

# S. J. McKee Archives



## A.E. McKenzie

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4317>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: McS 2 2.1  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: 1910-1964; 1966 (legal), 1976 (patents)  
Physical Description: 26.3 cm

## History /

### Biographical:

Albert Edward McKenzie was born in Wilcox Lake, York County, Ontario in 1870 to Francis Bethel McKenzie and Maria (Carley) McKenzie. In 1882 he moved to Brandon, Manitoba with his family, where his father established a Flour, Seed and Grain business. At the age of twenty-six, following his father's death, A. E. took over the family business and transformed it into a seed institute. As the President of The Brandon Seed House, and, later, A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., Mr. McKenzie played a central role in the daily operations of his company up until three weeks prior to his death on September 25, 1964.

In 1901, Mr. McKenzie married Laura Bell of Carmen, Manitoba, with whom he had two daughters, Marjorie and Kathleen. Kathleen married Walter C. Roberts and became a member of the Board of Directors of her father's company. Marjorie graduated from Brandon College, and received additional degrees from the Columbia College of Expression, and from Northwestern University. From 1927-1930 she taught at Brandon College, then resigned to do post-graduate work. She returned to Brandon College in 1935 as Instructor of Public Speaking and Dean of Women in Clark Hall. Marjorie resigned as Dean of Women after one year, and eventually relocated to British Columbia. Both Kathleen and Marjorie survived their father. Laura had passed away in 1943. At the time of his death, A.E. McKenzie was also survived by had one grandson: David McKenzie Roberts.

In addition to building his company into one of Canada's foremost seed institutes, McKenzie was also involved with many community projects. He was affiliated with the YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, and Community Chest. He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club, and a long-term officer of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. However, McKenzie's major interest was Brandon College, for which he served as a governor and as chairman of the board of governors for the College.

A central figure in the fight to save Brandon College, McKenzie was instrumental in the formation of Brandon College Inc., and, in 1945, he established the A. E. McKenzie Foundation, for which the Government of Manitoba was the sole trustee. His gift to the Foundation was securities valued at \$1 million, which ensured the survival and re-establishment of Brandon College and later Brandon University.

In 1941, McKenzie received the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa from the University of Manitoba. In 1962, he was honored with a certificate of merit for exemplary citizenship in commerce and in every aspect of community life from the City of Brandon.

### Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

#### Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of correspondence created and received by A.E. McKenzie during his years as President/General Manager dealing with the operation of his company. This includes construction estimates, and correspondence with the company's lawyer, Wm. Johnson. A letter from Gairdner & Company Limited regarding McKenzie's attempt to reacquire ownership of A. E. McKenzie Ltd. from the Province of Manitoba.

The sub-series also contains material relating to legal matters: one file concerns a successful legal action against the A.E. McKenzie Seed Company by the Canadian Alfalfa Association. The action arose following the sale of seed to a seed company located in Berlin, Germany in 1938. A second file deals with the prosecution of the company in Bismarck, North Dakota for mail fraud. The company lost both cases. Patents secured by the company are also included within the sub-series.

Also contained within the legal sub-series are records dealing with A.E. McKenzie's passing. These include correspondence with the National Trust Company and Miss Jean MacKay, and a summary of A.E. McKenzie's will. There are also some documents dealing with McKenzie's stocks and shares in the Company.

Documentation relating to the 1918 By-Law Campaign, in which McKenzie tried to secure tax relief for his company in relation to the construction of its new plant, is also included within the sub-series.

The sub-series is divided into six sub sub series, including: (1) Secretary; (2) Legal Matters; (3) Correspondence; (4) Patents; (5) By-Law Campaign 1918; and (6) Miscellaneous.

