprits, and settling down to my homey life.

Much love, hope all is well with you. Are you coming to St. Thomas with us!!!!@ Or when may we expect a visit--especially since the hermitage floor is so nice. I just re hung your wardrobe and was overcome with delight at your stylish styles. Brook is especially taken with the frilly pink nightie!

Again, love and kisses,

Alice  
daughter of R.W.S (P.S. Over)



Miss Kershaw has phoned me several  
times asking if you ever received a sweater  
she knitted for one of Mary's boys. She  
sent it to you because Christmas before  
last she sent one to Mary directly and  
never heard from her. Please please

some one let her know they arrived  
safely - I let it be soon - She's  
off to New Zealand at beginning  
of February - Let me or preferably  
her know - better let me know. D

promised to phone her —

~~X~~

Miss Kershaw  
(over)







Andrew Pollard, 1971

APARTMENT 22  
4643 SHERBROOKE ST. WEST  
MONTREAL 215

March 30, 1971

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spagge:-

I cannot thank you enough for the delightful afternoon. It was fascinating to see all the work you had done, and the information you gave me will be simply invaluable to me in the book I am doing on the history of McGill.

I have been keenly interested in your book on Dr. George Dawson. It is marvellous how you have linked together the various materials. It is a splendid record of the achievements



Dear Mr. [Name]

STATEMENT OF  
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
MONTREAL, N.B.

March 30, 1911

Dear Mr. [Name] -

I cannot thank you

enough for the delightful

gift of [Name]. It was so

kind to see all the work you had

done, and to inform me

that you will be [Name]

to me in the book I am

on the history of McGill.

I have been

interested in your book on

George Brown. It is

very interesting and

helpful. I have

been very interested in the



(2)

of a great man.

You were so very kind  
to me and I am very grateful.

With every good wish, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Andrew Collard

Mrs. Lois S. Winslow-Sprogge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal.



Elmhaven  
90 Kenilworth Ave.  
Ottawa, Ont.

October 20, 1965.

Mrs. Edward S. Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal 25.

*Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge -*

I have just returned to Ottawa from Chicago and have your very welcome letter of October 6 and the valued copy of your book. You are to be complimented upon gathering in this attractive and permanent form not only the textual material but the many impressive photographs. All of the contents are most useful to scholars and others for reference purposes. As time moves along I may wish to consult you concerning the use in this official history of some of the original photographs. But in the meantime I will just say a warm "thank you" for the book and for the friendly, interested and helpful tone of your letter.

Sincerely,

*Don W. Thomson*  
Don W. Thomson.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
MIDDLESEX COLLEGE



Dr. Morris Zaslow,  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

LONDON, CANADA  
December 26, 1965.

Mrs. Lois S. Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal 25, Québec.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge,

Now that the Christmas festivities are over I am back in my study beginning to catch up with the accumulated mail. But first I must send you my thanks for having given me the opportunity to enjoy your hospitality last week while in Montreal. It was a very great privilege to visit your lovely home, to meet your children and relatives on a family occasion, to enjoy home-cooked meals after such a round of restaurant food, and to look through those important letters and papers in the upstairs study.

I read "Serengeti Shall Not Die" in bed during several of the nights in Montreal and finished the book while on the train back to London. Mrs. Zaslow is now part-way through it and enjoying it very much. It is a very interesting book indeed, touching on a great many things besides the animal life of that region. Of course the whole undertaking has now become largely an exercise in futility, since under independence the successor state (Tanzania) has little interest in preserving the wildlife, while the Masai have been "getting theirs" from the lesser peoples they once bullied. Serengeti has probably died by now--or will die shortly. Of course this is no reflection on the book's merits, which depend on the writing and the adventures that were described therein. To me, though, it gave the book a layer of sadness, on top of the tragedy of the death of one of the authors. I would like you to accept another book from us with our compliments--not so interesting or exciting reading as Serengeti, I'm afraid.

I have just looked through my notes from the Sir William Dawson Papers at the Rare Book Room at McGill University Library and find that the letters of Dr. George to his father are in Boxes 3 and 5 which I have gone through (and probably Box 4 which I did not have time to examine). Box 3 includes at least 17 letters of 1875 and 1876 from British Columbia, Box 5 at least 16, some from his trip to Europe in 1882, others from B.C. or Ottawa 1886-1889. Both boxes contain a very large number of letters from William to his father as well, and the occasional letter from Margaret (Mrs. Dawson). I know you will enjoy looking through these for yourself.

Again, my thanks and appreciation for your assistance during the recent visit, and for your kind hospitality. Sincerely yours,

*Morris Zaslow*



838 Waterloo Street,  
London, Ontario,  
August 17, 1965.

Mrs. E. Winslow-Spragge,  
"Cedarbrae",  
Almonte, Ontario.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge,

Ever since that delightful brief visit to Almonte a couple of months ago I have been meaning to write and thank you for your hospitality and for the invitation to visit you again in Montreal this autumn.

In the intervening months my family and I have finally become settled in our new home in London, free of the interruptions and inconvenience of painters, carpenters and rug-layers--that is, aside from the problem of paying for them. I served out my sentence as Chief Examiner for the Grade XIII final in History, the results of which are now arriving at those thousands of homes in the province. Finally, I was able to return to the Geological Survey project, at which three graduate students are now engaged with the summer's activities due to be wound up around September 15th.

A large part of my time in Ottawa was spent trying to trace those most elusive original manuscript diaries, letters and letterbooks, but without too much success. I tried especially to trace the Selwyn papers, contacting the grandson (and son of Dr. Dawson's secretary, Percy Selwyn) but was told that the papers were left at the Survey when Dr. Selwyn retired. A last thought is that perhaps the private diaries came into the hands of his successor--in which case we would be in luck, knowing your family's care in preserving records and papers. A little the same applies to Logan's letters and papers, which my student working on the Logan era is also anxious to locate. There still remains the McCord Museum to search for these, and we have good reason to believe that there is a cache of Logan papers to be found in the McCord.

Anyway, as you can well imagine, I am looking forward with high hopes to that forthcoming visit to Parkside Place and the chance at looking through that trunk of Sir William Dawson's. I seem to have half a dozen intending thesis-writers under my wing, and perhaps one or other of them may find a worthwhile subject in the Dawson papers at the Redpath Library or in your family's possession.

I do not know enough about my university schedule to be able to say when it will be possible for me to go to Montreal, but it ought to be possible to manage it in November as you suggested, or certainly during the Christmas break--of course, if either of these times is suitable to you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Moris Zaslow*



Dr. Morris Zaslow,  
Department of History,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
MIDDLESEX COLLEGE  
LONDON - CANADA

Letters contain info. on  
Dawson letter held at  
McGill Univ. library.  
Dr. Zaslow paid several visits to  
my mother L.W.S. & helped go through  
some of her Dawson  
family material -  
A. Byers.

