

# S. J. McKee Archives

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## William J. Birtles fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4813>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 7-2003  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: c. 1880; c. 1935-2001  
Physical Description: 4 photographs;  
2 biographical sketches

### History /

#### Biographical:

William Birtles was born in Alexander, Manitoba in 1930. He received his early education at Alexander School. In 1948, he completed grade 12 at St. John's College School in Winnipeg. He undertook formal training in art, beginning in 1949, at the Winnipeg School of Art. In 1952, he graduated from the Manitoba Provincial Normal School. After teaching school in Winnipeg for three years, Birtles completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Sculpture in 1958. He obtained a Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba in 1970. Throughout his adult years, Birtles taught in various Manitoba communities, was active as an artist, showing his work and winning awards. He was also active in the Manitoba Society of Artists and associated provincial organizations. Birtles is retired and is a resident of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

#### Custodial History:

All of the items in the fonds were in the possession of William Birtles until their donation to the McKee Archives in 2003.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of photographs of Ms. Sarah Birtles, Rt. Rev W.W.H. Thomas D.D, the Thomas Smith farmhouse located northwest of Alexander, and a postcard containing a photograph of Westminster Abbey. Fonds also contains two biographical sketches written by William Birtles: one of Ms. Sarah Birtles - three pages - and one of Rt. Rev. W.W. H. Thomas D.D - six pages. Also includes the program of the Composite Lodge No. 64 G.R.M., A.F. & A.M. sixty-fifth Anniversary (Alexander, MB 1961).

Notes: CAIN No. 202569  
Subject Access: Sarah Birtles  
Rt. Rev. W.W.H. Thomas D.D  
Thomas Smith  
Alexander  
Manitoba  
farmhouse  
masonic lodge  
Storage Location: 2003 accessions  
Storage Range: 2003 accessions



## J.C. Cousins fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5137>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 26-2007  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: pre-1881settlement era - 1940s  
Physical Description: 6 cm  
Physical Condition: Generally good, but tattered in some places.

History /

Biographical:

John C. Cousins was the son of Thomas Cousins (b. August 17, 1882 in Truro, Nova Scotia - d. March 5, 1914) and Mary Margaret Craig (b. April 14, 1824 - d. April 25, 1903). He married Eunice Eliza Nixon from London Township, County of Middlesex, Ontario. Together they had three children: Eunice M., Eric O. and Kathleen. J.C. Cousins was Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Daly from 1905 to 1910 and Assessor for the Town of Rivers from 1931-1938.

Custodial History:

Record was accessioned in 2007 by the McKee Archives. Prior custodial history unknown.

Scope and Content:

This document is a rambling memoir of John C. Cousins' recollections of life in the Rural Municipality of Daly from the settlement era in the early 1880s, through to the 1940s. He touches on various themes, including: his family history; the activities of the R.M. of Daly and his role as Reeve; the history of school districts in the municipality (lists names of first teachers and early students); the history of churches in the municipality; tragedies in the municipality; lists members of the Council of the municipality for the years 1885-1946; and the devastating impact of the Spanish Influenza on Aboriginal people in the municipality.

In addition, the memoir includes documentary records, such as minutes and copies of letters. There are also many photographs of both events and individuals (virtually all of the photographs are labelled and names are provided). The memoir goes beyond a simple recounting of facts. Cousins is discursive and thoughtful, often making references to developments happening in other parts of North America and Canada. There is also a link to the Maritimes, from which his family originated.

Notes: Description by Christy Henry and Tom Mitchell.

Subject Access: Pendennis  
Rivers  
Manitoba  
Harrow school  
Mayne School District  
Hunter School District No. 571  
Poplar Hill school  
Tarbolton School District  
Wheatland School District  
Westwood School District  
Bradwardine School District  
Ancrum or Wellwood School District  
Spring Valley School District  
Aetna School District  
Robinville School District  
Oakleigh school  
Lothian School District  
Rivers School District

Storage Location: 2007 accessions  
Storage Range: 2007 accessions