

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Berbank Church fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4825>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 28-1997

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1919-1966

Physical Description: 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

The name Berbank was created by combining the names of two local districts: Riverbank and Bertha. Both were located south of Brandon in the Rural Municipality of Oakland. The Berbank Church was built in 1919. Its construction grew out of the work of the Berbank Red Cross founded in 1917. The Berbank Church was a "union" church, constructed in anticipation of the formation of the United Church of Canada. In 1966, the Berbank congregation joined with the Nesbitt congregation to operate out of the Nesbitt United Church. The final service at the Berbank United Church was held in 1966.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains a document titled "Berbank Church History." This document is partially in a printed format with a portion handwritten. Fonds also contains minute books and legal documents pertaining to the ownership of the land upon which the Church was constructed.

Notes: CAIN No. 202614

Subject Access: Red Cross  
United Church of Canada  
Presbyterian  
Bertha  
Riverbank  
church union  
World War I

Accruals: Berbank Red Cross fonds (18-1997), Berbank Ladies Aid fonds (27-1997), and Bertha School District fonds (8-1998 ).

Storage Location: 1997 accessions

Storage Range: 1997 accessions



## David Sommerville Charleson fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4827>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 21-1997  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: November 8, 1915  
Physical Description: 2 mm (1 two-page letter -- 1 letter with envelope)

### History /

#### Biographical:

David Sommerville Charleson was born January 14th, 1884, in Brandon, Manitoba. The Charleson's settled in the GlenSouris area south of Brandon, Manitoba in 1882. David Charleson enlisted on 24 September 1914. He served as a lieutenant in the 6th Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Later, he transferred to the 8th Battalion. In Belgium, Charleson was a victim of an enemy gas attack early in the war, following which he returned to Canada incapacitated. Miss Estella Cullen, a trained nurse, cared for him following his return to Canada. David Sommerville Charleson died on May 12, 1925 a victim of war-time injuries. He is buried in the GlenSouris Cemetery just south of Brandon.

#### Custodial History:

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

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of one letter written by Charleson from Belgium in early 1915 to Miss Estella Cullen in Rounthwaite, Manitoba. In the letter, Charleson describes the circumstances facing the Canadian troops in the trenches during the Great War and provides an account of the German trenches facing him. This is an evocative and reflective letter. Philatelists may find the condition of the stamps on the letter envelope of interest.

Notes: CAIN No. 202606  
Subject Access: Estella Cullen  
World War I  
trench warfare  
Great War  
soldier's life  
Canadian Expeditionary Force  
Storage Location: 1997 accessions  
Storage Range: 1997 accessions



## Fred McGuinness collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13654>

Other Title Info: Title based on the name of donor  
Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 1-2015  
GMD: multiple media

Date Range: c. 1880 - 2010

Physical Description: Approximately 7.4 m of textual records  
 Approximately 300 photographs (unprocessed)  
 Other media (see Material Details)

Material Details: 10 sound recordings  
 17 artifacts  
 49 booklets  
 3 maps  
 3 newsletters  
 18 periodicals  
 16 pamphlets  
 35 newspapers [oversize drawer]

#### History /

#### Biographical:

Popularly known as the “voice of the prairies,” Fred McGuinness was known by many titles and honorifics: wordsmith, apiarist, author, beekeeper, brother, columnist, editor, father, historian, husband, journalist, memoirist, Morse operator, member of the Order of Canada, member of the Order of Manitoba, public speaker, publisher, radio broadcaster, son, telegrapher (CP), telegraphist (Navy), vice-president, and writer.

Frederick George McGuinness (b. 21 January 1921 – d. 22 March 2011) was born in Brandon, Manitoba. He attended Park and Earl Oxford public schools. Upon his father’s death in 1933, McGuinness worked as a paper carrier for the Brandon Sun, whose route covered the City’s downtown core. In 1937, he quit school and began working for the CP Telegraph Service initially as a telegram messenger and later as a Morse code operator.

In 1939, McGuinness enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in Winnipeg and served as a wireless operator on the HMCS Alachassee. On 23 September 1940, McGuinness was seriously injured in a naval accident when his ship ran aground; McGuinness’ leg was broken when the ship’s tow cable snapped and he spent the next 11 months convalescing at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia. While in hospital McGuinness contracted scarlet fever and diphtheria and developed osteomyelitis as a complication of his femur fracture. McGuinness returned to Winnipeg to continue his convalescence at Deer Lodge Hospital and was ultimately discharged from the navy in 1941.

Fred McGuinness’ newspaper, public speaking, and broadcasting career began after he enrolled at St. Paul’s College in 1941. At St. Paul’s, which was affiliated with the University of Manitoba, McGuinness was able to complete his high school equivalency and university preparation courses. Additionally, in 1942, he served as a Sports Editor for St. Paul’s College Crusader student newspaper.

In 1943, McGuinness began his undergraduate university career at United College, which was also affiliated with the University of Manitoba. From 1943 to 1946, McGuinness served on the student union’s Public Relations Committee; in 1945, he became chairman of the Radio Subcommittee working as the Director of the University Radio Series where he was responsible (i.e., writing, casting, directing) for a half-hour Saturday afternoon radio programme. During this period McGuinness also utilized his previous military experience to work as an Assistant Veterans Counsellor in the university, and, following a recommendation from the President of the University of Manitoba, as a speaker for the War Finance Committee in the Winnipeg Area.

