

# 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