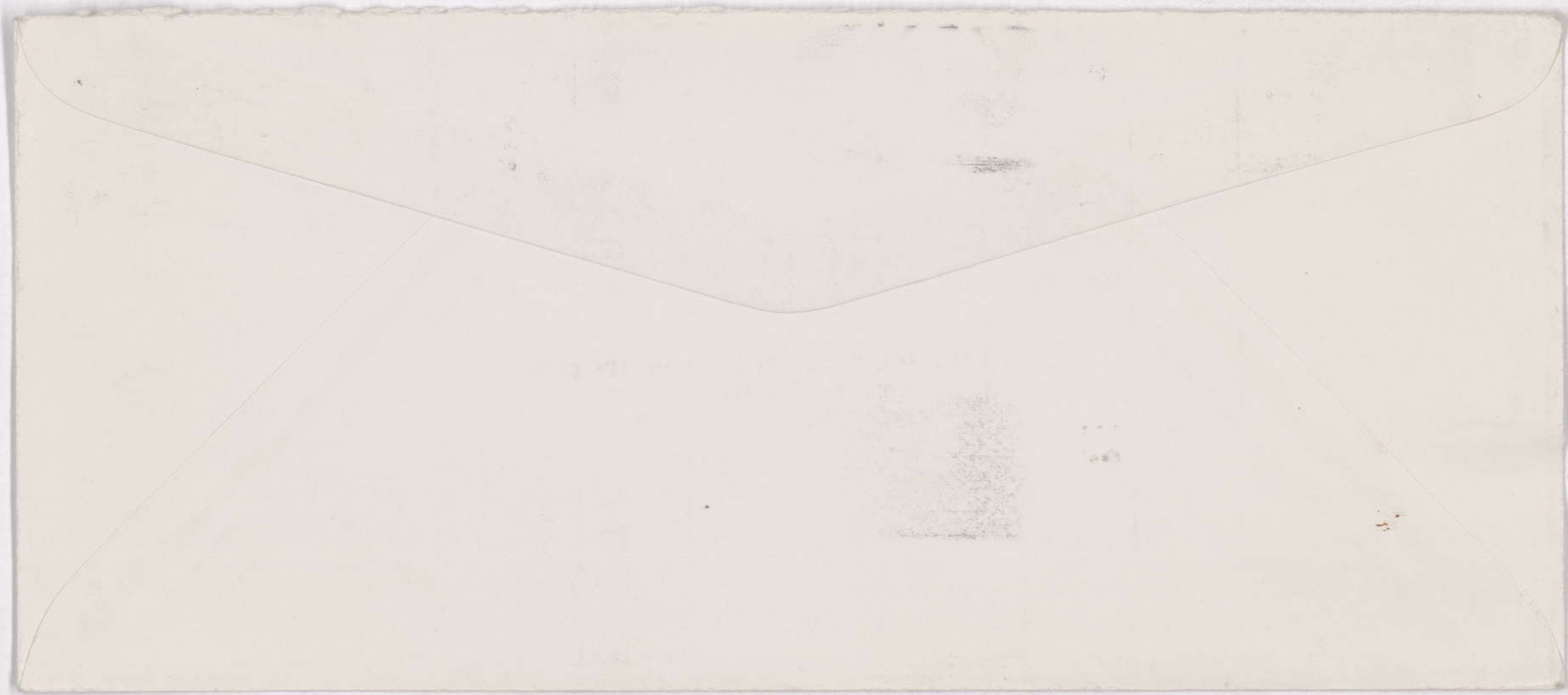
Mrs. Lois S. Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal 25,  
Quebec.



FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS  
COMBATTEZ  
LA TUBERCULOSE









DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE



PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
OF CANADA

*Dominion Archivist  
Kaye Lamb  
1964*

330 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa 2, Ontario.

May 11, 1964.

Mrs. Lois S. Winslow-Spragge,  
"Cedarbrae",  
Almonte, Ontario.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Thank you very much for your letter and for the two copies of the Life and Letters of George Mercer Dawson. It is very attractive, and I have gone through it with much interest. I was specially glad to find that it is so well illustrated, as the pictures help greatly to make the reader aware of conditions as they existed when Dr. Dawson was roaming far and wide over Canada.

I share your hope that someone may now prepare a full-scale study of his career, but this will not destroy the value of your own contribution. You have supplied many interesting details from personal knowledge, and most of these would have been lost if you had not jotted them down.

Naturally, as an Archivist, I am wondering what you intend to do eventually with the original letters and other papers upon which your book is based. I hope they will go to some institution that will value and preserve them. I suppose McGill would be an obvious choice, but we should be happy to have them in Ottawa.



I think I shall ask the National Library to consider its copy of the Life and Letters as a "legal deposit" copy, so do not be surprised if you receive an official deposit receipt in the mail! The book will be listed in Canadiana, the Library's monthly catalogue of new publications relating to Canada, and in this way its existence will be put permanently on record, and librarians and others will know that it has been published.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*W. Kaye Lamb*

W. Kaye Lamb  
Dominion Archivist and  
National Librarian.

WKL/dm



DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE



PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
OF CANADA

330 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa 2, Ontario.

April 27, 1964.

