

S. J. McKee Archives



A.E. McKenzie

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4317>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 2 2.1
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1910-1964; 1966 (legal), 1976 (patents)
Physical Description: 26.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

Albert Edward McKenzie was born in Wilcox Lake, York County, Ontario in 1870 to Francis Bethel McKenzie and Maria (Carley) McKenzie. In 1882 he moved to Brandon, Manitoba with his family, where his father established a Flour, Seed and Grain business. At the age of twenty-six, following his father's death, A. E. took over the family business and transformed it into a seed institute. As the President of The Brandon Seed House, and, later, A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., Mr. McKenzie played a central role in the daily operations of his company up until three weeks prior to his death on September 25, 1964.

In 1901, Mr. McKenzie married Laura Bell of Carmen, Manitoba, with whom he had two daughters, Marjorie and Kathleen. Kathleen married Walter C. Roberts and became a member of the Board of Directors of her father's company. Marjorie graduated from Brandon College, and received additional degrees from the Columbia College of Expression, and from Northwestern University. From 1927-1930 she taught at Brandon College, then resigned to do post-graduate work. She returned to Brandon College in 1935 as Instructor of Public Speaking and Dean of Women in Clark Hall. Marjorie resigned as Dean of Women after one year, and eventually relocated to British Columbia. Both Kathleen and Marjorie survived their father. Laura had passed away in 1943. At the time of his death, A.E. McKenzie was also survived by had one grandson: David McKenzie Roberts.

In addition to building his company into one of Canada's foremost seed institutes, McKenzie was also involved with many community projects. He was affiliated with the YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, and Community Chest. He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club, and a long-term officer of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. However, McKenzie's major interest was Brandon College, for which he served as a governor and as chairman of the board of governors for the College.

A central figure in the fight to save Brandon College, McKenzie was instrumental in the formation of Brandon College Inc., and, in 1945, he established the A. E. McKenzie Foundation, for which the Government of Manitoba was the sole trustee. His gift to the Foundation was securities valued at \$1 million, which ensured the survival and re-establishment of Brandon College and later Brandon University.

In 1941, McKenzie received the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa from the University of Manitoba. In 1962, he was honored with a certificate of merit for exemplary citizenship in commerce and in every aspect of community life from the City of Brandon.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of correspondence created and received by A.E. McKenzie during his years as President/General Manager dealing with the operation of his company. This includes construction estimates, and correspondence with the company's lawyer, Wm. Johnson. A letter from Gairdner & Company Limited regarding McKenzie's attempt to reacquire ownership of A. E. McKenzie Ltd. from the Province of Manitoba.

The sub-series also contains material relating to legal matters: one file concerns a successful legal action against the A.E. McKenzie Seed Company by the Canadian Alfalfa Association. The action arose following the sale of seed to a seed company located in Berlin, Germany in 1938. A second file deals with the prosecution of the company in Bismarck, North Dakota for mail fraud. The company lost both cases. Patents secured by the company are also included within the sub-series.

Also contained within the legal sub-series are records dealing with A.E. McKenzie's passing. These include correspondence with the National Trust Company and Miss Jean MacKay, and a summary of A.E. McKenzie's will. There are also some documents dealing with McKenzie's stocks and shares in the Company.

Documentation relating to the 1918 By-Law Campaign, in which McKenzie tried to secure tax relief for his company in relation to the construction of its new plant, is also included within the sub-series.

The sub-series is divided into six sub sub series, including: (1) Secretary; (2) Legal Matters; (3) Correspondence; (4) Patents; (5) By-Law Campaign 1918; and (6) Miscellaneous.

Notes:	* "Tapes" in the Related Material field refers to hard copy written summaries originally provided on tape for typing. Organization by tape number was found to be more efficient than listing these items by title.
Language Note:	Within McS 2 1.3, the correspondence sub sub series, there are some documents written in Gregg shorthand. No translation is available.
Storage Location:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager
Related Material:	Regarding sub sub series McS 2 2.2 (Legal Matters): The court pocket for the alfalfa case involving McKenzie Seeds at the Court of Queen's Bench in Regina, Saskatchewan may be available through the Saskatchewan Archives Board. John Diefenbaker acted for the Alfalfa Association in this case.

Historical Topics under A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds, Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes) contains some information regarding McKenzie's patents (file 16, Tapes 29 and 30), and a legal case in Bismarck, North Dakota in 1957 regarding the violation of mail fraud statutes involving the sale of seed wheat (file 11, Tape 26)*. Information regarding the sale of Alfalfa seed to a German seed company is available in file 2. There are also a number of files containing information about A. E. McKenzie.



