

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Westman Oral History collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4350>

|                       |                                             |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Part Of:              | RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection |
| Description Level:    | Collection                                  |
| Accession Number:     | 35-1998                                     |
| GMD:                  | multiple media                              |
| Date Range:           | 1981-1984                                   |
| Physical Description: | 3 meters                                    |
| Material Details:     | 335 cassette tapes<br>310 files             |

### History /

#### Biographical:

The Westman Oral History collection was a project of the Westman Oral History Association and ran from 1980-84. The Westman Oral History Association was created on August 12, 1980, by a steering committee of the Assiniboine Historical Society. The Oral History Association undertook a project called "Voices of Yesteryear." The project was created in order to record and preserve the lives and experiences of early settlers to the Westman area. Work began in 1981, and included interviews conducted with approximately seventy senior citizens from over twenty communities in western Manitoba. The Association held a training session for committee members on April 11, 1981, where 125 participants learned how to conduct an effective interview and how to operate the recorders used in the interviews. The chairman of the Westman Oral History Association was Effie McPhail, the coordinator was Sally Cunningham, and the secretary was Bob Coates. Some of the interviews recorded were used in the early months of 1982 on a local radio station, CKLQ, as part of a program called "Centennial Memories." The project resulted in the creation of the Westman Oral History Collection.

#### Custodial History:

This collection was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. The original tapes from the Westman Oral History project were deposited in the Brandon Public Library. Copies of these originals were made by Margaret Pollex of the Brandon University Language Lab at the request of Eileen McFadden, University Archivist in the early 1990s. These copies compose the collection held in the McKee Archives.

#### Scope and Content:

The collection includes the audiotapes used to record the interviews, as well as corresponding files for each interview subject. The files contain facts about the interviewees, including date and place of birth, occupations, and marital status. The files also include a summary of the interview heard on each tape.

The interviews were done with men and women pioneers from the Westman area of Manitoba, and describe the daily lives of common people during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The topics covered in the interviews include the following: Agriculture, Associations and Clubs, Churches and Church Life, Cultural Events, Early Politics, Education, Health Services, Immigration, Local Businesses, Native-White Relations, Pioneer Settlements, Pioneer Way of Life, Social Life, Sports, Transportation, and War Brides. This collection includes interviews with residents from the following communities: Brandon, Boissevain, Brookdale, Carberry, Deloraine, Douglas, Elkhorn, Erickson, Forrest, Glenboro, Hamiota, Hartney, Justice, Kenton, Killarney, Melita, Minnedosa, Neepawa, Ninette, Oak Lake, Rapid City, Reston, Rivers, Shoal Lake, Sioux Valley Reserve, Souris, Strathclair, Virden, and Wawanessa. The interviews also disclose the unique experiences of pioneer women in rural areas. Many of the interviewees provide brief family histories during their interviews.

Notes: Some of the files include photocopied pictures of the interviewees.  
Description written by Robyn Mitchell (2001).

Name Access: Mr. & Mrs. Alex Adams  
Elizabeth Adams  
Evelina Adams  
Ethel Allen  
Floyd Amos  
Frank Anderson  
Hans Anderson  
Valere Andries  
Herman Arason  
Dorothy Armstrong  
Elmer Armstrong  
Hugh Armstrong  
Edward Arnold  
Verlie Arnott  
Hilton Ashton  
T. Roy Bailey  
Ann Barter  
John G. Beddome  
Howard Bedford  
Myrtle Irene Bell  
Rev. Linda Bergan  
J. Melvin Berg  
E.H. Birkinshaw  
Alex Black  
Jack Blatchford  
Marfesia Bobinsky  
Walter Borotsik  
Roselle Boudreau  
Edward P. Boyle

Emmeline Bradley  
Allan W. Brigden  
Harry Brindle  
Hugh Broadfoot  
Dorothy Broomhall  
David Brown  
Clara M. Bulloch  
Betty Burton  
Irene Calvert  
Glen Campbell  
Robert J. Campbell  
Wilfrid D. Campbell  
Elsie Carnahan  
Beatrice Carr  
Lorne Carruthers  
Rex Carter  
Margaret Catley  
Gordon Chalmers  
Violette Chapman  
Cliff Clark  
Harold Cleaver  
Robert Coates  
Robert John Coates  
Roy Gordon Coates  
J. Walters Collinson  
Eveline Conley  
Phyllis Field Cooper  
Mary Jane Cosgrove  
Mark Cousins  
Fred C. Coutrice  
Flora C. Cowan  
Jim Cowan  
Selia Cram  
George Crighton  
Charles Curle  
Earle M. Currie  
Eva Roddick Davis  
Ivan R. Day  
Catherine Dennis  
Mrs. W. C. Stubbs Dixon  
Edward I. Dow  
Myrna Hicks Dring  
Leween Drysdale  
Georgina Morgan Duce  
Eva Duncan

