

S. J. McKee Archives



Brandon General Hospital interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14532>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH189.Bra

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: April 15, 1981

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [00:10:00]

History /

Biographical:

Mary Ellen Birtles was born at Sheffield, England in 1858. She emigrated to Canada with her family in June 1883, settling in Winnipeg. In 1889, she was one of the first three graduates of the nurse training program at the Winnipeg General Hospital. During her nursing career, Mary Ellen worked in North Dakota, Medicine Hat, Brandon and Calgary. In Brandon she served first as a senior nurse (approximately 1892-1894), then returned in 1898 to become Matron of the Brandon General Hospital. She retired from that position in 1919. In 1935, Mary Ellen received the Order of the British Empire from the Governor General of Canada for her role in the pioneer nursing of Western Canada. She never married. Mary Ellen Birtles died on June 22, 1943 in Alexander, MB. She is buried at Alexander Cemetery.

Custodial History:

As part of the Westman Oral History Collection, 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:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing Phyllis Long reading an article written by Mary Ellen Birtles in 1925, about the history of the Brandon General Hospital.

Notes: History/bio information from the Manitoba Historical Society website.
Description by Christy Henry.

Language Note: English

Audio Tracks



Joseph English interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14660>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH154.Eng

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: October 25, 1981

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [0:50:00]

History /

Biographical:

William Joseph English was born on April 9, 1891 in Arthur, ON. He came to Manitoba with his family in 1898 and lived at McConnell for one year. He then moved to Moline where he received his schooling and began farming in 1914. Joe married Julia Isabella "May" Greer (1892-1974) on October 21, 1914. Together they had four biological children: Allen, Elvin, Richard and Ivan. Their adopted daughter Verna Margaret died as an infant. Joe and May moved to Moline in 1947, and then after retiring from farming in 1965, they moved to Rapid City. Joe continued to live in Rapid City until moving to the Minnedosa Personal Care Home in February 1984.

Joe was an avid sportsman, excelling in baseball, track and field. He also enjoyed curling and was a step dancer. He spent 18 years as a councillor for the Saskatchewan Municipality, was a life member of the Rapid City Agricultural Society, served on the Moline Co-op Board, and was Pas Master of Corinthian Masonic Lodge No. 15. He was later affiliated with Prince of Wales Masonic Lodge No. 14 of Minnedosa, receiving his 70-year Bar membership from the Masons in 1984.

Joseph English died on November 29, 1984 in Brandon, MB. He is buried at Rapid City Cemetery.

Custodial History:

As part of the Westman Oral History Collection, 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:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with W. Joseph English about his memories, including sports, particularly his years in baseball. Interviewers are Gordon Shanks and Elvin English.

Notes: History/bio information from the records and English's obituary.
Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks
