

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Evan McDonald Whidden fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4228>

Part Of:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	MG 1 1.8
Accession Number:	1-2001, 8-2003, 9-2006
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1915-1936; predominant 1917-1922.
Physical Description:	6 cm. textual records; 1921 Brandon College Quill (Commencement Number); approx. 150 photographs

### History /

#### Biographical:

Evan McDonald Whidden (1898-1980) was born in Galt, Ontario. He was educated at Brandon College. Following service in the Great War he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University (Brandon College) in 1921. He obtained a Master of Arts in history (McMaster [n.d.]) and in 1928, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale. Whidden married Frances Margaret Billington in 1941. Together they had three children: Howard John (b. 1943), Roberta Katherine (b. 1945) and Eric Christopher (b. 1947).

Dr. Whidden served in Baptist churches in Saskatchewan and Manitoba before joining the faculty of Brandon College in 1936. In 1938, he was appointed Thomas J. Armstrong Professor of church history at Acadia University. He became Dean of the School of Theology at Acadia in 1954, and served in that capacity until 1963. He retired from the faculty of Acadia University in 1967. Dr. Whidden has written in the field of church history and education. He was awarded honorary degrees by the Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax, N.S. (1950), McMaster University [n.d.] and Acadia University (1969).

#### Custodial History:

Since his death in 1980, the fonds has been in the custody of his widow, Mrs. Frances Margaret Whidden. The first accession was donated to the McKee Archives in April, 2001; the second in 2003; and the third in May 2005.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of Evan Whidden's reports to family members, in particular to his father and mother, on his experience as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the years 1917-1919. Records also include correspondence from his mother, Katherine Louise Whidden (nee Ganong), to Evan during these years. In these reports, Whidden records his impressions of military life through his training in Canada and England and his experience of war in Europe with the Canadian Expeditionary Force from 1917-1918. He was involved in the conflict only briefly at the conclusion of the war. His letters provide an account of life in France, Belgium and Germany in 1918.

The fonds also contains correspondence dating from the early 1920s from Chester New, a history professor at McMaster, who had previously taught at Brandon College. Fonds also contains correspondence from Whidden's father, Howard Primrose Whidden, President of Brandon College 1912-1922 and, from 1922-1949, Chancellor of McMaster University. This correspondence deals principally with the progress of Evan Whidden's education and his choice of a career in the church or the academic world.

Fonds contains several publications containing the work of Evan Whidden, mostly on religious themes. It also includes newspaper clippings and convocation programs dealing with Dr. Whidden's graduation from Yale and the presentation of honorary degrees to him at Pine Hill and Acadia. The fonds contains newspaper stories on the occasion of the retirement of Howard Primrose Whidden following his lengthy career as President of McMaster University. Death notices for Dr. H.P. Whidden and his wife are also to be found.

Finally, fonds contains approximately 150 b&w photographs of group portraits, individual portraits and activities at Brandon College and a copy of the 1921 Commencement Issue of the Brandon College Quill.

Name Access:	Evan Whidden Chester New Howard Whidden
Subject Access:	Brandon College 1920s
Storage Location:	MG 1 Brandon College Teaching and Administration 1.8 Evan McDonald Whidden
Related Material:	Whidden's father, Howard Primrose Whidden served as President of Brandon College 1912-1922. His records are located in RG 1, series 2.2 (Brandon College fonds, Office of the President). Records from Evan Whidden's time as College Dean are located in RG 1, series 6 (Brandon College fonds, Office of the College Dean).



## Raymond R. Bailey fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4229>

Part Of:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	MG 2 2.7
Accession Number:	10-2006, 11-2006.
GMD:	textual records
Date Range:	1940-1944, 2005

Physical Description: 1 file (0.5 cm)  
1 book, 491 pp.(3.75 cm)  
3 yearbooks

Physical Condition: Very good

History /

Biographical:

Ray Bailey was born in Brandon Manitoba in 1922. A Bachelor of Science degree from Brandon College in 1944 completed his education there. Following a short stint as a Chemist he entered the University of Manitoba. There, in 1946, he earned a Diploma in Education. Subsequent study brought a Master of Education degree in 1966. In 1973, he was awarded a Canada Council grant for additional studies.

He began his teaching career at Killarney, MB in March 1946, teaching science. Later he held teaching and administrative positions in Melita, Morris and Seven Oaks School Divisions. He retired as Principal of Arthur E. Wright Elementary School in 1986. Bailey was active in the Manitoba Teachers Society and the Manitoba Library Trustees Association. In 1973, the city of Winnipeg gave him a community service award. In 2005, he was a recipient of the Brandon University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award.

He married Joan Pettipher in 1949. They had four children, Ronald, Ann, Mary and Robert. Joan Bailey died in 1988. Raymond Bailey lived in Winnipeg with his wife Barbara until his death on July 23, 2015.

Custodial History:

Book was acquired at a book launch sponsored by Pennywise Books, Brandon, Manitoba in January 2006. The Brandon College documents were probably collected by Bailey during his time as a student in the early 1940s. He donated them to the McKee Archives in November 1994. The yearbooks were delivered to the Archives by Gerald Brown for Bailey in April 2008.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of an autographed copy of Bailey's book "tadpole to Little Frog (in a big pond)." It also includes three Brandon Collegiate Institute yearbooks the New Era for 1938-40, one file of Brandon College records, including eligibility lists for the Students' Association, a Physics IV test, a letter to Bailey excusing him from non-combat duty due to his work as an assistant in the Chemistry Department, a dance program for the Valentine Formal (1943), a freshman reception list and a program/invitation to a musical evening at the home of Martin Johns, Professor in the Physics Department.

Notes: History/Bio information taken from the author description in Bailey's book.  
Description by Christy Henry.

Name Access: Raymond Bailey

Subject Access: autobiography  
the Depression  
Manitoba history  
War years  
Brandon College

Location Copy: Photocopies of some of the lists are located in the file with the originals.

Storage Location: MG 2 Brandon College Students  
2.7 Raymond R. Bailey

## Edith Laycock fonds



<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4886>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: MG 2 2.20  
Accession Number: 12-1998  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1934-1973  
Physical Description: 24 cm textual records  
12 photographs

History /

Biographical:

Edith Mary Laycock was born on June 25, 1913. She attended Brandon Collegiate from 1929 until her graduation in 1931. Ms. Laycock attended Brandon College from 1931-1934, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1935, she attended the Wheat City Business College and graduated from the Stenographic Course. Ms. Laycock was employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway as a stenographer for many years and belonged to the Canadian Pacific Expressmen's Mutual Benefit Society from 1939.

Edith Laycock was very interested in drama. While attending Brandon Collegiate and Brandon College she participated in school and college plays. She was involved in drama and theatre throughout her adult life. Edith Laycock directed many of Brandon College's major productions beginning in 1950. She was also the director of many of the plays put on by the Brandon Little Theatre from 1950. Ms. Laycock also performed in the Little Theatre productions when she was not directing.

Ms. Laycock was also involved in many other elements of Brandon life. She served alternatively as the vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and production manager of the Little Theatre throughout the 1940's and 1950's. She was the Social Manager for the Brandon Festival Committee in 1948, the Publicity Chairperson for the Brandon Music Festival Association in the 1950's, and the Secretary of the Brandon Overture Concert Association. Laycock also wrote play reviews for the Brandon Sun in the 1950's. She was the director of the Manitoba Delta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. In the 1960's Laycock was a member of the Brandon Council of Women and Chairperson of its Arts and Letters Committee. She was also the Vice-President of the Brandon Art Club in 1960. Edith Laycock also held a 12-week class in creative dramatics for children at the Allied Arts Centre in the early 1960's.

Edith Laycock died in Brandon on December 17, 1987.

Custodial History:

This fonds was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. Prior custodial history is unknown.

#### Scope and Content:

This fonds consists of memorabilia kept by Edith Laycock. A large part of the collection consists of programs from plays that Laycock performed in or directed during the 1950's and 1960's. There are also numerous newspaper clippings about Laycock's plays including reviews, pictures, and advertisements. This collection also includes a folder of programs from the Brandon Little Theatre productions in the 1950's, as well as clippings about the Little Theatre. There are also numerous articles about miscellaneous drama and art events throughout Brandon, Manitoba, and Canada. The fonds also includes Laycock's daybook from 1962, and travel notes from Laycock's 1952 trip to Great Britain and Europe. The latter contains a passenger list for the Empress of Scotland, August 5, 1952. The collection further includes Canadian Pacific Railway passes dating from 1947-1963 and a copy of the Canadian Pacific Pension Plan. Fonds also contains material from the various organizations that Laycock was involved with including the Brandon Council of Women and Beta Sigma Phi. Fonds includes 12 photos that appear to be family photos from Laycock's childhood. Finally, the fonds contains various copies of plays that Laycock performed in or directed.

Notes:	CAIN No. 202585
Subject Access:	Edith Laycock Kaye Rowe Brian MacDonald J.R.C. Evans Brandon College Brandon College Literary Board Brandon Collegiate Dramatic Society Brandon College Students' Association Brandon Council of Women Brandon Little Theatre Canadian Pacific Railway Beta Sigma Phi drama plays travel playscripts
Storage Location:	MG 2 Brandon College Students 2.20 Edith Laycock



### Georgina Matiation (Hill) collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4887>

Part Of:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	MG 2 2.23
Accession Number:	29-1998
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1954-1956
Physical Description:	1 cm textual records 3 photographs

## History /

### Biographical:

Georgina Bernice Matiation (Hill) was born in Virden, Manitoba on February 19, 1936, daughter of Gordon and Florence Hill. She received her education at Brandon College (1954-1956). Originally a student in Arts, she graduated from the Teacher Training program in 1956. During her time at Brandon College, Matiation participated in the College Glee Club as well as college track and field meets. She also acted as Junior Ladies Athletic Representative in 1955. In addition, Matiation was was the President of her Normal School class.

