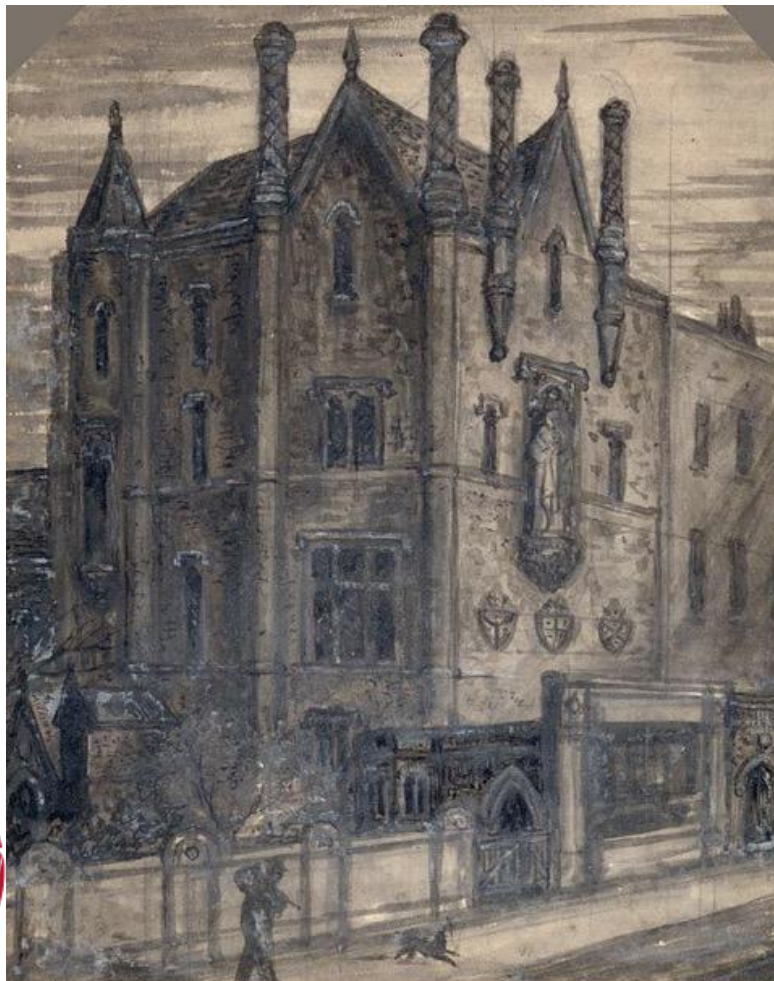


1860-1885 Formative Years

Doughty was born into a family of craftsmen with an established upholstery business in Maidenhead, Berkshire, UK on March 22, 1860. His father died when Doughty was 4. His mother maintained the business for a few years but by 1871 the family was living in Lambeth. The details of AGD's education remain undocumented but he said he attended Eldon School, a charitable foundation just a few blocks from their home in 1871. By 1881 the family was back in Maidenhead and AGD was listed in the census as an upholsterer. He assisted for a while in an Anglican mission in Southwark and attended Oxford University for two months, likely considering a career as an Anglican priest. Instead, in 1884 he took a ship to New York, and the following year married Bertha Kehrwind while working in a restaurant. In 1886, they moved to Montreal.



Eldon School, Wandsworth Road, Vauxhall, ca. 1880, Lambeth Archives.

1860: March 22: AGD born in Maidenhead, Berks. Parents: William Doughty, age 40, upholsterer, cabinet maker and paper hanger, and Anne Esther Doughty, age 40, née Hobbs. Grandfathers: John Doughty, cabinet maker, and James Hobbs, iron founder. Siblings: Emily age 9, William J. age 8, and Annie born 1862.

1864: March 19: AGD's father died of pulmonary tuberculosis. Buried at High Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, Maidenhead.