A.E. McKenzie fonds - miscellaneous

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4343>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.5

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1887-1960

Physical Description: 3.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

This sub-series is artificially created and contains records that did not fit into any of the preceding series or sub-series.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

The records in this sub-series concern A.E. McKenzie's personal life. It contains a number of documents created by his father, F. B. McKenzie, including land deeds, financial records, and a grant of probate. The sub-series also includes documents concerning the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Co., the dissolution of partnership between A.E. McKenzie and George. E. McKenzie, the release of F.B. McKenzie's estate to his son and a copy of A.E. McKenzie's mother's last will and testament.

Also included within the sub-series is a file of correspondence between McKenzie and R.B. Dessert, a former employee of McKenzie Seeds who established his own seed company in California after leaving Brandon. The correspondence is almost entirely personal in nature.

Thank you letters regarding Brandon College and scholarships, as well as minutes from meetings of the Education Advisory Board can also be found within the sub-series.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds



A.E. McKenzie Foundation

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4340>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1940, 1945-1989

Physical Description: 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

In 1945 the A. E. McKenzie Trust of 1939, which led to the formation of Brandon College Incorporated, was cancelled. As a result A.E., who was still trying to solve the College's financial problems, set about attaining a special act of legislature that would enable him to transfer 90% of his company's stockholdings to the control of the Province of Manitoba to benefit the College.

See fonds level administrative history description.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes correspondence regarding the McKenzie Foundation between Brandon College Inc., McKenzie Seeds, William Johnson and the Government of Manitoba. It also contains records dealing with Educational Advisory Board. A substantial amount of this correspondence is in regards to the payment of Brandon College Inc. from the McKenzie Foundation. In addition, there is also correspondence generated by the Comptroller-General and Wm. Johnson regarding Foundation Account, as well as some other financial information.

Various documents are also present within the sub-series, including Bill 87, amendments, an authorization provision for variation in agreement and an agreement between McKenzie, Brandon College Inc. and the National Trust. A collection of prepared statements or briefs, many written by A.E. McKenzie regarding the purpose and future of the Foundation are also included.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds

Related Material: Information regarding the A.E. McKenzie Foundation can be found in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes), Historical Topics file 1 (Tape 9).

Series 5 (Photographs), oversized drawer #4 contains newspaper clippings dealing with the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation.



A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. - miscellaneous publications

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4335>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 6 6.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1963, 1978, 1984-1985

Physical Description: 6 titles; 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

This sub-series consists of publications that did not fit into any of the preceding series or sub-series.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes one copy each of Manitoba Business Top 100 (June 1985), Trade and Commerce Supplement, Brandon (c. 1963) and Manitoba Business (November 1985).

It also includes a Christmas Song book, the book "By Gossip and Myth" by Prof. George MacDowell and a document entitled "Background Information re A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd."

The following newspaper clippings have been located in the map case drawer #4 located in the archives reading room:

1. \$175,000 Gift Set for College from City Man
2. McKenzie Will Leaves House to Arts Centre
3. The Old Alma Mater is Down on Her Knees
4. How to Help the Alma Mater
5. Good Things are "growing" on at McKenzie Seeds (ad)
6. Fire fails to halt work at McKenzie Seeds
7. McKenzie Seeds: new facilities are first in North America
8. A full-page advertisement for McKenzie Seeds from "The Brandon Sun" (September 24, 1971)

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 6 Miscellaneous



A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. - scrapbooks

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4336>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 6 6.3
GMD: textual records
Date Range: c.1903 - c.1940
Physical Description: 27.5 cm
Physical Condition: The scrapbooks in this sub-series are fragile, particularly the product book. They must be handled with great care.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of three scrapbooks. Two of the three contain copies of advertisements for a number of businesses, including McKenzie Seeds, Steele Briggs, Patmore's, Rennie's, and McFayden Seeds. Clippings dealing with a variety of other companies in the seed industry are also included. The third scrapbook contains pictures of various flowers, vegetable, herbs and other seed products in alphabetical order. An inventory is available for the third scrapbook.

