

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Robert Troy Blair fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13300>

Part Of:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Accession Number:	18-2013
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	September 1950 - June 1954
Physical Description:	2 scrapbooks (7.5 cm)
Physical Condition:	Excellent

Robert (Bob) Troy Blair was born on March 11, 1930 in Brandon, MB. His first six years were spent in Alexander, MB, where his father and uncle operated a grocery store. In 1936, his family moved to Souris, MB, where his father ran a grocery store. Blair received his primary and high school education, with the exception of Grade 12, in Souris.

Blair remembers his school years in Souris as mainly happy years. He was involved with both piano and organ music lessons. he was never interested in physical sports with the exception of golf. World War II broke out in September of 1939. Souris became the site of #17 SFTS and home base for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Many of the service men came from England, Australia and New Zealand. Blair's mother always entertained at least two for dinner every Sunday. Rationing of sugar, tea and coffee, butter and meat became a way of life. Blair had the job every Saturday of pasting the ration coupons into booklets. It was also when he was in Grade 6, that Blair realized he was more attracted to boys than to girls. Perhaps it was because so many attractive airmen surrounded him!

In November of 1947, the Blair family relocated to Alexander where Bob Blair finished his Grade 11. This was not a good year due to bullying. In September of 1948, Blair moved to Winnipeg to attend United College for his Grade 12. Upon completion of Grade 12, Blair remained in Winnipeg until June 1950. he worked at a number of businesses - Gestetner, Eaton's Mail Order shoe department, Maple Leaf Milling, and the drug store in the Medical Arts Building. In September 1950, he entered Brandon College. Blair was very active in extra-curricular affairs while at Brandon College; particularly drama. Following his B.A. he enrolled in the Education Faculty, having decided to become a teacher.

Blair's teaching career spanned 34 years. All but one year was spent in the Brandon School Division. On his first day of teaching in the Division he met the man with whom he would spend the next 46 years. He was primarily a teacher of English and Music. A highlight of his career was exchange teaching in Sacramento, California in 1961. Orientation for exchange took place in August in Washington, D.C., where Blair had the opportunity to meet President J.F. Kennedy. He vividly recalls the morning that JFK was assassinated on November 22, 1963. In September 1965, Blair assumed the principalship of Park School and in September of 1969, the same position at George Fitton School where he remained until his retirement in 1989. He was a member of the Brandon Principals' Association, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and served as President of the Brandon Teachers' Association. Among his major accomplishments during his time as principal were the introduction of a centralized school library in both Park and George Fitton Schools and the integration of special needs students into regular classroom situations wherever possible. He was made a Life Member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society (Brandon) in June 1990. Following his retirement Blair worked as a Library Automation Consultant (1989-1993).

Blair also had numerous community involvements during his time in Brandon. he was active in the Brandon Little Theatre (Best Actor Award, Manitoba Drama Festival for One Act Plays in 1963), the Brandon Festival of the Arts, the Eckhardt-Gramatte National Music Competition, and Arm Industries to name a few.

Following the death of his partner in 2001, Blair moved to Saskatoon to live with a younger gay couple. He has been active in volunteerism: as an Ambassador for the Saskatoon Airport Authority, assistant with the Saskatoon Health Region's Immunization Clinics, information clerk for the Festival of Trees, data entry clerk for the Saskatoon Music Festival, on the Board of the Saskatoon Jazz Society, and Hospitality Coordinator for the Saskatoon Jazz Festival.

As of October 2013, Bob Blair continues to live in Saskatoon, SK.

Custodial History:

Records were in Blair's possession until he donated them to the McKee Archives on Homecoming weekend October 2013.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of two scrapbooks containing 145 photographs and ephemera (play and graduation programs, tickets, pins, newspaper clippings) documenting Bob Blair's days at Brandon College. Social events and extra-curricular activities are heavily featured in the two scrapbooks. Also included are graduation portraits for the Classes of 1951, 1952 and 1953. Of the 145 photographs all are black and white except for two photos of the Class of '53 reconconvocation (May 1993), and one from the Class of '53 reunion (2003).

Notes: History/Bio provided by Bob Blair (October 2013).

