

# S. J. McKee Archives

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## Brandon Council of Women fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4823>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 34-1998

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1952-1973

Physical Description: 66 cm textual records;  
6 photographs

History /

Biographical:

The Brandon Council of Women (BCW) was active between 1895 and 1927, when it disbanded. Principally through the efforts of Mrs. Kaye Rowe of Brandon, the BCW was officially reestablished in 1952. The Brandon Council of Women remained active until c. 1973. It brought together fifty-two women's organizations in Brandon, representing 2600 women.

Custodial History:

The Brandon Council of Women fonds was transferred to the McKee Archives during the 1970s. It was accessioned in 1998.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of papers and photographs of the International Council of Women (ICW), the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), the Manitoba Council of Women (MCW), and the Brandon Council of Women (BCW). The ICW papers include meeting minutes. The NCWC papers include meeting minutes, resolution lists, pamphlets, newsletters, correspondence, financial records, yearbooks, and copies of Acts pertaining to women. The MCW papers contain copies of the MCW constitution, meeting minutes, resolution lists, correspondence, and committee reports. The BCW materials comprise the largest part of the fonds, and include meeting minutes, committee reports, financial records, correspondence, short course agendas, posters, pamphlets, memos, resolution lists, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, photographs, and scrapbooks.

Notes: CAIN No. 202626

Subject Access: Mrs. Kaye Rowe

Brandon

Manitoba

National Council of Women of Canada

Manitoba Council of Women

International Council of Women

Feminism

Women's organizations

Storage Location: 1998 accessions

Storage Range: 1998 accessions



## Humesville & Forrest Women's Missionary Society fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4835>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 43-1997  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1885-1943  
Physical Description: 18 cm textual records; 4 b/w photographs  
History /  
Biographical:

The Humesville Women's Missionary Society began in 1885, in Humesville, Manitoba. Originally named the Humesville Women's Foreign Missionary Society, it was formed in connection with the Brandon Presbyterial Society as an auxiliary group. The reference to "Foreign" was later dropped from the organization's name. The HWMS was a non-profit group that raised money and gathered goods for the needy in the local area, Canada and around the world. The Forrest Women's Missionary Society was involved in much of the same work as the Humesville group. The membership of the two organizations was drawn from women residents in the Forrest/Humesville area.

### Custodial History:

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

### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of financial records, newspaper clippings, and attendance lists for the Humesville and Forrest Women's Missionary Societies. Minutes for the Humesville Society cover the years 1885-1907; 1920-1940. The minutes of the Forrest Society cover the years 1928-1943. The attendance lists cover the years 1892 to 1904, 1906, 1907 and 1939 (Humesville) and 1928 to 1934, 1938 to 1941 (Forrest). Fonds also contains minutes of the Young Peoples' Society of Humesville 1910-1914, Forrest United Church Women's Association 1930-1946, and a pamphlet detailing the history of the Humesville/Forrest United Church.

Notes: CAIN No. 202639  
Subject Access: rural women  
missionary work  
S.S. Warkworth  
Storage Location: 1997 accessions  
Storage Range: 1997 accessions



## Southwest B Region Manitoba Women's Institute fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14294>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Fonds  
Accession Number: 12-2016  
GMD: multiple media

Physical Description: 18 cm textual records

4 b/w photographs

Physical Condition: Some of the pages and photographs in the scrapbooks have become loose

History /

Biographical:

Southwest B "Region" Women's Institute is a regional board within Manitoba Women's Institute.

According to their website, Manitoba Women's Institute (MWI) operates under an umbrella structure of a provincial board and regional boards as directed in the Constitution and Bylaws. The provincial board serves to co-ordinate the activities of the organization on a provincial scale and link with other provincial, national, and international organizations. Regional boards are responsible for activities within their regions and for assisting with communication between the provincial board and the membership. Local institutes serve members in local communities or local geographic areas.

The Southwest B "Region" Women's Institute covers the area south of the Trans Canada Highway and from Killarney west to the Saskatchewan border. Historically it has encompassed locals from the following areas: Bardal, Boissevain, Broomhill, Dand, Deloraine, Dublin, Ebor, Elgin, Elva, Hartney, Kemnay, Lauder, Lyleton, Medora, Melita, Napinka, Pierson, Regent, Souris, Springvale, Tilston, Wakada and Whitewater.

Custodial History:

Records were in the possession of the Southwest B Region Women's Institute until their donation to the McKee Archives in 2014.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records created by the Southwest B Region Women's Institute during the course of their activities and operations.

Records include: eight minute books (1926-1997); a small scribbler listing Convention and some Board meeting attendance (2001-2013); and two Treasurer's/cash record books (1940-1944 and 1951-1992). The photographs are portraits of the Women's Institute Leadership Class (1961 and 1962), attendees on stage at the F.W.E.C Convention, Wolfville NS (July 1964) and the Manitoba delegation to Wolfville NS (July 1964).

Notes: History/Bio information was taken from the records and from the Manitoba Women's Institute webpage (<http://www.mbwi.ca/about-mwi/local-institutes/>. Accessed January 2017). Description by Christy Henry.

Finding Aid: A detailed list of meeting dates for the minute books was provided by the donor. It is located in the donation file.

Storage Location: 2016 accessions  
photographs in RG 5 photograph drawer by accession number



## Leslie Victor Robson fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4797>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 7-1998

GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1926-1975 ; predominant 1930-1940  
Physical Description: 31 cm textual records;  
1 b&w photograph - approx. 50 x 20cm (torn in half);  
1 ribbon from the International Pool Conference of 1928

History /

Biographical:

Leslie Victor Robson was born in Deleau, Manitoba in 1893. Following graduation from the Manitoba Agricultural College in 1915, he began a career in farming near Deleau, Manitoba. Robson married Edna Chapman in 1917. He was active in farm organizations, the co-operative movement and the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. Robson focused his farming activities on raising purebred polled herefords. His stock was exhibited across Canada and the United States and sold in Great Britain, Japan and Czechoslovakia. In 1977, he was made a member of the Canadian Hereford Honour Roll. Leslie Victor Robson died in 1977.

Custodial History:

This fonds was donated to the McKee Archives in 1995 by Clarke M. Robson of Deleau, Manitoba.

Scope and Content:

This fonds contains booklets and issues of newspapers from the Canadian prairie provinces concerning the CCF, the Independent Labor Party, the UFM, the Canadian farming co-op movement, Manitoba Pool Elevators, and the early NDP. Also included are publications of the CCF including "The Commonwealth," the Canadian Department of Agriculture, the League for Social Reconstruction, the NDP, the UFM, and Manitoba Pool Elevators. The single photograph is a group picture of mostly men taken at the International Wheat Conference of 1926 in St. Paul, Minnesota. It includes Colin H. Burnell, Fawcett W. Ransom, and Dick Mahoney.