Notes:	* "Tapes" in the Related Material field refers to hard copy written summaries originally provided on tape for typing. Organization by tape number was found to be more efficient than listing these items by title.
Language Note:	Within McS 2 1.3, the correspondence sub sub series, there are some documents written in Gregg shorthand. No translation is available.
Storage Location:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager
Related Material:	Regarding sub sub series McS 2 2.2 (Legal Matters): The court pocket for the alfalfa case involving McKenzie Seeds at the Court of Queen's Bench in Regina, Saskatchewan may be available through the Saskatchewan Archives Board. John Diefenbaker acted for the Alfalfa Association in this case.
	Historical Topics under A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds, Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes) contains some information regarding McKenzie's patents (file 16, Tapes 29 and 30), and a legal case in Bismarck, North Dakota in 1957 regarding the violation of mail fraud statutes involving the sale of seed wheat (file 11, Tape 26)*. Information regarding the sale of Alfalfa seed to a German seed company is available in file 2. There are also a number of files containing information about A. E. McKenzie.



## A.E. McKenzie Building and George T. Richardson Centre

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions949>

Part Of: BUPC 2 Campus buildings

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: 2.4

GMD: graphic

Date Range: c. 1959 - 1995

Physical Description: 43 photographs

History /

Biographical:

The J.R.C. Evans Lecture Theatre and the A.E. McKenzie Building were both completed in 1960. The Evans Theatre is named for John Robert Charles Evans, who served as president of Brandon College from 1928 to 1959. The A.E. McKenzie Building was originally the Library and Arts building, and was named for A.E. McKenzie, a local businessman and supporter of the College. The George T. Richardson Centre, which includes the Evans Theatre and the John E. Robbins Library, was completed in 1993.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series consists of photographs of the A.E. McKenzie Building, the George T. Richardson Centre, the J.R.C. Evans Lecture Theatre, the John E. Robbins Library and the link between the Evans Theatre and the McKenzie Building.



## A.E. McKenzie fonds - miscellaneous

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4343>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.5

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1887-1960

Physical Description: 3.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

This sub-series is artificially created and contains records that did not fit into any of the preceding series or sub-series.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

The records in this sub-series concern A.E. McKenzie's personal life. It contains a number of documents created by his father, F. B. McKenzie, including land deeds, financial records, and a grant of probate. The sub-series also includes documents concerning the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Co., the dissolution of partnership between A.E. McKenzie and George. E. McKenzie, the release of F.B. McKenzie's estate to his son and a copy of A.E. McKenzie's mother's last will and testament.

Also included within the sub-series is a file of correspondence between McKenzie and R.B. Dessert, a former employee of McKenzie Seeds who established his own seed company in California after leaving Brandon. The correspondence is almost entirely personal in nature.

Thank you letters regarding Brandon College and scholarships, as well as minutes from meetings of the Education Advisory Board can also be found within the sub-series.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds



## A.E. McKenzie Foundation

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4340>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1940, 1945-1989

Physical Description: 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

In 1945 the A. E. McKenzie Trust of 1939, which led to the formation of Brandon College Incorporated, was cancelled. As a result A.E., who was still trying to solve the College's financial problems, set about attaining a special act of legislature that would enable him to transfer 90% of his company's stockholdings to the control of the Province of Manitoba to benefit the College.

See fonds level administrative history description.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes correspondence regarding the McKenzie Foundation between Brandon College Inc., McKenzie Seeds, William Johnson and the Government of Manitoba. It also contains records dealing with Educational Advisory Board. A substantial amount of this correspondence is in regards to the payment of Brandon College Inc. from the McKenzie Foundation. In addition, there is also correspondence generated by the Comptroller-General and Wm. Johnson regarding Foundation Account, as well as some other financial information.

Various documents are also present within the sub-series, including Bill 87, amendments, an authorization provision for variation in agreement and an agreement between McKenzie, Brandon College Inc. and the National Trust. A collection of prepared statements or briefs, many written by A.E. McKenzie regarding the purpose and future of the Foundation are also included.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds  
MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds

Related Material: Information regarding the A.E. McKenzie Foundation can be found in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes), Historical Topics file 1 (Tape 9).

Series 5 (Photographs), oversized drawer #4 contains newspaper clippings dealing with the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation.



## A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. - miscellaneous publications

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4335>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 6 6.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1963, 1978, 1984-1985

Physical Description: 6 titles; 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

This sub-series consists of publications that did not fit into any of the preceding series or sub-series.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes one copy each of Manitoba Business Top 100 (June 1985), Trade and Commerce Supplement, Brandon (c. 1963) and Manitoba Business (November 1985).