1871 UK Census: family lived in the Nine Elms area of South Lambeth, now close to the site of the new US Embassy. AGD's mother's occupation listed as "bread maker". His older brother was not listed. Their home was a block east of the London and Southwestern Railway line's freight depot and engineering works. The walk to Eldon School via Wandsworth Rd went past a post office and the Vauxhall Brewery, the Queen's railway station on the left and Belmont Manor and Surrey Girls' Reformatory on the right, then under the brick viaduct to the school, an imposing 3 storey stone building.

1881 January 8: AGD decorated the National school room for the first general meeting of a juvenile branch of the Church of England Temperance Society

1881 UK Census: AGD, age 21, upholsterer, lived with his mother in Cookham, Berks, near Maidenhead. They had a boarder. AGD's brother William James lived in Great Farmington, Berks; his older sister, Emily, was a nursery governess for a brew master in Cookham, while his younger sister, age 16, was an assistant to a cousin, a grocer and draper in Great Marlow, Buckingham.

1881 November 30: *Maidenhead Advertiser* noted in connection with the Church of England Temperance Society, that AGD "left for a situation in London". Dates were uncertain but several who knew AGD mentioned that he had served with All Hallows Mission, Southwark, an impoverished area with young people who worked in dangerous small industries. This was an outreach initiative of the Sisters of St John the Baptist, a teaching order based in Clewer adjacent to Maidenhead.

1884 May 3: The register for New Inn Hall at Oxford University noted AGD matriculated and was in residence for May and June.

1884 October 9: AGD arrived in New York via the *Wisconsin* out of Liverpool; with 2 pieces of luggage and intended to stay in the USA.

1885 June 26: AGD married Bertha Kehrwind (widow) born Bertha Haar in Germany, who was ten years older. Basic census entries and a dedication to her in one book following her death (1910) were the only references I have found concerning her.

1886-1898 Becoming Established

In the summer of 1886, Doughty inquired at the offices of the *Montreal Gazette* to supplement his income as music and literary critic. Newly married, and freshly arrived in Canada, Doughty was intent on earning respect with his unusual combination of skills: in shorthand, calligraphy and heraldry, in creating illuminated manuscripts, in poetry and in business informed by his fluency in English and French and animated by his abundant self-confidence.

Reflecting his admiration for the work of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Doughty published two volumes of the Poet Laureate's work transcribed in shorthand, followed by several volumes of poetry largely imitating Tennyson's grand style and then a biographic tribute. To diversify, he authored a play and two tourist guidebooks.



Doughty Coat of Arms, as embossed on the front cover of the Wilson Collection copy of Tennyson, Alfred, Lord, *The Idylls of The King*, Montreal: Dominion Illustrated Press, 1899. In shorthand by Arthur G. Doughty, By kind permission of Messrs. Mcmillan & Co.

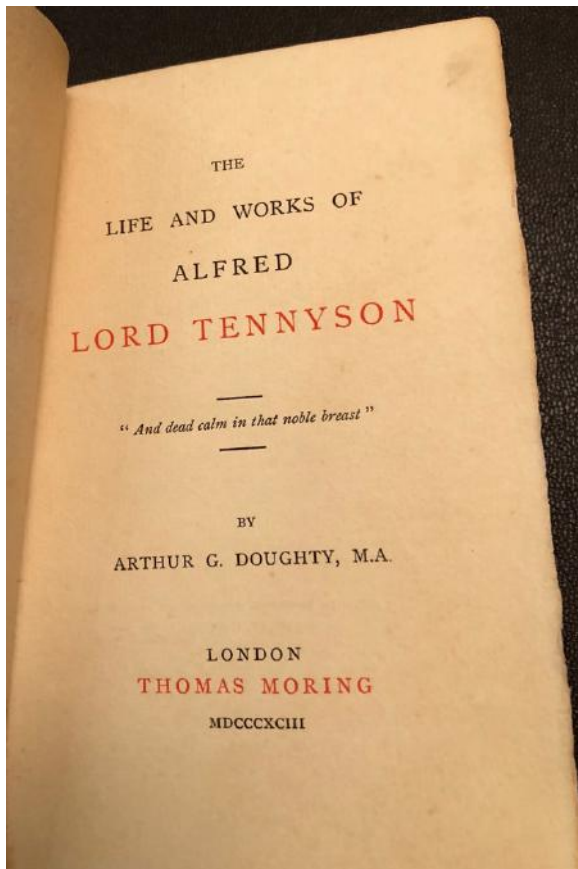
1886: AGD in Montreal; he took a position with the Legal and Commercial Exchange of Canada, and began as a cultural reporter and critic with the *Montreal Gazette*.