In 1946, McGuinness moved to Port Arthur to work in public relations with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. He married Christine Thompson (d. 14 August 2009) in Port Arthur, Ontario on 20 June 1946. Married for 64 years, the couple had four children together: Colleen, Fred, Jr.

on 29 June 1946. Married for 61 years, the couple had four children together: Colleen, Fred Jr., Gallagher, and Timothy.

In 1947, the couple returned to Winnipeg when McGuinness took a job as a Public Relations Officer for the National Employment Service's Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC). During the 1950 Winnipeg Flood the UIC offices served as a communication base between the federal, provincial, and municipal governments and McGuinness received commendation from the military for his assistance during the disaster. While employed with the UIC, McGuinness also travelled the summer fair circuit with displays promoting the UIC and its benefits. During that time, Royal American Shows also hired McGuinness as its Director of Publicity and Exploitation while the show toured with the fairs on the Canadian prairies. As part of his responsibilities McGuinness had to submit weekly reports to Billboard Magazine on the Royal American fairs. McGuinness also sold his first manuscript to the CBC in 1947, recording a 14-minute broadcast titled the "Class A Circuit" about the Royal American tour, after his summer fair schedule concluded.

McGuinness continued his work with Royal American and the UIC until he accepted a position with the Saskatchewan government in 1952 to promote its upcoming 1955 golden jubilee. McGuinness worked closely with Tommy Douglas during the jubilee preparations, driving the premier to sites throughout the province. His experience with the Saskatchewan Jubilee preparations lead to McGuinness being appointed as a provincial representative to the Canadian Centennial Commission in 1963.

Fred McGuinness worked with The Medicine Hat News for 10 years, starting in 1955, when he was hired as an assistant to the paper's publisher. In 1958, he was promoted to publisher of the newspaper. At the same time McGuinness was also appointed vice-president of Southam Company Limited. In addition to his administrative and editorial work, McGuinness also authored a column titled, "The Lighthouse" while employed by The Medicine Hat News. During his time in Medicine Hat, McGuinness was heavily involved with the Chamber of Commerce and community service organizations. His position within the community had him delivering talks to many local groups and working in tandem with the Chamber to actively solicit businesses to the City.

In November of 1965, McGuinness resigned as publisher of The Medicine Hat News and moved with his family to Winnipeg where he was appointed manager of the New Personnel and Information Division with James Richardson and Sons. At that time McGuinness began developing broadcast scripts for the CBC in earnest.

In November 1966, McGuinness was hired as associate editor and vice-president to the Brandon Sun. He moved to Brandon with his family and had a career with the paper until his death in 2011. During that time McGuinness also had an extensive career as a freelance writer and journalist for the CBC, Reader's Digest, and prairie weekly newspapers, as well as authoring several books. By the 1970s, McGuinness was writing copy for CBC's Radio Noon and Information Radio, as well as producing Ashgrove Farm, a CBC radio drama.

During his years with the Sun, McGuinness wrote a tri-weekly "Sunbeams" (sometimes spelled "Sun Beams") column using the nom-de-plume F.A. Rosser. The F.A. stood for "Fifth and," and referenced the fact that the Brandon Sun offices and publication plant occupies the city block between 6th Street and 5th Street along Rosser Avenue, and McGuinness' office overlooked the intersection at 5th Street and Rosser Avenue. The Sunbeams column was similar in style and content to McGuinness' "Lighthouse" column for The Medicine Hat News; commenting on a variety of current events, Sunbeams also included book reviews, local events, and reminiscences.

In 1979, McGuinness started writing the syndicated weekly news column "Neighorly News." He would write the column for 22 years until his age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diagnosed in 2001, became an impediment to his research, writing, and editing abilities. The

column initially began with a dozen subscriptions from prairie weeklies and grew to publication in 55 weeklies.

The "Neighorly News" column evolved from the interest in and the impending cancellation of McGuinness' CBC Radio broadcast "Neighorly News from the Prairies," that he hosted from 1980 to 1983. The show was cancelled in 1983 but was picked up by Altona broadcaster CFAM later that year with McGuinness at the microphone. The radio show ended its run in the summer of 1987. McGuinness continued working with the CBC, however, and is popularly known for his work as the prairie essayist for CBC Radio's Morningside with Peter Gzowski, a position he held for 17 years.

Many of McGuinness' Morningside essays were autobiographical in nature. He often reported about life on Christmas Tree Farm, a section of land where the McGuinnesses built their dream home in the late 1970s. The couple planted a Christmas tree farm on the property and Christine maintained an extensive kitchen garden, while Fred tended honey bees. Life on the farm made its way into radiobroadcasts, Neighorly News columns, and the book *Letters from Section 17: A Collection of Morningside Essays*.

Upon his retirement in January 1987, McGuinness was made publisher emeritus of the *Brandon Sun*. A week after his retirement, he began writing a new column for the *Sun* called the "Diary." McGuinness continued writing the "Diary" until his hospitalization in 2010. The Diary column was primarily a historical retrospective of Brandon, although it also touched on broader topics of interest to McGuinness during the time period.

During the 1980s and 1990s, McGuinness co-taught an undergraduate journalism class at Brandon University with English Professor John Blaikie. Around that time, he also partnered with Brandon University History Professor Ken Coates and published a number of popular books on Manitoba social history. McGuinness also delivered community workshops on memoir writing, a past time he continued until shortly before his death.