Name Access: Brandon College  
Angus Jackson  
Pat Magnacca  
Freshie Week  
Senior Stick  
Lady Stick  
Harvest Cabaret  
Sigma Mu  
Glee Club  
Bob Blair  
Jack Yeomans  
Walter Dinsdale  
Don Cronk  
Bob McPherson  
Lorne Watson  
Marg Sanderson  
Hazel Turnbull  
Claudia Dickey  
Gordon Bradley  
Terry Prysiazniuk  
Diane Lissaman  
Joan Garnett  
Doris Penstock  
Dianne Macdonald  
Ivey Graham  
Joyce Pickard  
Cathy Crawford  
Roberta Wilkie  
Marie Kullberg  
Isabel Lyon  
Shirley Pryce  
J.R.C. Evans  
Marjorie Kyles  
Jo Thordarson  
Ross George

Edward Perry  
Ernest Birkinshaw  
Barney Thordarson  
Fall Formal  
Variety Night  
Installation Night  
Paul McKinnon  
The Saga of Brandon  
Bill White  
Ron Bell  
Jerry Jerret  
Rosa Ziolkowski  
Murray Smith  
Class of 1951  
Harold Moffat  
Bill Sutherland  
Murray Coulthard  
Frank Adamski  
John McLean  
Jack Medd  
Jack Muir  
Bill Fraser  
Ken Morrison  
Clifford Kitson  
Ray Brown  
Mike Doig  
Ernie Shaw  
Jack Scott  
Doreen Dennison  
Lois Kennedy  
Lorna Prokaska  
Ferne Henderson  
Doreen Fedoruk  
Marg Leckie  
Freshie Parade  
Helen Batho  
Fred Calverly  
Jim Crawford  
Verda Peden  
Olga Evasko  
Betty Finch  
Fred Schwarok  
Jim Struthers  
Muriel Bedford  
John Brown

Freshie Royalty  
Booster Night  
Mary Jane Sexton  
Marilyn Rust  
Mildred McMurray  
Mary-Jane MacLachlan  
George Leask  
George Jakubowski  
Jack Purvis  
My Sister Eileen  
Edith Laycock  
Ivey Robbins  
Ken Campbell  
Mac Andrews  
Marion Simmons  
Arnold Minish  
Madeline Irving  
Ernie Criddle  
Don Dillistone  
Gordon Hunter  
Cathy Nelson  
Jim Kelleher  
Anne Kelleher  
Neil McKellar  
Ron Doupe  
Bruce Watson  
Neil MacKay  
Peter Prokaska  
Roger Ramsden  
Bill Bridgett  
Graham Hunt  
John Muirhead  
David Brodie  
Murray MacDonald  
Dr. Kidd  
Cam Finlay  
Blair MacRae  
Donna McPhail  
Louise Hoey  
Agnes Nicholson  
Jean Allan  
Joan Urie  
Royce Richardson  
Don Rousell  
Bill Black

Ken McNeeley  
Rosalie Prokopchuk  
Jean Morrison  
Jacice Forrest  
Fuzz Fedoruk  
Brian Davison  
Joan MacLachlan  
First International Relations Club Conference  
Minot Teachers' College  
International Peace Gardens  
Bruce McIlroy  
Jean Shingfield  
Campaign Week  
Sigma Mu Dance  
Arnold Wawruch  
Jack Meyers  
Jack Hilton  
Bev Francis  
Bert Gogol  
Dick McDonald  
Frank McKinnon  
Stuart Craig  
John Blackwood  
Norman Hedison  
Bob Hilton  
John Minions  
Kay Oliver  
Mary Jane MacLachlan  
Ben Ward  
Ken Gunning  
Trevor McNeely  
Hilton Stewart  
Jerry Graham  
Bette Mitchell  
Joan Curlock  
Faye Myers  
Jean Hannah  
Mary Babuick  
Mr. College Spirit  
John Augustus McGee  
Don Dillstone  
Flora Johnson  
Del Gusdal  
Color Night  
Don Burrows

