

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Ruby Miles collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4844>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 14-2003  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1910-2003; predominant 1920-1945  
Physical Description: 60 photographs (b/w) and 18 negatives; 3 cm textual records  
History /  
Biographical:

Rubina Isabella Miles (née McGregor) was born October 9th, 1909, in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, the only child of Kate (née Rowe) and William McGregor. Her father, William Thom McGregor was a native of Scotland who, before coming to Canada, travelled to Australia and New Zealand, and served in the Boer War. Ruby Miles and her parents migrated to Australia in 1921. In 1925, the family moved to Papua New Guinea where Mr. McGregor was employed as Head Stockman on the Giligili Estate, part of the Commonwealth Copra Company. The family returned to Canada in 1929. In 1940, Ruby married Leonard "Len" Miles, a native of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Following the Second World War, they settled in Brandon, Manitoba. Ruby spent her adult life as a homemaker. She died in April 2003.

### Custodial History:

The records came into Ruby Miles' possession through her husband (correspondence while he was overseas) and through the death of various family members. Following the death of Ruby Miles, the collection was donated to the S.J. McKee Archives by Errol Black, the executor of her estate.

### Scope and Content:

Collection includes c. 15 letters from Kate McGregor, to her parents Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Rowe of Brandon, Manitoba. The letters were written in the years 1925-1929, when Mrs. McGregor and her family were living in Papua New Guinea. Collection also includes photographs and photographic negatives containing images of the Giligili Estate in New Guinea. Collection contains correspondence with Len Miles during his service overseas in the Second World War, as well as Len Miles' service record, death certificate and various memorabilia from his time in military service. Finally, the collection includes various news clippings, documents and correspondence received or retained by Ruby Miles.

Notes: CAIN No. 202595. Description by Mike White.

Name Access: Kate McGregor  
Ruby Miles  
Len Miles  
A.A.Rowe  
Papua New Guinea  
Brandon  
Manitoba  
Giligili Estate  
Commonwealth Copra Company Ltd

Subject Access: emigration  
Second World War  
plantation agriculture  
Boer war

Storage Location: 2003 accessions

Storage Range: 2003 accessions



## Joseph H. Hughes collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4805>

Other Title Info: J.H. Hughes, J.H. Hughes & Company, Hughes and Atkinson Lumber & Grain, Hughes & Atkinson Co., Hughes and Long, Hughes and Patrick, Hughes and Kennedy Lumber Merchants.

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 3-1997, 1-2008, 6-2009

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1886-1960

Physical Description: 4 m textual records  
84 photographs

Joseph Henry Hughes was born in London, Ontario on April 14, 1857, son of Joseph C. Hughes and Jane McAndless. His family farmed in Middlesex County until they retired to Brandon, MB. Huges received his education in Middlesex County then went on to attend the Toronto Normal School in 1874. He tuaght for only a short time in 1875 before going into business as a general merchant in Iderton, Ontario.

Hughes moved to Brandon, MB in 1882 and from 1882 to 1906 was engaged in the lumber business with yards in Rat Portage and Brandon and later with mills on Rainy River. His buisness partner was T.H. Patrick from 1882-1896. T.T. Atkinson was a partner in the business from 1882 until early 1888, running the company's lumber camp in the Rainy River Valley. Atkinson was replaced by a Mr. Kennedy in 1888. After disposing of the mills in 1901, Hughes & Company operated as a lumber dealer until 1908 when the lumber business was sold to Rat Portage Lumber Co., whose operations in Brandon were located on 10th Street between Rosser and Princess Avenues.

Thereafter, Hughes & Company focused on real estate, owning most of the property between 10th and 11th Streets, Rosser and Princess Avenues. The company built rental property and residences in Brandon, including the Strathcona Block on 10th Street and Hughes (Lorne) Terrace on Lorne Avenue. During this period Hughes & Company was also involved in insurance and farming, buying farmland in south eastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba for lease and sale.

Hughes was a city alderman for four years, dedicating himself mostly towards improvements to the city pertaining to electrical generation, water supply and the development of the streetcar franchise. In 1911, he resigned from City Council to stand as a successful candidate for mayor. He held this position for only one year, 1913-1914. During this period Hughes, along with other prominent citizens, set up the Patriotic Fund to help look after the dependents of those going off to fight in World War I. Hughes served as chairman of the project until his death in late 1917.

In addition to his role as a prominent city businessman, Hughes was also deeply involved in the First Methodist Church, and a member of the Independent Order of OddFellows (I.O.O.F.) and the Masonic Lodge.

Joseph Henry Hughes was survived by his wife Anna Maria Hughes, whom he married in 1893, and their daughters: Alma and May (Mrs. Wilfred C. Hughes and Mrs. Charles Leemnnis) and Ruth, and their sons Percy and Harley.

Upon J.H. Hughes' death in 1917, management of the company was taken over by Willard C. Hughes, who died in 1964. Following his death the company was administered on behalf of Alma Hughes by Barry Hughes, a Winnipeg lawyer and distant relative. The company remained active in real estate and property managment, as well as farming and oil, until the early 1990s when following the death of Alma Hughes and her daughter Anna, the company was liquidated.

#### Custodial History:

The records in the Joseph H. Hughes fonds were held in two locations prior to their donation to the McKee Archives. Family related records, including paintings by Anna Hughes, music scores, photographs and various parchments, were stored at the family residence, Lorne Terrace (133-137 Lorne Avenue Brandon, MB). The balance of the records, being the records of Hughes & Co. as the firm came to be known, were stored on the fourth floor of the Alexander Block, also known as the Hughes Block, on the west side of 10th Street just south of Princess Avenue. In the early 1990s a decision was taken by Barry Hughes, who had succeeded Willard Hughes as the President of the company, to sell Hughes & Co. Hughes directed Joe Perry, the Brandon manager of Hughes & Co. to donate the records of the Hughes family and Hughes & Co. to Brandon University. Perry supervised the transfer of the records from Lorne Terrace and the Alexander Block to Brandon University. Initially the records were located in the Physical Plant H-Hut, they were then transferred to the Brandon University Steam Plant. The family records were transferred to the Archives in 1997, while the company records remained in the Steam Plant until January 2007 when some of the records were transferred to the Archives. The remainder of the records were moved to a storage facility on 20th Street.

#### Scope and Content:

The Joseph H. Hughes collection is divided into three series, including: (1) Photographs; (2) Edwardian music sheets; and (3) Hughes & Co. business records.

Notes: CAIN No. 202617. The Brandon Sun, August 6th, 1917 contains a report on the death of J.H. Hughes.

Subject Access: Hughes and Company  
Neepawa Salt Works  
Patriotic Fund  
Brandon  
Churchill  
S.S. Warkworth  
Wheat City Business College Hockey Team  
Brandon Board of Trade and Civics  
Power Committee  
electrical transmission line  
Royal North West Mounted Police  
Soldiers Re-Settlement Board  
Gordon McKay building  
interned prisoners  
World War I  
Winnipeg General Strike  
Teamsters Strike  
Souirs  
Rat Portage  
Rainy River  
Daly and Coldwell  
W.A. Robinson

Finding Aid: Inventory for Accession 1-2008.

Storage Location: 2008 accessions  
Oversize storage drawers

Storage Range:	2008 accessions Oversize storage drawers
Related Material:	A large body of unprocessed records of Hughes and Co. are held in the McKee Archives.