McGuinness took an active roll in the community and cultivated his interest in local history. Consequently he was invited to guest speak and chair sessions on local history, rural development, and the economy while providing his personal insights as a newspaper publisher. His previous experience with the Saskatchewan Jubilee and Canadian Centennial Commission made him a desirable committee and board member for many local organizations and planning committees. McGuinness' lifelong commitment to prairie social history, earned him numerous awards and recognitions including an honorary doctorate from Brandon University, the Order of Manitoba, and the Order of Canada.

Fred McGuinness died on 22 March 2011 in Brandon, Manitoba.

#### Custodial History:

Records in this collection were acquired by the S.J. McKee Archives in four accruals. Prior to their donation to the Archives the materials were in the possession of Fred McGuinness.

Accession 18-2002 contains records created and collected by Fred McGuinness until the publication of *Only in Canada*, a history of the Kinsmen Club Association in Canada co-authored with BU history professor Ken Coates. During the research and writing process for the book, originals and copies of Kinsmen Club of Canada records were amassed at the McKee Archives. Coates and McGuinness added their research materials to these records circa 1987. The Kinsmen records have since been deaccessioned by the McKee Archives and transferred to Kin Headquarters in Ontario.

Accession 6-2008 contains records created and collected during the writing of the Provincial Exhibition book, *Pride of the Land*. Fred McGuinness, who co-authored the book with Ken Coates, donated these records to the McKee Archives circa 1988. The materials in the accession relating to Souris, Manitoba, were given to McGuinness by Kay Sullivan in August 2007, and were subsequently deposited in the Archives. The material in the accession related to Kemnay, Manitoba, was given to Colleen McGuinness (Fred's daughter) by Mona McKinnon (nee Corkish) in the fall of 2007. Colleen then passed the materials on to her father, who in turn donated them to the S.J. McKee Archives.

Accession 20-2009 contains records created and collected by Fred McGuinness over the course of his career as a newspaper journalist and during the research and writing period of the Brandon history book, *The Wheat City*. Records remained in his possession at his home until their transfer to the McKee Archives on July 28, 2009.

Accession 1-2015 contains records created and collected by Fred McGuinness over the course of his career as a newspaper journalist and freelance writer. The Estate of Fred McGuinness donated the materials to the S.J. McKee Archives in March 2011. The Archives accessioned the records in 2015.

#### Scope and Content:

The records in this collection touch on every aspect of Fred McGuinness' life. From his childhood, his education, his war experience, his newspaper and freelance career, his work in radio and public speaking, and his family the collection covers both his personal and professional life. In addition to the records created by McGuinness, there are also records created and collected by a variety of his relatives (on both sides of the family), as well as correspondence from his readers. The collection includes newspaper clippings, research materials, letters, certificates, scrapbooks, photographs, books, periodicals, pamphlets, sound recordings, artifacts, maps, newsletters, magazines, teaching materials, workshop materials, and financial records.

Because of McGuinness' wide-ranging interests, the records include a significant number of subjects, both within his own writing and correspondence, but also within his library. They would be of particular interest to researchers who share McGuinness' passions for local history and rural topics.

The scope and importance of McGuinness' work in the prairies also resulted in a number of noteworthy honors, in particular the Order of Manitoba and the Order of Canada. The collection contains materials related to both.

The Fred McGuinness collection consists of nine (9) series further divided into subseries, including: (McG 1) Personal papers; (McG 2) Newspaper career; (McG 3) Freelance; (McG 4) McGuinness research materials; (McG 5) Monographs; (McG 6) Broadcasts, lectures, workshops; (McG 7) McGuinness artifacts and sound recordings; (McG 8) McGuinness library; and (McG 9) McGuinness photographs.

See the Arrangement Note for a more detailed breakdown of the collection's arrangement.

#### Notes:

The description of the Fred McGuinness collection was made possible by financial assistance from: The Manitoba Government Department of Tourism, Culture, Heritage Sport and Consumer Protection through the Manitoba Heritage Grants Program & The Fred McGuinness Endowment for Rural Archives, Brandon University

Information for the history/biography was compiled by the Archives and can be found in the Fred McGuinness timeline containing footnotes (see the S.J. McKee Archivist). Additional information was taken from his book, Letters from Section 17: A Collection of Morningside Essays, which is autobiographical in nature

Description by Suyoko Tsukamoto and Christy Henry (2015)

#### Finding Aid:

A file level inventory is available for each subseries, see subseries descriptions

#### Storage Location:

2015 accessions  
Oversize drawer ?  
RG 5 photograph drawer

Related Material: William Frederick McGuinness sous-fonds  
Ray Bailey fonds  
John Everitt collection  
Clarence Hopkin collection  
Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba fonds  
Lawrence Stuckey collection  
Jack Stothard collection  
Trillium Business and Professional Women's Club records  
Oriole Vane-Veldhuis collection  
William Wallace papers  
Fred McGuinness local history collection (John E. Robbins Library)  
CBC Radio Archives – Morningside  
Trent University, Peter Gzowski fonds (99-015)  
Kin Headquarters, Mississauga

Arrangement:

The arrangement was artificially created by the Archives with the intention of grouping like materials. Records within files were placed in chronological order wherever possible. An inventory of the prearranged materials is available (consult the Archivist)

McG 1 Personal papers

McG 1.1 McGuinness family papers and letters  
McG 1.2 Fred McGuinness correspondence  
McG 1.3 Fred McGuinness Ltd. business documents  
McG 1.4 Fred McGuinness certificates and scrapbook