Jim Casey Trophy  
Marj Kyles  
Prince Edward Hotel  
Class Day  
Dahl Harvey  
Shirley Mitchell  
Al Burton  
Irving Bateman  
Joyce Marie Thordarson  
Eileen McFadden  
Patricia Pope  
Louise Astle  
Ariel Genik  
Western Canada Student Teacher Conference  
Brandon College Glee Club  
Be Your Age  
Ike Prokaska  
Joan Hilton  
Fred Lynch  
Garth Kidd  
Ivy Robbins  
Joyce Dunham  
Shirley Popple  
Grand March  
Westley Wong  
Stewart Perdue  
H.V. Kidd  
J.E.M. Young  
Adelene Bailey  
Mrs. Evans  
Dennis Anderson  
Stanley Knowles  
Edward Schreyer  
Lou Visentin

Subject Access:	Student government initiations student activities dances basketball talent shows drama productions major productions Hockey graduations programs parades dorm rooms student housing literary "B's" college letters class flags banquets
Storage Location:	2013 accessions



## Errol Black collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3992>

Part Of:	RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	MG 3 1.1
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1909-2010
Physical Description:	4.2 m textual records; 5 cassette tapes; 2 cd roms, 110 photographs (colour and b/w) various sizes



## History /

### Biographical:

Errol Black was born on September 8, 1939 in Brandon, Manitoba. He was the son of Thomas Alexander Black, who immigrated to Canada from Limerick, Ireland in 1929, and Roberta Jean (nee Groat) Black, a native of Chatham, New Brunswick. Black attended King George Elementary, Earl Haig Junior High, Brandon Collegiate Institute for Grade 10, and completed high school through correspondence courses for Grades 11 and 12. He left school in 1956 to work a variety of jobs in Brandon, Calgary and on the west coast. He spent a short time in the Royal Canadian Navy. Errol Black undertook post-secondary education at Brandon College (1963-1965, graduated with a B.A.), the University of Alberta (1965-1967, graduated 1973 with an M.A. in economics) and Warwick University (1975-1977). Black taught economics at Brandon University from 1970 until his retirement in 2002. Following retirement he was granted Professor Emeritus status in 2003.

Errol Black has published three books, as well as many articles and reports in leading academic journals. He has a longstanding interest in the history of organized labour and working-class politics in Brandon. These remain important themes in his research and writing. He served on the Executive of the Brandon University Faculty Association for many years, and was President of the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations for two years. Black is also a member of the Brandon District Labour Council, a founding member of the Manitoba branch of the Canadian centre for Policy Alternatives, and a board member of the Brandon Regional Health Authority (2000-2006). He was elected to Brandon City Council in 1998, and for a second term in 2001. In 1999 he was the federal NDP candidate for Brandon-Souris.

Black married Margaret Millard from Waskada, MB in 1961, with whom he had three sons: Sean, Dennis and Tom.

### Custodial History:

Accession 17-1997 was originally owned by Jim Davis, brother to Communist activist Stanley Forkin. Taimi Davis, Jim Davis' wife, mailed the collection from her residence in Ontario to Errol Black in 1994. Professor Black donated the collection to the McKee Archives. Accession 02-2003 was donated to the Archives in November 2002 by Errol Black. Accession 15-2003 was donated to the Archives on April 30, 2003 by Errol Black. Accession 17-2003 was donated to the Archives on July 15, 2003 by Errol Black.

### Scope and Content:

The collection consists of a number of accessions. Accession 17-1997, dating from 1935-1936, consists of twelve of the thirteen issues of the "Unemployed Worker," published in Brandon in the 1930s. The "Unemployed Worker" was the organ of the Brandon Unemployed Workers' Council. This Council, like its counterparts in other communities, was created by Canadian Communist Party militants. The "Unemployed Worker" covered the activities of the Unemployed Workers' Council, the plight of Brandon's unemployed, efforts by the city's unemployed to improve their lives, and City Council decisions, specifically those regarding relief policy.

Accession 02-2003, dating 1917, 1936-1939, 1970-2002 (predominant 1970-2002), contains extensive correspondence from former Brandon University Economic Professor Don Wheeler to Errol Black. In addition, the accession contains an important body of correspondence received by Professor Black from Taimi Davis written by Pat Forkin and his wife Pheobe Forkin to family members in Canada during the years 1936-1939, while Pat was a Moscow based correspondent for the Canadian Communist Party Clarion. The accession also contains personal correspondence of Errol Black dating from ca. 1970, drafts of papers, newspaper clippings, pamphlets related to labour and labour political matters. Two publications of note include: "Labour in Brandon" published by the Brandon and District Labour Council and a student guide to labour law written by George MacDowell. The accession also contains several documents related to Black's involvement in the provincial Industrial Adjustment Committee.