Matiation began her teaching career in Hargrave and Melita, before taking a position at Prince Charles School in Portage la Prairie in 1960. She remained at that institution until her retirement in 1991. In addition to her teaching career, Matiation was a past president of the Portage Evening Ladies Curling Club, a past president of the La Prairie Lioness and a leader of CGIT. She was a lifelong member of the Lenore Presbyterian Church.

Georgina Hill married Zane Matiation in 1970. They had no children. Georgina Matiation died on October 28, 1995 in Portage la Prairie at the age of 59 years.

### Custodial History:

This collection was donated to the McKee Archives by Bessie Marie Hill of Winnipeg on May 1, 1998.

### Scope and Content:

The collection consists of items collected by Mrs. Matiation (Hill) during her years as a student at Brandon College. The collection contains a scrapbook of photos of students and activities at the College taken from 1954-1956. Fonds includes copies of speeches made by her at various school events, such as her validictorian speech at the Normal School Graduation in 1956. There is also an autograph book with messages to her from friends and classmates. Finally, the collection includes two photographs of students in the 1924-25 Brandon Normal School, and one photograph of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Brandon.

Notes: CAIN No. 202616. Description by Christy Henry.

Subject Access: Georgina Matiation (Hill)  
Brandon College  
Brandon  
Manitoba  
Westminster Presbyterian Church of Brandon  
MB  
college life  
student life  
scrapbooks

Storage Location: MG 2 Brandon College Students  
2.23 Georgina Matiation (Hill)

The collection is located with MG 2 2.2 Gerald Brown. It was placed there as a result of space issues.

Related Material: Bessie Marie Hill (33-1999, 12-2001, 6-2003)



## Martin Johns fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5087>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: MG 1 1.11  
Accession Number: 17-2007, 8-2009  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1939-1944  
Physical Description: 0.5 cm textual records  
21 b/w photographs

History /

Biographical:

Martin Wesley Johns was born to missionary parents Alfred and Myrtle Johns in Chengtu, West China on March 23, 1913. The family returned to Canada in 1925. Johns attended high schools in Tacoma, Washington; Vancouver, BC; Brandon, Manitoba; and Exeter, Ontario. He studied at Brandon College from 1928-1931 before obtaining his B.A. (1932) and M.A. (1934) from McMaster University and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto (1938). From 1937-1946, he taught physics at Brandon College. In 1972, Brandon University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Johns served in the Canadian Officers Training Corps (C.O.T.C.) in 1940-1941 doing research concerned with neutron physics at Chalk River. In 1947, he joined the Physics Department at McMaster University, where he remained for the remainder of his career.

Johns married Margaret Mary Hilborn on July 15, 1939. Together they have four children: Robert, Elizabeth, Kenneth and Kathryn. Following Margaret's death c. 1979, Johns was married to Elsie North for twenty years. At the age of 90, Johns fell in love with his sweetheart Marian Thompson.

Martin Wesley Johns died on September 18, 2008 at McMaster Hospital.

Custodial History:

The notebooks in accession 17-2007 were in the possession of Wesley Wong, former member of the Physics Department at Brandon College, who mailed them to Martin Johns in 2002. Wong suggested Johns donate them to the McKee Archives, which he did on January 28, 2004. The photographs in accession 8-2009 were sent to Carla Eisler, Alumni Relations Officer, Brandon University by Ken Johns (Martin Johns' son) following Martin's death. Eisler transferred them to the Archives in February 2009.

Scope and Content:

Accession 17-2007 contains two lab record notebooks used by Martin Johns while he was a member of Brandon College's Department of Physics. The notebooks record class lists, grades, absences, and seating charts for courses Johns taught, as well as regulations for lab reports and major assignments.

Accession 8-2009 contains twenty-one black and white photographs dealing with Brandon College students, faculty and buildings. There are a few photographs of Brandon, as well as one of the Queen Mother from her visit to Brandon in 1939.

Notes: History/Bio information taken from the Martin W. Johns bio file in the Archives reading room.

Subject Access:	Brandon College faculty freshman initiation freshies Assiniboine bridge student elections Second World War C.O.T.C. classroom activities
Storage Location:	MG 1 Brandon College Teaching and Administration 1.11 Martin Johns  Photographs: MG photograph storage drawer