It also includes a Christmas Song book, the book "By Gossip and Myth" by Prof. George MacDowell and a document entitled "Background Information re A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd."

The following newspaper clippings have been located in the map case drawer #4 located in the archives reading room:

1. \$175,000 Gift Set for College from City Man
2. McKenzie Will Leaves House to Arts Centre
3. The Old Alma Mater is Down on Her Knees
4. How to Help the Alma Mater
5. Good Things are "growing" on at McKenzie Seeds (ad)
6. Fire fails to halt work at McKenzie Seeds
7. McKenzie Seeds: new facilities are first in North America
8. A full-page advertisement for McKenzie Seeds from "The Brandon Sun" (September 24, 1971)

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds  
McS 6 Miscellaneous



## A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. - scrapbooks

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4336>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: McS 6 6.3  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: c.1903 - c.1940  
Physical Description: 27.5 cm  
Physical Condition: The scrapbooks in this sub-series are fragile, particularly the product book. They must be handled with great care.

### Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

### Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of three scrapbooks. Two of the three contain copies of advertisements for a number of businesses, including McKenzie Seeds, Steele Briggs, Patmore's, Rennie's, and McFayden Seeds. Clippings dealing with a variety of other companies in the seed industry are also included. The third scrapbook contains pictures of various flowers, vegetable, herbs and other seed products in alphabetical order. An inventory is available for the third scrapbook.

Notes: Date(s) of creation, including distribution, publication, etc.:

- a) [No title] ad book - 1906-1911
- b) "Scrap Book" ad book - 1917-1926
- c) [No title] product book - c.1903 - c.1940

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds  
McS 6 Miscellaneous



## Albert Edward McKenzie

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4301>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: MG 1 1.7  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1940?-1960?  
Physical Description: 39 cm textual records  
4 photographs



## History /

### Biographical:

A.E. McKenzie was born in Wilcox Lake, York County, Ontario in 1870 to F.B. and Maria (Carley) McKenzie. His family came to Manitoba in 1883. He was educated in Brandon, Manitoba and graduated from the Collegiate Institute at age 21. In 1897 he founded the Brandon Seed House. McKenzie was present at the cornerstone-laying ceremony of Brandon College on July 13, 1900. From that moment on, he was very involved in the College, first as an interested businessman, and later as a member of its Board of Directors. In 1902, McKenzie married Laura Bell in Port Arthur. They had two daughters, Marjorie Bell and Kathleen. In 1906 the Brandon Seed House was incorporated and from then on was known as the "A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd.."

McKenzie became a member of the Brandon College Endowment Committee in 1918. The following year he was on the Finance Committee. By 1925, McKenzie was a member of the Board of Directors. In 1928, he was part of a syndicate that advised the Baptist Union that they were developing an endowment plan to provide continuing financial support to the College and talked the Union into providing \$10 000 towards the accumulated deficit.

In 1931, McKenzie organized the Brandon Board of Trade to help save Brandon College when the Baptists said they could no longer afford to keep the College. After the By-law failed, he helped to organize the Brandon Citizen's Campaign to raise enough money so that the College could open the following year.

When the Baptists withdrew support in 1938, McKenzie was one of the central figures on the Brandon Board of Trade that decided to save the College from closure. A representative delegation from Southwestern Manitoba of over 60 men descended upon Premier Bracken's office to try and convince him to help the College. On June 12, 1938 McKenzie said he would set up a \$100 000 endowment to Brandon College. He subsequently raised this amount to \$300 000. On August 1, 1938 the Board of Trade launched a campaign to raise \$15 000 to match what the government was prepared to offer the College. McKenzie was asked to provide Brandon College with \$3000 personally. In September of 1938, McKenzie upped his endowment once more to \$500 000. The fund raising worked however, and the charter establishing Brandon College Incorporated was assented to on April 17, 1939. On June 6, 1939 a by-law was again presented to the citizens of Brandon, and fortunately it passed.

In 1941, McKenzie received an honorary L.L.D. from the University of Manitoba. The A.E. McKenzie Foundation was created in 1945 by the provincial government, who had assumed 90% of the A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. stock.