Accession 15-2003, dating 1920-2003 (predominant 1920-1930; 1974-2003), contains

Accession 15-2003, dating 1930-2002 (predominant 1930-1939; 1971-2002), contains extensive clippings from the Canadian Communist Party publications "The Worker" and the "Daily Clarion" from the years 1930-1939; twenty-one personal and family photographs (b/w 3x5) of the Forkin family of Brandon, many of whom were active in the Canadian Communist Party; various historical photographs (b/w 8x10) related to the history of labour in Brandon, Manitoba; personal files containing correspondence, letters and opinion pieces to various newspapers, course outlines, research materials and draft publications, arbitration awards and documents related to Black's involvement with the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA).

Accession 17-2003, dating 1970-2002, contains correspondence, a manuscript of an autobiography written by Black's father Tom Black, research files, letters to the editor and draft publications by Errol Black.

Accession 3-2011, dating 1909-2010, contains an extensive record of newspaper clippings often of Professor Black's correspondence with the Brandon Sun from the early 1970s through to 2011. Clippings relate to civic issues, labour relations, social justice, economic questions. Documents (membership cards, cards of thanks, stamps) of various kinds, and photographs of Professor Black, family members, and various labour related events including parades and rallies, appear throughout these clippings. Collection includes miscellaneous files relating to the 75th Anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike including the Brandon Sympathetic Strike of 1919, the Brandon Greys Baseball team, the Assiniboine College BMHC lobby campaign, Brandon and Area Environmental Council, the Brandon East NDP Constituency Association. Editions (1925-31) of the Sons of England - Official Organ of the Sons of England Benefit Society - published in Oshawa, Ontario, and copies of documents related to the Commission of Inquiry (1928) into labour issues at the Brandon Mental Hospital are included. Collection also contains extensive correspondence associated with Professor Black's activities as a department member, scholar, and activist in the Department of Economics at Brandon University. Collection contains as well research materials related to the Brandon labour movement, strikes at A.E. McKenzie Seed Company 1940s, cd roms containing research materials - clippings and images - for Labour Council Anniversary book (2006), and civic politics in Brandon. Records also contain research materials on various members of the Forkin family - in particular the Pat Forkin, Tom Forkin, and Stephen Forkin (aka Jim Davis) - who were active members of the Canadian Communist Party during their adult lives. A collection of family photographs and six tape cassettes containing accounts of the experiences of single unemployed men during the Great Depression and the funeral of Stephen Forkin (Jim Davis) and correspondence from Taimi Davis the widow of Stephen Forkin (Jim Davis) supplement the sources on the Forkin family.

Notes: Photographs of Joe Forkin, Pat Forkin, Stan Forkin, Jim Davis and other members of the Forkin family are contained in Box 3 (15-2003) and Box 10 (3-2011).

Name Access:	<p>Errol Black</p> <p>Stanley Forkin</p> <p>Stephem Forkin (a.k.a Jim Davies)</p> <p>Assiniboine Community College</p> <p>Brandon Greys Baseball Team</p> <p>Brandon Mental Hospital</p> <p>Brandon Unemployed Workers' Council</p> <p>Canadian Communist Party</p> <p>Brandon</p> <p>Don Wheeler</p> <p>Phoebe Forkin</p> <p>Pat Forkin</p> <p>Daily Clarion</p> <p>A. E. Mckenzie</p> <p>The Worker</p> <p>Industrial Adjustment Committee (Manitoba)</p> <p>Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations</p> <p>Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives</p> <p>Sons of England</p>
Subject Access:	<p>The Great Depression</p> <p>unemployment</p> <p>radical press</p> <p>Brandon</p> <p>labour</p> <p>Communism</p> <p>industrial relations</p> <p>collective bargaining</p>
Accruals:	Further accruals are expected.
Access Restriction:	Some restrictions. Consult the University Archivist for access.
Repro Restriction:	Researchers are responsible for observing Canadian copyright restrictions.
Storage Location:	<p>MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration</p> <p>1.1 Errol Black</p>
Related Material:	<p>MG 3 1.12 contains additional records related to George MacDowell; RG 6, Series 15 (BUFA) contains additional records on the Brandon University Faculty Association; RG 6, Series 7, Sub sub series 7.1.5 (Department of Economics) contains additional records related to the Department of Economics at Brandon University; RG 6, Series 7, Sub-series 7.1 (Dean of Arts) contains files on Don Wheeler and George MacDowell.</p>



## George F. MacDowell collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4049>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: MG 3 1.12  
Accession Number: 9-2002  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: 1941-1987, predominant 1960-1982  
Physical Description: 8.1 m  
Physical Condition: Good

History /

Biographical:

George F. MacDowell was born in 1913, in Prince Edward Island. He studied at Dalhousie University from 1930 to 1933, but did not complete a degree. During WWII, MacDowell served in Canada and Europe as a member of the Royal Canadian Signals Corps. After the war, he returned to Dalhousie University, graduating with a B.A. in 1947. Subsequently, he graduated with a Masters Degree in Economics from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. George McDowell taught at both Mount Allison University and the University of Alberta before coming to Brandon in 1957 to teach at Brandon College. He remained as a professor in the Economic Department until his retirement in 1979.

MacDowell's work was published in the Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science. In 1971, McClelland & Stewart published his account of the Brandon Packers strike of 1960 titled "The Brandon Packer's Strike: A Tragedy of Errors." In Brandon, MacDowell maintained a relationship with the local Association of Fire Fighters, aiding them with collective bargaining procedures. He also served as Chairman for the MacKenzie Seeds Board, and was a member of the Manitoba Development Corporation Board.

MacDowell never married and had no known children. He passed away on February 26th, 1986.

Custodial History:

This collection was in the possession of George MacDowell until his death. It was then held by the Brandon University Department of Economics until 1997, at which time it was transferred to the McKee Archives at Brandon University.

#### Scope and Content:

The bulk of this fonds falls into five main categories:

1. Records dealing with the Brandon Packers Strike of 1960 and the subsequent legal actions against the owners, including all 2215 pages of the Brandon Packers Strike Commission;
2. Records dealing with the Commission of Inquiry into The Pas Forestry and Industrial Complex, including the complete transcript of the inquiry measuring approximately 5m. This Commission dealt with the conduct of Churchill Forest Industries, a company owned by a Swiss financial firm, which, in the 1960's, was given approximately 93 million dollars by the Roblin Provincial Government to develop The Pas Forestry and Industrial Complex. Churchill Forest Industries and its parent company subsequently came under suspicion of fraud and accused of fraudulently transferring The Pas Forestry funds into other foreign business interests;
3. Records dealing with business loans awarded by the Manitoba Development Corporation during the 1970's and 1980's to businesses primarily within Manitoba;
4. Records dealing with McKenzie Seeds, and McKenzie Steele-Briggs Seeds during the early 1980's when George MacDowell was a board member of McKenzie Seeds;
5. Records dealing with Professor MacDowell's career as a Professor at Brandon University, including records relating to his courses and to administrative activities.

To a lesser extent, this collection includes records dealing with the University of Saskatchewan College of Commerce, the publication the "Manitoba New Democrat," issues associated with politics, labor and union in the prairie provinces from the 1960's to the 1980's, articles from various economic periodicals including "Economica" and "Public Finance," a variety of government reports from 1941 to 1981, and records dealing with George MacDowell's relationship with the Brandon Firefighters Association.

Notes: File level inventory available. Description written by Mike White (2002).

Name Access: Errol Black  
Brandon University  
University of Saskatchewan College of Commerce  
Manitoba New Democrat  
Manitoba Development Corporation  
Brandon Packers Strike Commission  
Bank Act  
A.E. McKenzie Steele Briggs Seeds  
Brandon Firefighters Association.

Subject Access: economics  
trade unions  
economics curriculum  
public service unions  
prairie politics  
Edward Schreyer government  
labour  
Manitoba business loans  
government economic reports

Access Restriction: Collection includes financial data on many Manitoba businesses. Consult the archivist for access.

Repro Restriction:	Researchers are responsible for observing Canadian copyright restrictions.
Storage Location:	MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration 1.12 George F. MacDowell
Related Material:	Related material regarding George MacDowell's involvement with the A.E. McKenzie Company can be found in RG 3 McS A.E. McKenzie Company fonds.