

S. J. McKee Archives



Mrs. W.K. MacKenzie and Norah Lane interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14744>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH183.Mack

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: March 2, 1982

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

History /

Biographical:

Elizabeth ? Tully was born on November 5, 1873 in Bruce County, ON to John Patrick Tully and Mary Anne Doran. She married William Kenneth MacKenzie (1872-1935) on July 4, 1900 in Strathclair, MB. Together they had at least four children: Kenneth, John, Gladys and Ellenore. Elizabeth MacKenzie died on November 5, 1968 in Los Angeles, California. She is buried at Rapid City Cemetery.

Ellenore Kathleen (Nora) MacKenzie was born on September 13, 1908 on 36-13-19W in the RM of Saskatchewan to William MacKenzie and Elizabeth Tully. She was a school teacher at Glanton School Division, Brandon Hills and Riverview School Division between 1928-1935. She returned to the classroom in Brandon in 1953, retiring in 1972. Nora MacKenzie married John (Jack) Lane (1903-1975) on March 14, 1936 in Brandon, MB. Together they had two children: Robert and Anne. Nora and Jack Lane were pioneers in bluebird conservation in the Westman region. Their work began in the 1950s when the birds were approaching endangered species status. In 1975, following Jack's death, Nora helped organize a society in Brandon called 'Friends of the Bluebirds,' a group of citizen volunteers dedicated to the ongoing survival of bluebirds. In 1982, the society established the John and Nora Lane Award, presented annually to those members who have distinguished themselves in the preservation of the bluebird species. In 1984, Nora moved to Toronto to be closer to family. Nora Lane died on July 19, 2004 in Toronto, ON. She is buried at Brandon Municipal Cemetery.

Robert Kenneth Lane was born on February 7, 1937 to Jack Lane and Nora MacKenzie. Bob grew up in Brandon. Early in his career he worked as a meteorologist in Churchill, MB. He completed his PhD in Oceanography at Oregon State University in 1965, and then spent his entire career with the Canadian federal government, retiring as the Western Regional Environmental Protection Director. Bob married Gail Ann Christianson in Vancouver in 1961, and together they had a son, Chris. Robert Lane died on May 5, 2021 in Edmonton, AB.

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 that contains excerpts from a recording conducted in 1963 with Mrs. W.K. MacKenzie and her grandson Robert Lane. Norah Lane, Mrs. MacKenzie's daughter, provides comments to clarify some of the excerpts. Interviewer is Marjorie Lange.

Notes:

History/bio information from the records, articles about John and Nora Lane in The Brandon Sun, the Find A Grave website, the Manitoba Vital Stats website and Bob Lane's obituary. Manitoba Vital Stats and Find A Grave has the family's last name spelt "McKenzie," while the records spell it "MacKenzie." Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Norah and Robert Wright interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14704>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH031.Wri

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: December 8, 1981

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [0:45:00]

History /

Biographical:

Robert Charles Tracy Wright was born on March 24, 1896 on a farm in the Ninette district. Robert attended Duncraig School, but much of his time was spent helping his father on the farm. A. Norah Wright was born on September 23, 1899, also on the family farm. She attended Lenore School. Robert farmed until his health failed, while Norah kept house. In 1947, the siblings moved to Ninette and Robert worked in the lumber yard and Norah did housework for families in the village. The Wrights left Ninette in October 1981, and moved to the Lakeview Senior Citizens Home in Killarney, MB. Robert Wright died on March 21, 1983 in Killarney, MB. Norah Wright died on January 7, 1986 in Killarney, MB. They are both buried at Ninette Cemetery.

Custodial History:

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Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Norah and Robert Wright about the Ninette, MB area. Interviewer is Dr. D.B. Stewart.