1889: AGD published Tennyson's *Idylls of the King* transcribed in shorthand. For the cover AGD appropriated Arms recorded in 1634 as those of Doughty of Boston, Lincoln and passed by descent to Edward Doughty, "Citizen and Merchant of London". (1687). His motto, derived from Horace and used by many schools, was clear: *palma non sine pulvere*. (translated as No reward without effort.)

1891: AGD granted an honorary M.A. by Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

1894 May 1: Legal and Commercial Exchange closed

1897 August 1: AGD began work in Quebec, in the office of the Hon. H.T. Duffy, Cmr of Public Works.



Wilson Collection

Doughty, Arthur G., M.A., *The Life and Works of Alfred Lord Tennyson*, London: Thomas Moring, 1893.

1898 late May: AGD with the strong support of the Premier began the search for documents on the siege of Quebec and the ensuing battles on the Plains (1759) and at Ste-Foy (1760).

1900 Dec 24: AGD met Winston Churchill at lunch with Lord and Lady Minto at Rideau Hall.

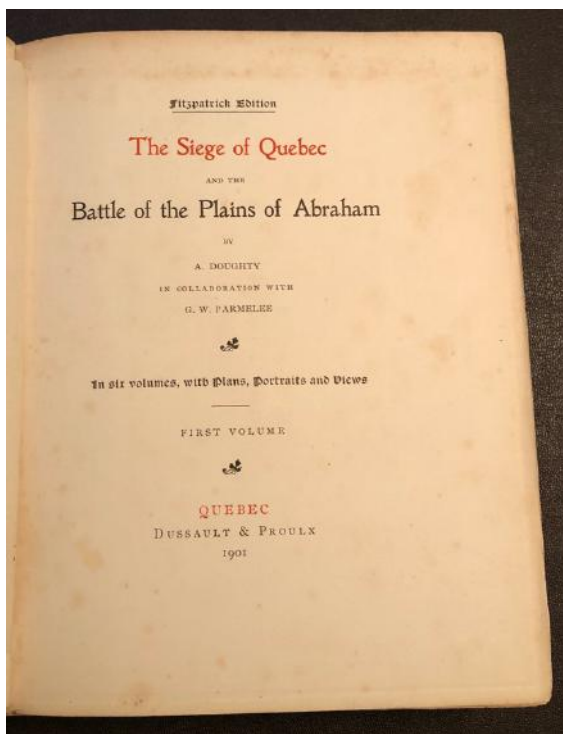
1901 June 12: AGD granted an honorary *doctorat ès Lettres* by Laval University

1901 September 16: AGD presented HRH The Duke of York with a copy of the first volume of his *Siege of Quebec and Battle of the Plains of Abraham*

1901 December 30: AGD named Joint Legislative Librarian of Quebec.

1903 January 19: Lord Minto wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier; he called attention to the neglected state of the archives and suggested AGD as a suitable archivist.

1903 December: Archives Branch of Agriculture and Archives office of the Secretary of State amalgamated with a new official to be appointed as Dominion Archivist and Keeper of the Records.



Wilson Collection, Title page of First Volume in a six-volume set.

Doughty, A., in collaboration with G.W Parmelee, *The Siege of Quebec, and the Battle of the Pains of Abraham*, Fitzpatrick Edition, Quebec: Dussault & Proulx, 1901

1904-1911 Nation Building

Shortly after he took up his appointment as Dominion Archivist in May, 1904, Doughty outlined his ambition for the archives. Drawing on the new scientific approach to historical writing, he promised Prime Minister Laurier that by gathering and making accessible the authentic documents of the Canadian past and by encouraging the emergence of a Canadian historical profession, the archives would become “an important factor in the development of our national life”. He collaborated closely with Governor General Lord Grey in initiating and programming the 1908 Quebec Tercentenary Celebration, seeing the Quebec battlefields as a point of common pride as both the English (on Plains of Abraham, 1759) and the French (at Ste-Foy in 1760) were victorious.



