

# S. J. McKee Archives



## BC 9: Clark Hall women's residence

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4276>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 9

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1906-1953

Physical Description: 51.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

Clark Hall was built in 1906 as a women's residence. The name comes from Dr. C.W. Clark, a physician who believed that women should be as highly educated as possible. To that end, he donated \$30 000 of the \$40 000 dollars needed to construct the building. The residence opened on October 18, 1906 with Miss Ernestine R. Whiteside presiding as Lady Principal.

With the building of Clark Hall came new departments geared towards young women. A Music and Arts department was started, as was a Physical Culture and Expression department. The residence was soon full, and in 1911 the first Clark Hall Annex was created to house 25 women who could not get into Clark Hall proper. This annex was located at 1335 Lorne Ave., and it is still in existence today. The second Clark Hall Annex, that replaced the first, was located on Louise Ave. It is also still standing, and is now an apartment building.

LADY PRINCIPALS/DEAN OF WOMEN:

ERNESTINE ROBERTA WHITESIDE (1906-1918)

Miss Whiteside was born in 1876. She graduated from McMaster University in 1898. In 1906 she was hired as the first Lady Principal of Clark Hall. She served this post capably and was greatly admired by all who met her. In 1918 she resigned as Lady Principal to assume headship of Moulton College in Toronto. She resigned from Moulton in 1930 due to uncertain health. Miss Whiteside was a Board Member of the Women's Baptist Missionary Society, as well as being editor of "The Link and Visitor". She was the corresponding secretary for the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada from 1939 to 1949. Miss Whiteside resigned the editorship of "The Link and Visitor" in 1956. On June 14, 1960, she died in Toronto.

OLIVE A.C. WILKINS (1919-1925)

Olive Agnes Cross was born on June 17, 1891 in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. She received her B.A. from McMaster in 1912. She married Thomas Russell Wilkins on June 17, 1913. Mrs. Wilkins accepted the position of Lady Principal of Clark Hall in 1919. She also was retained as an English Teacher. Mrs. Wilkins resigned in 1925. On May 13, 1937, she died rather suddenly. Mrs. Wilkins personal files are located in the Brandon College Teaching and Administration series.

JANE (JENNIE) TURNBULL (1926-1927)

Jennie Turnbull was born c.1896. She was educated at Brandon Central School and the Brandon Collegiate Institute. Miss Turnbull entered Brandon College in 1911. She graduated with her B.A. in 1915, and followed this with her M.A. in 1916. After taking a Normal Course in Regina, Miss Turnbull returned to join the Brandon College faculty as instructor in French in 1918. She studied at La Sorbonne in Paris during the years 1921 and 1922. Miss Turnbull spent parts of 1919, 1920, 1926, and all of 1927 and 1928 at the University of Chicago, where she secured her Ph.D. During the school year 1926-1927, Miss Turnbull served as Dean of Women (formerly known as Lady Principal). She was a very well-travelled individual, and she was the author of *Essential Traits of French-Canadian Poetry*. In 1963 Miss Turnbull moved to British Columbia, where she died on December 30, 1966. During the time that Miss Turnbull taught at Brandon College, she was an integral part of the college community. She was responsible for the formation of a French Club, and served on various committees and boards with great skill.

#### ANNIE (EVANS) WRIGHT (1927-1934)

Miss Annie Evans was born on December 29, 1881 in Derbyshire, England. She moved with her family to Canada around 1889. She taught school before entering the Brandon College Business Training Department in 1908. In 1909, Miss Evans was given a position in the Business and Academic Department of the College. In 1915, she married the music professor, Dr. William L. Wright. In 1926, Mrs. Wright received her B.A. degree from Brandon College. She followed that with her M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1927. From 1927 until 1934, Mrs. Wright served as the Dean of Women. From 1927 until 1945, she was employed as a professor of English. She moved to Robson, B.C. with her husband, where she lived until her death in 1959. She was the older sister of Dr. J.R.C. Evans.

#### DOROTHY WERTHENBACH (1934-1935)

Miss Werthenbach received her early education in Minnesota and Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of Alberta with Honours in History. She took up the profession of teaching. She was an instructor at the Indian Residential School before she accepted the position of Dean of Women in the fall of 1934. She also taught grade 12 History at the College. Miss Werthenbach left Brandon College in 1935, after having spent one year as the Dean of Women. From 1931-1934 she served on the Executive of the Brandon Art Club, including a year as President (1933-1934). At some point after leaving Brandon, Miss Werthenbach married C.G. Nelson and relocated to Calgary. She and her husband had three, possibly four children. Mrs. Nelson died in a plane crash at Moose Jaw.

#### MARJORIE B. MCKENZIE (1935-1936)

Miss McKenzie was born in Brandon and was a graduate of Brandon Collegiate and Brandon College. She received her B.E. degree from the Columbia College of Expression in Chicago, and her M.Sc. in speech from Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. From 1927 to 1930 she was Instructor in Dramatic Art at Brandon College. She resigned to do post-graduate work. In 1935, Miss McKenzie returned as Instructor of Public Speaking in the Theological Department and Dean of Women in Clark Hall. Miss McKenzie resigned as Dean of Women after one year at the post.

#### SARAH PERSIS DARRACH (1936-1953)

Miss Persis Johnson was born in Rosscarberry, Ireland on February 8, 1886. She was educated in both Ireland and Canada, graduating from the Brandon General Hospital nurses program in 1911. She did her postgraduate work in Chicago. Miss Johnson was the assistant matron at Brandon General Hospital when she left for overseas in 1914 to serve in the war. Miss Johnson enlisted in the Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force on May 12, 1915 in London, England. She was overseas until 1918, stationed in both England and France. While there, Miss Johnson was awarded the Royal Red Cross, 2nd class, and the Royal Red Cross,

1st class, the latter of which was awarded to her in 1919 by the Prince of Wales during his visit to Brandon. She became the fourth superintendent of nurses at Brandon General Hospital. Sometime during the 1920's, Miss Johnson married Robert Darrach, who was on the Brandon College Board of Directors. In 1934, she was named a member of the Order of the British Empire (Civilian) for her tireless effort doing charity work. In 1936 she accepted the position of Dean of Women at Brandon College. She served in this post until 1953. In 1971, Brandon College awarded her an honorary L.L.D. Darrach Hall, the Men's Residence on the Brandon University campus, was named for her. Mrs. Darrach died on September 25, 1974.

#### FLORA COWAN (1953-1967)

Mrs. Flora Cowan was born on July 15, 1902 in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was the daughter of Adam and Helen Cruickshank. She married E.C. Cowan, and they had two children, Franklin and Ruth. From 1953 until Brandon College became Brandon University, she served as the Dean of Women. In 1966 she received the good Citizenship Award of the Golden Boys of Manitoba. She was a member of the I.O.D.E. and a life-member of the International Peace Garden, and the Provincial Council of Women. From 1954 to 1970 Mrs. Cowan served as a member of the Brandon City Council. She was also the Chairman of the Board for Fairview Home, Inc. In 1967, Mrs. Cowan received the Trillium Business and Professional Club Woman of the Year Award. She was also a member of several other community committees. The women's residence at Brandon University, Flora Cowan, is named for her. In December 1980, Mrs. Cowan finally retired from her many positions. She died in Brandon on September 25, 1986 at the age of 84.

#### Scope and Content:

The records from this series are mainly concentrated in the early years of Clark Hall. Miss Whiteside kept several journals that depict a very in-depth look at college life for young women in the early twentieth century. These records include: a Commonplace book, in which Miss Whiteside kept detailed accounts of the resident women and what was happening in Clark Hall; a "Saturday" book, which describes what she discussed at the meeting she held with the resident women every Saturday; Scrapbooks, which have programs and pictures detailing the everyday life of a College woman. These records are an invaluable source of information on the education of young women at the turn of the century. As well, Mrs. Wilkins files located in the Brandon College Teaching and Learning files give an excellent account of life at Clark Hall.

