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|  | School and teacher training resources |
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**Collections Research Room**

**University Collections**

The University Library

University of Aberdeen

Bedford Road

Aberdeen

AB24 3AA

# Introduction

Many individuals and organisations have deposited their papers with the University and as a result, it has acquired an unrivalled collection of material, not solely relating to the history and culture of the north-east of Scotland but of national and international importance.

These include records of 19th century schools, some prior to the introduction of the 1872 Education Act. The main school records held are those of the Practising/Demonstration Schools which were established by the teacher training colleges.

The core teaching collection is the ‘Aberdeen Colleges of Education’ which is a colloquial term for the many different institutions that provided teacher training between 1874 and 2001: Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College (1874 - 1907), Aberdeen Free Church of Scotland Training College (1875 - 1907), Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre (1907 - 1959), Aberdeen College of Education (1959 - 1987) and Northern College of Education (1987 - 2001), following the merger with Dundee College of Education. Also, Woolmanhill Emergency Physical Training Centre (formerly the Dunfermline College of Hygiene and Physical Education) (1946 – 1950). In 2001 the College merged with the University of Aberdeen to become the Faculty (now School) of Education.

The ‘Colleges of Education’ archives are very rich and include administrative records including minutes, papers of staff, financial records, estate records and architectural plans. Also, student records including enrolment registers, assessment records, yearbooks and photographs (UNIVERSITY 1421).

# Practising/demonstration schools

School Admission Registers: 1909 – 1968

Daily Attendance Registers: 1952 – 1970

School Log Books: 1888 – 1970

Register of Lefts: 1925 – 1970

# Other schools

Aberdeen Grammar School, foundation correspondence between Theodore Watt,   
publisher and John Malcolm Bulloch, journalist: 1925 (MS 2443).

Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen High School for Girls, closure of Primary Departments papers: 1963 – 1964 (MS 2491).

Aberdeen Grammar School, documents collected relating to 650th anniversary: 1906 (MS 1090).

Auchindoir school registers: 1835 – 1841 (MS 3518/4/1/7).

Castle Fraser School records: 1870 – 1888   
(MS 3470/18).

Chanonry School, Old Aberdeen, various administrative records: 1879 - 1892 (MS 2633).

Episcopal Church, Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, records relating to schools, such as   
school reports, administrative and financial   
records: 19th century – 20th century (MS 3320).

Free East Church School, St Andrew Street, Aberdeen, log book: 1863-1874 (MS 3812).

Grammar School, Old Aberdeen, register of   
pupils: 1870-1885 (MS 648).

Inverness Academy, historical notes: c.1900 (MS 2386).

Dr Tulloch's Academy, Aberdeen: includes a School Admissions Register, August 1852 - January 1873, and a list of pupils from 1843   
(MS 561).

W.G. Walker's Academy, Aberdeen, register:   
1873 - 1886 (MS 562).

# Locating student teacher records

## Church of Scotland Training College

### Student registration

Class registers have been published (details below) and are indexed. As a result there is little need to consult the original student registers.

Aberdeen Church of Scotland, records of the classes from 1874-75 to 1894-95 (Elizabeth Cleland, ed., Aberdeen: Privately printed at the Adelphi Press, 1896).

Appendix to records of classes from 1874-75 to 1894-95 (Aberdeen: Privately printed at the   
Albany Press, 1907; Includes photo groups of   
staff and students).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland, records of the classes from 1895-96 to 1905-07 (Elizabeth Cleland, ed., Aberdeen: Privately printed at the Adelphi Press, 1907; Includes photo groups of   
staff and students).

See also UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/8, an (A-Z) of students who attended the Church of Scotland & Free Church colleges 1874-1908. This record was created in c.1940s/50s and is a useful index if unsure which College a student attended.

### Assessment/comments on progress

There will also be information on   
assessment marking in the Records of   
Assessment (UNIVERSITY 1421/1/1/2).

### Photographs

*See the published volumes as listed above.*

Class photos are in section (UNIVERSITY 1421/1/3/1).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College staff and student photographs, 1881-1893 (MS 3793).

## Aberdeen Free Church Training College

### Student registration

See (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/8), an (A-Z) of students   
who attended the Church of Scotland & Free Church colleges from 1874-1908. This index created in c.1940s/50s is needed to find Free Church students and is a useful index if unsure which College a student attended. The index   
will provide the enrolment date for the student   
allowing the Enrolment Registers to be   
consulted (UNIVERSITY 1421/2/1/1/1).