Notes: Date(s) of creation, including distribution, publication, etc.:

- a) [No title] ad book - 1906-1911
- b) "Scrap Book" ad book - 1917-1926
- c) [No title] product book - c.1903 - c.1940

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 6 Miscellaneous



Board of directors - documents

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4311>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1904-1971

Physical Description: 24.5 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series is comprised of various documents, agreements and contracts generated by A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Among the documents are by-laws, letters of patents, land deeds, leases, transfers of property, grants of probate, trademark documents, certificates of title, incorporation documents, bills of sale, assets and liabilities, licenses to do business, loan documents, tax statements/certificates, insurance documents, memorandums, declarations, estate documents, releases, settlements, mortgages, and bill 87.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 1 Board of Directors



Board of directors - financial records

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4315>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.5

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1900-1986

Physical Description: 1.56 m

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes financial statements of various kinds for McKenzie Seeds and combined financial statements for McKenzie Seeds and its subsidiaries, particularly McFayden Seeds. Chartered Accountants used for this purpose include: Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Webb, Read, Hegan, Callingham & Co./Webb, Read & Co., George A. Touche & Co., Oscar Hudson & Co., Morden, Sprague & Co./Laird, Sprague & Co., Edwards, Morgan, Halliday & Co., Welch, Hinton and Welch, McDonald, Currie & Co./Cooper Brothers & Co., Meyers Dickens Norris Penny & Co./Meyers, Norris, Penny & Co. and the Comptroller-General for the Province of Manitoba.

This sub-series also includes a number of purchase offers made to A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd as well as proposed plans to sell the company. Offers were received from United Grain Growers, Maple Leaf Mills, McKenzie Seeds Staff, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Wheat Pools, and the Ferry Morse Seed Co.

Twelve ledgers, including branch order, mail order and cash registers, general ledgers, current ledgers, payroll sheets and branch daily cash reports, are also part of the sub-series. Other miscellaneous financial records and statements include information on McKenzie Seeds' proposal to the Manitoba Government for re-financing in the early to mid 1980's.

Notes:	<p>Additional dates for the records in the financial sub-series are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prepared Financial Statements: 1907-1918, 1920-1923, 1926-1938, and 1942-1979.2. Purchase Offers: U.G.G. (1959, 1966), Wheat Pools (1961), McKenzie Staff (1963), Maple Leaf Mills (c. 1965), Ferry Morse Seed Co. (c. 1969-1970).
	<p>The extent of the ledgers in sub-series McS 1 1.5 (Financial Records) separate from the other financial records in the sub-series is 95.9 cm. The financial records without the ledgers measure 60 cm.</p>
Storage Location:	<p>RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds McS 1 Board of Directors</p>
Related Material:	<p>Financial statements and records for the individual companies acquired by McKenzie Seeds are located in Series III.</p> <p>Information regarding the sale of McKenzie Seeds is located in Series II (Office of the President/GM), sub-series I (A.E. McKenzie), in the file entitled A.E. correspondence with W.A. Johnson. Some of these records are connected to the purchase offers received by McKenzie Seeds.</p>



Board of directors - management consultant reports

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4313>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1965-1970

Physical Description: 4.5 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes reports from three management consultants: Harbridge House, Urwick, Currie & Partners Ltd., and Thorne Stevenson & Kellogg. As well, the sub-series contains correspondence between the President and Comptroller of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. and Harbridge House regarding the implementation of a management training program and plans to combat the weak field seed market. The Urwick, Currie reports deal with improvement in company operations and improvements in packet seed processing. The Thorne Stevenson & Kellogg report is entitled 'Implementing a Strategic Planning Process.' Each of the reports completed for the company deal with improving the business operations of McKenzie Seeds.

Harbridge House – this record is a management-training program designed to address a weak field seed market.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 1 Board of Directors



Board of directors - minutes/meetings

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4312>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1958-1981

Physical Description: 1.8 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes minutes of the Board of Directors of McKenzie Seeds, extracts from minutes of the Board of Directors, information on shareholders of the company, notices of Board meetings, suggested meeting agendas, the President's annual report for 1967, and memos regarding Board meetings/business.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 1 Board of Directors

Related Material: Additional minutes for the meetings of the Board of Directors of McKenzie Seeds, dating from the mid 1930's, are held in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

Minute excerpts for the Board of Directors are located in the Document sub-series in the file titled By-Laws for 1940-1985.



Board of directors - miscellaneous

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4314>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.4

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1974

Physical Description: 0.1 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of one folder containing thank you letters to Prof. George F. MacDowell, Professor of Economics at Brandon University, and a long-time member of the McKenzie Seeds Board for his service to the company.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 1 Board of Directors

Related Material: RG 6 (Brandon University fonds), MG 3 (Brandon University Teaching and Administration), MG 3 1.12 (George MacDowell fonds).