Kate Stronach Duncan  
Lorne Dunn  
Bernice C. East  
Laurie O. East  
Mary E. Edwards  
Frank Ernest Ellis  
Donald Jacob Engel  
W. Joseph English  
Clayton Farley  
Marion Ferguson  
Faith Flay  
W. George Flay  
Nellie Forbes  
Arthur Galbraith  
William Geiler  
Tom Gibbs  
Betty Gibson  
Stanley Gilbert  
James Gilmour  
Mabel R. Godfrey  
Helen Goethe  
Eric B. Gowler  
Andy Graham  
Stella Freeborn Grant  
George A. Grieve  
Lesly Grundy  
James Guild  
Ethel Hall  
Marion Hannah  
R. H. Hannah  
William Hardwick  
Fred Heeney  
Isabelle Heeney  
A. Earle Henderson  
J. Stan Henry  
John Hepworth  
Florence M. Hinch  
Frank C. Hitchcock  
Don E. Hockley  
Victor Hockley  
G. Albert Hodson  
Arlie Hogg  
Lloyd A. Horn  
Aubrey Hume  
Stanley Hunt

John Hunter  
Thomas W. Jeffrey  
Reg L. Johnson  
Myrtle Johnston  
F. Lloyd Jones  
Richard Jones  
William Jordan  
Martin Kavanagh  
Duncan E. Kennedy  
Mrs. A. W. Kent  
Midred Kilburn  
Harvey Kindree  
C. Jack Kingsmill  
Ronald Kitchen  
Arthur Koping  
Jacob Krueger  
Jean Landreth  
Norah E. K. Lane  
Marjorie Lange  
Lillian Lawson  
Herb Lazenby  
Violet Leeson  
Matilda Legg  
Clarence Lennon  
Albert Leronowich  
Gertrude Leslie  
Jake Loewen  
Rev. Lloyd Lovering  
Harold Lund  
Jean Lyall  
Edward Lykens  
Marie MacDonald  
Pearl MacDonald  
Chester James MacFadden  
Harvey MacFarlane  
Mary MacIntosh  
Frank S. MacKay  
Mrs. W.K. MacKenzie  
Grace Magnacca  
Jean Cameron Mains  
Molly Malinowsky  
Peter Martens  
Thomas H. Martin  
Lewis Mathie  
Alice May

Frank May  
Harriet R. McCall  
John D. McDonald  
Eileen McFadden  
Edward McGill  
Estelle McGregor  
John T. McGregor  
Norman McGregor  
James D. McKeand  
Tulley McKenzie  
Doug McKinney  
Raymond McLaughlin  
Annie McLean  
Clarence W. McLean  
Gerald Norman McLeod  
Alex McPhail  
Effie McPhail  
Agnes McQuarrie  
Harold Medd  
Harry Miller  
Mary Milroy  
A. B. Mitchell  
Tom Mitchell  
Mabel Montgomery  
William J. Montgomery  
Gordon Mooney  
Lillian Mummery  
Vera Couling Munn  
Earl Murray  
Mildred G. Musgrove  
Lillie H. Musselwhite  
Andrew Fred Mutter  
Jack Naismith  
Robert Neilson  
Eva Nelson  
Maria Nelson  
Ella Kerr Nicholson  
Winnie North  
John Oldcorn  
Stan Oleson  
Mildred Oriss  
Patrick J. O'Sullivan  
Muriel I. Outhaite  
Donald Parrott  
Phyllis Paskewitz

Daisy Patmore  
Muriel Patmore  
Gordon Patterson  
Howard Patterson  
Elmer Peeler  
Jacob Penner  
A. B. Pernal  
John Peters  
Emma Pratt  
Frank Presunka  
Jean Purdie  
Mary Rauliuk  
Jack H. Renton  
Louis Richard  
Lorne Rogers  
Tranna Rogers  
Dr. Crawford Rose  
Simon Rosenman  
Ralph Rowan  
Kaye Rowe  
Charles Sage  
Clara Scott  
Dorothy Scott  
Thomas Seens  
Janet Seward  
Gladys Mary Sharpe  
Hallard Shelvey  
William Sheridan  
Beverly Sherman  
Ermina Shier  
Lynn Shier  
Nelson Shoemaker  
Esther Short  
C. Lem Shuttleworth  
Joseph Shwaluk  
Rev. Anthony Simbalist  
Bessie Simmons  
Eleanor Siple  
Rev. Michael Skrumeda  
G.M. Bay Smith  
Hazel Smith  
Margaret Scarrow Smith  
Robert Smith  
Vella Smith  
Alvie R. Spafford

