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In Annex

PAGE (RHODA ANN) PAPERS

The holograph manuscript of twenty-nine poems by Rhoda Ann Page and two typescript copies of her Wild Notes from the Back Woods, by Rhoda Anne Page, edited by Edwin Guillet, 1942.

Extent: 1/2 Box

Accession Number: 87.055

Holograph manuscript, gift of Ronald Stagg

Edna Hajnal
April 1990

Biographical Note

Rhoda Ann Page (or Paige in Morgan, Sabin, and Halkett and Laing) was born in Hackney, Middlesex in 1826 and immigrated with her family to a farm near Cobourg in 1832. Her father, Thomas, was an essayist, and editor during the 1840's of Newcastle Farmer. Beginning in 1846 she had her poetry published regularly under the initials R.A.P in The Cobourg Star, from which other newspapers copied it so that her poems were widely circulated. The Church, The Maple Leaf Annual and The Victoria Magazine also published her poetry. In 1850 a collection of thirty-six of her poems was published in Cobourg, Wild Notes from the Back Woods. Her prose writing which has been compared with the nature prose of Catharine Parr Traill was published in The Victoria Magazine ("The Lost Boy") and The Maple Leaf ("An Hour in the Ice"). After her marriage in 1856 to William Falkner, the son of Judge William Falkner, she lived in the Rice Lake area where she was a neighbour of Catharine Parr Traill. She died in 1863 a few months after the birth of her eighth child. Her husband died in 1893.

During the late 1840's she was one of the best known poets in Canada but after her marriage she seems to have published little. Five of her poems were included by E.H. Dewart in his Selections from Canadian Poets (1864).

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Box 1

Folders 1-2 Poems by Rhoda Ann Page. 56 p.

Holograph manuscript in notebook and six folders. Contains: The Beautiful; Dreams; The Old Year; The New Year; Farewell; Song of Spring; The Winds; The Old Man's Reminiscences; The Song of Death; Rice Lake by Moonlight, a Winter Scene; The New Year's Song of the Church Bell; Morning Prayer; Dirge; Song; St. George's Flag; The Idiot; The Song of Autumn; God Speed the Plough; The Portrait Gallery; The Dying One; Locks of Hair; The Death of Queen Mary; Lady May; Flowers; Evening Hymn; Merry England; The Old Man's Death Song; Two Scenes; Be Kind; Sunshine; Dew Drops.

Folders 3-4 Wild Notes from the Back Woods, by Rhoda Anne Page. Edited by Edwin Guillet. 1942. Typescript carbon copy made from a printed copy of the book (Cobourg, 1850). Notes in manuscript by the editor. 2 copies

Contains seven poems that manuscript lacks: Frost on the Window; Mother, Home and Heaven; The Last Look at the Stars; Day and Night; Last Words; Thy Will Be Done; Broken Reeds. Lacks the last two poems in holograph copy: Sunshine; and Dew Drops.