Notes: CAIN No. 202653  
Subject Access: J. W. Noseworthy  
V.S. Alanne  
Helen Watson  
Tommy C. Douglas  
Department of Agriculture  
The Commonwealth  
Canadian Cooperater  
UFM  
CCF  
Pool Elevators  
Cooperative Consumer  
Independent Labor Party

Storage Location: 1998 accessions

Storage Range: 1998 accessions



## Westman Coalition on Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4878>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Fonds  
Accession Number: 9-2004  
4-2011  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1987-1999  
Physical Description: 1.2 m textual records  
9 video tapes

History /

Biographical:

In 1988, Sheila Doig was the Rural Liaison Coordinator for the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women. That winter, she travelled to Crystal City, Manitoba, to meet with a group of women that included Verna Menzies. At the meeting, the women were concerned about the efforts of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to amend the Constitution so that Quebec would sign on. They believed that the amending document, The Meech Lake Accord, would jeopardize women's rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Thus began a chain of events that resulted in the formation of The Westman Coalition for Equality Rights under The 1987 Meech Lake Accord. The group became known simply as The Westman Coalition. During the years 1988-1990, these women—almost all grassroots rural women with no special training in things constitutional—met with and lobbied politicians, other feminists, and the public in order to change Meech Lake or defeat it.

There were many high points to this campaign. Sheila conducted an extensive tour of rural and northern Manitoba, recruiting women to express their concerns in writing to Ottawa. The Coalition presented briefs to the Manitoba hearings and to the Charest Commission. They were only permitted to appear at the latter after they picketed the hearings in Winnipeg and demanded that women be heard. They were courted by the national media for comments, and became adept at handling interviews and public appearances.

After much turmoil, in June 1990, Meech Lake was defeated in the Manitoba legislature by Elijah Harper on behalf of Aboriginal peoples, who had largely been left out of the constitutional debate. The Coalition was there to support him and to show the face of women, who also felt that they had not been heard.

This should have been the end of Canada's constitutional debate, but Prime Minister Mulroney was determined to succeed where others had failed, and so a new process (the Charlottetown Accord, as it became known) was soon under way to bring Quebec into the fold by amending the Constitution. This time there was endless consultation with the public, and the women scrambled to respond to the many commissions and hearings. There were the Spicer Commission, the Manitoba hearings, the Dobbie/Beaudoin committee and so on. Finally, there were five (and later, six) constitutional conferences to be held around the country. Ordinary Canadians would be invited to apply to attend, and they would be chosen randomly.

The women were invited to 5 of the 6 conferences. Just a coincidence of random selection? Or a consequence of their high profile in the debate? They thought the latter. In any event, Terri Deller, Kady Denton, Paula Mallea and Sheila Doig all attended at various venues and advanced the position of women on equality rights and on the other issues on the table.

A high point of this second campaign was the visit to Brandon of Marcelle Dolment from Quebec City. As one of the few vocal feminists in Quebec who opposed the new Charlottetown proposal, she was a precious ally. She came to meet with the women, forge solidarity, and show that French and English, Quebec and The Rest of Canada, were capable of meeting and coming to agreement.

Sheila conducted another rural tour in 1992, and also attended the Annual General Meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, where she felt she was given short shrift.

The women were discouraged on many fronts during this campaign. They were out of pocket many thousands of dollars, and the promised funding from the Secretary of State for the Status of Women was finally denied. As well, despite herculean efforts to put their position to politicians and the media, the women felt again as though they were not being heard.

By this time, the Coalition had developed a position on all of the salient issues under the Charlottetown process: property rights, distinct society, an interpretative clause, equal representation of women in the Senate, the economic agenda and the Canada Clause. In the summer of 1992, Canadians were finally shown the text of the Charlottetown Accord and were told that they would be voting on it in a referendum, even though the text was not in its final form.

The women waged a final campaign asking people to vote "No" to the Charlottetown proposals. Politicians, business leaders, many academics and constitutional experts were saying that "No" would mean immediate Quebec separation and the breakdown of the country. The same had been said of Meech Lake. The women of the Coalition did not believe that the country was so frail, and they were proved right. On October 26, 1992, the country voted "No".

Secretary of State finally came through with funding to cover the Coalition's many expenses, thanks largely to the efforts of M.P. Lee Clark.

Sheila Doig was awarded the prestigious Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case for her work on behalf of rural women. Paula was given the Manitoba Human Rights Award for her work on the constitution.

All of the women who were involved in the Meech and Charlottetown campaigns felt that their lives had been changed by the experience. Like ordinary Canadians everywhere, they did not believe that they could have any real influence over constitutional affairs, much less national politics. They knew nothing about constitutions or the law of the Charter, but they educated themselves on the issues, and became articulate and incisive advocates. They were fearless in front of Prime Ministers and news anchors. They entered corridors of power that they had never thought possible. They were, then and now, a force to be reckoned with.

The Westman Coalition became Women for Equality (WE) after the Charlottetown campaign. They met for many years every week to discuss the issues of the day. Then, as various members dispersed, the group waned. A new crisis threatening the equality rights of women, however, would surely revive what was once a powerful grassroots lobby.

#### Custodial History:

Paula Mallea was using the records in accession 9-2004 to write a book on the Westman Coalition on Equality Rights ("The Fight for Women's Rights: Meech, Charlottetown and Manitoba women" published 2005). Once she was finished with the records, her husband, former president of Brandon University John Mallea, delivered three boxes of records to the Archives in 2004. A small number of photographs were donated later.

The records in accession 4-2011 were originally in the possession of Shiela (Doig) Kingham. They were given to Terri Deller who donated them to the McKee Archives in 2011.

#### Scope and Content:

Accession 9-2004 (96 cm textual records, 9 video tapes - 1987-1993) contains the records of the Westman Coalition on Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution including newspaper clippings 1988-1991, dealing with the Meech Lake Accord and the Charlottetown Accord and the failed ratification of both; meeting notes and agendas of the Coalition 1987-1993; miscellaneous documents dealing with Canadian constitutional reform circa 1988-1993; documents related to the Manitoba Task Force on Meech Lake; correspondence 1987-1993; budget matters; rural tour by Coalition members; constitutional proposals development and submitted by the Coalition; miscellaneous files relating to Meech Lake and Charlottetown; a file dealing with Manitoba first-wave feminist Nellie McClung; and published commentary on the Charlottetown Accord.

Accession 9-2004 also contains 2 video tapes of an interview conducted with Elsie McLaughlin, niece of Nellie McClung, as well as 7 additional video tapes consisting of panels with Coalition members, information sessions, Meech Lake workshops, the Westman Coalition meeting with Jean Chretien and Sheila Doig receiving the Governor General's Award.

Accession 4-2011 (6.5 cm textual records - 1989-1999) consists of the records of the Westman Coalition on Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution including notes on the origin and activities of the Coalition; a grant application - 1992 - by the Coalition; Coalition proposals and lobbying strategies concerning the Meech Lake Accord; a brief to the Special Committee on the Companion Resolution to Meech April 1990; a brief to the Manitoba All-Party Task Force on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord, April 1990; a brief to the Dobbie Commission, November 1991; correspondence, clippings and e-mails concerning Coalition activities; book drafts - history of the Coalition - Paula Mallea, February 1996 and spring 1996; a brief to the Manitoba Legislative Task Force on Canadian Unity [nd]; copies of letters "Rural Tour" 1992; and several published sources on constitutional matters.

Notes: History/Bio information provided by Paula Mallea. See Paula Mallea, *The Fight for Women's Rights: Meech, Charlottetown and Manitoba Women* (Kagawong, Ont.: Paula Mallea, 2005).