Mrs. Lois S. Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
MONTREAL 25, P.Q.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Quite by accident I heard recently that you had published privately a "life and letters" of Dr. G.M. Dawson. He is so interesting and important a figure that I should like very much to have copies of the book for the Archives and the National Library, and if we could secure them I would be most grateful.

The Dawsons were a remarkable family, and I wish that an adequate account of them was available. Old Sir William did wonderful things at McGill (someone said to me a few days ago: "If there had been no Dawson there would be no McGill"), and George M. was the first man to describe in any scientific sense immense tracts of Canada. I am very glad that you have published something about him.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Kaye Lamb".

W. Kaye Lamb  
Dominion Archivist and  
National Librarian.

WKL/dm





DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

1964

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA  
Ottawa, January 9, 1964

Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal 25, Quebec.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Through the kindness of Dr. Geoffrey Leech, I have just had the pleasure of reading your recent book on Dr. G.M. Dawson. I found this a most interesting and enjoyable account of one of the giants of Canadian science and development. Naturally, he is of special interest to me because of his position as one of my direct "ancestors" on the Geological Survey of Canada. He was a remarkable man and it was a pity he did not live longer to develop the Geological Survey as he had been doing.

I realize, of course, that much of the material given in your book is of particular interest to your family. However, I am sure there must be a great deal of material in the correspondence to his beloved sister, and to his father, that would throw much light on problems of growth and development within the Geological Survey. I most sincerely hope that you are making arrangements to see that this material can, in due course, be properly assessed from that point of view. I understand that Dr. J.B. Mawdsley, a former officer of the Geological Survey of Canada, and recently retired as Chairman of the Department of Geology at the University of Saskatchewan, is writing an account of Dawson, the Scientist. I am sure that he would find in those papers a great deal of material of interest to another type of reader from the ones to whom your book is aimed. I hope also, in due time to write an account of the Geological Survey of Canada and Dawson's material would be invaluable in such a story.

In the meantime, the Geological Survey of Canada would very much like to have a copy of your book for its library in Ottawa and also for its library in Vancouver. If you have any extra copies I would be delighted to receive two, with appropriate invoice, for them.

I should like finally to express my appreciation for the work that you have done in making this material more generally known.

Yours sincerely,

J.M. Harrison,  
Director.





DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

Ottawa, January 30, 1964

Mrs. Lois S. Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal 25, Quebec.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Thank you indeed for the three copies of your booklet on Dr. G.M. Dawson which were on my desk when I returned from a trip to the west coast. I am very happy to keep a copy myself and to have the others go to the Library of the Geological Survey. Your kindness in giving them to us is much appreciated for they will remain as valuable souvenirs of a most remarkable man.

I am sure that you have extracted all the material of general interest from the correspondence, but it seems to me that people who know the historical background of the Geological Survey of Canada, might well pick up significant details on some of the more obscure parts of that history. Anyone looking for such specific information could go through a series of letters very quickly. Perhaps some time you might consider permitting an authorized individual to look through some of these letters for such specific data.

Thank you again for your generosity in sending copies of the booklet here. Perhaps I shall have the good fortune to pay my respects in person sometime during the summer season when you have returned to Almonte.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J.M. Harrison'.

J.M. Harrison,  
Director.



University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, Canada.

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

Thanks very much for your kind letter and the very interesting book on Dr. George Dawson. I have only just received it but I have already read with great interest the first few pages. The illustrations are most interesting and valuable. I am certain the book will interest a lot of people.

I have done some reading of some of your Uncle's papers. While in Winnipeg a few months ago I was able to read in the University Library there a couple of addresses he gave to Ottawa Field Naturalist Club - we have not got them in our library here. However, I find that although partially retired I am busier than ever! there seems so much of interest to do. However, it is my intention to keep plugging away and find out as much as possible about your Uncle. I think he is a fascinating personality and I am sure your book will help to make him better known to his countrymen, who are now so generally ignorant of him.

I hope you had a very good Christmas. I had an excellent time in Winnipeg with my youngest daughter and her husband and four children.

With very best wishes for 1964

Yours sincerely  
James B. Mawdsley

Director of the Institute for Northern Studies  
and Dean of Engineering.