Notes: History/bio information from the records and obituaries for both Wrights.
Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Robert Coates interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14715>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH047.Coa

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: February 21, 1983

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

History /

Biographical:

Robert John Coates was born on December 30, 1908 on the home farm in the Elm Valley district. He took his schooling at Elm Valley and Virden. He received Bachelor of Science of Bachelor of Education degrees at the University of Manitoba. Bob married Margaret Grace Cullen (1915-2007) in 1936 and together they had two children: Karen and John. Bob began his teaching career as principal in Pierson, MB, later moving to Ninga as principal. During the Second World War he joined the RCAF, serving as a navigation officer and teaching pilots in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. After the war, the family moved to Brandon where Bob taught at Brandon Collegiate Institute (BCI), Earl Haig, Earl Oxford and was principal at Central School. He was the first principal at Green Acres School, teaching there until retiring in 1973. Bob was made a Brandon Diocesan Layreader of the Anglican Church and spent years taking services throughout the Diocese.

Bob served as president of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, Brandon Local, The Western Manitoba Teacher's Association, the Brandon PC Association and the UN Association. He also served as executive member of the International School Masters Club, The Manitoba Teachers' Society Pensions Committee, Men's Canadian Club and the Westman Oral History Association. He served as Chairman of the Local MTS Pension Committee and on the board of directors of Hobbs Manor. Bob was a lifetime member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Brandon Teachers' Society, as well as a charter member of the Assiniboine Historical Society, the Daly House Museum, and the Commonwealth Air Training Museum. He was also a member of The Monarchist League of Canada and Royal Canadian Legion No. 3. At the time of his death Bob was an honorary Vestryman at St. Matthew's Cathedral. Robert Coates died on March 10, 1990 in Brandon, MB. He is buried at Rosewood Memorial Gardens.

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 Robert Coates about Thomas Mayne Daly, first mayor of Brandon, as well as the Daly House Museum. Interviewer is Effie McPhail.

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

Audio Tracks



Robert J. Campbell interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14717>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH078.Cam

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: May 19, 1982

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

History /

Biographical:

Robert James (RJ) Campbell was born on January 16, 1905 on Section 14-11-23 in the RM of Woodworth. He attended Education Point School. RJ worked in the Rivers area on a number of farms, then in 1925 went to Regina and worked in a garage. He returned to Manitoba shortly thereafter to work on his uncle's farm and then on the home farm with his mother until 1935. RJ married Edith Marian Bell (1913-2010) on December 23, 1937, and together they had two sons: Cordell and Urschel.

The family lived on the farm in the Brierwood district south of Harding until 1946, when they moved to Halls Bridge district north of Griswold where they continued to farm until 2006. RJ built all of the buildings on the farm including "Halls Bridge Dance Garden" in 1966. He loved to sing square dance calls, and along with Marian, travelled a great deal in North America and Europe, as well as a trip to the Soviet Union. Due to ill health, RJ moved to Hillcrest Place Personal Care Home in 2006. Robert Campbell died on February 14, 2007 in Brandon, MB. He is buried at Griswold 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 Robert Campbell about farming in the 20th century. Interviewer is Phyllis M. Cairns.

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

Audio Tracks



Robert John Coates interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14716>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH025.Coa

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: April 19, 1982

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

History /

Biographical:

Robert John Coates was born on December 30, 1908 on the home farm in the Elm Valley district. He took his schooling at Elm Valley and Virden. He received Bachelor of Science of Bachelor of Education degrees at the University of Manitoba. Bob married Margaret Grace Cullen (1915-2007) in 1936 and together they had two children: Karen and John. Bob began his teaching career as principal in Pierson, MB, later moving to Ninga as principal. During the Second World War he joined the RCAF, serving as a navigation officer and teaching pilots in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. After the war, the family moved to Brandon where Bob taught at Brandon Collegiate Institute (BCI), Earl Haig, Earl Oxford and was principal at Central School. He was the first principal at Green Acres School, teaching there until retiring in 1973. Bob was made a Brandon Diocesan Layreader of the Anglican Church and spent years taking services throughout the Diocese.

