

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Audrey Silvius collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4841>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 21-2000  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1959-1988; predominant 1963-1974  
Physical Description: 19 cm textual records; 4 photographs; 1 drawing  
History /  
Biographical:

Born on February 10, 1924, in Elgin, Manitoba, Audrey Ellen Silvius (nee Honeyman) was raised in Fairfax, Manitoba on the Honeyman homestead. In 1964, she received her Indian name, Blue Star. Silvius completed her high school education in Fairfax before moving to Winnipeg in 1943, to earn her Nursing degree from Grace Hospital. She later completed her post-graduate degree in Psychiatric Nursing at the Brandon Mental Health Centre. Married to Merritt W. Silvius, Audrey Silvius raised four children, David, Kay, Lorna (Downie) and Gail (Campos) while working in her chosen field. In addition to her family and her career, she was also involved with the Brandon Council of Women and the United Church in Brandon. Silvius was the first executive director of the Brandon Indian-Metis Friendship Centre, a founding member of the local branches of the Marquis Project and Amnesty International and initiated a project called Tools for Peace. She was also involved in various other peace and human rights organizations. In 1987, she received the Order of the Buffalo Hunt from the Province of Manitoba in recognition of her work relating to women's issues. In 1992, she was awarded a Confederation medal for community service.

### Custodial History:

The records found within the collection were collected by Audrey Silvius from a number of people, including Jean Halliday, Grace Godmaire and Norma Walmsley, involved in various projects with her throughout the years. Prior to their donation to the McKee Archives at Brandon University in October and November 2000, the records were stored at Mrs. Silvius' home.

### Scope and Content:

Collection consists of meeting minutes, agendas, speeches, correspondence, newsletters, brochures, written publications and newspaper clippings. Four photographs and one pencil drawing are also included within the collection.

The records deal with the creation, activities, and history of the Brandon Indian-Metis Friendship Centre, as well as the activities of its Board of Directors. In addition, materials located within the collection can be divided into two areas: (1) those that relate to various organizations associated with the Friendship Centre itself, such as the Council of Christians and Jews and the Brandon Council of Women; (2) materials related to projects of important individuals involved with the Friendship Centre, such as the South Western Manitoba Recreation Council and the 4F Club of Minnedosa. Other records deal with general aboriginal issues in Canada during the time frame of the Audrey Silvius collection.

Notes: CAIN No. 202607. Description by Christy Henry (2000).

Subject Access: Council of Christians and Jews  
Brandon Council of Women  
4F Club  
Brandon Indian-Metis Friendship Centre  
cross cultural relations  
Aboriginal issues  
community development

Storage Location: 2000 accessions

Storage Range: 2000 accessions

Arrangement:

The collection is divided into ten (10) series:

1. The Brandon Indian-Metis Friendship Centre
2. The Scout – Friendship Centre newsletter
3. The Brandon Council of Women
4. Council of Christians and Jews
5. Aboriginal Glee Club/Dancers
6. The South Western Manitoba Recreation Council
7. 4F Club of Minnedosa
8. Miscellaneous Publications related to Aboriginal Issues
9. Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings related to Aboriginal Issues
10. Photographs and pencil drawing



## Keystone Centre development and construction fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4854>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 22-1998

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1957-1974; predominant 1970-1974

Physical Description: 36 cm

History /

Biographical:

The idea of the Keystone Centre was first mentioned in 1958, at a meeting of the board of directors of the Manitoba Winter Fair. The Manitoba Winter Fair wanted a new facility because the old Wheat City Arena had a leaking roof and a deteriorating west wall. The old facility also had limited space and the Winter Fair felt it needed more space for expansion. The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba also had problems with their facilities, such as old barns and poor display areas. The idea of the Keystone Centre was put on hold until 1969, when the boards of the Provincial Exhibition and the Manitoba Winter Fair joined together as the Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba and the Wheat City Arena was sold and demolished. The original estimate for the cost of the Keystone Centre facilities was \$4.5 million and funding would be proportioned so that the federal and provincial governments would each put in one-third of the money, with the rest coming from local donations. The financial campaign for the Keystone Centre began in 1970, and construction began in November 1970. The grand opening of the Centre was in March 1973, and coincided with the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair of that year.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains many folders full of correspondence, financial statements, meeting minutes and other documents relating to the development and construction of the Keystone Centre from 1970-1974, including those from the Keystone Executive Committee, as well as the Building Committee. Fonds also contains one folder that pertains to the Brandon Area Agricultural Development Survey from 1959. This folder contains the names and locations of all farmers in the Brandon area in 1959. The Brandon Area Agricultural Development Survey was created in 1959, in order to make farming in the Brandon area more profitable. The survey was aided by Doane Agricultural Service from St. Louis, Missouri, who had success creating agricultural development programs in the United States. Fonds also contains folders from the Provincial Exhibition with correspondence, pamphlets, estimates, and studies from the 1960's. There is also one folder belonging to the Manitoba Winter Fair, which contains correspondence and financial statements relating to the Wheat City Arena. Fonds also contains information pertaining to the proposals made in the 1960's, for the building of the Keystone Centre, as well as one folder about the Keystone campaign from 1970-73. There is also one folder about the opening of the Keystone Centre, which contains newspaper clippings and guest lists. Finally, the fonds contains information about a court case involving Albert Bobyk and Robert Stewart. Stewart was the project manager for the Building Committee and Bobyk worked on the Keystone Center. The fonds includes a report about the trial of the two men who were charged with fraud involving their work on the Keystone Centre.