### Assessment/comments on progress

Using the A-Z index above the Records of   
Practical Teaching Assessments can be   
consulted (UNIVERSITY 1421/2/1/2/1).

### Photographs

Class photos in section (UNIVERSITY 1421/2/2/1/1).

## Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre

### Student registration

Card index to Register of Students, 1906-1951 (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/7/1). This is the index to -

* Registers of Students Admitted, 1906-1949 under chapter III (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/1).
* Registers of Students Admitted under chapter V of the Regulations,   
  1907-1950 (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/2).
* Registers of Students Admitted under chapter VI of the Regulations:   
  1907-1949 (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/3).

Volume index to register of students, 1950-1954 (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/7/2) and 1955-1961 (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/7/3). This is the index to -

* Register of Students Admitted under   
  chapter III (Teacher's General Certificate),   
  chapter V (Teacher's Special Certificate),   
  chapter VI (Teacher's Technical Certificate)   
  and nursery school training (article 51):   
  1950-1958 (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/4).

### Assessment/comments on progress

For assessment markings and comments on progress see Returns of Scotch Education Department forms 102T 'Reports on student's ability and promise of success as a teacher during training': includes comments on progress and end of year report. (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/4/1).

For assessment markings check Training Records and Registers of Student Marks (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/3). See also other returns to Scottish Education Department (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/4).

### Photographs

Student Photographic Albums: 1932-1958   
(UNIVERSITY 1421/4/2/2/6).

Class photographs (UNIVERSITY 1421/4/7/1).

## Aberdeen College of Education/ Northern College of Education

The student records from 1959 are still of current use and held by the School of Education and the University Registry.

## Woolmanhill Emergency Physical Training Centre

### Student registration

Register of Students: 1946-1950 (UNIVERSITY 1421/5/1/1).

Student files: 1946-1950 (UNIVERSITY 1421/5/1/2).

### Photographs

Class photos in section (UNIVERSITY 1421/5/2/1).

# Oral history collections

University of Aberdeen Oral History Archive: comprises nearly 200 interviews with   
individuals connected with the University   
(MS 3620) - of particular interest are the   
interviews conducted with John Nisbet,   
Professor of Education (MS 3620/1/155).

# Other relevant collections

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College   
staff and student photographs, 1881-1893 class groups (MS 3793).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training   
College lecture notes and report book,   
1900-1904 (MS 3794).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College lecture notes and papers: 1901-1903 (MS 3826).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College lecture notes: 1904-1906 (MS 3841).

Aberdeen Provincial Training College lecture   
notes and papers: 1901-1914 (MS 3820).

Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre lecture   
notes: 1910 (MS 3798).

Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre lecture   
notes: 1912 (MS 3817).

Educational Institute for Scotland: Aberdeen   
Local Association: 1917 – 1986 (MS 3545).

Forbes, Margaret, Aberdeen College of Education student notebooks: 1976 – 1978 (MS 3908).

Gordon, Charles Harold, schoolteacher: papers: 1924 – 1971 (MS 3403).

Lyall, Agnes: teaching training lecture notes,   
1930-1931 (MS 3606).

Scotland, James, Principal of Aberdeen College of Education papers (copies) including an unpublished history of the colleges and biographies of teaching staff: 1980s (MS 3834).

Reports on Scottish schools inspected by   
John Black, HM Inspector of Schools: 1861 – 1862 (MS 535).

Scottish Schoolmasters' Association and related organisations: 1935 – 1965 (MS 2700).

University of Aberdeen Department of Education papers: 1921-2000 (UNIVERSITY 1450).

# Printed collections

The Local Collection, accessible via the Research Room, contains relevant printed material, such as publications of the local educational authorities, school boards, Aberdeen Educational Trust, Aberdeen Endowments Trust, Aberdeen Provincial Committee (teacher training) and north-east educational institutions such as Aberdeen   
Grammar School.

# Access

Materials are available upon request for consultation in the Research Room. Please search online catalogues to identify individual items.

Please note that some records contain personal information of children, students and staff and may be closed for 75 (for adults) and 100 (for children 16 and under) years under the Data Protection   
Act (1998).

# Further reading

See the UNIVERSITY 1421 catalogue for a list of relevant titles.

McCall, Alison T. *Aberdeen School Board   
female teachers 1872-1901: a biographical   
list* (Aberdeen, 2007).