Library of Geological Survey  
Ottawa, Canada.  
February 1964.

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

We are very pleased to have the beautifully bound copy of your Life and Letters of George Mercer Dawson.

Members of the staff who have added their names to the long waiting list of those who want to borrow our copy, have inquired concerning price and availability. We shall appreciate it if you will let us know the cost and where to place orders.

Yours sincerely,  
L. E. Lindsay

for Mrs N. I. Kimmermann  
Librarian.



Greenlawn Crescent.  
Ottawa, Ontario.  
November 1963.

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

Your letter awaited me as a pleasant surprise when I returned from New York, where I had gone to present a paper at the 1963 Convention of the Geological Society of America and stayed on for a few days holiday.

I am happy to know that the results of all your painstaking work are now in book form, and needless to say I am very eager to see a copy of it.

Dr Mawdsly called into see me just after his visit with you and was enthusiastic about the possibility of working on a biography of G.M.Dawson. It is on the life and work of such men that our country's traditions can be built/

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Leech.

Greenlawn Crescent.  
Ottawa, Ontario.  
December 1963.

Dear Mrs W-S.

My most hearty thanks to you for the autographed copy of " Life and Letters of George Mercer Dawson " which arrived when I was again away. I have read it thoroughly , with an interest you can well imagine. It was a pleasure to read, at last, things that filled in so much of Dawson's character that until now I could only infer from his accomplishments and the way in which his technical field notes and resultant reports were written.

Your book has served to whet my appetite still further, the samples of his personal accounts of his journeys that you selected for inclusion make me , all the more, wish to know more. I could wish there had been more about the years 1883 and 1884, as I have followed Dawson's footsteps over many passes and through many valleys he travelled in those two years, and would like intensely to know the impressions and experiences as he recorded them at that time. I got a great deal out of the letters of 1879, and could read between the lines, because I know his route, have read the resultant report, and know some of the ground personally.

You have good reason to be proud of the excellent printing and binding your work has received.

May I assure you of my deep continuing interest in the life and work of your Uncle, Dr Dawson. You deserve great credit for your effort in collecting and preserving primary material on him, this is a service to Canada. As Professor Mawdsly said when he gave his C.B.C. talk, G.M. Dawson should be better known to Canadians for the sake of building our own Canadian traditions.

Yours very truly

G.B.Leech.



Redpath Museum  
McGill University.  
May 1964.

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

Although I have told you in person how much I have enjoyed your excellent Life of George Mercer Dawson, I have wanted for a long time to put in writing my appreciation of the copy inscribed to me and my admiration for the splendid job you did in gathering sifting arranging and presenting the material.

There is much information here which is of use to the museum not only as a record of an important chapter in Canadian history, but also as a background for the many objects which have come to us as a result of your Uncle's work.

I treasure the book, and thank you deeply for thinking of me.

It is always good to see you, we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Sincerely

Alice E. Johansen.



Includes review of  
John E. Parsons'  
"West of the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel"

(Reference to George Mercer Dawson)  
p 2.



**SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH**

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, FORESTS,  
AND WATER RESOURCES  
VICTORIA, B.C.



ALL COMMUNICATIONS IN REFERENCE TO SURVEYS, MAPS,  
AND AIR PHOTOS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE  
DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS AND MAPPING

THE REPLY TO THIS LETTER SHOULD BE MARKED  
FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

AIR DIVISION.....  
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION.....  
LEGAL SURVEYS DIVISION.....  
TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION.....

YOUR FILE NO.

PLEASE QUOTE OUR FILE NO. 0583/1.7 "H"

October 29, 1964.

B. L. Harrington, Esq.,  
Harrington Industries,  
R. R. 1,  
Abbotsford, B.C.

Dear Mr. Harrington:

Thank you for the copy of "George Mercer Dawson,  
Life and Letters" which arrived yesterday, and I enclose  
my personal cheque in payment.

I also appreciate your kindness in communicating  
with your Aunt about her book. I enclose a copy of my review  
of John E. Parsons' "West on the 49th Parallel" prepared at  
the request of the Director, Oregon Historical Society, in  
which on page 2 of the draft I quoted Miss Winslow-Spragge's  
book. I don't think I have encroached on her copyright, and  
I thought it an opportunity to publicize her effort, in a nice  
way. Of course, if published, my draft may be abridged. An  
extra copy is enclosed if you think your Aunt might like one.

I am looking forward to meeting you at the BCLS meeting  
here in January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. S. Andrews', written over a horizontal line.

G. S. Andrews,  
Surveyor-General & Director.

Encls: 3.



**SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH**  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, FORESTS,  
AND WATER RESOURCES  
VICTORIA, B.C.



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LEGAL SURVEYS DIVISION.....  
TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION.....

YOUR FILE No.

PLEASE QUOTE OUR FILE No. 0584/3.4

October 28, 1964.

Thomas Vaughan, Esq.,  
Director,  
Oregon Historical Society,  
235 S. W. Market Street,  
Portland, 1, Oregon, U.S.A.

COPY

Dear Mr. Vaughan:

Re: Book Review, John E. Parsons'  
"West on the 49th Parallel".

Herewith is my review of the subject book, in duplicate,  
which I trust will reach you within the deadline of 1 November.  
I regret the length, but perhaps it can survive some surgery at  
your discretion.

I enjoyed doing it in spite of the inordinate amount of  
time involved, including a modicum of environmental reading, cross  
checking, etc. Now, after such laborious gestation, the child,  
rather than a joy to its parent, seems somewhat puny and anaemic.

It is an interesting coincidence that the point on the  
Summit of the Rockies, now Boundary Monument No. 272, which was the  
terminus of the 1857-61 survey from the west, as well as of 1872-74  
operations from the east, was also the terminus of a topo and forest  
survey of the Flathead River basin (north of Montana) under my per-  
sonal direction in 1930, when with a party of ten stalwarts and a  
packhorse outfit we spent a glorious if strenuous summer in that area.  
Our last camp, late in September, was on Akamena Creek, and with-  
drawal was over the Pass of the same name to Waterton Lakes, Alberta,  
where I paid off the men. I share with the earlier surveyors their  
enthusiasm for the beauty of that vicinity, which in their own words  
as quoted by Parsons seemed "a paradise" after the arid bleakness  
of much of the prairie region through which they had passed.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

G. S. Andrews,  
Surveyor-General & Director.

Encls:

COPY

COPY



"WEST ON THE 49TH PARALLEL"  
Red River to the Rockies 1872-1876

By John E. Parsons, William Morrow & Co., New York, 1963;  
208 pages, illustrations, maps, appendix, and index; \$6.00.

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Reviewed by Gerald S. Andrews

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See Ref  
to G.M.D. p. 2.

1. An up to date map showing countries of the world in various colours discloses that international boundaries of simple geometric character such as straight lines, meridians and gently curved parallels are in the minority, and confined mostly to Africa and North America, in contrast to the wiggly frontiers of Europe, Asia and South America, which follow rivers, heights of land, or more obscure routings. Continental North America is unique in partition among only three nations, and two segments of the boundaries between Canada and the U.S.A. are unmatched in the world for geometric simplicity, viz. the 1270-mile curve of the 49th parallel from Lake of the Woods to the Strait of Georgia, and the 647-mile line of the 141st meridian from Mt. St. Elias north to the Arctic Ocean.
2. In the elegant 1937 "Joint Report" of the International Boundary Commission, on the reestablishment (1901-1922) of the boundary along the whole length of the 49th parallel, Lake of the Woods to Strait of Georgia, Appendix III thereof, entitled "Original Surveys and Demarcation", devotes some 20 pages to the initial boundary establishment west of the Rocky Mountains, 1857-69, but only 3 pages to the 1872-76 effort east of the Rockies. Happily, Commander Parsons' book expands this brevity with his colorful story of the first formal survey of this eastern section of the boundary, from a monument set by David Thompson in 1824 in the muskegs bordering the Lake of the Woods, "West on the 49th Parallel" across the raw prairies, into the foothills and closing on the terminal cairn of stones on the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains set by the earlier survey from the West in 1861.
3. By dint of energetic and meticulous research from private correspondence, diaries, unpublished official records and other sources in the United States, Great Britain and Canada, the author has synthesized a vivid and faithful record of this pioneer boundary survey. Noteworthy are the competence, zeal, and harmony with which both American and British teams executed their joint task. The ironic exception was the British Commissioner, a political appointee, whose bigotry and impracticality were a constant irritation and



embarrassment to his own staff, and annoyance to the U. S. Commissioner, 20 years senior in age, and a career veteran of the earlier survey west of the Rockies.