Clarence B. Spurr  
Robert Strath  
Einar Sundmark  
Willard H. Switzer  
Elsie Taylor  
Ruth E. Tester  
George Thomas  
Joanne Titus  
J. Harvey Tolton  
E.A. Travis  
Stewart Trites  
Charles Robert Turner  
Edward Turner  
Sybil S. Tuthill  
Edith Vallender  
William G. Vallender  
Molly Vance  
Jack Vickers  
Gladys Ward  
Eleanor Warren  
Irene Wasylyshyn  
Harold E. Watson  
Lena G. Wayte  
Ada Whitmore Wells  
Frank Wereham  
Margaret Whetherhill  
Allen John Whetter  
Ruth Whitlaw  
Jessie Whyte  
Dave Willey  
Kenneth Williams  
W.D. Wilson  
Kathleen Winters  
Marjorie Wolfe  
Edythe May Wood  
Norah Wright  
James M. Young  
Stanely Young  
G.H. Younge  
Brandon  
Boissevain  
Brookdale  
Carberry  
Deloraine  
Douglas



Elkhorn  
Erickson  
Forrest  
Glenboro  
Hamiota  
Hartney  
Justice  
Kenton  
Killarney  
Melita  
Minnedosa  
Neepawa  
Ninette  
Oak Lake  
Rapid City  
Reston  
Rivers  
Shoal Lake  
Sioux Valley Reserve  
Souris  
Strathclair  
Virden  
Wawanesa  
Agriculture  
Associations and Clubs  
Churches and Church Life  
Cultural Events  
Early Politics  
Education  
Health Services  
Immigration  
Local Businesses  
Native-White Relations  
Oral History  
Pioneers  
Pioneer Settlements  
Pioneer Way of Life  
Social Life  
Sports  
Transportation  
War Brides  
Creators  
Westman Oral History Association  
J.E. Bateman  
Mary Booth-Kipling  
Gladys Bray

Kay Briggs  
Irene Brown  
Bill Burgess  
Phyllis Cairns  
Eva Cassils  
Winnie Cheetham  
K. Cochrane  
F.M. Collinson  
Elsie Cory  
Hilda Curry  
Marge Deschambault  
Margaret Dickie  
Ola Duncan  
Cliff Findlay  
Marjorie Fitton  
Jean Flay  
John Forsyth  
Elwood Gorrie  
Phillis Hallett  
Audrey Harburn  
Amy Harrison  
Wilma Hatch  
A.L. Henderson  
Lloyd Henderson  
Stan Henry  
Ron Heritage  
Gwen Hickson  
Shirley Hunt  
E. John  
Mae Johnson  
Isla Kennedy  
W.J.L. Kilkenny  
Irene Lazenby  
Phillis Long  
Blair Loree  
Ray MacNeill  
Effie MacPhail  
Dorothy Martin  
Marion Martin  
Marion Mayert  
John Miller  
John Moore  
Hazel Patmore  
Velma Patterson  
William Patterson

James Penhale  
 Terry Penton  
 Bernice Pettypiece  
 Edith Poole  
 Roberta Poole  
 Hazel Rose  
 Gordon Sefton  
 Jack Senchuk  
 Gordon Shanks  
 Gladys Sharpe  
 Mervin Smire  
 Delbert Spurr  
 Dr. David Stewart  
 Rosalyn Sutley  
 Margaret Switzer  
 Mary Thomas  
 Charles Turner  
 Nora Turner

Location Original: **Mayme Warren**  
 The originals for the collection are held at the Brandon Public Library.  
 Storage Location: **Tom Wilkins**  
 1998 accessions  
 Storage Range: **Assiniboine Historical Society**  
 1998 accessions  
 Related Material: The Minutes for the meetings of the Westman Oral History Association  
 from 1980-85 are located at the Daly House Museum in Brandon,  
 Manitoba.