McG 2 Newspaper career

McG 2.1 The Medicine Hat News  
McG 2.2 The Brandon Sun  
McG 2.3 Neighborly News

McG 3 Freelance

McG 3.1 Reader's Digest  
McG 3.2 Miscellaneous freelance

McG 4 McGuinness research

McG 4.1 Local history research materials  
McG 4.2 Newspaper clippings

McG 5 Monographs

McG 5.1 Pride of the Land (1985)  
McG 5.2 Only in Canada (1987)  
McG 5.3 Old Pathways, New Horizons (1995)  
McG 5.4 Manitoba: The Province & The People (1987)  
McG 5.5 The Keystone Province: Manitoba Enterprise (1988)



McG 5.6 The Wheat City (1988)  
McG 5.7 Chronicle of Canada (1990)

McG 6 McGuinness broadcasts, lectures, workshops

McG 6.1 Radio broadcast scripts  
McG 6.2 BU Journalism course  
McG 6.3 Talks and workshops

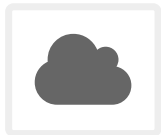
McG 7 McGuinness artifacts and sound recordings

McG 8 McGuinness library

McG 8.1 Books  
McG 8.2 Booklets  
McG 8.3 Maps, newsletters, and periodicals  
McG 8.4 Pamphlets  
McG 8.5 Magazines and newspapers (oversize)

McG 9 McGuinness photographs

6-2008 photographs  
20-2009 photographs  
1-2015 photographs



## Gerry Beaubier collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13541>

Part Of:	RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level:	Collection
Accession Number:	11-2013
GMD:	electronic records
Date Range:	1916-1917
Physical Description:	35 digital photographs
Material Details:	JPEGs

## History /

### Biographical:

Gerry Beaubier was born in Wainwright, Alberta to Beatty and Babe Beaubier. He completed his high school in Saskatoon, before receiving a BSc in Geography from Brandon University.

Before attending university Gerry served in the army as a special reserve, while working as a night clerk at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon. His post-graduate career consisted primarily of work for Canada Agriculture, under the PFRA Branch (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration). Later he would work as an Executive Manager, helping develop forage and range management programs for several post secondary schools, including, Assiniboine Community College, as well as schools in Red Deer, Lethbridge, and Saskatoon.

Gerry Beaubier married Joyce Abercrombie, of Saskatoon. Together they had two sons: Neil and Dean. Neil, an Account Advisor for the Royal Bank, was born in Regina, and currently works in Swift Current. Dean was born in Swift Current, received his PhD in Education and currently lives in Forrest working at Elton Collegiate.

The Beaubiers, who were originally from Ireland, emigrated to the Canadian West, making Gerry part of the fourth generation of his family to call the region home. His great-grandfather, along with his grandfather and great uncle were amongst the first one hundred settlers in Brandon. Together they first built the Beaubier House, a boarding house for early settlers and travellers. After it burnt down they began construction on the Beaubier Hotel, which stood at the corner of 8th Street and Princess Avenue in Brandon until August 17th, 2008. His grandfather, David Wilson Beaubier, continued to build and operate hotels throughout the prairies, including the Empire Hotels (of Brandon and Saskatoon) and The Park (Moose Jaw).

David Wilson Beaubier served as a secretary of the Orange Lodge of Manitoba. As an Orange Lodge Colonel, he worked with other Orange Lodge members, to recruit throughout the prairies for the purpose of World War One. For his efforts, David was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, and later Captain of the 99th Manitoba Rangers. David's sons (Gerry's father, at University of Manitoba, and uncle at McGill), were both working towards undergraduate degrees when war broke out in 1914, and each would leave school to join their father at Camp Hughes.

### Custodial History:

Gerry Beaubier collected these photos primarily in the years 2000-2011, largely from family and friends who knew of his interest in the topic. They were donated to the S.J. McKee Archives in 2011.

### Scope and Content:

Collection consists of digital photographs of those who trained for battle in World War I at Camp Hughes and in Brandon, Manitoba. It also includes a digital copy of the cover of the Nominal Roll of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, who departed from Brandon in 1917.

The photos, taken primarily at Camp Hughes, are of a number of battalions, including the 34th, 100th, 108th, 181st and 214th. The photo, PT in England, is a postcard sent home from Beatty Beaubier. The Massey Harris building seen on the right side of, WW1 B parade0001, was used to house troops throughout the war. The man standing alone at the front of the parade in, 181 Parade, is David Wilson Beaubier.

Notes: Information for the biographical and custodial histories was provided by Gerry Beaubier on September 25, 2013. Description by Dustin Lane (October 2013).