Name Access: Paula Mallea  
Shiela Doig  
Shiela Kingham  
Mary Annis  
Terri Deller  
Kady Denton

Subject Access: women's rights

Storage Location: 2004 accessions  
2011 accessions

Related Material: Brandon Chapter - Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women

#### Arrangement:

For accession 9-2004  
Box 1

File 1 Meech Westman Coalition  
File 2 Correspondence 87-91  
File 3 Clippings 87-88  
File 4 Budget meech  
File 5 Rural Tour Meech  
File 6 Final Document 1990  
File 7 Minutes and Correspondence Meech  
File 8 Meech lake Correspondence



File 9 Correspondence  
File 10 Meech – Our Own Stories

Box 2

File 1 Meech cartoons  
File 2 Meech Effects on Economy  
File 3 Meech proposed legislation and early Responses  
File 4 Meech Charest Committee  
File 5 Analysis and Clippings 1989  
File 6 Clippings January - February 1990  
File 7 Clippings March - April 1990  
File 8 Clippings May 1990  
File 9 Clippings June 1990

Box 3

File 1 Meech – General Information – members, terms of reference  
File 2 Nellie McClung  
File 3 Coalition Financial  
File 4 Coalition Financial  
File 5 Manitoba Task Force on Meech  
File 6 Books on Meech  
File 7 Miscellaneous Meech  
File 8 Miscellaneous c. 1990  
File 9 Meech miscellaneous

Box 4

File 1 Shiela's (Doig) Rural Tour fall 87'  
File 2 Actions for Change - women  
File 3 Charter of Rights  
File 4 WE Meetings 1993  
File 5 WE & WC correspondence  
File 6 Meech WE analysis  
File 7 Addresses  
File 8 Petition

Box 5

File 1 Meech miscellaneous  
File 2 Westman Coalition 1987  
File 3 Women for Equality 1993  
File 4 Womens' Centre

Tapes and recordings

Box 6

File 1 Meetings 1992  
File 2 Correspondence 92-93  
File 3 Fundraising general  
File 4 Minutes 1992  
File 5 Miscellaneous  
File 6 Charlottetown documents for book  
File 7 CBC Commentary 1992  
File 8 Charlottetown Bulletins

File 9 Referendum

Box 7

- File 1 Charlottetown & referendum clippings
- File 2 Charlottetown – Manitoba task Force
- File 3 Charlottetown Conferences
- File 4 First Peoples and the Constitution 1992 – Report
- File 5 Report of the special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada 1992
- File 6 Charlottetown – Lobbying
- File 7 Charlottetown – Rural letters
- File 8 Charlottetown – correspondence
- File 9 Press Releases 1992

Box 8

- File 1 WC Brief 1991
- File 2 Charlottetown – clippings March 92-November 92
- File 3 Published Analysis and Commentary on Charlottetown
- File 4 Published Analysis and Commentary on Charlottetown
- File 5 Published Analysis and Commentary on Charlottetown
- File 6 Photographs and Press clippings related to the activities of the organization



## 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



## Crown Protestant School District #184 fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4824>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 31-1997

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1883-1931

Physical Description: 12 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Crown Protestant School District was founded in 1883, in the municipality of Whitewater, Manitoba. It became the Crown School District following school reform in Manitoba in 1890.

The School District provided schooling for children in the Elgin, Fairfax, Heaslip and Minto communities. In 1930, the district was replaced with the creation of separate school districts for Elgin, Fairfax, and Lily.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains minute books (1883-1930), financial records (1884-1917), attendance registers (1892 -1906), tax records for the District (1918-1930), and documents concerning the disestablishment of the Crown School Division.

Notes: CAIN No. 202622

Subject Access: Fairfax  
Elgin  
Minto  
Whitewater  
Rural schooling  
Education administration

Storage Location: 1997 accessions

Storage Range: 1997 accessions



## Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4857>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 2-1998; 3-2001

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1904-1993; predominant 1960-1970

Physical Description: 1.2 m

History /

Biographical:

The Brandon Art Club was founded in November 1907, and operated in an art studio on the top floor of the Brandon College Women's Residence. The club appears to have been the creation of Miss. H. Hancock, who became the Director of the Department of Art at Brandon College c. 1907. The club moved to larger facilities made available at the First Methodist Church; the organization remained there until sometime during the Great War when the club relocated to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and then in 1921, to the Prince Edward Hotel. The club's first public art exhibitions were held at the Prince Edward Hotel. Art classes were held for the first time in 1928. In 1968, the Brandon Art Club merged with the Allied Arts Center, which had been formed in 1959. The Allied Arts Center was located at 1036 Louise Avenue. In April 1984, the Allied Arts Center was moved to new facilities at the Arts Center of Western Manitoba located at 638 Princess Avenue. In 1989, it was renamed the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, and began to function as a "professional, regional art gallery." The Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba relocated to 2-710 Rosser Ave. c. 2001.

Custodial History:

These records were created at different times between 1907 and 1993, and remained in the possession of the administration of the above mentioned organizations until May 2001, when they were donated to the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains administrative records, minutes, personal files, correspondence, newsletters, photographs, summaries of collections and exhibits, scrapbooks, programs, submitted papers, and other miscellaneous records. All are a record of the growth and evolution of the Art Club, its administration, and of the art community in Brandon.

Notes: CAIN No. 202584

Subject Access: H. Hancock

Brandon Allied Arts Council

Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba

Brandon College

Storage Location: 1998 accessions

Storage Range: 1998 accessions

Related Material: The A.E. McKenzie Company fonds (RG 3 MG 1, 1.3) located in the McKee Archives contains some records, primarily correspondence and minutes, relating to the Brandon Allied Arts Council.



## J.C. Cousins fonds

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

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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



## WARUCC fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4867>

Other Title Info: Western Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 8-2006

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1973-2003

Physical Description: 73 cm textual records; approx. 70 photographs with negatives

History /  
 Biographical:

The first conference of Western Canadian Registrars was held in January, 1952, at the University of Alberta. The four western Canadian Universities were represented by G.B. Taylor (Registrar, University of Alberta), C.B. Wood (Registrar, University of Saskatchewan) and A.D. Cairns (Assistant Registrar, University of Alberta). No attempt was made at this meeting to set up a formal organization or to plan regular meetings.

It was not until the University of Alberta and The University of British Columbia jointly hosted the "Second Triennial Conference of Registrars of Canadian Universities and Colleges" at the Banff School of Fine Arts in January 1962, that plans were made to establish a western regional organization of registrars of degree granting universities and colleges. Since the national group would meet every two years, it was agreed that the western group would meet in the intervening year.

The first official meeting of the Western Universities Registrars was held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, in 1963. The Association was established as a regional component of the Association of Registrars of the Universities of Canada (ARUC). The second meeting was held in January, 1965 at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Since the national group chose to forego its regular meeting in 1966 in order to hold it in Montreal during Expo 1967, the University of Calgary hosted the third western conference in June, 1966. This was the first conference to which delegates from non-degree granting colleges were invited.

The fourth western regional conference was hosted by the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, 1968; the fifth at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, 1970; and the sixth, hosted by the University of Alberta at Jasper, Alberta, 1972.

During the 1972 conference a steering committee was formed to develop a structure and constitution for a formal organization. The committee consisted of Barry Browning (Registrar, The University of Manitoba), Jerry Della Mattia (Director of Admissions, Douglas College, Vancouver), Len Semrau (Registrar, NAIT, Edmonton) and John Dorgan (Registrar, University of Saskatchewan).