Bob served as president of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, Brandon Local, The Western Manitoba Teacher's Association, the Brandon PC Association and the UN Association. He also served as executive member of the International School Masters Club, The Manitoba Teachers' Society Pensions Committee, Men's Canadian Club and the Westman Oral History Association. He served as Chairman of the Local MTS Pension Committee and on the board of directors of Hobbs Manor. Bob was a lifetime member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Brandon Teachers' Society, as well as a charter member of the Assiniboine Historical Society, the Daly House Museum, and the Commonwealth Air Training Museum. He was also a member of The Monarchist League of Canada and Royal Canadian Legion No. 3. At the time of his death Bob was an honorary Vestryman at St. Matthew's Cathedral. Robert Coates died on March 10, 1990 in Brandon, MB. He is buried at Rosewood Memorial Gardens.

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 Robert Coates about the history of St. Matthew's Anglican Cathedral, Brandon. Interviewer is Irene Heeney.

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

Audio Tracks



Robert Neilson interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14718>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH263.Nei

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: January 13, 1982

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

History /

Biographical:

Robert Neilson was born on June 15, 1914 in Glasgow, Scotland. He came to Canada with his family in October 1919. They settled briefly in Manor, SK before moving to Brandon, MB in 1920. After high school, Bob worked at Yaeger's Furs and was promoted to general manager. Bob Robert married Margaret McComb (1919-2001) on June 19, 1944 and together they had two daughters, Jean and Linda. From 1969-1975, Bob and Marg owned Eve's Gift Shop, and after the store was sold, they were caretakers at Princess Park and Towers until retiring in 1979. They continued to live at Princess Towers for several years, before moving to Hillcrest Place Personal Care Home. Bob and Marg loved spending time at Waskesiu, Clear Lake, and later at Killarney. He was an active member of the Eastern Star, Shriners, Central United Church, K-40, Kinsmen and YMCA, as well as a long time volunteer at Prairie Oasis. Robert Neilson died on August 3, 2006 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 Robert Neilson about his experience with Gus Yaeger, furrier, 1939-1942. Interviewer is Phyllis M. Cairns.

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

Audio Tracks



Robert Smith interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14719>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH177.Smi

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: March 11, 1983

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

History /

Biographical:

Robert Alexander Smith was born on March 25, 1901 at Madford-Ingelow, MB. He attended Matheson school and farmed in the Ingelow district. The family farm, 2-12-17, was sold in 1951, and Robert moved to Winnipeg where he was employed with the International Harvester Company and Triange Auto Supply. Robert met Martha Buchanon Thorburn (1917-2010) when they were both Scout leaders and actively involved with Chalmers United Church in Winnipeg. The couple married in 1955, and together they had one son, Alexander. Robert and Martha retired in 1971, and moved to Douglas, MB. Robert Smith died on November 30, 1983 in Brandon, MB. He is buried at Carberry Plains 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 Robert Smith about the early days at 2-12-17. Interviewer is Blair Loree.

Notes: History/bio information from the records, the Douglas local history "Echoes of A Century," and the obituaries for Robert and Martha Smith. Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Robert Strath interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14720>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH147.Str

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: February 11, 1982

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

History /

Biographical:

Robert Strath was born on December 28, 1888 on the farm Mains of Elrich at Auchnagatt, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He attended school in Scotland until he was 12, and then was a farm helper to age 18. He immigrated to Canada in 1907, originally travelling from St. John, NB to Brandon, MB. For the next several years, Bob moved around the provinces of Western Canada working on farms, the railway, in the bush, homesteading and mining. In 1913, he returned to Manitoba, where he began farming. For the next fifty years, Bob would farm as a tenant or owner in the Hebron district, Carroll district and at Riverside. He retired to Brandon in 1963, then moved to Souris in 1965. Bob married Selina Gladys Rogers (1896-1975) on November 14, 1917 in Souris, MB and together they had five children: George, Russell, Jim, Roberta and Donald. Robert Strath died on March 17, 1987 in Souris, MB. He is buried at Glenwood 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 Robert Strath about being a Scottish immigrant farming in Manitoba. Interviewer is John E. Forsyth.

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

Audio Tracks