Name Access: Gerald Beaubier  
Gerry Beaubier  
Beaubier family

Camp Hughes  
Brandon, MB  
Lieut. D. Slemin  
Capt. C. Smith  
Capt. J. Strong  
Capt. Ridgeway  
Lieut. W. Smith  
Lieut. T. Williams  
Lieut. H. Craig  
Capt. S.R. Wallace  
Lieut. D.H. Beaubier  
David Wilson Beaubier  
Capt. E.L. Abbott  
Major E.R.C. Wilcox  
Major N.F. McCahey  
Lt.-Col. Sutherland  
Lt.-Col. Foster  
Major Lawless  
Major Collier  
Capt. J.D. Young  
Capt. A.E. Vanderpump  
Capt. J.E. West  
Capt. Munro  
Lieut. Watson  
Lieut. Johnstone  
Lieut. McIntosh  
Lieut. Cherry  
Lieut. Bryan  
Lieut. J.L. Evans  
Lieut. J. Kavanaugh  
Lieut. I. Vipond  
Capt. Rutherford  
Lieut. Cluff  
Capt. Maples  
Lieut. Lane  
Lieut. E.C. Whitehead  
Lieut. R. Carleton  
Lieut. B.F. Beaubier  
Fincher  
Lieut. Beaver  
Lieut. McCool  
Lieut. A.P. Milk  
Lieut. Joseph Hardy  
Lieut. K. Spencer  
Lieut. J. Faulkner

Lieut. F. Keall  
181st Battalion  
181st Brandon Overseas Battalion Band  
A. Gov. Lines 108th  
No. 13 Platoon 108th Battalion  
184th Battalion  
34th Fort Garry  
100th Battalion  
214th Battalion  
108th Signallers  
Stretcher Bearer Section 108th  
Machine Gun Section 108th Battalion  
181st Brandon Overseas Battalion  
armed forces  
military personnel  
barracks  
public ceremonies  
downtown  
historic sites  
railroads  
military services  
parades  
regional parks  
passenger trains  
Veterans  
railway stations  
train stations  
restaurants  
food services  
war  
World War I  
World War One  
First World War  
The Great War

Subject Access:

Storage Location: T: drive/shared 02/web photos



## Hubert Weidenhamer collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12347>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 6-2011  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: April 11, 1943 - July 4, 1945

Physical Description: 4 cm textual records (48 letters)  
2 photographs  
press clippings and several facimiles

Physical Condition: Good

History /

Biographical:

Hubert Clayton Weidenhamer was born near Dand, Manitoba in 1926. He was raised in Dand and attended school in the Dand Consolidated School District. Weidenhamer enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1943. He became a member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Following training in Canada and England Weidenhamer was sent to Italy. He was badly wounded in battle in mid-September and died of his injuries in November 1944 at age 21. He was buried in the Ancona Military Cemetery, Ancona Italy.

Custodial History:

These records were in the possession of Bea Chapin (née Weidenhamer) following their creation in the 1940s until they were donated to the S. J. McKee Archives in January 2011.

Scope and Content:

Collection consists of correspondence from Hubert Clayton Weidenhamer to his sister Bea. The letters begin in the spring of 1943. Weidenhamer had enlisted in the Canadian Army in January 1943. His letters detail his induction into military life in Fort Garry, Winnipeg and his training experience in Canada, principally at Camp Ipperwash, Lambton County, Ontario. He relates his experience of travels on leave to Detroit. Weidenhamer left Canada from Halifax in late 1943 and arrived in Great Britain in December for additional military training. In England, maintaining his morale, waiting for deployment, and coming to terms with British currency were challenges. Transferred to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Weidenhamer was deployed to Italy in March 1944. The letters dating from March 1944 to September relate in oblique fashion his experience of military life on the Italian frontier as the Canadian Army fought its way north - "hard fighting" - and the impact of the war on Italian cities and the countryside. He was "proud" of his conduct in action. Weidenhamer's last letter is dated September 11, 1944.

Collection also includes correspondence on Weidenhamer's behalf from his military Chaplain; two press clippings dealing with his military career, and several facimiles of telegrams and correspondence from the Canadian government officials related to Weidenhamer's death and burial in Italy.

Notes: Description by Tom Mitchell.

Name Access: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Camp Ipperwash

Princess Pat's

Subject Access: World War II

Second World War

military service

military personnel

Italian theatre

Storage Location: 2011 accessions



Joseph H. Hughes collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4805>

Other Title Info: J.H. Hughes, J.H. Hughes & Company, Hughes and Atkinson Lumber & Grain, Hughes & Atkinson Co., Hughes and Long, Hughes and Patrick, Hughes and Kennedy Lumber Merchants.

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 3-1997, 1-2008, 6-2009

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1886-1960

Physical Description: 4 m textual records  
84 photographs

## History /

### Biographical:

Joseph Henry Hughes was born in London, Ontario on April 14, 1857, son of Joseph C. Hughes and Jane McAndless. His family farmed in Middlesex County until they retired to Brandon, MB. Hughes received his education in Middlesex County then went on to attend the Toronto Normal School in 1874. He taught for only a short time in 1875 before going into business as a general merchant in Iderton, Ontario.

Hughes moved to Brandon, MB in 1882 and from 1882 to 1906 was engaged in the lumber business with yards in Rat Portage and Brandon and later with mills on Rainy River. His business partner was T.H. Patrick from 1882-1896. T.T. Atkinson was a partner in the business from 1882 until early 1888, running the company's lumber camp in the Rainy River Valley. Atkinson was replaced by a Mr. Kennedy in 1888. After disposing of the mills in 1901, Hughes & Company operated as a lumber dealer until 1908 when the lumber business was sold to Rat Portage Lumber Co., whose operations in Brandon were located on 10th Street between Rosser and Princess Avenues.

Thereafter, Hughes & Company focused on real estate, owning most of the property between 10th and 11th Streets, Rosser and Princess Avenues. The company built rental property and residences in Brandon, including the Strathcona Block on 10th Street and Hughes (Lorne) Terrace on Lorne Avenue. During this period Hughes & Company was also involved in insurance and farming, buying farmland in south eastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba for lease and sale.