Brandon Allied Arts Council

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4341>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1959-1968

Physical Description: 4.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Brandon Allied Arts Council was established in the fall of 1959 and spring of 1960. At that time a Foundation was set up, consisting of six men 'of affairs' in Brandon, who were to act as Trustees and administer gifts, bequests and all capital expenditures. The men asked to serve were: Judge Buckingham, Roy Armstrong (Manager of the Royal Bank), Lasby Lowes, R.A. Clement, Victor Sharpe and D.R. Doig.

From the beginning A.E. McKenzie was a great supporter of the Allied Arts Council. Shortly before his death in 1964 McKenzie proposed leaving his home at 436 Victoria Ave. to the Arts Council to be used as an art gallery. Following a great deal of debate it was finally decided, sometime after McKenzie's death, to decline the offer.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series has been divided into two periods, the first dealing with A.E. McKenzie and the Arts Council and the second concerning Lasby Lowes and the Arts Council.

Included within the sub-series is correspondence to McKenzie from Marion Doig of the Arts Council relating the progress of the establishment of the Council through the fall of 1959 to the summer of 1960. It also includes correspondence between McKenzie and R.A. Clement regarding the gift of McKenzie's home to the Brandon Allied Arts Council, and correspondence between McKenzie and the Chairman of Nominations, Brandon Allied Arts Council.

The records generated during the Lasby Lowes period revolve primarily around the estate of A.E. McKenzie. Included is correspondence between The National Trust, Sutherland Agencies Limited, Kathleen Roberts (nee McKenzie), Canadian Diebold Safe Co., G.R. Rowe (President of Arts Council), Green Blankenstein Russell Associates, Income Tax Department, Winnipeg, Monarch Life Assurance Company and Lasby Lowes. Other correspondence deals with Lowes' role as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Brandon Allied Arts Council.

Also included within the sub-series is a photocopy of the Memorandum of Agreement that established the "Brandon Allied Arts Foundation" (1960).

The sub-series has been divided into two sub sub series, including: (1) 1.3.1 A.E. McKenzie and the Brandon Allied Arts Council (1959-64); and (2) 1.3.2 Lasby Lowes and the Brandon Allied Arts Council (1964-68).

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
 MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds

Related Material: Additional Information on the Brandon Allied Arts Council is located in the Brandon Art Club fonds 03-2001 in the S.J. McKee Archives.

Series 5 (Photographs) contains newspaper clippings concerning the gift of McKenzie's house to the Brandon Allied Arts Council in oversized drawer #4.



Brandon Board of Trade

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4342>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.4

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1910-1911

Physical Description: 0.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Brandon Board of Trade was founded in 1883 to promote business activity and economic expansion in Brandon. Aside from these records, no other records of the Board of Trade are known to exist.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series includes the intervention of the Board in the 1910 municipal election in Brandon and a listing of the standing committee for 1911. The sub-series also includes a letter to Mr. Blanchard from A.E. McKenzie and a financial statement for the Brandon Commercial Bureau.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds



Brandon College Inc.

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4338>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1929-1968

Physical Description: 15.9 cm

History /

Biographical:

A.E. McKenzie was involved with Brandon College from its very beginnings. He was present at the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the Brandon College Building in July of 1900; he became a member of the Brandon College Endowment Committee in 1918; the following year he was on the Finance Committee. By the mid-1920's, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the College. In 1928, he was part of a group that convinced the Baptist Union of Western Canada, the principal funding body for the College, to provide money towards reducing the College's accumulated deficit. McKenzie and other members of the College Board had advised the Union that they were developing an endowment plan to provide continuing financial support for Brandon College.

In 1931, Mr. McKenzie organized the Brandon Board of Trade to help save the College when the Baptist Union indicated its intention to withdraw financial support to the College. When efforts to have the City of Brandon provide financial resources to the College failed, A.E. McKenzie organized the Brandon Citizen's Campaign to raise enough money to enable the College to open the next year.

In 1938, when the Baptist Union did withdraw support from the College, McKenzie offered to establish a \$100,000 endowment, which he later raised to \$300,000, to ensure the continuation of the College. On August 1 of the same year, the Board of Trade, of which McKenzie was a member, set out to raise \$15,000 to match the offer the government had made to the College. In September 1938, McKenzie increased his endowment again, this time to \$500,000. As a result, of McKenzie's endowment and the fundraising efforts of the Board of Trade the charter establishing Brandon College Incorporated was approved on April 17, 1939.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes correspondence between McKenzie and Lowes with various government officials - Duff Roblin, Hon. George Johnson, Hon. Stewart E. McLean and Comptroller-General George D. Iiffe. There is also correspondence with the company lawyer, William Johnston. Documents within the series consist of the Act to Incorporate Brandon College, Inc. and Bill 86, as well as an indenture and an agreement between C.S. Eaton, G.C. Edwards, A.E. McKenzie, D.H. Hudson and E.J. Tarr. There are also a number of documents written by McKenzie that were presented to the Brandon College Board of Directors. Brandon College Inc. resolutions regarding the McKenzie Foundation are also included.