The next meeting was held the following year in Brandon, Manitoba. At this time the constitution was approved and the name Western Canadian Association of Registrars of Institutions of Post-Secondary Education (WCARIPSE) was adopted for the newly formalized organization. Fred Bennett, Registrar of Camosun College, Victoria, BC was selected to serve as the first chair of WCARIPSE, serving a two year term.

Institutional membership was open to all provincial and federal institutions of post-secondary education located in the four western provinces of Canada. The 1973 membership roster consisted of 42 institutional members and 94 individual members.

The western association was originally established as a regional component of the Association of Registrars of the Universities of Canada (ARUC). However, a rather serious problem arose in 1966 when the western group agreed to include non-degree granting institutions in its membership even though ARUC membership was restricted to degree granting institutions. The issue, and some other problems closely related to it, was not settled until the ARUC Conference of 1974. At that time, the motion to extend membership to include non-university registrars was moved, subsequently carried and ARUC became the Association of the Registrars of Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC).

The University of Saskatchewan hosted the 1979 WARUCC conference in Saskatoon. In 1981, at the conference in Winnipeg, the four founding members, Alex Cairns, Douglas Chevrier, Norm Cram and Jack Parnall were presented with honorary memberships in WARUCC.

Vancouver was the site for the 1983 conference, at which time Doug Burns, Edith Allen and Alan Wallis were honored as life members of the association.

Subsequent meetings were held in Lethbridge, 1985, and in Regina, 1987. By 1987 membership had grown to 65 institutional members and 225 individual members. The constitution was amended to extend membership boundaries from the four western provinces to 88 degrees (W) longitude, providing for participation by Lakehead University and colleges of the Northwest Territories and Yukon.

The 1989 conference was hosted by The University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. In 1991 Capilano College hosted the conference at Whistler in British Columbia. In 1993 the University of Calgary hosted the conference in Calgary. In 1995 the University of Saskatchewan hosted the



conference in Saskatoon. In 1997 The University of Manitoba hosted the conference in Winnipeg. In 1999 the University of Northern British Columbia hosted the conference in Prince George, British Columbia.

Custodial History:

Records had been in the possession of various secretaries of WARRUC until their donation to the McKee Archives in 2006.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of minutes, financial records, membership records, photographs and miscellaneous documents.

Notes: History/Bio information taken from the WARRUC website at:  
[http://www.brandonu.ca/emu/mcleod/warucc/web\\_pages/history.htm](http://www.brandonu.ca/emu/mcleod/warucc/web_pages/history.htm)  
(February 2006). Some processing completed. Financial records (ie bank statements, invoices) were culled from the records. Description by Christy Henry.

Storage Location: 2006 accessions

Storage Range: 2006 accessions



## Baker family fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions8864>

Part Of:	RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level:	Collection
Accession Number:	21-2008
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1884-1889; 1997; 2007
Physical Description:	200 letters 2 booklets
Material Details:	A number of the letters are samples of "cross writing"
Physical Condition:	Some of the letters are fragile, but generally the fonds is in good condition.

### Custodial History:

Ann Murdoch donated a copy of "My Dear Will" to the McKee Archives in February 2008. The formal donation of the Baker family letters occurred on September 27, 2008 at a reception in the Gathering Space at the John E. Robbins Library.

### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of a collection of about 200 letters primarily written by William Baker (although letters written by other family members are also included), who left Liverpool and settled in Oak Lake, to his son William who remained in England. The letters offer insights on a wide range of subjects including the conditions of immigrants and the Riel "situation".

The fonds also contains a supplement to "My Dear Will: Reflections of Prairie Pioneer Life." This latter publication consists of transcribed copies of the letters in the Baker family fonds. The letters were originally transcribed by Ronald James Parsons and his wife Rita Olive Parsons (nee Blake) and published, along with some letters, photographs and other documents for family c. 1997. The booklet was updated in 2007 by Ronald and Rita's daughter, Ann Murdoch. The Supplement was prepared by Ann Murdock and her sister Dawn Powell.

Notes:	Description by Christy Henry.
Finding Aid:	My Dear Will booklet
Storage Location:	2008 accessions. Booklets and family tree stored in Rare Books: RC 3399.B73Z495 2007 v.1 and v.2.
Storage Range:	2008 accessions



## G.R. Rowe fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4799>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 60-1997

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1897-1984

Physical Description: 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

Gabriel Richard Rowe was born in Coleman, P.E.I. in 1897. In 1918, he enlisted in the Canadian Army. After the Great War, he moved to Viscount, Saskatchewan where he was principal of a high school. In 1924, Rowe moved to Brandon where he served as principal for various schools until his retirement in 1964. G.R. Rowe attended the University of Manitoba graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1935, a Bachelor of Education 1952, and a Master of Education degree in 1957. Rowe also studied at the University of Minnesota, Harvard, and the University of British Columbia. Rowe served as President of the Manitoba Teachers' Society from 1948 to 1949. He served as a member of the International School Master Association, the Brandon's Citizens' Committee of the Arts, and the Brandon General Hospital Board. He died in Brandon on January 6th, 1968.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

Fonds includes photographs, certificates and diplomas, career resumes, testimonials, draft obituaries, and correspondence, relating to G.R. Rowe's professional teaching career, and in small part to his personal life.

Notes: CAIN No. 202649

Subject Access: Brandon School Division  
history of education  
educational administration  
Earl Oxford Junior High

Storage Location: 1997 accessions

Storage Range: 1997 accessions



## James Buckley fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4830>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 11-2004  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1906-1939; predominant 1918-1939  
Physical Description: 3.5 cm textual records; one postcard; one key  
History /  
Biographical:

James Buckley was born in Amprior, Ontario in 1877. He moved to Manitoba in 1904. In 1906, he settled in Brandon, Manitoba where he was employed as a Canadian Pacific Railway conductor for thirty-six years. In the same year he arrived in Brandon, Buckley married Helenea Stavenaw. Together they had two daughters Ruth and Margaret. James Buckley was a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors and the Knights of Columbus. He passed away in Brandon, Manitoba on December 8, 1957.

### Custodial History:

Fonds passed into the hands of Buckley's daughter Margaret following the death of Helenea (Stavenaw) Buckley in 1959. Following Margaret's death the fonds was retained by Lesley Liversidge who donated the fonds to the Daly House Museum in 2004. The Museum then donated the fonds to the McKee Archives.

### Scope and Content:

Fonds includes Conductors' Local Passenger tariff No. C 6 Brandon to Moose Jaw in effect June 23, 1918; Constitution of Railway Conductors of America revised and adopted May 4, 1925; CPR Rules for Heating, Ventilating, Lighting and for operation of water rising system on passenger equipment, revised January 1924; Souvenir, Canada's Great Inland Port Fort William and Port Arthur [n.d.] 127 illustrations; poster The Spirit of 1918: Sticking To It, supplement to The Graphic, The Railway Conductor, July, 1939 Royal Visit Edition; Wonderland of Canada, The Rocky Mountains Specially Selected Views of the Canadian Rockies on the Canadian Pacific Line, photographs by WM Notman & Son. Valentine & Sons, Publishing Company, Montreal and Toronto[n.d.]; Over the Kettle Valley Route British Columbia published for Canadian Pacific Railway News Service 20 pp. [n.d.]; postcard with steam engine traveling through a flooded rail-line and CNR key.