The series also contains copies of Clark Hall calendars for 1909-1925. There is also one undated calendar, which may be from 1911-1912.

Notes:	The original accession number for the Clark Hall calendars is RP80-45. A copy of the program for the memorial service held at First Baptist Church October 1974 for Sarah Persis Darrach is located in her biography file in the Reading Room.
Storage Location:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds Series 9: Clark Hall Women's Residence
Related Material:	MG 1 1.9 Sarah Persis Darrach fonds Maureen Johnson collection (10-2009)  Accession 0104 Brandon University Art Collection, portrait of C.W. Clark M.D. painted by Henrietta Hancock. The portrait currently hangs in the McKee Archives. A brief biographical note concerning Clark appears with the portrait.

#### Arrangement:

Series has been divided into four sub-series, including: (1) Clark Hall commonplace book, saturday book and chronicle; (2) Clark Hall scrapbooks 1907-1953; (3) Clark Hall calendars 1909 -1925; and (4) Clark Hall student council minutes 1928-1935



## Bertha Leith (nee Clark) fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3613>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Creator: Bertha Clark

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 2 2.31

Accession Number: 7-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1925-1929

Physical Description: 24 photographs (b/w)

### History /

#### Biographical:

Bertha Miriam Clark was born on Prince Edward Island but attended public and high school in Brandon, MB. She was a member of the Class of 1929 and served as Lady Stick in her final year at Brandon College.

Clark married J. Scott Leith, Brandon College Class of 1928. Scott and Bertha Leith's son James Clark Leith is in the Canadian Who's Who.

#### Custodial History:

Album was sent to Pat Britton, Brandon University Director of Alumni Relations, by Bertha Leith in April 1991. Britton then transferred it to the McKee Archives.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of a small accordion style photograph album (7 x 10.5 x 3.5 cm) created by Bertha Clark during her years at Brandon College. The photographs, which measure 4" x 2.75", depict numerous people and events.

Notes: History/Bio information taken from the 1928-1929 Sickle.

Name Access: Bertha Clark  
Ruth Bingham  
Professor Richards  
Lil Bullman  
Clark Hall  
Brandon College Building  
Jean Hitchings  
Lloyd Bowler  
Kay Underwood  
Scott Leith  
Denis Phillpots  
Donald Ritchie  
Harold Cairns  
Andrew Clark  
Isabel Hitchings  
A. Foster  
Rundle McLachlan  
Carl Wickland  
Doris Bingham  
Doris Dowling  
Ella Whitmore  
Meta Mischpeter  
Vera Ulinder  
Josh Thompson  
Doris Cochrane  
Frank Kerr  
Cyril Richards  
Thomas Russell Wilkins  
Flo Turnbull  
Esther Magoon  
Hilda Harrison  
Doris Ireton  
Mrs. Richards  
W.L. Wright  
Annie Evans Wright  
Miss Hatch  
Jennie Turnbull  
Mrs. MacNeill  
Mrs. C.G. Stone  
Helen Duncan  
Constance Lamontagne  
Marian Bulloch  
Mabel Craig

Subject Access:	Class of 29' Sports Day 1925 English Club Graduation Lake Percy Arts 1929 CPR depot Brandon College boys 1925-1927 al(l)-bums "cat-chers" Sykes 18th Street Hill Class of 1928 Class of 1929 Class of 1930 Class of 1931 arts faculty outing
Storage Location:	MG 2 Brandon College Students 2.31 Bertha Leith (nee Clark)
Related Material:	Edward Lloyd Bowler collection (36-1999)



## Brandon College/Brandon University Women's Auxiliary fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14290>

Part Of:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds
Description Level:	Fonds
Accession Number:	18-2016
GMD:	textual records
Date Range:	1955-1975
Physical Description:	24 cm of textual records 3 scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings

## History /

### Biographical:

The Brandon College/Brandon University Women's Auxiliary was founded on February 17, 1955, with the purpose of a) foster[ing] good public relations between the university and the community, and to stress the importance of Brandon University to Western Manitoba; b) to gain a better knowledge of the functioning of Brandon University and; c) to improve the surroundings of the College/University's students and the university at large. They were to hold four regular meetings per annum, with an annual meeting in April, and one fund-raising tea a year. The organization raised money through these teas, as well as through receptions, with the intention of donating to the college/university and surrounding community, contributing to the furnishing of residences and offices at the college/ university, as well as facilitating an annual community visitation day for the public to tour the university. The organization's name was change from the Brandon College Women's Auxiliary to the Brandon University Women's Auxiliary along with the renaming of the school itself on July 1, 1967. The organization was sometimes referred to simply as the Women's Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary was run by an elected President and Board of Executives. Its members, who were all mothers of Brandon College/Brandon University students, paid an annual membership fee. Subcommittees within the organization included those in charge of social organization, membership management, program management, phoning management, press and publicity management and project management; all of these were fronted by their own individual leaders from within the members, under the board of executives. The organization ceased meeting in 1975; the minutes from the final meeting reference difficulties filling executive offices before a motion was carried to disband.

### Custodial History:

Records were created and held by the Brandon College/Brandon University Women's Auxiliary until their dissolution on October 23, 1975, when a motion was passed to move the records to the McKee Archives.

### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records that relate to the organization of and activities coordinated by the Women's Auxiliary, as well as records detailing the contribution that the organization made to the university and community of and around Brandon. The records span the entire existence of the Women's Auxiliary from 1955 to 1975.

Records include meeting minutes, treasurers' statements, financial bookkeeping, correspondence, a copy of the constitution, records of members, members' addresses and phone numbers, lists of members' children attending school and their respective degree, lists of council members, event memorabilia, organization letter heads, donation receipts, newspaper clippings, advertisements, publicity reports, meeting reports, visitation records, scrapbooks and scrapbook inventories.

Notes: History/Bio information taken from the records. Description by Kayliegh Penner (October 2016).

Name Access: Mrs. R.B. Alexander  
Mrs. Cumming  
Mrs. R.G. McDiarmid  
Mrs. R.K. Leiteh  
Mrs. Wesley Nelson  
Mrs. Robert Ghidorie  
Mrs. Barney Thordarson  
Kathleen Thordarson  
Mrs. Stuart Craig  
Mrs. Doris Hunt

Subject Access:       centennial visitation day  
                              women's organizations

Storage Location:     2016 accessions

Related Material:     Brandon University photograph collection (Observatory Opening)  
                              Spring 1955 Alumni News (report on the founding of the organization)

Arrangement:

Records are arranged in chronological order in four (4) subseries: 1) treasurer's books; 2) minute books; 3) textual files; and 4) scrapbooks and miscellany



## Robert Troy Blair fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13300>

Part Of:               RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level:   Sub-series

Accession Number:   18-2013

GMD:                 multiple media

Date Range:          September 1950 - June 1954

Physical Description: 2 scrapbooks (7.5 cm)

Physical Condition:   Excellent



Robert (Bob) Troy Blair was born on March 11, 1930 in Brandon, MB. His first six years were spent in Alexander, MB, where his father and uncle operated a grocery store. In 1936, his family moved to Souris, MB, where his father ran a grocery store. Blair received his primary and high school education, with the exception of Grade 12, in Souris.

Blair remembers his school years in Souris as mainly happy years. He was involved with both piano and organ music lessons. he was never interested in physical sports with the exception of golf. World War II broke out in September of 1939. Souris became the site of #17 SFTS and home base for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Many of the service men came from England, Australia and New Zealand. Blair's mother always entertained at least two for dinner every Sunday. Rationing of sugar, tea and coffee, butter and meat became a way of life. Blair had the job every Saturday of pasting the ration coupons into booklets. It was also when he was in Grade 6, that Blair realized he was more attracted to boys than to girls. Perhaps it was because so many attractive airmen surrounded him!

In November of 1947, the Blair family relocated to Alexander where Bob Blair finished his Grade 11. This was not a good year due to bullying. In September of 1948, Blair moved to Winnipeg to attend United College for his Grade 12. Upon completion of Grade 12, Blair remained in Winnipeg until June 1950. he worked at a number of businesses - Gestetner, Eaton's Mail Order shoe department, Maple Leaf Milling, and the drug store in the Medical Arts Building. In September 1950, he entered Brandon College. Blair was very active in extra-curricular affairs while at Brandon College; particularly drama. Following his B.A. he enrolled in the Education Faculty, having decided to become a teacher.

Blair's teaching career spanned 34 years. All but one year was spent in the Brandon School Division. On his first day of teaching in the Division he met the man with whom he would spend the next 46 years. He was primarily a teacher of English and Music. A highlight of his career was exchange teaching in Sacramento, California in 1961. Orientation for exchange took place in August in Washington, D.C., where Blair had the opportunity to meet President J.F. Kennedy. He vividly recalls the morning that JFK was assassinated on November 22, 1963. In September 1965, Blair assumed the principalship of Park School and in September of 1969, the same position at George Fitton School where he remained until his retirement in 1989. He was a member of the Brandon Principals' Association, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and served as President of the Brandon Teachers' Association. Among his major accomplishments during his time as principal were the introduction of a centralized school library in both Park and George Fitton Schools and the integration of special needs students into regular classroom situations wherever possible. He was made a Life Member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society (Brandon) in June 1990. Following his retirement Blair worked as a Library Automation Consultant (1989-1993).

Blair also had numerous community involvements during his time in Brandon. he was active in the Brandon Little Theatre (Best Actor Award, Manitoba Drama Festival for One Act Plays in 1963), the Brandon Festival of the Arts, the Eckhardt-Gramatte National Music Competition, and Arm Industries to name a few.

Following the death of his partner in 2001, Blair moved to Saskatoon to live with a younger gay couple. He has been active in volunteerism: as an Ambassador for the Saskatoon Airport Authority, assistant with the Saskatoon Health Region's Immunization Clinics, information clerk for the Festival of Trees, data entry clerk for the Saskatoon Music Festival, on the Board of the Saskatoon Jazz Society, and Hospitality Coordinator for the Saskatoon Jazz Festival.

As of October 2013, Bob Blair continues to live in Saskatoon, SK.

Custodial History:

Records were in Blair's possession until he donated them to the McKee Archives on Homecoming weekend October 2013.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of two scrapbooks containing 145 photographs and ephemera (play and graduation programs, tickets, pins, newspaper clippings) documenting Bob Blair's days at Brandon College. Social events and extra-curricular activities are heavily featured in the two scrapbooks. Also included are graduation portraits for the Classes of 1951, 1952 and 1953. Of the 145 photographs all are black and white except for two photos of the Class of '53 reconconvocation (May 1993), and one from the Class of '53 reunion (2003).

Notes: History/Bio provided by Bob Blair (October 2013).

Name Access: Brandon College  
Angus Jackson  
Pat Magnacca  
Freshie Week  
Senior Stick  
Lady Stick  
Harvest Cabaret  
Sigma Mu  
Glee Club  
Bob Blair  
Jack Yeomans  
Walter Dinsdale  
Don Cronk  
Bob McPherson  
Lorne Watson  
Marg Sanderson  
Hazel Turnbull  
Claudia Dickey  
Gordon Bradley  
Terry Prysiazniuk  
Diane Lissaman  
Joan Garnett  
Doris Penstock  
Dianne Macdonald  
Ivey Graham  
Joyce Pickard  
Cathy Crawford  
Robertta Wilkie  
Marie Kullberg  
Isabel Lyon  
Shirley Pryce  
J.R.C. Evans  
Marjorie Kyles  
Jo Thordarson  
Ross George