The sub-series has one sub sub series: MG 5 1.1.1 History of Brandon College Inc.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
 MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds



Brett-Young Seed Company/Sabetha

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4326>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 3 3.1
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1953-1976
Physical Description: 4 cm

History /

Biographical:

In 1971, A. E. McKenzie Seeds Co. Ltd. acquired Brett-Young Seeds. Based out of Winnipeg, Brett-Young dealt exclusively in Field seeds. The price of the company was based on 75% of the booked pre-tax profit for a five-year period starting in 1972, with a minimum price of 1.3 million. In 1975, the company was sold to Manitoba Pool Elevators for 1.76 million plus inventory. However, while McKenzie Seeds owned the company, it generated 2.3 million in profits, 75% of which was paid to the previous shareholders.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series consists of financial statements, board minutes and documents, including return of information and particulars under the Companies Act of Manitoba and notices of the change of directors. Correspondence in the sub-series deals largely with the resignation of the directors of Brett-Young Seeds. Records dealing with the sale of Brett-Young Seeds to Manitoba Pool Elevators are also included. The sub-series also includes one file of documents relating to the Sabetha Seed Co.

The sub-series is divided into two sub sub series, including: (1) Correspondence; and (2) Financial.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 3 Acquisitions

Related Material: One document relating to Brett-Young Seeds and McKenzie Seeds is located in Series 1 (Board of Directors), sub-series 1 (Documents).

Historical information regarding Brett-Young Seeds is located in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes), Historical Topics file 11 (Tape 24).

The 1974 catalogue for Brett-Young Seeds is located in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 4 (Marketing).

Sales literature and catalogues for Brett-Young Seeds are located in Series 5 (Miscellaneous), sub-series (Centennial Exhibition) in the file entitled Acquisitions Booklet.



Comptroller

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4319>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 2 2.3
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1965-1967
Physical Description: 2.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

Prior to 1964, the Manitoba Government representative on the Board of Directors, as well as other members of the Board of McKenzie Seeds, urged A.E. McKenzie to hire a comptroller. Although he said he would take their recommendation under advisement, an appointment was not made until J. Lasby Lowes became President/General Manager in the fall of 1964.

While in Vancouver on business, Lowes and Mr. Wm. Johnston, the Company's lawyer interviewed W. E. (Ted) Chiswell. After conferring with Chris. Flintoft of McDonald, Currie & Co. and George Ilfee, Comptroller General for the Province of Manitoba, Chiswell was hired as the first comptroller at McKenzie Seeds and began his employment with the Company on January 1, 1965. Chiswell later resigned his position and relocated to Winnipeg.

Jim McLaren, one Peckover, Richard Olson and Don Haddock all held the position of comptroller at McKenzie Seeds following Chiswell's resignation. It is not known who held the position after Don Haddock left the company in the mid-1970s.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series includes correspondence between W.E. Chiswell, McKenzie Comptroller, and a number of individuals, including Robert A. Steen and Wm. Johnston of Johnston, Garson & Co. (the Company's lawyers), G.T. Smith & Sons Ltd., General Contractors, and Nick Slowchek of Speers Seed Store. The sub-series also contains letters between Chiswell and Lasby Lowes and memos to McKenzie Staff written by Chiswell. Some of the records in the sub-series deal with McKenzie Seeds' name change to McKenzie Seeds Inc.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

Related Material: Further information regarding the comptroller can be found in Series 2 (Office of the President/General Manager), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes) Historical Topics, file 13 of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds.

Other correspondence involving the comptroller can be found within the correspondence files of J. Lasby Lowes (Series 2, sub-series 2) of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds.

J. Lasby Lowes



<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4318>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 2 2.2
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1900-1983
Physical Description: 56.2 cm

History /

Biographical:

James Lasby Lowes was born in Brandon on March 12, 1903, and passed away at Brandon General Hospital on August 9, 1986, after a lengthy illness. His wife Jean, his son Lasby Jr., daughter-in-law Carole, and grandsons Kirk and Rick survived him. Lowes also had one sister, Kathleen Conder, of Gross Pointe Mich.