On September 25, 1964 McKenzie died at the age of 94. He never retired, but worked full time until two weeks before his death. The funeral was held in the J.R.C. Evans Lecture Theatre. The Arts and Library Building at Brandon College was completed in 1960, and is known as the A.E. McKenzie building, in honour of the man who contributed so much time, effort and financial help to the College during a crucial period in its history.

### Custodial History:

Records were accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. Prior custodial history is unknown.

#### Scope and Content:

A.E. McKenzie's records in the Brandon College fonds are very useful from an administrative point of view. Because McKenzie was so involved in Brandon College from the very beginning until his death in 1964, it is easy to understand how the College Administration arrived at decisions. There is correspondence between McKenzie and various regarding College and Board of Director business. There are Brandon College financial statements and letters regarding the A.E. McKenzie Foundation. The records contain newspaper clippings, pamphlets and lists of names of members of various Brandon organizations. As well, McKenzie has letters regarding Building Expansion in the 1940's and minutes of Board of Director meetings. There are also several photographs. One photograph is the 1919 graduation picture of Zoe Hough. Another is tentatively identified as Frances Wolverton, also of the Class of 1919. There are two more photographs of unidentified young women.

Name Access:	A.E. McKenzie A.E. McKenzie Foundation Brandon College Zoe Hough Frances Wolverton
Subject Access:	Class of 1919 administration board of directors building expansion
Storage Location:	MG 1 Brandon College Teaching and Administration 1.7 Albert Edward McKenzie
Related Material:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seeds Co. Ltd. fonds



## McKenzie centennial exhibit

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4334>

Part Of:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	McS 6 6.1
GMD:	textual records
Date Range:	1896-1996
Physical Description:	34 cm

## History /

### Biographical:

The program for the McKenzie Centennial Exhibit describes the materials in this sub-series as a "visual collection of artifacts, printed materials and photographs, 1883-1996, celebrating the centennial of A.E. McKenzie Co. Inc."

Created by current employees and based on research by Nancy McLennan, Sandra Head and J. Lasby Lowes, the McKenzie Centennial Exhibit opened on April 25, 1996. It remained open to the public on every Thursday between 2 to 4 p.m. to the end of June, 1996. Some of the furnishings used in the display were contributed by the Daly House Museum. Located in the McKenzie Building, the exhibit was assembled along the corridors of the building. It contained a variety of materials, such as invoices, pay envelopes, blueprints, documents, furniture and photographs from the one hundred years of McKenzie Seeds' history.

Following the close of the exhibit, a smaller permanent installation was to be constructed at the McKenzie Building.

### Custodial History:

In the course of preparing the exhibit, Nancy McLennan took documents from the collection, but failed to make a record of where the documents came from. As a result, these materials have been left in the Centennial sub-series. It proved impossible to return them to their original place in the fonds.

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

### Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes the individual descriptions of each exhibit printed on small white envelopes, a guide to the exhibit, a photograph listing for photos used in the various displays and the 1973 Directory of Canadian Chartered Accountants. The sub-series also includes intact files for exhibits 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 39 and 40, Wholesale Sales Literature, Steele Briggs Seed Co., Scrimping and Spending Big Time, Seed Wagon, Mostly Catalogue Inserts, Letterhead, and For Your Reading Pleasure, respectively.

In addition, a number of booklets made by the creators of the exhibit are also contained within the sub-series. These booklets are primarily a combination of original and reproduced sales literature and catalogues, but also may or may not contain some correspondence, seed packets, clippings and history for McKenzie Seeds, Pike Seeds/Robertson Seeds, Acquisitions (Steele Briggs, Canada Seeds, Brett-Young Seeds), and McFayden/McConnell.

In addition to the above booklets, there are also materials dealing with the catalogues and sales literature of McKenzie Seed Co. suppliers, such as Bodger Seeds, H. Keft from Holland, the Denholm Seed Company, and the Vis Brothers. A number of documents, programs and booklets relating to the seed industry in general, such as the "Black Leaf" Bulletin and a number of documents relating to agriculture in Manitoba are also included.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds  
McS 6 Miscellaneous

Related Material: Photographs from the Centennial Exhibition of McKenzie Seeds can be found in Series 5 (Photographs), sub-series 5.9 (Centennial Photos).