

The Law Society of Upper Canada Archives

Meredith family fonds

PF108

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Biographical Sketches

William Ralph Meredith (1840-1923) and his brother, Richard Martin Meredith (1847-1934), were lawyers and members of the judiciary in Ontario.

William Ralph Meredith was born in Westminster Township, Upper Canada, on 31 March 1840, to parents John Walsingham Cooke Meredith and Sarah Pegler. Educated at London District Grammar School and the University of Toronto, he was called to the Bar by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1861. He was first elected a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1871, and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1875. In 1888, Meredith became an honorary member of the University of Toronto law faculty, and he received an honorary LL.D. degree in 1889. Meredith was also a member of the judiciary, serving as Chief Justice of the Ontario High Court of Justice, Common Pleas Division, and as Chief Justice of the Ontario Supreme Court, Appellate Division. In addition to his legal career, Meredith served as a member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and was the leader of the Ontario Conservative Party from 1878 to 1894. He died on 21 August 1923.

Richard Martin Meredith was born in London, Ontario, on 27 March 1847, to parents John Walsingham Cooke Meredith and Sarah Pegler. He was called to the Bar by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1876 and subsequently practiced law in London, Ontario, with his brother Edmund in the law firm of Meredith and Meredith. As a member of the judiciary, he served as Vice-Chancellor of the Ontario High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, from 1890 to 1905; as a Justice of the Ontario Court of Appeal from 1905 to 1912; and as Chief Justice in the Ontario Supreme Court, High Court Division, from 1912 to 1930. Richard Martin Meredith died in Toronto on 20 May 1934.

Immediate Source of Information

Records in the fonds were donated to the Law Society of Upper Canada by Huron R. Davidson in 1971.

Scope and Content

1861-1930

3 cm of textual records

Fonds consists of certificates relating to the legal careers of William Ralph Meredith and his brother, Richard Martin Meredith. The records document the types of legal certification achieved by William and Richard Meredith in the course of their legal careers, particularly their work as members of the judiciary in Ontario. The fonds includes a Call to the Bar certificate, commissions of judicial appointment, admission certificates, and a letters patent.

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William Ralph Meredith certificates

PF108-1

1861-1875

1.5 cm of textual records

Series consists of certificates relating to the legal career of Sir William Ralph Meredith. Included are admission certificates to the Court of Chancery, the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Queen's Bench.

<u>Reference code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
985227-001	Court of Chancery admission certificates	1861-1875
985227-002	Court of Common Pleas admission certificates	1861-1875
985227-003	Court of Queen's Bench admission certificates	1861-1875

Meredith family fonds**PF108****Richard Martin Meredith certificates****PF108-2**

1876-1930

1.5 cm of textual records

Series consists of certificates relating to the legal career of Richard Martin Meredith. The series includes his Call to the Bar certificate, judicial commission certificates, and a letters patent.

The records in this series have been arranged in chronological order.

<u>Reference code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
985231-001	Call to the Bar certificate issued to Richard Martin Meredith	30 May 1876
985063-001	Commission appointing the Honourable Richard Martin Meredith a justice of the High Court of Justice for Ontario	1 Oct. 1890
985063-002	Commission appointing Richard Martin Meredith, Esquire, a judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario	1 Oct. 1890
985063-003	Commission appointing the Honourable Richard Martin Meredith as a member of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice for Ontario	1 Oct. 1890
985063-004	Commission appointing the Honourable Richard Martin Meredith a judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario with the title of Justice of Appeal	11 Nov. 1905
985063-005	Certificate appointing Richard Martin Meredith a Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Division of the High Court of Justice for Ontario	1 Nov. 1912
985230-001	Letters patent granting an annuity to the Honourable Richard Martin Meredith	1 Oct. 1930