[Reading Room, Public Archives of Canada,] n.d.

Library and Archives Canada, Arthur George Doughty fonds, MG 30 D 26, Volume 10, File 17: “Pictures, prints, photos, postcards”, n.d.

1904 May 16: AGD appointed to the new position as head of the Archives

1905 November 25: AGD awarded CMG and elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

1907 April 17: AGD named to new Historical Manuscripts Commission chaired by Minister of Agriculture

1908 July: AGD had active role in planning and providing historical context for the Quebec Tercentenary and in hosting senior visitors from the UK.

1908 September: AGD acquired the massive Duberger model of Quebec

1910 January 23: Death of AGD's wife, Bertha, alone in a Florida hotel room.

1911: AGD granted an honorary LL.D Queen's University

1911 June 24: AGD married Kathleen (Tiny) Rathbun Browne in Ottawa.

1911 Summer: AGD launched program of historical research scholarships, inviting a student from each of the major universities to do research in the Archives. Ended 1920.



Historical Research Scholars at the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Ont., 1911.

Library and Archives Canada, Arthur George Doughty fonds, MG 30 D 26, Photographs and Illustrations, Group Photographs, Item no. 3193338.

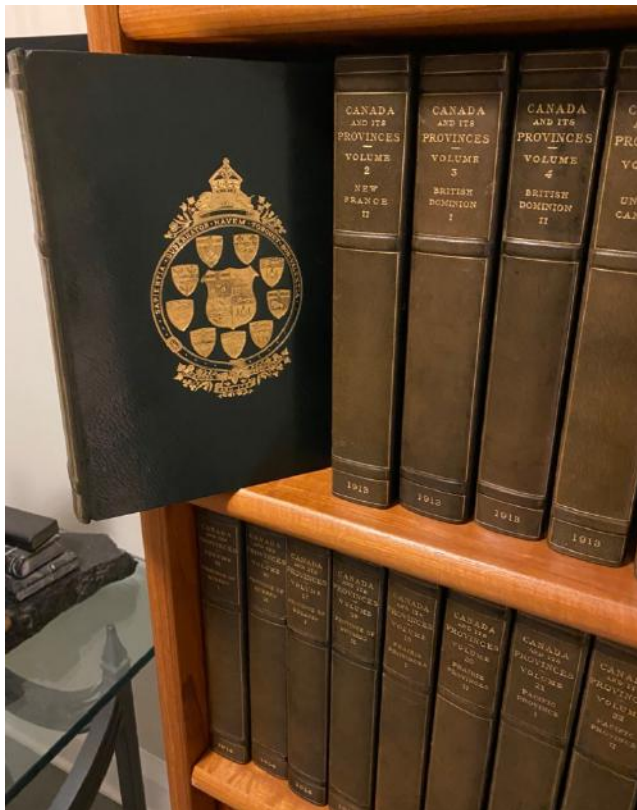
1912-1914 *Canada and Its Provinces*

The publication of *Canada and Its Provinces*, stood out as a magnificent achievement for the young dominion. The dynamic entrepreneur Robert Glasgow assembled the capital required while Doughty and his friend and colleague, Adam Shortt coordinated the efforts of over 100 authors. Four successful subscription-based editions appeared. With two editions limited to 875 copies each (the Authors' and the Edinburgh editions) on specially watermarked paper with wide margins and carefully bound in full Morocco leather. The first volumes, printed in Edinburgh, were delivered in 1913 and 1914 while the concluding index volume (#23) was delayed by war until 1917.

The motivation of all concerned echoed the vision of the archives:

To the end that a broad national spirit should prevail in all parts of the Dominion, it is desirable that a sound knowledge of Canada as a whole, of its history, traditions and standards of life, should be diffused among its citizens.”
(Editors' Preface. Vol.1; pviii)

They explicitly saw this as the cultural component of the grand national economic initiatives: immigration, building railways and canals and a protective tariff to encourage local manufacturing.



