

# S. J. McKee Archives



## David Sommerville Charleson fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4827>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 21-1997  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: November 8, 1915  
Physical Description: 2 mm (1 two-page letter -- 1 letter with envelope)

### History /

#### Biographical:

David Sommerville Charleson was born January 14th, 1884, in Brandon, Manitoba. The Charleson's settled in the GlenSouris area south of Brandon, Manitoba in 1882. David Charleson enlisted on 24 September 1914. He served as a lieutenant in the 6th Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Later, he transferred to the 8th Battalion. In Belgium, Charleson was a victim of an enemy gas attack early in the war, following which he returned to Canada incapacitated. Miss Estella Cullen, a trained nurse, cared for him following his return to Canada. David Sommerville Charleson died on May 12, 1925 a victim of war-time injuries. He is buried in the GlenSouris Cemetery just south of Brandon.

#### Custodial History:

This fonds was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1997. Prior custodial history is unknown.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of one letter written by Charleson from Belgium in early 1915 to Miss Estella Cullen in Rounthwaite, Manitoba. In the letter, Charleson describes the circumstances facing the Canadian troops in the trenches during the Great War and provides an account of the German trenches facing him. This is an evocative and reflective letter. Philatelists may find the condition of the stamps on the letter envelope of interest.

Notes: CAIN No. 202606  
Subject Access: Estella Cullen  
World War I  
trench warfare  
Great War  
soldier's life  
Canadian Expeditionary Force  
Storage Location: 1997 accessions  
Storage Range: 1997 accessions