Lowes was a dedicated employee of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. for 47 years, beginning February 13, 1924. Throughout his career with the Company, Lowes worked in various departments: he served as manager of the wholesale department, assistant manager in charge of Field Seed purchases, manager of sales for both domestic and export trade, and Field Seed division manager. In 1964, following A. E. McKenzie's death, Lowes became the President and General Manager of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Although he retired as President and General Manager in 1968, at the request of the Company, Mr. Lowes became Saskatchewan Sales Supervisor. In 1972, he accepted a new role in Public Relations. Here his primary task was to write a corporate history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. and its subsidiary companies.

Lasby Lowes attended Brandon College and was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings. He chose to make his career as a seedsman rather than a hockey player. He served on the Board of Brandon College/University, Brandon General Hospital, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Lowes was a member of the Kinsman Club of Brandon and an elder in First Church United for many years. He enjoyed gardening. When he was not on the road traveling for the Company, visiting the many distributors of McKenzie seeds in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, he spent a great deal of time at the family cottage at Clear Lake.

Custodial History:

In the course of preparing notes for a history of the McKenzie Seed Co., Mr. Lowes extracted documentary records from the Company files. Records taken from the Company files by Mr. Lowes remain in the historical accounts he created.

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series contains documents, primarily correspondence dealing with Lowes' years as President/General Manager. The correspondence involves Premier Duff Roblin, the Company lawyer, Wm. Johnson, the Bank of Montreal, and Charles Sharpe & Co. Ltd. Further correspondence relates to trademarks, the sale of the Company, the hiring of Ted Chiswell as Comptroller of McKenzie Seeds, and the change of the Company's name to McKenzie Seeds Ltd.

Subsequent to his retirement from the President/General Manager's office, Lowes undertook the task of writing a history of the McKenzie Co. His Historical Topics cover a wide-range of subjects including the history of the Company, Canadian agriculture and the seed industry, the life and times of A. E. McKenzie, and notes on various employees of McKenzie Seeds and McFayden Seeds. The Topics also include information related to various properties and acquisitions of the Company. There is also information pertaining to the McKenzie catalogues.

The original order in which these records were acquired has not been disturbed. However, the original order appears to be quite haphazard.

To facilitate access for researchers, a summary of the arrangement of Lasby Lowes' Historical Topics and related records has been created.

The sub-series is divided into three sub sub series, including: (1) Correspondence; (2) Historical Topics; and (3) Miscellaneous.

Notes:

Lasby Lowes:

President/General Manager: c. 1960-1968, 11.5 cm

Historical Topics: 1900-1983; 44.7 cm

For the most part both the handwritten and typed version of each Historical Topic can be found within sub sub series McS 2 2.2.

Finding Aid:

A file level inventory of McS 2 2.2 (Historical Topics) is available.

Storage Location:

RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

Related Material:

Additional records related to the Brandon Council of Women are located in the Brandon Council of Women Fonds (34-1998) in the S. J. McKee Archives.



Marketing

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4321>

Part Of:

RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level:

Sub-series

Series Number:

McS 2 2.5

GMD:

textual records

Date Range:

1897-1995

Physical Description:

1.61 m

History /

Biographical:

A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. printed its first seed catalogue in 1896. This catalogue contained listings of Field grains - Peas, Beans, Flax and Corn, Field grasses, clovers and alfalfa, Field root seed, Lawn grass mixtures and miscellaneous items such as household flour, grain and cereal products for stock, hay, and sack and bags of all kinds. In 1900, with their 4th annual catalogue, McKenzie Seeds added Garden Seeds (both Vegetable and Flowers) for the first time. Up until the late 1960's, at which time the Company began withdrawing from the Field seed market, McKenzie Seeds continued to print an annual catalogue with similar listings to that described above.

In the mid 1960's, McKenzie Seeds discontinued its catalogue in order to nurture the growth of the catalogue printed by its subsidiary McFayden Seeds. When McKenzie Seeds first acquired McFayden Seeds in 1941 the two companies continued to exist independently, printing their own catalogues. However as the home gardening industry grew, the decision was made to focus on McFayden due to its established and growing reputation of as a leader in the mail order industry. In 2001 McKenzie Seeds continued to print both the McFayden catalogue as well as the catalogue of one of its other subsidiaries, McConnell Seeds. These catalogues are distributed to over one million Canadian homes every year.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series contains a variety of records related to marketing, including catalogues for McKenzie Seeds, and a number of other seed businesses, seed packets, sales literature and miscellaneous marketing papers.