Wilson Collection, *Canada and its Provinces*, Author's Edition, 1913.

Canada and its Provinces—timeline from conception to publication

1901 approx: Lord Minto invited AGD to Ottawa and drew his attention to the divisive nature of history textbooks used in schools. He asked AGD to discuss with historians. On AGD's return to Quebec, Lt. Gov Sir Louis Jetté chaired meeting of historians. They concluded that convenient access to original records was essential to establishing historical facts, free of bias and myth.

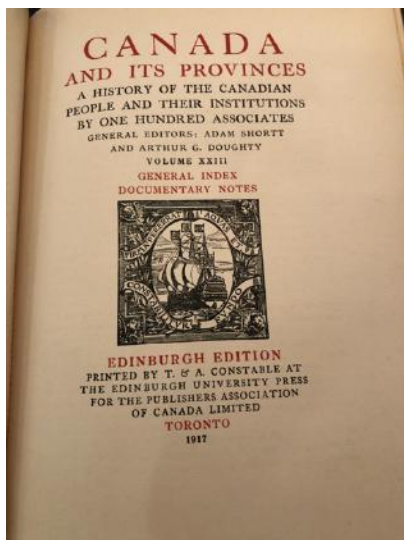
1904: In his annual *Archives Report*, AGD called for “a national history based on the most ample documentary evidence”.

1909: Robert Glasgow joined with AGD and Adam Shortt (general editors) to carry forward a collaborative history, planned in 12 volumes but expanded to 12 sections in 22 volumes plus a 23rd volume as Index.

1913: first 14 volumes of the Authors' Edition delivered to subscribers

1914: volumes 15-22 of the Authors' Edition delivered; Archives Edition and Edinburgh Edition (for distribution outside of Canada) published.

1917: Vol 23, published containing General Index, Manuscript Sources. Bibliography, Chronological Outlines and Historical Tables



Wilson Collection, Title page of Volume 23, General Index, Documentary Notes, 1917.

Canada and Its Provinces: a history of the Canadian people and their institutions by one hundred associates, Edinburgh Edition, Toronto: Publishers Association of Canada Ltd., Printed by T & A. Constable at the Edinburgh University Press, 1914-1917.

1914-1924 Advancing the Archives

During the war, Doughty initiated a war records survey of all the administrative entities established to support the comprehensive war effort and assisted Lord Beaverbrook in gathering key army operational records. Major exhibits first of war posters in Ottawa and then of weapons captured by Canadian forces held in Canadian and American centres helped the sale of war bonds. After the war, Doughty worked tirelessly on two highly successful projects: a campaign in the UK and France capitalizing on the goodwill earned by the Canadian war effort to secure the donation the private papers of former colonial administrators; and collaborating with the universities to develop a new generation of professional historians and economists; in the process making the archives' reading rooms the focus for new approaches to understanding Canada.



The Field, The Country Gentlemen's Newspaper, United Kingdom, 25 Oct. 1923.

1912: Public Archives Act passed.

1912 March 25: Responsibility for the Public Archives shifted from Agriculture to Secretary of State

1912 November 9: AGD appointed as a member of the Royal Commission to inquire into the state of the records of the Public Departments of the Dominion of Canada. Reported 1914.

1914 July: Cabinet approved funding for a government records centre, modelled on that of the Bank of Commerce. Forgotten in the war effort.

1916 March 7: AGD appointed with honorary rank of Major in the Canadian Militia

1917 September through 1918: AGD initiated series of exhibitions of war trophies beginning in Ottawa, then Halifax, Saint John, Montreal and opened March 13, 1918 in Baltimore to support war bonds and the Canadian Red Cross.

1917 October 3: Historical Documents Publication Board established in connection with the Archives with Dr. Adam Shortt as paid full-time chairman.

1917 October 9: AGD appointed Comptroller of War Trophies with rank of Lieutenant Colonel

1918 December 11: AGD appointed to a commission on war records and war trophies. AGD responsible for collecting and then distributing war trophies to communities across Canada

1921: AGD actively involved in design and approval of the Grant of Arms to Canada

1922 Summer: Queen's University launched the School of Research in Canadian History at the Archives, open to students from all universities. Ended 1940.