Hughes was a city alderman for four years, dedicating himself mostly towards improvements to the city pertaining to electrical generation, water supply and the development of the streetcar franchise. In 1911, he resigned from City Council to stand as a successful candidate for mayor. He held this position for only one year, 1913-1914. During this period Hughes, along with other prominent citizens, set up the Patriotic Fund to help look after the dependents of those going off to fight in World War I. Hughes served as chairman of the project until his death in late 1917.

In addition to his role as a prominent city businessman, Hughes was also deeply involved in the First Methodist Church, and a member of the Independent Order of OddFellows (I.O.O.F.) and the Masonic Lodge.

Joseph Henry Hughes was survived by his wife Anna Maria Hughes, whom he married in 1893, and their daughters: Alma and May (Mrs. Wilfred C. Hughes and Mrs. Charles Leemnnis) and Ruth, and their sons Percy and Harley.

Upon J.H. Hughes' death in 1917, management of the company was taken over by Willard C. Hughes, who died in 1964. Following his death the company was administered on behalf of Alma Hughes by Barry Hughes, a Winnipeg lawyer and distant relative. The company remained active in real estate and property management, as well as farming and oil, until the early 1990s when following the death of Alma Hughes and her daughter Anna, the company was liquidated.

#### Custodial History:

The records in the Joseph H. Hughes fonds were held in two locations prior to their donation to the McKee Archives. Family related records, including paintings by Anna Hughes, music scores, photographs and various parchments, were stored at the family residence, Lorne Terrace (133-137 Lorne Avenue Brandon, MB). The balance of the records, being the records of Hughes & Co. as the firm came to be known, were stored on the fourth floor of the Alexander Block, also known as the Hughes Block, on the west side of 10th Street just south of Princess Avenue. In the early 1990s a decision was taken by Barry Hughes, who had succeeded Willard Hughes as the President of the company, to sell Hughes & Co. Hughes directed Joe Perry, the Brandon manager of Hughes & Co. to donate the records of the Hughes family and Hughes & Co. to Brandon University. Perry supervised the transfer of the records from Lorne Terrace and the Alexander Block to Brandon University. Initially the records were located in the Physical Plant H-Hut, they were then transferred to the Brandon University Steam Plant. The family records were transferred to the Archives in 1997, while the company records remained in the Steam Plant until January 2007 when some of the records were transferred to the Archives. The remainder of the records were moved to a storage facility on 20th Street.

#### Scope and Content:

The Joseph H. Hughes collection is divided into three series, including: (1) Photographs; (2) Edwardian music sheets; and (3) Hughes & Co. business records.

Notes: CAIN No. 202617. The Brandon Sun, August 6th, 1917 contains a report on the death of J.H. Hughes.

Subject Access: Hughes and Company  
Neepawa Salt Works  
Patriotic Fund  
Brandon  
Churchill  
S.S. Warkworth  
Wheat City Business College Hockey Team  
Brandon Board of Trade and Civics  
Power Committee  
electrical transmission line  
Royal North West Mounted Police  
Soldiers Re-Settlement Board  
Gordon McKay building  
interned prisoners  
World War I  
Winnipeg General Strike  
Teamsters Strike  
Souirs  
Rat Portage  
Rainy River  
Daly and Coldwell  
W.A. Robinson

Finding Aid: Inventory for Accession 1-2008.

Storage Location: 2008 accessions  
Oversize storage drawers



Storage Range: 2008 accessions  
Oversize storage drawers  
Related Material: A large body of unprocessed records of Hughes and Co. are held in the McKee Archives.



## Laurie V. Smith collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4837>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Description Level: Collection  
Accession Number: 37-1997  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: 1939-1986; predominant 1939-1949  
Physical Description: 18 cm

### History /

#### Biographical:

Laurie V. Smith served as the President of the Brandon Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion during the 1940s.

#### Custodial History:

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

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds includes correspondence, policy documents, and publications relating to the activities of the Royal Canadian Legion, primarily in Brandon under the Presidency of Laurie V. Smith, during and after the Second World War. Prominent themes include the acquiring of gifts for hospitalized veterans, primarily through the Canadian Legion Christmas Tree project, veteran rehabilitation, and promotion of the Canadian Victory Loans project.

Notes: CAIN No. 202631  
Subject Access: Canadian Legion  
Sanatorium Board of Manitoba  
The Legionary  
Veterans  
Legion Christmas Tree  
Victory Loan  
Canadian Legion War Services

Storage Location: 1997 accessions  
Storage Range: 1997 accessions



## Manitoba Women's Institute collection

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

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

Accession Number: 8-2002  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: c. 1935-1980's  
Physical Description: 64 cm

History /

Biographical:

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

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

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

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

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

Storage Location: 2002 accessions  
Storage Range: 2002 accessions  
Related Material: Related women's institute collections in the McKee Archives include:  
  
Manitoba Women's Institute; Minnedosa Women's Institute; Cordova Women's Institute; Clanwilliam Women's Institute; Rathwell Women's Institute; Strathclair Women's Institute; Crocus Women's Institute; Southwest A Region - Manitoba Women's Institute; Douglas Women's Institute



## Manitoba Women's Institute - Southwest A Region fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4864>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 26-1997

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1956-1989

Physical Description: 12 cm

History /

Biographical:

The first Manitoba Women's Institute was formed in 1910, in Morris, Manitoba. In 1919, existing institutes joined to form the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada at Winnipeg. In 1929, the Associated Country Women of the World was formed with its headquarters in London England; the Canadian Women's Institute affiliated with this organization. As of 2001, the Manitoba Women's Institute still exists, with its headquarters in Winnipeg.