Notes: CAIN No. 202582  
Subject Access: James Buckley  
Canadian Pacific Railway Company  
railways  
transportation  
Storage Location: 2004 accessions  
Storage Range: 2004 accessions



## Gerald McKinney fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4847>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 13-1999, 10-2000  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1980-1987; predominant 1985  
Physical Description: 30 cm textual records; 44 audio tapes; approx. 30 photographs

History /

Biographical:

Gerald "Gerry" Allen McKinney was born in 1932, in Melita, Manitoba. In 1950, McKinney enlisted as a medical assistant with B Company, First Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment. A participant in the Korean War, McKinney was captured and held as a prisoner of war for one year. McKinney remained in the Canadian Armed Forces until 1958. Subsequently, McKinney lived in Winnipeg where he was an advocate for workplace health and safety causes and tenant rights. He was also active in raising opposition to large water diversion schemes, such as the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota, the Rafferty-Alemada Dams Project in Saskatchewan, and the Pelican Lake-Pembina River Diversion Project in Manitoba. McKinney was awarded the Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt in 1984, for his work against the Garrison Project. McKinney was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Brandon University in 1985.

Custodial History:

This fonds was donated to the McKee Archives by Professor Joe Dolecki in 1984.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists mainly of McKinney's correspondence and clippings from the Edmonton Journal dating from 1985; a folder of campaign pamphlets of various New Democratic Party candidates in Alberta in 1985 and newspaper clippings about the Alberta NDP. Fonds also contains a folder of newspaper clippings about various environmental issues and several booklets of articles collected by the Garrison Focus Office of Manitoba Natural Resources from 1987. Fonds contains an extensive collection of newspaper clippings about the 1985 Jim Keegstra trial in Red Deer, Alberta, and a folder of clippings about Alberta labor and strikes, as well as rally pamphlets. The fonds also includes a collection of speeches that McKinney gave from 1980-1984, and c. 30 pictures taken by McKinney of various places in Edmonton, Regina, and Ireland. Correspondence between McKinney and Professor Joe Dolecki of Brandon University and 44 audio tapes of interviews done with McKinney by Professor Dolecki in the mid-1980's are also included.

Notes: CAIN No. 202575

Subject Access:	Don Braid Gordon Wright Randy Morse Burke Barker Jim Gurnett Grant Notley Jim Keegstra Gerald McKinney Peter Lougheed New Democratic Party of Alberta Garrison Diversion Project Dandelion Political Action Committee Province of Alberta labor politics strikes environmental issues
Storage Location:	1999 and 2000 accessions
Storage Range:	1999 and 2000 accessions



## Anna Enns fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5081>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 16-2007

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: ca. 1922

Physical Description: 3.5 cm

Physical Condition: Mothergoose Primer is fragile

History /

Biographical:

Biographical information on Anna B. Enns is currently unavailable.

Custodial History:

Donated to the McKee Archives in 2005 by Anne Eaton, a relative of Anna B. Enns.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of a copy of the "Mothergoose Primer" and a handwork book (1922) from the Brandon Normal School. The latter contains samples of various kinds of art and craft work.

Notes: Description by Christy Henry.

Storage Location: 2007 accessions

Storage Range: 2007 accessions

Related Material: Dorothy Frances Davidson fonds (33-2007).



## Frank Robb fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5133>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 22-2007

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1956 - c.1965

Physical Description: 0.5 cm textual records; 155 slides

History /

Biographical:

Frank Robb was Assistant Secretary Treasurer for School District of Brandon No. 129 and Curator of the B.J. Hales Natural History Museum exhibition for Brandon's 75th Anniversary (1957). Robb left Brandon ca. 1969 and relocated to Minaki, Ontario.

Custodial History:

Frank Robb sent the slides to Fred McGuiness ca. 1986. McGuiness gave them to Eileen McFadden at the McKee Archives in April 1986.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of 155 slides taken by Frank Robb, an inventory for the slides prepared by Robb and a letter from Robb to Fred McGuiness regarding the slides and memories of Brandon ca. 1950s.

Notes: Description by Christy Henry.

Name Access: Albert Hepinstall  
 John Bojarski  
 Frank Robb  
 Doreen Walton (nee Rookes)  
 Lily Harrison

Subject Access: B.J. Hales Museum  
 Brandon 75th Anniversary  
 Brandon Camera Club  
 Royal Beardedde Ballet  
 ladies' auxiliary  
 First United Church  
 School District of Brandon No. 129  
 flooding  
 summer fair  
 T.A. Neelin High School  
 Vincent Massey High School  
 dam  
 Experimental farm  
 Bedford Drive  
 Souris' swinging bridge  
 Highway No. 1 by-pass  
 School Teacher night classes  
 18th Street

Storage Location: 2007 accessions

Storage Range: 2007 accessions

Arrangement:  
 Original order and numbering system.



## Valleyview Leisure Club fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14292>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 4-2015

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1980-2014

Physical Description: 30 cm textual records

Physical Condition: Most of the photos are in peel and stick albums and the albums have a number of condition issues

### History /

#### Biographical:

Valleyview Leisure Club (VLC) began in April 1978 as a senior's activity group in conjunction with Valleyview Community Centre. The impetus for the creation of the group was a meeting between John Svenson, Regional Director for Westman Seniors, and seniors in the Valleyview area who met to discuss the organization of a seniors club. At the time the club was



area was not to address the organization of a seniors club. At the time the club was established, space was limited at the Community Centre because some school classes were held there during the construction of Riverheights School. However, a New Horizons grant enabled the VLC to remodel and furnish the basement area of the Valleyview Community Centre for the Leisure Club. A Grand Opening of the space was held in May of 1980; there was a special luncheon and the official ribbon was cut by Hon. Ed McGill.

The Valleyview Leisure Club was run by a board and its associated committees and governed by a constitution. Members were charged an annual membership fee, as well as user fees for the various activities. In the early years, the Club had monthly membership business meetings in conjunction with an evening meal and entertainment. The use of the basement area was varied and included: cards; shuffleboard and other games; craft activities; fundraisers; raffles; dances; and luncheons, dinners and potlucks. The space was also rented out for private functions, particularly special birthdays and anniversary's of community members. The Club made annual contributions to the parent Community Centre, as well as helping the Community Centre functions (winter carnival etc.)

In the course of time, the activities of the VLC became more focused on cribbage and bridge, with several regular groups scheduled at regular weekly time slots. At the time of the organization's disbanding, the following groups were active: Friday afternoon contract bridge - the "original" bridge group at the Centre; Tuesday afternoon cribbage; Thursday afternoon "Retired Educators" contract bridge - this group had played in vacant space at Neelin School up until around 1989. Its membership was eventually opened up to anyone who wanted to play in that time slot; Wheat City Duplicate Bridge Club - formed in the City as a sanctioned club and had a number of locations around town. When it moved to the Leisure Club, it came as a renter only, but chose in 2012 to join as VLC members; and Monday afternoon duplicate bridge - in an effort to increase the number of duplicate bridge plays, a "beginners" duplicate group was established with lessons, which proved to be a popular decision. The group thrived and most of the Thursday evening player began to play at this time also/or instead.

The VLC hosted a Spring and a Fall Bridge Tournament each year, open to anyone, with invitations going to surrounding areas. As well as cash prizes, a cash donation was given to a local charity. In latter years these donations were \$500 per tournament. An annual Christmas Dinner was another popular event. It was a catered event, at least in the later years, and was offered at a subsidized price to members. The club also made a donation to Christmas Cheer at this time.

At some point in the organization's history the VLC came to be seen as a tenant of the Valleyview Community Centre, paying a rent of \$3000 per year for its use of the basement space, as well as some maintenance expenses. When the Valleyview Community Centre voted to raise the rent to \$12,000 per year within two years, the VLC sought other options.

The VLC settled on Prairie Oasis Senior Centre for a number of reasons. First, it offered to provide space for each of the club's existing card groups at the same time slots with no membership fees. Second, the move would also eliminate the increasingly difficult task of fielding a board of directors to run the club. Finally, the Prairie Oasis location offered the advantage of level access; the basement location of the VLC had excluded several of the club's former members with mobility issues.

Effective September 1, 2014, the Valleyview Leisure Club was dissolved. The club disposed of equipment either by donating it to Prairie Oasis or to Valleyview Community Centre. Once all debts were cleared the Board voted to distribute the cash assets to the following local charities: Big Brothers and Sisters; Food For Thought; Humane Society; Prairie Oasis Senior Centre/Meals on Wheels; Salvation Army; Samaritan House; Seniors For Seniors Co-op Inc.; The Soup Kitchen; Westman Regional Hospital; Westman Hospice; and Y Kids.

Custodial History:

Records were created and collected by Valleyview Leisure Club and donated to the S.J. McKee Archives by Barry Reilly following the disbandment of the club in 2015.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records created and maintained by the Valleyview Leisure Club to document their activities and membership. The records detail club events, finances, insurance and meetings.

Records include meeting minutes, agendas, posters, correspondence, budget plans, grants, constitutions, newspaper clippings, membership lists, phone directories, membership rosters, financial statements, secretarial records, photo albums and other miscellaneous records.

Notes: History/Bio information was provided by the Valleyview Leisure Club.  
Description by Amanda Gramchuk (October 2016) and Christy Henry.

Storage Location: 2015 accessions

Arrangement:

Records are arranged in chronological order



## RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4722>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Fonds Number: RG 5

GMD: multiple media

History /

Biographical:

This record group was artificially created in January 2007 by Tom Mitchell and Christy Henry of the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

The record group consists of various fonds and collections concerned with the political, cultural, social, and educational life of western Manitoba. See the Subject Access field for a list of titles.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2007).

Subject Access: Joseph H. Hughes  
Canadian Federation of University Women  
Verna Gamey  
Brandon Cinema Club  
Birtle Indian Residential School  
Brandon Assisted Passage Association  
Binscarth Women's Institute  
Griswold School District  
Manitoba School Trustees Regional Association  
Riverbank/Berbank Red Cross  
A.C. Miller  
C.J. Barnes  
David Sommerville Charleson

Southwest A Region Manitoba Women's Institute  
Berbank Ladies Aid  
Berbank Church  
Blyth Protestant School District #471  
Crown Protestant School District #184  
Ward Watson  
Laurie V. Smith  
Marion Doig  
Elm Creek/Wingham Branch United Farmers of Manitoba  
Roseland Church  
Fairfax United Church  
Humesville & Forrest Women's Missionary Society  
Chater Protestant School District  
William Wallace  
United Grain Growers  
G.R. Rowe  
Cecil Herbert Edward Johnston  
Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium  
Brandon Art Club  
James Duncan McGregor  
Stephan Adolph Magnacca  
Harry "Hap" Fraser  
Leslie Victor Robson  
Bertha School District #861  
Manitoba Genealogical Society  
Brandon Golf & Country Club  
Keystone Centre Development and Construction  
Manitoba Elevator Company  
B.J. Hales  
Brandon Council of Women  
Westman Oral History  
Mildred (Mollie) Kellet  
Gerald McKinney  
Janet Donnelly  
Minnedosa OddFellows  
Basswood OddFellows  
Archibald E. Wilson  
Audrey Silvius  
Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir  
Lawrence Stuckey  
Minnedosa Women's Institute  
Clanwilliam Women's Institute  
Cordova Women's Institute  
Crocus Women's Institute  
Rathwell Women's Institute

Strathclair Women's Institute  
Manitoba Women's Institute  
Brandon Business & Professional Women's Club  
Minnedosa Business & Professional Women's Club  
Neepawa Business & Professional Women's Club  
Brandon Women's Musical Club  
International Toastmistress Club - Land O'Lakes Region  
Fred McGuinness  
Reg Forbes  
Jack Stothard  
Janet Louisa May More  
William J. Birtles  
Ruby Miles  
Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women  
Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Brandon & District Labour Council (CLC)  
Westman Multi-Cultural Council  
Westman Coalition on Equality Rights  
Martin Kavanagh  
James Buckley  
James Douglas Wall  
Brandon Women's Institute  
Trillium Business & Professional Women's Club  
Westridge Senior Citizens  
Kodaly in Manitoba  
WARUCC - Western Association of Registrars of the Universities and  
Colleges of Canada  
Margaret Laurence Endowment  
Douglas Women's Institute  
Albert Angus Murray McPherson  
Edward Walker  
Alexander MacPhail  
Inventory of Archival Material in Western Manitoba Project  
Greenway Fair  
Brandon Hills Busy Bees  
Prairie Horizons Toastmistress Club  
Grand Valley School District #206  
Douglas Brolund  
Norma Laird  
Brandon Square Dancing Club  
Tully McKenzie  
Basswood School District  
Anna Enns  
Frank Robb  
Bankburn School District

John Crawford  
 J.C. Cousins  
 William Ridley Sheridan Wade  
 Mary Schwalm  
 Robert (Bert) Lane  
 Ross Hume  
 Quincy H. Martinson  
 Helen Dutka  
 Dorothy Frances Davidson  
 Brandon Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club  
 Brandon Folk, Music & Art Society, Inc.  
 Baker family  
 Brandon Daily Sun microfilm  
 Western Manitoba Home Economic Association  
 Hubert Weidenhamer  
 Len Evans  
 Henry Hlady  
 Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
 Westman Recycling Council

Storage Location: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Storage Range: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Arrangement:

The fonds and collections in RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript collection have been arranged primarily by accession number.



## Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14288>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 8-2001, 13-2016

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1965-1980, predominant 25 May 1965 - 30 September 1976

Physical Description: 12 cm textual records

6 b/w photographs (loose)

1 artefact

Physical Condition: Some of the items in the scrapbook have come loose from their pages, some documents are stained from a liquid, likely coffee

History /

Biographical:

In 1965, Chris Verhoef, member of the Overture Concert Association, Allied Arts Centre, and Brandon Citizens' Committee for the Performing Arts, called for a meeting of Western Manitoba citizens interested in the prospect of a Philharmonic Choir for the region. The meeting took place on 26 May 1965; the steering committee that gathered, led by Margaret Goodman, undertook the formation of the Choir. The Choir would have an Executive consistign

of at least four members, and a committee consisting of a minimum seven members. Each executive member would be elected on an annual basis. The Choir's executive, in collaboration with the conductor, would determine the choir's repertoire for the year. The establishment of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir (WMPC) sought to encourage amateurs to sing for enjoyment, provide the opportunity for a choir to perform choral compositions in collaboration with a symphony orchestra and promote and sponsor the musical arts in the Western Manitoba region. Membership to the choir would be open to all citizens of the region, and members would be accepted based on the discretion of the conductor. The first meeting of prospective members took place on 27 September 1965 in St. Matthews Cathedral parish Hall where more than 90 people gathered and registered to become a member of the WMPC.