Catalogues within the sub-series include those for the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co., McFayden Seed Co., as well as a number of catalogues published by McKenzie Co. suppliers and competitors. These included Lindburg Seeds, Vesey's, Stokes, Gill Bros. Seed Company, Robertson Seeds, Burpee, Ferry Morse, Keith's Seeds, Harris Seeds, and the Dominion Seed House. Fonds also includes a number of catalogues from companies that became part of McKenzie Seeds, such as McConnell, Brett-Young Seeds and Pike & Co. The McKenzie catalogues from approximately 1901 to 1915 are particularly high in production values.

Within the sub-series a variety of seed packets, divided into vegetables, flowers and herbs, sold by McKenzie Seeds/McKenzie Steele Briggs Seeds are included. In addition, there are also seed packets sold by Steele Briggs, Pike & Co., Card Seed Co. (Fredonia, N.Y), McFayden Seeds, and Wm. Reenie Seeds.

This sub-series also includes sales literature used by McKenzie Seeds, McKenzie Steele-Briggs Seeds, and McFayden Seeds. Some of the McKenzie literature is in French. In addition, there is some sales literature from America and Europe, particularly Holland and Denmark.

As well, the sub-series contains three miscellaneous papers, dealing with marketing. The Salesman's Booster, and The Salesman's Manual, were both edited and/or written by A.E. McKenzie. The third paper is a survey by D.N. Whittam entitled An Independent Survey and Analysis of the U.K. Seed Market with recommendations for launching a new brand for McKenzie Steele Briggs Seeds, Brandon, Manitoba'.

This sub-series also includes one file containing contracts between McKenzie Seeds and the Mortimer Co. Ltd. pertaining to the printing of the McKenzie Catalogue from 1926-1933.

The sub-series is divided into four sub sub series, including: (1) Catalogues; (2) Seed Packets; (3) Miscellaneous Sales Literature Documents; and (4) Miscellaneous Marketing Papers/Reports.

Notes: Specific dates for some of the catalogues in this series can be found below.

McKenzie Catalogues -- 1897-1898, 1900, 1904-1906, 1908-1912, 1914-1933, 1961, 1964-1966

McFayden Catalogues -- 1933-1935, 1954-1959, 1961-1966, 1968-1974, 1978-1995

Pike & Co. -- 1957-1970, 1972-1984

McConnell -- 1990-1995

Brett-Young Seeds -- 1974

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

Related Material: Information on both McKenzie Seeds catalogues and The Salesman's Booster are located in the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes). File 2 contains materials relating to The Salesman's Booster while files 8 (Tape 22), 9, 10 (Tape 23) and 34 include information relating to McKenzie seed catalogues.

Additional information about the printing of the McKenzie catalogue and seed packets can be found in the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 1 (A.E. McKenzie) in the file of correspondence between McKenzie and The Mortimer Co.

Originals and reproductions of various catalogues and sales literature are located in Series 6 (Miscellaneous), sub-series 1 (Centennial Exhibit) of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds.

Arrangement:

The sub-series is arranged as follows:

Catalogues (1897-1995; 51 cm)
Seed Packets (c. 1939-c.1990's; 64 cm)
Miscellaneous Sales Literature (no dates; 24 cm)
Miscellaneous Papers (1928, 1942, 1981; 2.3 cm)



McFayden Seeds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4330>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 3 3.4
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1941-1979
Physical Description: 15.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

Harris McFayden, who also acted as the company's managing director, established the McFayden Seed Co. Ltd. in 1910. G. P. Crossing, D. J. Daniel and D. A. Hagen completed the company executive as secretary-treasurer, manager of the Garden Seed Department, and Plant superintendent respectively.

Operating out of Winnipeg on a Canada wide basis, McFayden Seed Co. Ltd. was originally called Harris McFayden Seed Co. Ltd. and specialized in farm seeds. By the time of McFayden's death in April of 1941, the company had created the largest Mail Order House of Garden Vegetable and Flower Seeds in Canada.

McFayden Seed Co. Ltd. was purchased by A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. on August 15, 1941 from a Trust Company for \$75,000. At the time of the acquisition, it was decided by the parties involved that the two companies would continue operating as separate entities. This arrangement enabled the McKenzie Seed Co. to minimize the disruption created by the purchase; it also allowed for the perpetuation of the McFayden name and tradition.