Custodial History:

This fonds was donated to the McKee archives by Wilma Bell of Harding, Manitoba in 1997. Prior custodial history is unknown.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains minutes, attendance records, financial records, and annual reports of the various women's institutes in the Southwest A region of Manitoba.

Notes: CAIN No. 202612. Description by Robyn Mitchell.

Subject Access: Associated Country Women of the World

Birtle

Hamiota

Enrollment

Storage Location: 1997 accessions

Storage Range: 1997 accessions

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

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



## Maureen Johnson collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions9012>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 10-2009, 14-2009

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1908-c.1965; predominant 1915-1921

Physical Description: 32 photographs

1 sound recording

2 cm textual records

Material Details: 17 photographs are digital records

History /

Biographical:

Maureen Johnson (nee Sills) was born in Brandon, MB in 1936 and grew up in western Manitoba. She spent three years in Ethiopia (1958-1961) and two years in Houston, Texas before taking up permanent residence in Winnipeg, MB. She attended Brandon College in 1953-1954, living in the Tower Room of Clark Hall.

From 1960-1979, Johnson raised her family, volunteered in the St. Vital community and was Secretary to the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium (1973-1977). She worked in the Office of the President at the University of Manitoba from 1980 to 1996.

Johnson is a visual artist and photographer, and is a member of the Winnipeg Sketch Club, Manitoba Society of Artists and Winnipeg South Photo Club. Her work is on permanent display at Medea Gallery ([www.medeagallery.ca](http://www.medeagallery.ca)) where she has been a member since 1985. She also has work in the Rental Program at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

For biographical information on Sarah Persis Darrach see RG 1 Brandon College fonds, Series 9: Clark Hall women's residence.

Custodial History:

The original photographs in accession 10-2009 are in the custody of Maureen Johnson in Winnipeg, MB. Copies were digitally scanned by Johnson and sent to the Archives in March 2009. The 1921 photographs of Brandon College students were given to Johnson by Eileen McKenzie, her aunt, who attended Brandon College at that time. The photos of Sarah Persis Darrach (Johnson's great-aunt and maternal grandmother's sister) are from her family albums.

All of the records in accession 14-2009, except for the 1920 Quill and the Clark Hall Rules 1912, were collected by Johnson during her time at Brandon College. The Quill issue belonged to Johnson's aunt Eileen McKenzie, a student at Brandon College in the early 1920s. The records were in Johnson's possession at her home until their donation to the McKee Archives in May 2009.

Scope and Content:

Accession 10-2009 consists of seventeen digital photographs. Seven photographs are of Sarah Persis Darrach (nee Johnson), taken primarily during her time as a nursing sister during World War I. Two photographs are of Eileen McKenzie. The remaining photographs depict students and student activities at Brandon College in the early 1920s.

Accession 14-2009 consists of a copy of the sound recording and program for Mr. College Spirit, a musical comedy presented by the Brandon College Literary Board and written by James Struthers and Kenneth Gunning. Accession also includes fifteen photographs from 1953-1954, when Johnson attended Brandon College. Subjects include: Freshie King and Queen; Graduation Banquets (1955, 1956); senior and lady sticks; Jim Casey Trophy; Grand March 1954; Capettes basketball team 1954; Glee Club 1953; Variety Night - Men's Chorus; Caps Football Team; Caps Hockey Team 1954; Cheerleaders 1954; Caps Basketball 1954; and Touques.

Textual records include graduation banquet and commencement programs, news clippings, programs for Variety Night and Be Your Age, a list of football cheers and a copy of the Fall Number of the 1920 Quill. Textual records also include two color photocopies: Clark Hall Rules 1912 and Johnson's Arts and Science Departments, Brandon College Registration card.

Notes: History/Bio information and Custodial History provided by Maureen Johnson (April 2009). A review of the play, written by Kay Rowe, appeared in the March 6, 1953 issue of the Quill.

Name Access: Sarah Persis Darrach  
Eileen McKenzie  
Brandon College  
Brandon General Hospital

Subject Access: World War I  
First World War  
student activities  
snowshoeing

Location Original: Maureen Johnson (Winnipeg)

Storage Location: T:\Library\Archives\Shared.02\photos\2009 Accessions

Related Material: RG 1 Brandon College fonds, Series 9: Clark Hall women's residence  
MG 1 1.9 Sarah Persis Darrach fonds  
MG 2 2.4 James Struthers fonds



## Mildred (Mollie) Kellet fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4834>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 8-1999

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1918; 1941; 1944

Physical Description: 2 cm

## History /

### Biographical:

Mildred (Mollie) Norton Kellet was born April 5, 1914, in Birmingham, England to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Travers. At the age of 18, she joined the Cadbury Brothers Co. as a contometer. In 1942, she married George Crawford Kellet Jr. Mollie and George Kellet had two children together: Patricia (b. 1944) and Ian (b. 1949). In February of 1944, Mollie and her husband relocated to Manchester where George Kellet worked as an accountant.

Following World War II, the Kellets emigrated to Winnipeg, Canada. Mollie remained a mother and homekeeper until 1954, when she was hired as a secretary for Mitchell, Green, and Menouk Lawyers. She was also employed by The Bay and in the securities department of Montreal Trust Co, where she was the manager until 1966. She retired at age 65, but was recalled by the company to work until 1984, when she was 70 years old. In 1990, Mollie moved to Brandon to be closer to her daughter, Pat Alvestad. Due to complications from surgery and a weak heart, Mollie Kellet passed away on January 31, 1999.