Chris Verhoef led the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir into its first season as President of the choir's Executive Committee. For the organization's first season, the WMPC hired two members of the Brandon College School of Music: Lucien Needham for the position of conductor and Louise Chapman for the position of accompanist. Brandon College, as well as other donors sponsored the choir for its first season. The Choir held its debut performance in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphny Orchestra (WSO) on 12 March 1966, and the Choir's performance of Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Dettingen te Deum attracted an audience of more than 1400 people. The performance was well received by the public. The debut performance's success earned the Choir a recommendation for a grant from the Manitoba Centennial Corporation that would sponsor a special concert during the centennial year. Furthermore, the Canada Council supported the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, by the means of special funds, to make the Symphony's appearance with the Philharmonic Choir possible.

For the WMPC's second season, membership rose to 111 amateur singers. Verhoef remained as President of the Executive, while the Brandon Citizens' Committee for the Performing Arts provided sponsorship. Following the Choir's performance of Schubert's Mass in Eb Major on 17 November 1966, the membership increased to 132 singers. On 20 January 1967, the WMPC's first taped broadcast was released over CBC and CKX. The broadcast's success resulted in an offer from CBC to record another broadcast for a similar release. The Kiwanis Club of Rivers invited the Choir to perform in Rivers on 25 January 1967. On 7 April 1967, the Choir performed Haydn's oratorio, The Creation, in the Brandon College Gymnasium.

The choir elected Murray Ames as President to lead it through its third and fourth seasons. In its third season, the WMPC, conducted by Leonard Mayoh, performed Handel's Messiah on 22 November 1967 in the Brandon University Gymnasium. The Choir's spring concert, named the "Chris Verhoef Memorial Concert," in honour of Chris Verhoef who had passed away December 1967, featured works by Bach, Brahms and Perry. Held on 9 March 1968, in the Brandon University Gymnasium, the concert featured Brandon University student James Stewart as soloist and was received with great praise. In addition to the memorial concert, the WMPC also established a \$500 scholarship for a Brandon University music student to honour Verhoef's substantial contribution to the community.

The first concert of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir's fourth season was held on 10 December 1968, in the J.R.C. Evans Lecture Theatre at Brandon University and featured selections from Handel's Messiah. A piano trio comprised of Francis Chaplin (violin), Malcolm Tait (cello) and Gordon Macpherson (piano), as well as a brass trio, also performed at the choir's winter concert. In its fourth season, the WMPC performed two concerts in the second half of its season. On 15 February 1969, in cooperation with CKX Radio and Television, the choir performed works by Mozart, Hindemith, and Mahler in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra conducted by George Cleve. Later in the season, the choir performed Brahms' Requiem Mass, once again in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. R. Parker filled the position of President of the Executive for the duration of the Choir's fifth, sixth and seventh seasons. The fifth season saw the WMPC performing four concerts.

Conducted by Leonard Mayoh, it opened its season on 11 October 1969 with a performance at the Grand Finale of the Grand Opening of the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, performing the overture to Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. Their Christmas concert, also conducted by Mayoh, took place on 10 December 1969. The Choir's third concert of its fifth season was held on 31 January 1970, in cooperation with CKX Radio and Television, and featured works by Mendelssohn, Ravel, and Schubert, in collaboration with the WSO under the direction of conductor George Cleve. The season concluded with another concert in collaboration with the WSO on 7 March 1970, conducted by Leonard Mayoh. This concert featured works by Vaughn Williams, Handel and Poulenc.

Seasons six and seven consisted of two concerts each. The Choir held its fifth annual Christmas Concert on 5 December 1970. Led by Leonard Mayoh, it performed its spring concert on 10 April 1971 in collaboration with members from the Winnipeg Symphony, featuring selections by Bach and Mozart in the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. In its seventh season, the Choir performed Bach's Christmas Oratorio on 4 December 1971 in the Central United Church. For its final concert of the year, the WMPC revisited a piece that had been the main focus of its second season: Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*. The Choir performed this Haydn masterwork on 8 April 1972 under the direction of Piero Gamba.

Helen Riesberry led the choir through its eighth and ninth seasons as President of the Executive. In its eighth season, the WMPC held its annual Christmas concert on 12 December 1972 in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in the style of a sing-along led by Mitch Miller. The choir's spring concert featured another masterwork, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Piero Gamba. The WMPC and members of the WSO performed the Requiem Mass on 28 April 1973 at the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. Despite the lack of attendance at rehearsals since the Christmas concert, the WMPC presented an overall effective performance of the challenging Requiem Mass.

In its ninth season, Derek Morphy took over the position of conductor from Leonard Mayoh. Morphy had his debut performance as conductor with the WMPC at the annual Christmas concert on 17 December 1973. In March 1974, in collaboration with members from the WSO, Morphy led the Choir in its performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*, in the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. Later in the season, the choir performed a concert entitled "Reflections," a choral programme for Lent and Easter, accompanied by organist Arthur Bower.

Nearing the end of its ninth season, the Philharmonic Choir encountered severe financial challenges. The Choir released a notice in the newspaper that the anticipated \$3000 grant from the Manitoba Arts Council had been cut to \$1000, leaving the Choir \$3100 in debt. The notice explained that the Choir needed funds in order to enable operation and continue hiring the WSO for concerts. The WMPC executive and committee held a Leonard Mayoh Night in an attempt to gain funds and donations. Although the Manitoba Arts Council raised the grant to \$2000 and the City of Brandon contributed \$500, the Choir's financial situation remained in a dire state as its ninth season came to a close.

The Choir elected Edith Hayden to lead it through its tenth and eleventh seasons as President of the Executive. The opening of the tenth season challenged the WMPC. In addition to its financial woes, the Choir's Executive struggled to overcome the lack of attendance at rehearsals and the shortage of male voices. The WMPC had experienced membership issues in earlier seasons as well. In its third season, despite a membership of 130 individuals, the choir had struggled to create a balanced sound due to a lack of male membership and therefore a lack of lower voices. In its sixth season, the Choir opened their concert year with an appeal for members. In an effort to improve the choir's financial affairs, the Choir Executive and conductor decided against hiring the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for the time being. In an attempt to improve the situation, Derek Morphy wrote a letter to the members of the Choir outlining his concern that he may not be meeting their expectations as a conductor but hoped to generate positive and hopeful prospects for the future of music-making together.

The Choir's annual Christmas concert featured a collaboration with the Brandon School Division Music Department and Brandon School Orchestra and Band Association, as well as dancers choreographed by Barbra Enhes. The WMPC performed Haydn's Mass in D minor at its spring concert on 27 April 1975, accompanied by Arthur Bower. By the end of the season, the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir's financial situation had begun to improve.

The WMPC hired conductor Peter Allen to lead the Choir through its final season of operation. The Choir held its annual Christmas concert in the Central United Church on 7 December 1975, and featured Vivaldi's Gloria, accompanied by pianist Barry Anderson. The choir performed Deller's Psalm 148, Telemann's Cantata for the Fourth Sunday after the Feast of the Three Kings, and Dvorak's Stabat Mater at its spring concert held at the Central United Church on 25 April 1976.

Despite its best efforts, the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir's first rehearsal of its twelfth season saw just 26 members in attendance. As a result of lack of membership, the Choir Executive decided to disband the WMPC for its 1976/1977 season, with plans to reassess the situation in September of 1977 for the prospect of a 1977/1978 season. Matters were further complicated by financial considerations; by June 1977 the choir's financial situation had worsened as a result of the administrative fees that the WMPC covered for the duration of its unexpected inactive 1976/1977 season. Unlike past years, there were not any ticket sales to cover such expenses.

Following its year off, membership interest in the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir did not increase and the decision was made not to return for another season. In 1980, the WMPC revoked its registration as an organization and officially ceased to exist.

#### Custodial History:

Records in the 8-2001 accession were donated to the McKee Archives in 2001, by three representatives of the Philharmonic Choir: Dr. Bill Paton, Botany Department, Brandon University; Mrs. Edith Hayden, WMPC President; and Mary Davidson WMPC Archives Committee. Records in accession 13-2016 were given to Terry Stamper in the School of Music by Marilyn Hayden and then transferred to the McKee Archives on September 21, 2015.



#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records that document the origin, activities, and ultimate disbandment of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir. These records were created and accumulated during the eleven year existence of the WMPC.

Records include: the organization's constitution and history from 1965-1968; financial records, which include grants received from the Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council, and City of Brandon, as well as materials documenting the organization's financial struggles from 1974-1976; minutes from executive and committee meetings from 18 June 1973 to 24 June 1974; correspondence in the form of letters between the president of the executive and the choir members, and between the conductor of the choir and its members; membership lists from each season of the WMPC; and concert programmes from every major Christmas and Spring concert that the organization performed. Fonds also contains newspaper notices, advertisements and reviews of various performances, as well as posters advertising performances of the WMPC in the 1967/68, 1970/71, 1971/72 and 1973/74 seasons; the posters advertise the choir, collaborators, patrons and featured works.

Also included in the fonds is a scrapbook detailing the choir's history. Each page of the scrapbook is decorated with hand painted images of plants native to the southwestern Manitoba region. The scrapbook includes concert programs and photographs of the choir from all years of the organization's operation. The scrapbook also contains an assortment of informal photographs from various WMPC events. There are also six black and white group photos of the WMPC from various seasons.

Finally, the fonds contains one artifact, a leather bag/zippered file folder with "WMPC" printed on it.

Notes: History/Bio information was provided by representatives of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir. Copies of the history can be found in the fonds. Description by Jessi Gilchrist (October 2016).

Name Access: Chris Verhoef  
Margaret Goodman  
St. Matthews Cathedral  
Lucien Needham  
Louise Chapman  
Manitoba Centennial Corporation  
Canada Council  
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra  
Brandon College  
Kiwanis Club  
CKX  
Helen Reisberry  
Mary Donovan  
Tom Inglis  
Humphrey Davies  
Muriel Bain  
H.V. Kidd  
Eileen Christ  
Brandon College Auditorium  
CBC Radio  
J.M. Donovan

Murray Ames  
Dr. R. Parker  
Henry Stein  
Ernie Pearn  
Gerry Streuber  
Dorothy McLean  
Mayme Tucker  
Margaret George  
Bob Blair  
Bud Keenan  
Marilyn Johnston  
Sister Mary Rose  
Lou Brown  
Jeanine Baker  
Muriel Patmore  
Leonard Mayoh  
Jim Cory  
Eric Davies  
Phil Ricou  
Elaine Dechka  
Lester Spinaze  
Archie Miller  
High Rest  
Lorna hamilton  
Ruth Cutforth  
Ollie Timkiw  
Thelma Findogasson  
A. Bayne  
Dick Vanderveen  
Lee Donnelly  
M. Rogosin  
Ken Nichols  
Manitoba Arts Council  
Piero Gamba  
Mary Graham  
Reuben Gurevich  
Leonard Stone  
Brandon Area Foundation  
Arthur Bower  
Derek Murphy  
Judy Pringle  
Irma Peters  
John Martens  
Robert Publow  
Brandon Citizens' Committee for the Performing Arts

Brandon Musical Supply  
P.A. Kennedy  
Bond Books  
Brandon Public Library  
Phylis Thomson  
Hilda Miller  
Arthur Janzen  
Walter Deller  
Nora Needham  
Jean Dorian  
Margaret hammond  
Eileen Blain  
Brian Bailey  
Brandon College Gymnasium  
Brandon University School of Music  
G.R. Rowe  
Sylvia Richardson  
Peter Koslowsky  
Nelson Lohnes  
James Stewart  
Francis Chaplin  
Malcolm Tait  
Gordon Macpherson  
J.R.C. Evans Lecture Theatre  
Lorne Watson  
Donald Henry  
Lawrence Jones  
Alice Hekster  
Walter Hekster  
Hilda Dridger  
Elizabeth Grant  
Dorothy Froese  
Robert Ford  
James Mendenhall  
Colin Cooper  
Allison Ryles  
Joy Crawford  
Audrey Farnell  
Maxine Miller  
Smith Miller  
Brandon Sun  
Barbra Ehnes  
Brandon School Division Music Department  
Brandon School Orchestra and Band Association  
Barbra Landry

Subject Access:	philharmonic choirs amateur choirs amateur musicians symphony orchestra philharmonic classical music performance ensemble cultural organizations music community organizations
Storage Location:	2001 accessions
Related Material:	School of Music records Lorne Watson collection Lawrence Jones collection Brandon Women's Musical Club fonds Francis Chaplin collection Brandon Festival of the Arts fonds Fred McGuinness collection CKX fonds Music and the Brandon Community collection



## Brandon Hills Busy Bees fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4712>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 36-2006

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1916-1988

Physical Description: 31 cm textual records  
2 photographs

Physical Condition: Very good

History /

Biographical:

The Brandon Hills Busy Bees was formed in 1916 by eighteen women. The aim of the group was to assist with the war effort during World War One. At the end of the war it was decided to carry on the club and do community and welfare work. The Busy Bees met twice a month and, during World War Two, one meeting a month was devoted to Red Cross work.

In 1969, the younger members of the Brandon Hills Busy Bees decided to form their own organization called the Brandon Hills Community Fireflies.

The remaining members of the Busy Bees continued in their work until they disbanded as a society on September 14, 1988. At their last meeting it was decided to donate their records to the McKee Archives (minutes September 14, 1988).

Custodial History:

In the minutes for the September 14, 1988 meeting of the Brandon Hills Busy Bees, Mrs. Mollie Baker made a motion to donate the record books of the organization to the Archive at Brandon University, and for Mrs. Nell Baker and Mrs. Lillian Coate to take them there. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jean Kreller. Prior to their donation to the McKee Archives in 1988 the records were in the possession of members of the Brandon Hills Busy Bees.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of minute books with membership lists, accounts, newsclippings, correspondence, and reports, recipies (Treasurer's BK 1917-1919), treasurer's books, donation records, 2 photographs (1916 and ca. 1970s), a history of the Busy Bees 1916-1976 and calendars for the Womens' Auxiliary to the Grain Growers (Oakville, MB) for 1916-1918.

The mintue book for 1976-1981 also contains the minute book of The Red Cross Emergency Unit, Brandon Hills for December 1943-1947.

Notes: Description by Christy Henry.

Storage Location: 2006 accessions

Storage Range: 2006 accessions

Related Material: Albert Angus Murray McPherson collection (21-2006)