## Oriole Vane Velduis collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14287>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
 Description Level: Collection  
 Accession Number: 2-2015, 15-2016  
 GMD: multiple media  
 Date Range: 1976-2014  
 Physical Description: 30 cm textual records  
 1 DVD

#### History /

##### Biographical:

Oriole A. Vane Veldhuis is the great-granddaughter of Percy Criddle and Elise Harrer Vane. She grew up on a farm in southwest Manitoba and received an education at Stockton school, Brandon College and Central Normal School in Winnipeg. Veldhuis balanced teaching at schools in Manitoba, Newfoundland and Ontario, with studying at MacDonal Institute in Guelph, ON and at the Centre for Christian Studies in Toronto for Diaconal ministry. Alongside her husband Art, Veldhuis served in United Church congregations in God's Lake Narrows, Holland and Winnipeg, MB, as well as Elmira, ON. Oriole and Art had four children together, whom they raised while she was working part-time and studying to receive her Bachelor in Education, Post Baccalaureate in Education and Master of Divinity.

Once retired from her teaching and ministry duties, Veldhuis shifted her focus to maintaining a promise to her father that she would try to uncover the mystery of his grandmother. Veldhuis self-published her discoveries regarding the secret life of Elise Vane and Percy Criddle in her book, *For Elise: Unveiling the Forgotten Woman on the Criddle Homestead*.

Veldhuis was awarded the Margaret McWilliams Award by the Manitoba Historical Society for best local history book in 2012. In 2016, her book was a finalist for the Whistler Independent Book Award in the non-fiction category. Three editions of the book have been published (2012, 2013 and 2014), as well as ebook and audio book versions.

##### Custodial History:

Records were collected and created by Oriole Vane Veldhuis during the research, writing and promotion of her book, *For Elise: Unveiling the Forgotten Woman on the Criddle Homestead*. They were donated to the McKee Archives in two accessions between 2014-2015.

#### Scope and Content:

Collection consists of the research materials that Veldhuis compiled between 2001-2012, in the writing of her book, as well as materials created and collected during the promotion of the book. The records deal with the relationships between different members of the Criddle/Vane family after they had immigrated to Canada and were living at their southwestern Manitoba homestead. The correspondence between Edwy Vane and his fiancée, Emily Steers, provides insight into the relationships between Percy and his illegitimate children. The records containing Elise Vane's homestead material shows Percy's loyalty to his agreement with Elise to provide for their children in his fight to ensure the government's approval of her homestead.

Collection consist of records - diaries, letters, homestead applications and files, and receipts, as well as addressed envelopes and postmarks - related to the Criddle and Vane families. Some of these documents are copies from materials held in the Archives of Manitoba, while others are copies of family records transcribed by Verna Vane Pannycok in 1976, and later given to Veldhuis. Other records were obtained from a private source and prepared by Oriole Vane Veldhuis.

The collection also includes two booklets containing Veldhuis's original and continued research. The first booklet outlines Veldhuis's motivation for beginning research on her great-grandmother's past, information on Elise that she received from relatives in Europe, and an account of Elise and Percy's years together before immigrating to Canada. The second booklet contains documentation of Veldhuis's travels in 2004 to Germany in search of further information on her German ancestors, as well as a general account of Heidelberg's history, and family trees for both the Veldhuis and Harrer families.

The collection also contains an article promoting For Elise in an issue of the Winnipeg Free Press (August 9, 2014), as well as two book reviews by Lois M. Wilson and Greg Pohl, an article regarding the Criddle Homestead by Neil Holiday, an interpretive trail brochure from the Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee, and a copy of For Elise (2nd edition).

Finally, the collection includes a DVD containing digital copies of Percy Criddle's diary from 1882-1918. The DVD contains 38 Word documents (one document for the London diary years [1876-1882] and one document per diary year for 1882-1918). It also contains the same diary entries broken down into three PDF documents: 1882-1890, 1891-1903 and 1904-1918. The original London diaries were transcribed by typewriter by Alma Criddle and converted into computer file by Myrna Paquette.

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Notes:            | History/Bio information was taken from the records. The copies of Percy Criddle's diaries in the collection contain minor changes from Percy's original hand-written diaries housed in the Archives of Manitoba. The copies of Elise Vane's Homestead files were obtained from the Archives of Manitoba and copied in the 1970s before they were converted to microfiche. Description by Caroline Stitt (October 2016) |
| Name Access:      | Percy Criddle<br>Elise Vane                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Finding Aid:      | An annotated inventory of the records in accession 2-2015 was provided by Oriole Vane Veldhuis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Storage Location: | 2015 accessions<br>Digital copies of Percy Criddle's diaries taken from the DVD are stored on the T:Drive under text records                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Related Material: | For Elise: Unveiling the Forgotten Woman on the Criddle Homestead available at John E. Robbins Library, second floor (FC3373.1 V36V45 2012)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Arrangement:      | Records are arranged chronologically                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