George Crawford Kellet Jr. was born to George Crawford Kellet Sr. and Lizzie Auld Halliday Kellet on July 16, 1911, in Glasgow, Scotland. An only child, he attended private school, and in 1933, at the age of 21, he was the youngest Chartered Accountant graduate in Britain. At some point between 1933 and his marriage to Mildred (Mollie) Norton in 1942, George joined the British army; while with the army his job was to receive the orders concerning army accounting and process them for soldiers in the field.

George left the army after the war and sailed with his wife and daughter on the Mauretania for Canada. Upon settling in Winnipeg he worked for Family Fair. In 1956 and 1957, he continued to work while setting up his own accounting firm, Kellet & Co. He was also diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1956. In 1971, George's health forced him to retire. Mollie continued to work at this time. Five years later she was unable to care for him adequately and he moved to a nursing home. In 1985, at age 74, George Kellet passed away.

### Custodial History:

In January 2000, Pat Alvestad, the Kellets' daughter, donated this fonds to the McKee Archives.

### Scope and Content:

The records contained within the Mollie Kellet fonds are contributions from both Mollie and her husband George. Included are: a collection of handwritten recollections by Mollie Kellet concerning her experiences during the Second World War (Mollie had been living in London and experienced life under German bombing); a document from WWI, presumably from her father, who was a veteran of this war; and records acquired by George Kellet during his service in the Second World War concerning the practical arrangements made to support troops following the 1944 D-day invasion of Nazi Europe. Marked "top secret," these records set out procedures for paying and provisioning the invading army.

Notes:	CAIN No. 202659
Subject Access:	George Kellet World War I D-day memoirs World War II
Storage Location:	1999 accessions
Storage Range:	1999 accessions



## Riverbank/Berbank Red Cross fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4855>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 18-1997

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1917-1919

Physical Description: 1 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Berbank Red Cross was founded in November 1917, as a local feature of the Great War. The name Berbank was created by combining the names of the two local districts, Riverbank and Bertha, located south of Brandon in the Rural Municipality of Oakland. The Berbank Red Cross sent supplies of various kinds to local soldiers serving in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Europe. The organization also organized social gatherings in the Berbank area. With the end of the war most rural Red Cross organizations were disbanded, but the Berbank group agreed to remain intact to assist with the construction of a church. (See accession 28-1997 Berbank Church fonds)

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

Fonds includes a minute book, which provides a complete record of every meeting held by the Berbank Red Cross, from its creation in 1917 to 1919, when it became the Berbank Ladies Aid. Fonds also includes a roll call, financial records, and meeting minutes.

Notes: CAIN No. 202600

Subject Access: Stella Martin

Jessie Martin

Pearl Martin

Edith Wharton

Berbank Ladies' Aid

Riverbank

Bertha

Rural Municipality of Oakland

Great War

World War I

rural women

Storage Location: 1997 accessions

Storage Range: 1997 accessions

Related Material: Berbank Church fonds (28-1997) and Berbank Ladies Aid fonds (27-1997).

## Ruby Miles collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4844>





Part Of:	RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level:	Collection
Accession Number:	14-2003
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1910-2003; predominant 1920-1945
Physical Description:	60 photographs (b/w) and 18 negatives; 3 cm textual records
History / Biographical:	<p>Rubina Isabella Miles (née McGregor) was born October 9th, 1909, in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, the only child of Kate (née Rowe) and William McGregor. Her father, William Thom McGregor was a native of Scotland who, before coming to Canada, travelled to Australia and New Zealand, and served in the Boer War. Ruby Miles and her parents migrated to Australia in 1921. In 1925, the family moved to Papua New Guinea where Mr. McGregor was employed as Head Stockman on the Giligili Estate, part of the Commonwealth Copra Company. The family returned to Canada in 1929. In 1940, Ruby married Leonard "Len" Miles, a native of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Following the Second World War, they settled in Brandon, Manitoba. Ruby spent her adult life as a homemaker. She died in April 2003.</p>
Custodial History:	<p>The records came into Ruby Miles' possession through her husband (correspondence while he was overseas) and through the death of various family members. Following the death of Ruby Miles, the collection was donated to the S.J. McKee Archives by Errol Black, the executor of her estate.</p>
Scope and Content:	<p>Collection includes c. 15 letters from Kate McGregor, to her parents Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Rowe of Brandon, Manitoba. The letters were written in the years 1925-1929, when Mrs. McGregor and her family were living in Papua New Guinea. Collection also includes photographs and photographic negatives containing images of the Giligili Estate in New Guinea. Collection contains correspondence with Len Miles during his service overseas in the Second World War, as well as Len Miles' service record, death certificate and various memorabilia from his time in military service. Finally, the collection includes various news clippings, documents and correspondence received or retained by Ruby Miles.</p>
Notes:	CAIN No. 202595. Description by Mike White.
Name Access:	Kate McGregor Ruby Miles Len Miles A.A.Rowe Papua New Guinea Brandon Manitoba Giligili Estate Commonwealth Copra Company Ltd
Subject Access:	emigration Second World War plantation agriculture Boer war
Storage Location:	2003 accessions
Storage Range:	2003 accessions

