

# 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



## Jack H. Renton interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14635>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH005.Ren

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: August 25, 1982

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [0:30:00]

History /

Biographical:

John Hugh "Jack" Renton was born November 23, 1899 on the home farm south of Deloraine, MB. He attended Hazeldean and Delorane schools. Jack married Margaret Ellen Potter (1904-1984) in 1929, and together they had two children: Hugh and Jean. The Rentons spent their lives farming in the Hazeldean district until retiring and moving to the town of Deloraine in 1964. In 1988, Jack moved to Delwynda Court. Jack was a member and Past Patron of Deloraine Masonic Lodge, Chapter Member and Past Patron of Deloraine Chapter Eastern Star, a member of the Cemetery Board, served on Hazeldean School Board and was an Honorary Member of the United Church Session and of the Agricultural Society. John Hugh Renton died on March 11, 1989 at Deloraine Memorial Hospital. He is buried at Deloraine 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 Jack Renton about the history of Old Deloraine and the move to New Deloraine. Interviewer is Eva Cassils.

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

Language Note: English

### Audio Tracks

---



## R. H. Hannah interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14499>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH131.Han

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: April 1, 1982

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [01:02:12]

History /

Biographical:

Richard Harold "Doc" Hannah was born on July 9, 1916 in Wakaw, SK. He obtained his BA in biology at McMaster University before joining the staff at Brandon College in 1948, teaching botany and zoology. In 1962, after completing a MSc degree at the University of Minnesota, he returned to Brandon College and was appointed head of his department. He served as faculty advisor to the Athletic Board for twenty years and for over 30 years, Doc was a coach, manager, trainer and the inspiration behind the Brandon College Cap and Brandon University Bobcat hockey teams. It was his involvement with College athletics that led to the nickname "Doc." When he retired in 1981, he was granted the title of Professor Emeritus. In 1993, Doc was inducted into the Brandon University Dick and Verda McDonald Sports Wall of Fame.

Doc married Reta Bernice (1914-2005) and they had three children: Richard, Sharon and Patrick. Doc was a member of the AF and AM (Tweed Lodge No. 113), the Royal Order of Scotland and Khartum Temple Shrine. He served as Grand Master of Manitoba (1984-1985). Richard Hannah died on September 6, 1990 in Brandon, MB. He is buried at Brandon Municipal 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 Doc Hannah about his career at Brandon College/Brandon University. Subjects include: JRC Evans and faculty members; chapel services; the Literary Society; sports; campus buildings; university status; college life and operations. The interviewer is Bill Burgess.

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

Access Restriction: Content Warning: This interview was recorded in the early 1980s, and contains some language that would now be considered racist in nature. Listener discretion is advised.

Language Note: English

Conservation: Preservation copy made 2021 (R. Hess)

### Audio Tracks

---

