

Acc.13324  
March 2012



## **Inventory**

**Acc.13324**

## **Gael Turnbull Papers**

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Research papers, c. 1989-98, of Gael Turnbull for his biography of John McLeod Campbell.

John McLeod Campbell, 1800-1872, was a Church of Scotland minister and theologian. After an education at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities, in 1825 Campbell was presented by the duke of Argyll to the parish church at Rhu, near Glasgow. Campbell's preaching came under scrutiny as he began to preach that 'assurance is the essence of faith', a view inconsistent with the doctrinal position of the Westminster confession, which ministers of the Church of Scotland were required to observe.

In 1830, a petition by a number of Rhu parishioners charging Campbell with heresy was presented to the presbytery of Dumbarton. Campbell was found guilty by the presbytery in March 1831, a verdict upheld on appeal by the synod of Glasgow and Ayr and finally by the general assembly. After his deposition from the ministry, Campbell spent two years preaching in the western Highlands before returning to Glasgow. There he continued to preach from a small chapel without pay until 1859, when his health forced him to retire from public ministry. Friends with many eminent churchmen of the time, Campbell became one of the leading theologians of the Victorian era.

Gael Turnbull, poet and medical practitioner, took this project up after his retirement from medicine. The papers include research notes for John McLeod Campbell's life, work and family, copies of his letters, and a copy of Turnbull's unpublished biography. The contents of the files have been retained as Gael Turnbull created them, and the files arranged into the series listed below. Multiple drafts of his biography, some of which appeared to be duplicates, have been weeded.

For further papers of Gael Turnbull, see also Acc.10256, Acc.12476, Acc.12477, Acc.12552, Acc.12554, Acc.12555, Acc.12556, Acc.12754 and Acc.12755.

*Presented, 2012.*

<b>1-24</b>	<b>Biography</b>
<b>25-26</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>27-33</b>	<b>JMC research &amp; correspondence</b>
<b>34-38</b>	<b>Background research</b>

## **1-24 Biography**

1-4 Part I: Origins and education: Chapters 1-4

- 1 Chapter 1: Birth and antecedents
- 2 Chapter 2: Early years
- 3 Chapter 3: Student days
- 4 Chapter 4: Further study and experience

5-8 Part II: Ministry at Row: Chapters 5-8

- 5 Chapter 5: First phase, September 1825-December 1827
- 6 Chapter 6: Second phase, January 1828-March 1830
- 7 Chapter 7: Third phase, March 1830-May 1831 (i)
- 8 Chapter 8: Third phase, March 1830-May 1831 (ii)

9-11 Part III: Transitions: Chapters 9-11

- 9 Chapter 9: Itinerant preaching
- 10 Chapter 10: Glasgow 'Lyceum' phase
- 11 Chapter 11: Illness, travel and marriage

12-15 Part IV: Blackfriars Street Chapel: Chapters 12-15

- 12 Chapter 12: Until death of father and the Disruption
- 13 Chapter 13: Until death of Chalmers and move to 'Laurel Bank'
- 14 Chapter 14: Until publication of first full length book
- 15 Chapter 15: Until publication of 'The nature of atonement'

16-20 Part V: Trials and reassessment: Chapters 16-20

- 16 Chapter 16: Death of his brother and Robert Story
- 17 Chapter 17: Challenge and controversy & events 1859-1862
- 18 Chapter 18: Further concerns, controversies and setbacks
- 19 Chapter 19: Glasgow D.D.
- 20 Chapter 20: May 1868-March 1870, Death of Erskine

21-24 Part VI: Achnashie: Chapters 21-22

- 21 Chapter 21: Move to Rosneath
- 22 Chapter 22: Last days and final illness
- 23 Supplements, 1-12
- 24 Appendices, including genealogical notes and photographs

**25-26 Correspondence**

- 25 Letters from descendants of John McLeod Campbell, 1990s, mostly from Michael Crum and his sister Jean Wright, but also including Ludovick Stewart, great grandson of JMC, and Zella May Ashford, great granddaughter of William Bonar, a witness at JMC's trial for heresy.
- 26 Letters, 1992-1998, regarding the proposed biography and potential for publication.

**27-33 JMC research & correspondence**

- 27 Photocopies and transcriptions of JMC's letters, c. 1829-1872, apparently mostly from originals held privately by descendants.
- 28 The 'Ashford' file, consisting of copies of letters owned by Zella May Ashford, 1829-1859.
- 29-30 Notes on JMC's life and work, undated, including further copies of his letters.
- 31 Notebook containing further biographical information on JMC, undated.

- 32 Notes and photographs relating to the McLeod family, undated.
- 33 Communion token, Rev R. Smith and trinket box relating to Campbell family, undated.

### **34-38 Background research**

- 34 Research notes, undated, on theological and philosophical thought of the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and on subjects including Scottish social history, the Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church, and Edinburgh and Glasgow universities.
- 35 Notes on contemporaries, undated, including Thomas Erskine, Edward Irving, F.D. Maurice, and A.J. Scott.
- 36 Notes on contemporaries, undated.
- 37 Essay by Gael Turnbull, 1994, 'Thomas Chalmers and 'The Campbell Coterie' in Edinburgh 1831'.
- 38 Talk given by Gordon Strachan to the Carlyle Society, Edinburgh, 1990, 'Carlyle, Irving and the 'hysterical women'.