

S. J. McKee Archives



Verda McDonald collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14293>

Part Of:	MG 2 Brandon College students
Description Level:	Collection
Accession Number:	16-2016
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1951-2005
Physical Description:	10.5 cm textual records 18 loose photographs
Physical Condition:	Some of the pages and photographs in the scrapbooks have become loose

History /

Biographical:

Verda Joan McDonald (nee Peden) was born in Brandon, MB on May 2, 1934. She was the middle daughter of Bill, a school principal, and Phyllis Peden. McDonald attended school at King George, Alexandra (now Betty Gibson), Earl Oxford and Brandon Collegiate Institute.

In 1951, McDonald enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at Brandon College. A fellowship program from the local YMCA enabled her to teach gym and swim programs after school and on Saturday for a small salary, which enabled her and some other students to finance their education. She graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. During her graduating year, McDonald served as Lady Stick for Brandon College; the title of Lady Stick was an elected position and an honour, and gave McDonald and the person elected Senior Stick, Frank McKinnon, the responsibility of leading the student council for that year. In 1956, McDonald obtained her Bachelor of Pedagogy degree, also from Brandon College, which allowed her to teach grades 1 to 12 in Manitoba.

Verda married her college sweetheart, Dick McDonald, on August 25, 1956, and the couple moved to Dauphin to teach at the Dauphin Collegiate and Technical Institute for two years. They returned to Brandon in September 1958, and Verda proceeded to teach at Brandon Collegiate, Neelin High School and Vincent Massey until December 1960.

When Dick finished his degree at Brandon College and started teaching, Verda stayed at home to raise their three sons, Rick, Paul and Daren. During this time she began her many years of volunteering within the community. She served seven years on each of the following three boards: The Brandon Schools Instrumental Music Association; The Brandon University Alumni Board; and The Board of Fairview Nursing Home. She became President of each board during her term.

McDonald supported her husband throughout his teaching and financial career, as well as his strong involvement in the Artillery Reserve Army with the 26th Field Regiment where he served as Commander and later Honorary Colonel. Both McDonald and her husband maintained strong ties with Brandon University and have contributed generously to funding campaign and scholarships. The Sports Wall of Fame in the Health Living Centre on the Brandon University campus is named in their honour.

In addition to their involvement with Brandon University, the McDonald's were members of the Kinsmen, K40 service club, golf and bridge clubs and enjoyed many years together in Brandon. They enjoyed going on cruise ship holidays and visited many countries together.

Since Dick's death in September 2015, Verda has tried to maintain her involvement in university activities. She continues to reside in Brandon, MB.

Custodial History:

Records were created and collected by Verda McDonald during her years as a student and alumna of Brandon College/Brandon University. The records were stored in her home until their donation to the McKee Archives in 2015.

Scope and Content:

Collection consists of records dealing with Verda McDonald's experiences as a student and alumna at Brandon College/University. The majority of the collection contains records from the early 1950s during McDonald's college years (1951-1955). These records, which cover the social and athletic aspects of Brandon College in the 1950s, provide a detailed look at college student life during this time period. The collection also contains a small number of records (1955-2005), documenting McDonald's experiences as an alumna of Brandon College/University.

The collection consists of four scrapbooks, which contain photographs, newspaper clippings, graduation cards, lyrics for class songs, and programs for graduation banquets, school dances, graduation ceremonies and drama productions. The scrapbooks also contain ephemera such as sports emblems, table decorations, election paraphernalia. It also includes McDonald's oath of office from when she was sworn in as Lady Stick, as well as her acceptance speech from the same ceremony.

The three file folders in the collection include: a list written by Frank McKinnon, a classmate of McDonald's, outlining his reasons for coming to Brandon College and his recollections of being a student at Brandon College; the rules of Clark Hall residence hall; and pamphlets for various celebrations and events at Brandon University (Homecoming 2009, Homecoming 2006, Reunion Weekend 2005, Reunion Weekend 2004, Homecoming 1995 and 1995 Reconovocation program, Homecoming 1980, 1975 Open House).

Finally, the collection contains 18 loose photographs. A number of the photos document important reunions for the Class of 1955 (40th Anniversary in 1995, 50th Anniversary in 2005), while others were taken at alumni events over the years (1988-1997). There is one postcard of Brandon University buildings (Original Building and Clark Hall, McMaster Hall and the Queen Elizabeth II School of Music building). Some of the 1995 reunion photos include images of the Brandon College Building and Clark Hall under renovation. Also included are a composite portrait of the Class of 1955 and class portraits Arts and Science for the Class of 1960.

Notes: History/Bio information provided by Verda McDonald. Description by Emily Bate (October 2016) and Christy Henry.