4. In 1872, the West was still a wilderness. The vast area from the Red River to the Rockies, and between the Missouri and the North Saskatchewan rivers was in effect devoid of settlement, except for the aborigines. To reconnoitre this vacuum, the Palliser Expedition in the late 1850's risked the sinister truculence of untamed Blackfoot tribes. Nearly a century earlier, however, 1787-88, David Thompson, then a lad of only 17 years, with 5 companions, lived four winter months in an encampment of hospitable Piegans before they had been antagonized by later Indian Wars. The 1872-74 Surveyors suffered only two raids on supply depots (British), and no bloodshed, the U. S. party being supported by a military escort throughout. The British Commissioner relied on the simple device of a red ribbon on the hat, and a flag.
5. The author supports his story with an adequate introduction giving the reader necessary orientation in the evolution of the boundary concept finally adopted, and in an epilogue follows the destiny of the principle characters. An appendix reproduces Lieutenant Francis Vincent Greene's fascinating journal of the trip down the Missouri River in "mackinaws" (flat boats), during September 1874, after the termination of work on the boundary.
6. The reader's grasp of numerous participants in the story could have been facilitated by printing a "dramatis personae" on a tear slip attached to the wrapper, which could have done added service as a book-mark, (see attached). Another reader's aid is that used by Mrs. Irene M. Spry in her "Palliser Expedition" (Macmillan, Toronto, 1963), a marginal annotation of the year and month pertinent to each page. The fold-in map, adapted from that annexed to Captain Featherstonhaugh's Narrative, is most useful, but without a reading glass is something of an eye strain. The scribing techniques of modern cartography could have greatly enhanced its legibility. The selection of photographs and sketches is excellent. Many of these as well as others of equal relevance are also reproduced in Miss Lois Winslow-Spragge's "Life and Letters of George Mercer Dawson 1849-1901", copyright 1962, privately published, (obtainable from B. L. Harrington, R. R. 1, Abbotsford, B. C., Canada, \$4.00). Some 43 pages of this book are given to Dr. Dawson's records of the 1872-76 Boundary Commission, and are good collateral reading to Commander Parsons' narrative.



7. In "West on the 49th Parallel" certain technical problems are dealt with, such as the "anomaly of the North West Angle" (Lake of the Woods) and the pros and cons of a "mean parallel", sufficiently for the lay reader, but capable of greater elaboration from the professional viewpoint of geographers, surveyors, or engineers. In 1872, the continental geodetic datum, based on primary triangulation, had not yet been established. It was therefore necessary to use the classic celestial inspiration of navigators to establish geographic "fixes" in latitude and longitude from stellar observation. Even with early instruments, latitude was capable of determination within deviations of less than a hundred feet. Longitude, (less critical in fixing the 49th parallel), depends on time, referred to the Greenwich Meridian, and is subject to chronometer errors. The advantage of time signals by virtue of newly established telegraph lines then penetrating the West is exemplified by Captain Anderson, R.E. going up to Fort Garry in November 1872 for a telegraphic time check from the Chicago Observatory.
8. Astro fixes, no matter how perfectly done, are subject to error from gravity anomalies, often referred to by Surveyors as "deviation of the vertical". The effect of this error is quite haphazard, and is such that a "horizontal" plane supposedly geometrically tangent to the geoid surface at the point of observation, is in fact, not truly tangential, and the "fix" obtained therefore applies to a point slightly displaced, up to several hundred feet or more. When a series of such astro fixes is connected by a rigid traverse survey, these discrepancies become evident, and that is why a "mean parallel" was believed closer to the truth than the appreciably disjointed curve holding to each astro fix.
9. Commander Parsons gives no details on the type of survey instruments and accessory equipment used, beyond the allegation by the U. S. Commissioner that the British party was much better supplied in this respect.