Notes: CAIN No. 202608

Subject Access: Ray Forbes  
Fred McGuinness  
Brandon Area Agricultural Development Survey  
Doane Agricultural Service Inc  
Agricultural & Homemaking School of Brandon  
Royal Manitoba Winter Fair  
Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba  
South-Western District Agricultural Society  
4-H  
Manitoba Department of Agriculture  
City of Brandon  
Keystone Committee  
Keystone Building Committee  
agriculture  
architecture  
exhibitions  
swine farming  
sheep farming  
cereal grain farming  
rural life  
winter fairs

Storage Location: 1998 accessions

Storage Range: 1998 accessions



## Manitoba Women's Institute collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4860>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 8-2002

GMD: textual records

Date Range: c. 1935-1980's

Physical Description: 64 cm

History /

Biographical:

The first Women's Institute in Canada was created by Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless in Stoney Creek, Ontario, on February 19, 1897. The Women's Institute was created to unite rural women with the hopes that this would help women improve their homes and communities. The motto of the Women's Institute became, "a nation could not rise above the level of its homes." The group was to be non-partisan and non-sectarian to allow for maximum participation. The Women's Institute became one of the very few ways for rural women to meet and share ideas and problems with others. The Women's Institute spread throughout Canada and reached Manitoba in 1910, when Morris and Valley River, Manitoba, formed Women's Institute branches. The Women's Institute branches in Manitoba were known as Home Economics Societies until 1919, when they became branches of the Manitoba Women's Institute. The Home Economics Societies specialized in community service work. At first, the groups concentrated on home management and child care, and eventually they became involved with social and political issues. In addition to community work, the Women's Institute branches also invited many guest speakers to their meetings and promoted education and the dissemination of information to rural women on subjects such as canning, growing fruits and vegetables, dental hygiene and rural electrification. The Manitoba Women's Institute continues its work today.

Custodial History:

This fonds was accessioned in 2002 by the McKee Archives. Prior custodial history is unknown.

Scope and Content:

This collection has been artificially created and consists of miscellaneous newspaper and magazine clippings, handbooks, newsletters, photos and song sheets collected by various unknown Manitoba Women's Institute branches. Some newsletters included in the collection are "Institute News" from the Manitoba Women's Institute, "National Farm Forum Guide", "Federated News" from the Federated Women's Institute of Canada and "The Country Woman" from Associated Women of the World. The newspaper clippings in the collection relate to Women's Institute branches around Manitoba and the rest of Canada.

Notes: CAIN No. 202660. Description by Robyn Mitchell.

Subject Access: Reverend M.L. Goodman  
 Manitoba Provincial Council of Women  
 National Council of Women in Canada  
 Manitoba Women's Institute  
 National Farm Forum  
 Federated Women's Institute of Canada  
 Associated Country Women of the World  
 women's organizations  
 4-H  
 rural women  
 song sheets  
 credit unions  
 farm magazines  
 newsletters  
 women's magazines

Storage Location: 2002 accessions

Storage Range: 2002 accessions

Related Material: Related women's institute collections in the McKee Archives include:

Manitoba Women's Institute; Minnedosa Women's Institute; Cordova Women's Institute; Clanwilliam Women's Institute; Rathwell Women's Institute; Strathclair Women's Institute; Crocus Women's Institute; Southwest A Region - Manitoba Women's Institute; Douglas Women's Institute



## 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-1881 settlement 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