Name Access: Verda McDonald
Dick McDonald
Brandon University Alumni Association
Henry Champ
Joan Garnett
Eileen McFadden
Norma Walmsley
Ernie Criddle
Jean Wilkie
Jean Brown
Frank McKinnon
Hilt Stewart
Lou Visentin
Edward Schreyer
Doug Adams
Carla Eisler
Shawna English
Cindy Yacyshen
Jim Minions
Walter Huculak
Ben Ward
Elaine Cameron
Elaine McCrorie
Barrie McLeod
Gord Williams
Harvey Young
George Strang
Gerald Graham
Helen Batho
Helen Mitchell
Allan Hattie
Trevor McNeely
Russ Roney
Harold Woods
George Gooden
Harold Stewart
Jack Meyers
Ron McMurray
Ken Adams
Bill Keller
Lorne Day
Don Dillistone

Subject Access: student life
student activities
graduations
convocations
homecomings
reunions
chancellors
student productions
residences
college athletics
college initiation
Student government
Lady stick

Storage Location: 2016 accessions

Related Material: Dilys Collier collection
Bob Blair collection
Brandon College fonds
Brandon University fonds

Arrangement:

Two of the scrapbooks are in chronological order. The third scrapbook contains miscellaneous materials from the 1950s until 2005.



Maureen Johnson collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions9012>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level: Collection
Accession Number: 10-2009, 14-2009
GMD: multiple media
Date Range: 1908-c.1965; predominant 1915-1921
Physical Description: 32 photographs
1 sound recording
2 cm textual records
Material Details: 17 photographs are digital records

History /

Biographical:

Maureen Johnson (nee Sills) was born in Brandon, MB in 1936 and grew up in western Manitoba. She spent three years in Ethiopia (1958-1961) and two years in Houston, Texas before taking up permanent residence in Winnipeg, MB. She attended Brandon College in 1953-1954, living in the Tower Room of Clark Hall.

From 1960-1979, Johnson raised her family, volunteered in the St. Vital community and was Secretary to the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium (1973-1977). She worked in the Office of the President at the University of Manitoba from 1980 to 1996.

Johnson is a visual artist and photographer, and is a member of the Winnipeg Sketch Club, Manitoba Society of Artists and Winnipeg South Photo Club. Her work is on permanent display at Medea Gallery (www.medeagallery.ca) where she has been a member since 1985. She also has work in the Rental Program at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

For biographical information on Sarah Persis Darrach see RG 1 Brandon College fonds, Series 9: Clark Hall women's residence.

Custodial History:

The original photographs in accession 10-2009 are in the custody of Maureen Johnson in Winnipeg, MB. Copies were digitally scanned by Johnson and sent to the Archives in March 2009. The 1921 photographs of Brandon College students were given to Johnson by Eileen McKenzie, her aunt, who attended Brandon College at that time. The photos of Sarah Persis Darrach (Johnson's great-aunt and maternal grandmother's sister) are from her family albums.

All of the records in accession 14-2009, except for the 1920 Quill and the Clark Hall Rules 1912, were collected by Johnson during her time at Brandon College. The Quill issue belonged to Johnson's aunt Eileen McKenzie, a student at Brandon College in the early 1920s. The records were in Johnson's possession at her home until their donation to the McKee Archives in May 2009.

Scope and Content:

Accession 10-2009 consists of seventeen digital photographs. Seven photographs are of Sarah Persis Darrach (nee Johnson), taken primarily during her time as a nursing sister during World War I. Two photographs are of Eileen McKenzie. The remaining photographs depict students and student activities at Brandon College in the early 1920s.

Accession 14-2009 consists of a copy of the sound recording and program for Mr. College Spirit, a musical comedy presented by the Brandon College Literary Board and written by James Struthers and Kenneth Gunning. Accession also includes fifteen photographs from 1953-1954, when Johnson attended Brandon College. Subjects include: Freshie King and Queen; Graduation Banquets (1955, 1956); senior and lady sticks; Jim Casey Trophy; Grand March 1954; Capettes basketball team 1954; Glee Club 1953; Variety Night - Men's Chorus; Caps Football Team; Caps Hockey Team 1954; Cheerleaders 1954; Caps Basketball 1954; and Touques.

Textual records include graduation banquet and commencement programs, news clippings, programs for Variety Night and Be Your Age, a list of football cheers and a copy of the Fall Number of the 1920 Quill. Textual records also include two color photocopies: Clark Hall Rules 1912 and Johnson's Arts and Science Departments, Brandon College Registration card.

Notes:

History/Bio information and Custodial History provided by Maureen Johnson (April 2009). A review of the play, written by Kay Rowe, appeared in the March 6, 1953 issue of the Quill.

Name Access:	Sarah Persis Darrach Eileen McKenzie Brandon College Brandon General Hospital
Subject Access:	World War I First World War student activities snowshoeing
Location Original:	Maureen Johnson (Winnipeg)
Storage Location:	T:\Library\Archives\Shared.02\photos\2009 Accessions
Related Material:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds, Series 9: Clark Hall women's residence MG 1 1.9 Sarah Persis Darrach fonds MG 2 2.4 James Struthers fonds