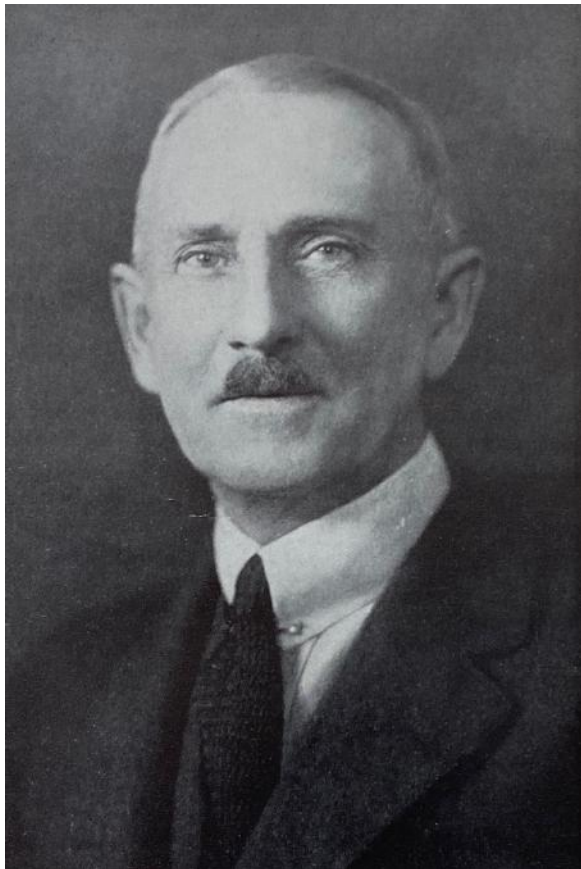
1923: On the initiative of AGD and Sir Campbell Stuart, banquet marking the founding of the Canadian History Society in London

1924 October 8: banquet at Versailles, France to inaugurate *la Société d'histoire du Canada*.

1925-1936 Towards Retirement

In 1926, Doughty gave serious consideration to returning to England with an offer from the Hudson's Bay Co to advance their archival program. The Government opened a large addition to the Archives building on Sussex Drive and increased Doughty's remuneration. He continued to advise researchers on sources and developed the exhibition halls as a tourism focal point in Ottawa. He returned to his earlier research with a history of Canada written for children and another book on Quebec City. In 1932 Doughty wrote his "Recollections", saying nothing of his origins or family but bringing together the stories of incidents and personalities in his career which made him a companionable dinner guest.

Prime Minister Bennett recommended Doughty for a knighthood in 1935. He retired on his 75th birthday in March 1935 but with the distinction of having been named Dominion Archivist Emeritus, he retained his office at the archives. No successor was named until after his death on December 1, 1936.



Arthur George Doughty, Library and Archives Canada, [ca. 1935], Accession no. 1972-001 NPC, Item no. 3215012.

1925 August: AGD submitted his letter of resignation as Archivist to accept an offer from the Hudson's Bay Co in London

1926 May 12: AGD appointed as Chair of a new Public Records Commission. No other members appointed.

1931 January 1: Death of AGD's close friend and confidant Dr. Adam Shortt

1931: AGD granted an honorary LL.D. University of Ottawa

1932 February 14: AGD began writing his "Recollections". Never published

1935 March 22: AGD retired and named Dominion Archivist Emeritus; retained office and position as Chair of the Public Records Commission.

1935 June 3. AGD created KBE: Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

1936 December 1: Death of AGD at home in Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa. Buried December 4 in Notre Dame Cemetery.

1936 December 2: Cabinet agreed to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's proposal to erect a statue to honour both AGD and through him the Public Service of Canada.



Statue of Former Dominion Archivist of Canada, Sir Arthur Doughty, behind the Public Archives of Canada / National Library building—395 Wellington Street, ca. 1967.
Library and Archives Canada, Photographs, Item no. 3226590.