Edward Perry  
Ernest Birkinshaw  
Barney Thordarson  
Fall Formal  
Variety Night  
Installation Night  
Paul McKinnon  
The Saga of Brandon  
Bill White  
Ron Bell  
Jerry Jerret  
Rosa Ziolkowski  
Murray Smith  
Class of 1951  
Harold Moffat  
Bill Sutherland  
Murray Coulthard  
Frank Adamski  
John McLean  
Jack Medd  
Jack Muir  
Bill Fraser  
Ken Morrison  
Clifford Kitson  
Ray Brown  
Mike Doig  
Ernie Shaw  
Jack Scott  
Doreen Dennison  
Lois Kennedy  
Lorna Prokaska  
Ferne Henderson  
Doreen Fedoruk  
Marg Leckie  
Freshie Parade  
Helen Batho  
Fred Calverly  
Jim Crawford  
Verda Peden  
Olga Evasko  
Betty Finch  
Fred Schwarok  
Jim Struthers  
Muriel Bedford  
John Brown

Freshie Royalty  
Booster Night  
Mary Jane Sexton  
Marilyn Rust  
Mildred McMurray  
Mary-Jane MacLachlan  
George Leask  
George Jakubowski  
Jack Purvis  
My Sister Eileen  
Edith Laycock  
Ivey Robbins  
Ken Campbell  
Mac Andrews  
Marion Simmons  
Arnold Minish  
Madeline Irving  
Ernie Criddle  
Don Dillistone  
Gordon Hunter  
Cathy Nelson  
Jim Kelleher  
Anne Kelleher  
Neil McKellar  
Ron Doupe  
Bruce Watson  
Neil MacKay  
Peter Prokaska  
Roger Ramsden  
Bill Bridgett  
Graham Hunt  
John Muirhead  
David Brodie  
Murray MacDonald  
Dr. Kidd  
Cam Finlay  
Blair MacRae  
Donna McPhail  
Louise Hoey  
Agnes Nicholson  
Jean Allan  
Joan Urie  
Royce Richardson  
Don Rousell  
Bill Black

Ken McNeeley  
Rosalie Prokopchuk  
Jean Morrison  
Jacice Forrest  
Fuzz Fedoruk  
Brian Davison  
Joan MacLachlan  
First International Relations Club Conference  
Minot Teachers' College  
International Peace Gardens  
Bruce McIlroy  
Jean Shingfield  
Campaign Week  
Sigma Mu Dance  
Arnold Wawruch  
Jack Meyers  
Jack Hilton  
Bev Francis  
Bert Gogol  
Dick McDonald  
Frank McKinnon  
Stuart Craig  
John Blackwood  
Norman Hedison  
Bob Hilton  
John Minions  
Kay Oliver  
Mary Jane MacLachlan  
Ben Ward  
Ken Gunning  
Trevor McNeely  
Hilton Stewart  
Jerry Graham  
Bette Mitchell  
Joan Curlock  
Faye Myers  
Jean Hannah  
Mary Babuick  
Mr. College Spirit  
John Augustus McGee  
Don Dillstone  
Flora Johnson  
Del Gusdal  
Color Night  
Don Burrows

Jim Casey Trophy  
Marj Kyles  
Prince Edward Hotel  
Class Day  
Dahl Harvey  
Shirley Mitchell  
Al Burton  
Irving Bateman  
Joyce Marie Thordarson  
Eileen McFadden  
Patricia Pope  
Louise Astle  
Ariel Genik  
Western Canada Student Teacher Conference  
Brandon College Glee Club  
Be Your Age  
Ike Prokaska  
Joan Hilton  
Fred Lynch  
Garth Kidd  
Ivy Robbins  
Joyce Dunham  
Shirley Popple  
Grand March  
Westley Wong  
Stewart Perdue  
H.V. Kidd  
J.E.M. Young  
Adelene Bailey  
Mrs. Evans  
Dennis Anderson  
Stanley Knowles  
Edward Schreyer  
Lou Visentin

Subject Access:	Student government initiations student activities dances basketball talent shows drama productions major productions Hockey graduations programs parades dorm rooms student housing literary "B's" college letters class flags banquets
Storage Location:	2013 accessions