"West on the 49th Parallel"

- DRAMATIS PERSONAE -

(Only those mentioned on 2 or more pages.)

- British -

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- U.S.A. -

Anderson, Capt. Sam., R.E., Ch. Astr.  
Ashe, Wm. A., Sub-ass't. Astronomer  
Boswell, Dr. Wm. Geo., Veterinary  
Burgess, Dr. T.J.W., Surgeon  
Burpee, Geo. F., Sub-ass't. Astr.  
Cameron, Capt. Ronald R., R.A., Comm'r. 1872-76  
Carvell, Computer  
Coster, Geo. C., Sub-ass't. Astr.  
Crompton, Geo. G., Ass't. Surveyor  
Dawson, Dr. Geo. M., Geologist  
Featherstonhaugh, Capt. A., R.E., Ass't. Astr.  
Forrest, Lt. Col. A.G., PLS, Surveyor  
Galway, Lt. Wm. J., R.E., Ass't. Astr.  
Haig, Capt. Robt. W., R.A., Ch. Astr. 1857  
Hallett, Wm., O/C 49th Rangers  
Hawkins, Col. J.S., R.E., Comm'r. 1857-63  
Herchmer, L.W., Commissary  
Kay, Sgt. R.E., Surveyor  
King, W.F., Sub-ass't. Astr., Comm'r. 1902-16  
Malings, Cpl., R.E., Topographer  
McCammon, Spr., R.E., Photographer  
Millman, Dr. Thos., Ass't. Surgeon  
Parsons, Spr., R.E., Photographer  
Prevost, Capt. Jas. C., R.N., Comm'r. 1857  
Rowe, Lt. V.F., R.E., Ass't. Astr.  
Russell, A.L., Surveyor  
Tiarks, Dr. J.L., Astronomer 1825  
Thompson, David, Surveyor 1824  
Ward, Lt. A.C., R.E., Sec'y. to Comm'r.  
Wilson, Lt. Chas. W., R.E., Astr. 1857

Ames, Capt. Edwin R., 6th Inf.  
Baker, Maj. E.M., 2nd Cav.  
Bangs, Jas. E., Sec'y. U.S. Com.  
Batty, Jos. H., Taxidermist  
Boss, Lewis, Ass't. Astr.  
Bryant, Capt. M., 6th Inf.  
Campbell, Archibald, Comm'r. 1857-69 (?)  
Coues, Dr. Elliott, Ornithologist 1872-76  
Doolittle, Chas. L., Ass't. Astr.  
Downing, Alf, Surveyor  
Farquhar, Lt. Col. F.U., Ch. Astr. 1872/3  
Gibbon, Gen. John, O/C Ft. Shaw 1874  
Greene, Lt. F.V., Ass't. Astr.  
Gregory, Capt. Jas. F., Ass't. Astr.  
Harbach, Capt. A.A., 20th Inf.  
Heap, Capt. D.P., U.S. Eng'rs. 1870  
Keogh, Capt. M.W., 7th Cav.  
Ladley, Lt. O.D., 22nd Inf.  
Long, Maj. S.H., USA Eng'rs. 1823  
McGillycuddy, Dr. V.T., i/c Topographers 1874  
Parke, Lt. J.G., Ch. Astr. 1857  
Pope, Capt. John, U.S. Eng'rs. 1850  
Reno, Maj. Marcus A., 7th Cav., O/C US Escort 1872-74  
Tinkham, A.W., Surveyor 1857  
Townshend, Lt. T.G., 6th Inf.  
Twining, Maj. Wm. J., Ch. Astr. 1873-74  
Weir, Capt. Thos. B., 7th Cav.  
Wheaton, Capt. Lloyd, 20th Inf.  
Wheeler, Val, Scout  
Wilson, Orrin S., Surveyor



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Kay, Sgt. R.E., Surveyor  
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