Located in a rented property, the 5th floor of the John Deer Building in Winnipeg, the company was relocated to Maryland Street in Winnipeg during the 1950's. Finally, in 1965, McFayden Seeds was moved into the existing McKenzie Building in Brandon as a subsidiary company, continuing as a specialty Mail Order division of McKenzie Seeds to the present day.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series contains correspondence, documents, financial records and miscellaneous records relating to McKenzie Seeds first acquisition. The documents consist of costs of passing title, general by-laws, Companies Act returns, annual summaries, executor of Harris McFayden's estate, and a release between A.E. McKenzie Co. and National Trust. The miscellaneous records include board minutes/excerpts, memos and a share register.

The sub-series has been divided into four sub sub series, including: (1) Correspondence; (2) Documents; (3) Financial; and (4) Miscellaneous.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 3 Acquisitions

Related Material: Financial statements for McFayden Seeds as a subsidiary of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. are located in Series 1 (Board of Directors), sub-series 5 (Financial) of the fonds.

Historical information regarding McFayden Seeds is located in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes), Historical Topics files 7 and 8 (Tape 22) and file 30 of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds.

Sales literature, seed packets and McFayden catalogues are located in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 4 (Marketing) of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds.

Catalogues for McFayden can also be found in Series 5 (Photographs) in oversized drawer #4 of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds.

Series 6 (Miscellaneous), sub-series 1 (Centennial Exhibition) of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds also contains catalogues and sales literature for McFayden Seeds.



McKenzie centennial exhibit

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4334>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 6 6.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1896-1996

Physical Description: 34 cm

History /

Biographical:

The program for the McKenzie Centennial Exhibit describes the materials in this sub-series as a "visual collection of artifacts, printed materials and photographs, 1883-1996, celebrating the centennial of A.E. McKenzie Co. Inc."

Created by current employees and based on research by Nancy McLennan, Sandra Head and J. Lasby Lowes, the McKenzie Centennial Exhibit opened on April 25, 1996. It remained open to the public on every Thursday between 2 to 4 p.m. to the end of June, 1996. Some of the furnishings used in the display were contributed by the Daly House Museum. Located in the McKenzie Building, the exhibit was assembled along the corridors of the building. It contained a variety of materials, such as invoices, pay envelopes, blueprints, documents, furniture and photographs from the one hundred years of McKenzie Seeds' history.

Following the close of the exhibit, a smaller permanent installation was to be constructed at the McKenzie Building.

Custodial History:

In the course of preparing the exhibit, Nancy McLennan took documents from the collection, but failed to make a record of where the documents came from. As a result, these materials have been left in the Centennial sub-series. It proved impossible to return them to their original place in the fonds.

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes the individual descriptions of each exhibit printed on small white envelopes, a guide to the exhibit, a photograph listing for photos used in the various displays and the 1973 Directory of Canadian Chartered Accountants. The sub-series also includes intact files for exhibits 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 39 and 40, Wholesale Sales Literature, Steele Briggs Seed Co., Scrimping and Spending Big Time, Seed Wagon, Mostly Catalogue Inserts, Letterhead, and For Your Reading Pleasure, respectively.

In addition, a number of booklets made by the creators of the exhibit are also contained within the sub-series. These booklets are primarily a combination of original and reproduced sales literature and catalogues, but also may or may not contain some correspondence, seed packets, clippings and history for McKenzie Seeds, Pike Seeds/Robertson Seeds, Acquisitions (Steele Briggs, Canada Seeds, Brett-Young Seeds), and McFayden/McConnell.

In addition to the above booklets, there are also materials dealing with the catalogues and sales literature of McKenzie Seed Co. suppliers, such as Bodger Seeds, H. Keft from Holland, the Denholm Seed Company, and the Vis Brothers. A number of documents, programs and booklets relating to the seed industry in general, such as the "Black Leaf" Bulletin and a number of documents relating to agriculture in Manitoba are also included.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 6 Miscellaneous

Related Material: Photographs from the Centennial Exhibition of McKenzie Seeds can be found in Series 5 (Photographs), sub-series 5.9 (Centennial Photos).



Miscellaneous publications/correspondence

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4323>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 2 2.7

GMD: textual records

Date Range: c. 1975-1983

Physical Description: 0.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

This artificially created sub-series consists of records related to the office of the President/General Manager that did not fit into any of the preceding sub-series.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

The sub-series includes photocopies of articles on A.E. McKenzie and Keith Guelpa, Pat Kelleher's resignation as President of McKenzie Seeds (1975), as well as correspondence from Bill Moore's term as President.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager