

# University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Thomas and Emma Crosby fonds (RBSC- ARC-1149)

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Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.7.3 Printed: August 28, 2023

Language of description: English

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# Thomas and Emma Crosby fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Thomas and Emma Crosby fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	RBSC-ARC-1149
<b>Date:</b>	1862-1927, 1967 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	63 cm of textual records and other material
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	2023 accrual arranged and described by Matthew White in August 2023.
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	Photograph Identifier: BC-1970

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Born in England in 1840, Thomas Crosby came to Canada with his parents in 1856 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 to travel to Ontario and married Emma Jane Douse from Barrie in 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, the Glad Tidings, in 1889 to assist him in his work. 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.

### Custodial history

Original accession donated by Helen Hager, August 13, 1999. Further material donated by Douglas Hager and Louise Hager in 2012. 3 additional files donated in 2023.

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## Scope and content

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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 Thomas 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.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the fonds.

### 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.

### Alternative form available

Emma Crosby's correspondence has been digitized and is available through UBC Library Digital Collections: <http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca/cdm/landingpage/collection/ecrosby>

### Finding aids

Inventory available. See PDF document attached (for 1999 accession).

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Physical description:** Includes 368 photographs, 4 sketches, 1 book, and 1 wax seal stamp

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## Access points

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- First Nations (subject)
- Religions (subject)
- Women (subject)

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## Series descriptions

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### Biographical information

Date: [1870-19-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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.

Publication status:

published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-05	File - [Family biographical information]	1916-1974, predominant 1968-1974		
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-02	File - [Family obituaries and other Crosby family information]	[ca. 1934]-1967, predominant [ca.1934]-1946		
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-08	File - [Portrait of Thomas Crosby]			
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-01	File - Biographical Information	[1870-1900?]		

**Photographs**

Date: ca.1860's-1900's (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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.

Physical description: 368 items.

Publication status:

published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/373	Item - [Crosby family]	1935		
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/374	Item - [Thomas Crosby in aboriginal dress]	[188-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/375	Item - [Crosby family in Port Simpson]	[ca. 1886]		
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/376	Item - [T.H. Crosby at Boundary Bay]	[ca. 1926]		
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/377	Item - [Emma Crosby with grandchildren]			
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/378	Item - [Crosby family]	[192-]		
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/379	Item - [Helen and Robert Crosby]	[192-]		

RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/380	Item - [Thomas Crosby]	[between 1900 and 1914]
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/381	Item - [Emma Crosby]	[191-]
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/382	Item - [Emma Crosby with grandchildren]	[191-]
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/001	Item - Thomas Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/002	Item - Thomas Crosby, his mother, father and brother	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/003	Item - T.H. Crosby, Isabel Crosby, Grace Bolton in Port Simpson	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/004	Item - Polly Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/005	Item - Grace Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/006	Item - John and Mary Crosby (to brother John)	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/007	Item - Mother of Thomas Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/008	Item - Gertrude Carrie (age 13 months)	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/009	Item - Thomas Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/010	Item - Mary Crosby (daughter, died 18 months)	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/011	Item - Thomas Crosby's sister	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/013	Item - Jessie and Grace Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/012	Item - Grace Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/014	Item - Eliza Brown, Grandma Crosby's sister	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/015	Item - T.H. Crosby, Mrs. Crosby and children	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/016	Item - T.H. Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/017	Item - Aunt Susie McKay, Winnie, Fred, Dolly, Frank, Uncle George	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/018	Item - Gertrude Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/019	Item - Thomas Harold Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/020	Item - Susie McKay (Deuse), Grama Crosby's sister	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/021	Item - Grace, Jessie and Gertrude Crosby	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/022	Item - Emma Crosby (Mrs. Thomas Crosby)	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/023	Item - Mrs. Jas, Durstrius?	
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/024	Item - Mrs. John Douse (Grandma Crosby's mother)	

RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/025	Item - Friend of Emma Crosby
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/026	Item - Mrs. John Douse (Emma Crosby's mother)
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/027	Item - Emma Crosby (Mrs. Thomas)
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/028	Item - McIntosh, Breeze, Julia, Morris and Mabel Fraser
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/029	Item - Friend of Emma Crosby
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/031	Item - John Douse (Grandma Crosby's father)
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/030	Item - Mrs. George Brown and daughter Emmy (Sommerhill)
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/032	Item - David Wilson Carris, Gertrude Katherine Carris
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/033	Item - Frank, Winnie and Dolly McKay
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/034	Item - Mrs. John Douse (nee Milner), mother of Mrs. Thomas Crosby
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/035	Item - Louisa A. Milner (cousin of Mrs. Thomas Crosby)
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/036a	Item - Miss Agnes Knight
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/036b	Item - Emma Crosby
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/037-108	Item - Photographs of family and friends unidentified
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/109-224	Item - Album with "Emma" on the cover containing photographs of family and friends, identified and unidentified
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/225-345	Item - Album containing photographs of family and friends, identified and unidentified
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/346	Item - Port Simpson
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/347	Item - Port Simpson
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/348	Item - Lady Dufferin
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/349	Item - Lord Dufferin
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/350	Item - Native women
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/351	Item - Fort Wrangel
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/352	Item - Port Simpson in the distance
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/353	Item - Port Simpson in the distance
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/354	Item - Fort Simpson
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/355	Item - Visit of Dr. Powell, Indian Commissioner

RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/356	Item - Church and Home, Port Simpson
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/357	Item - Simpson Church and Mission House
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/358	Item - Fire Hall – Port Simpson
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/359	Item - Girls' House – Port Simpson
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/360	Item - Mission Yacht
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/361	Item - R.H. Hall, H.B. M'gr and Family
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/362	Item - Old Mission, Girls' Home and Family (Miss Hendry, Matron)
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/363	Item - Canoes from Metlakatha Anglican Mission
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/364	Item - Mrs. McFarlane's Home – Fort Mangel, Alaska
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/365	Item - Native Artifacts
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/366	Item - Native Artifacts
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/367	Item - Native Artifacts
RBSC-ARC-1149-BC-1970/368	Item - Native Artifacts
RBSC-ARC-1149-08-01	File - [Images of First Nations people and villiages]

### General family biographical information

Date: 1881-1940 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence, school records, and books related to Thomas and Emma Crosby and their children and grandchildren.

Physical description: 12 cm of textual records  
2 medals; 5 x 5 cm and smaller

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-03	File - [Correspondence of Grace Crosby]	1940		
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-04	File - [Grace Crosby's Hymn Book]	1884		
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-06	File - [Emma Crosby's Book of Psalms]	1919		
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-07	File - [Economy Cook Book]	[between 1920-1925]		
RBSC-ARC-1149-7-01	File - [Grace Crosby's school medals]	1900-1901		



RBSC-ARC-1149-7-02	File - [Gertude Crosby's school records]	1893-1895
RBSC-ARC-1149-7-03	File - [Helen Crosby's sunday school certificate]	1929
RBSC-ARC-1149-7-04	File - [Grace Crosby's scrapbook]	1881-1928

### Manuscripts - Emma Douse Crosby

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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

Physical description: 2 cm

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-6-01	File - Essays	1865-1874		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-20-21	File - Dedication books	1874		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-22	File - Essays and notes	n.d.		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-23	File - Index to sermons and illustrations	1834		

### Correspondence - Native Peoples' issues

Date: 1881-1887 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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.

Physical description: 41 items.

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-02	File - Thomas Crosby to D.V. Lucas	June, Nov. 1882		
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-03	File - Correspondence - Native peoples' issues	1885-1886		
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-04	File - Correspondence - Native peoples' issues	1885-1886		
RBSC-ARC-1149-7-05	File - Letter to Sir John Macdonald on behalf of Port Simpson signed by A. Dudoward, R. Wilson, P. Price,	1886		

	(Swanson), H. Price, W. Kelly, Peter Mills, and Janus Wright	
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-06	File - Correspondence - Native peoples' issues	1876-1883
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-07	File - Minutes of a meeting of the Port Simpson people with J.W. McKay, Indian agent	8 Dec 1883
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-08	File - Correspondence - Native peoples' issues	1886
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-09	File - Correspondence - Native peoples' issues	1882-1887
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-10	File - Correspondence - Native peoples' issues	1881-1882

### Correspondence - Thomas Crosby

Date: 1874-1912 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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

Physical description: 14 items.

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

### Correspondence - incoming

Date: 1883-1912 (date of creation)

Physical description: 14 items.

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-11	File - Fiftieth Anniversary of Ministry, 6 letters, 2 telegrams of congratulations	April-May, 1912		
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-12	File - Christmas cards (2)	1908		
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-13	File - Correspondence - incoming	1910-1911		
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-14	File - Lucas, D.V.	27 Feb 1883		

### Correspondence - outgoing

Date: 1874-1882 (date of creation)

Physical description: 5 letters.

<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-15	File - Mrs. Douse and the family	1874-1882		
<b>Correspondence - general</b>				
<u>Date:</u> 1896-1897 (date of creation)				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-16	File - Correspondence – general	1896-1897		
<b>Manuscripts - Thomas Crosby</b>				
<u>Date:</u> n.d. (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>  Series consists of manuscripts that include essays and notes that could have been used for sermons, biographies and plays about his life, his collections, diaries and ship logs, and a Pledge book with the names of the people of Port Simpson.				
<u>Physical description:</u> 18 items.				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-17	File - Pledge book - a list of 106 names, mainly Native peoples, signed below a statement written in a Native peoples language.	Jan 1884		
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-18	File - Thomas Crosby - a manuscript, 15 pages, and a typescript, 7 pages, prepared on his life as a missionary in British Columbia. Author unknown.	1914		
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-19	File - Thomas Crosby - a morality play by B.C. Freeman and adapted from the original by Leonard Miller	n.d.		

RBSC-ARC-1149-1-20	File - Notes on Indian work in British Columbia by the Methodists, 1859-1892. Author unknown (C.M. Tate)	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-21	File - Notes on missionary work in British Columbia	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-22	File - Native peoples tradition - a manuscript on Native peoples' culture on the B.C. coast, author unknown	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-23	File - Indian Legends - a typescript, author unknown	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-24	File - A catalogue of Thomas Crosby's books. The catalogue included a note: Presented to College, 1908	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-25	File - List of Native peoples' artifacts	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-26	File - English-Native peoples dictionary	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-27	File - Miscellaneous notes on religion	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-28-30	File - Essays, hand written material that could have been used for sermons	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-1-31	File - Reading lesson books, hand-written books in a Native peoples language	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1149-11-01	File - Accounts With The Different Agents on The Simpson District	[1880?]-1912
RBSC-ARC-1149-11-02	File - Journal/Log - Account of Glad Tidings	1890-1898, 1967
RBSC-ARC-1149-11-03	File - An Account of the Fort Simpson Methodist Mission from its Commencement [with Transcript]	1866-1899

### Correspondence - Emma Douse Crosby

Date: 1862-1927 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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.

Physical description: 175 items.

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

### Correspondence - incoming

Date: 1874-1927 (date of creation)

Physical description: 84 items.

Publication status:

published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-01	File - Wesleyan Female College	1874		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-02-05	File - Letters, telegrams, and sympathy cards from family, friends, and his church pertaining to the passing away of Rev. Thomas Crosby (80)	1914		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-06	File - Correspondence - incoming	1925, 1927		
<b>Correspondence - outgoing</b>				
<u>Date:</u> 1867-1926 (date of creation)				
<u>Physical description:</u> 90 letters.				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-07	File - Bertha	4 Mar 1867		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-08	File - Mother	1873-1874		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-09	File - Mother	1875		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-10	File - Mother	1876		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-11	File - Mother	1877		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-12	File - Mother	1878		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-13	File - Mother	1879		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-14	File - Mother	1880		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-15	File - Father and Susie	1883-1885		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-16	File - Father and Susie	1883-1891		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-17	File - Crosby, Grace	1918, 1920		
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-18	File - Harris, Jessie	1926		
<b>Correspondence - general</b>				
<u>Date:</u> 1862 (date of creation)				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-2-19	File - John Douse to his wife	22 July 1862		
<b>Document</b>				
<u>Date:</u> 1868, 1912 (date of creation)				

Scope and content:

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

Physical description: 2 items.

Publication status:

published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-5-03	File - A certificate to Emma Douse as a Friend of Literature from the Wesleyan Female College, Hamilton	25 June 1868		
RBSC-ARC-1149-5-04	File - A decorated document of congratulations to Thomas Crosby upon reaching his 50th year of ministerial duties in British Columbia presented on behalf of the Methodist Church of Canada	1912		

**Printed material**

Date: 1702-1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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

Physical description: 50 cm.

Publication status:

published

**File / item list****Clippings**Publication status:

published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-3-01	File - Biographical information			

RBSC-ARC-1149-3-02	File - Mission ships, mainly the Crosby V
RBSC-ARC-1149-3-03	File - Artifacts
RBSC-ARC-1149-3-04	File - Bella Bella, mainly from <u>The Missionary Outlook</u> ca. 1885-1900
RBSC-ARC-1149-3-05	File - Historical
RBSC-ARC-1149-3-06	File - Historical
RBSC-ARC-1149-5-01	File - Historical (pasted into a scrapbook)
RBSC-ARC-1149-5-02	File - Historical, including articles

## Pamphlets

Date: 1907-1986 (date of creation)

Publication status:

published

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149-3-07	File - Pamphlets	1907-[1985?]		
RBSC-ARC-1149-3-08	File - Pamphlets	1967-1985		

## Sketches

Date: 1899 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

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

Physical description: 4 items.

Note:

Photograph Identifier: BC-1970

Publication status:

published

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1149- BC-1970/369	Item - Terrible trip over Straits of Georgia			
RBSC-ARC-1149- BC-1970/370	Item - Terrible night – Pt. Nanaimo			
RBSC-ARC-1149- BC-1970/371	Item - Terrible night – Nanaimo			
RBSC-ARC-1149- BC-1970/372	Item - Medicine Man at his nefarious work			

## Objects

Date: [18--]-1869 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of objects belonging or given to Thomas Crosby including a hymnal book and an engraved wax seal stamp.

Physical description: 1 book and 1 wax seal stamp

Publication status:

published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC- ARC-1149-08-03	Item - [Wax seal stamp of Thomas Crosby]	[18--]		
RBSC- ARC-1149-08-02	Item - Wesleyan Methodist Hymn Book by reverend John Wesley	1869		