

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 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



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).



MPE C 8 The Wasagaming Foundation

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions10703>

Part Of: RG 4 Manitoba Pool Elevator fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MPE C.8

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1965-1985

Physical Description: 7cm

History /

Biographical:

The Wasagaming Foundation was founded in 1964 to plan an educational centre at Clear Lake, part of which would become Camp Wannakumbac in 1965. The Foundation was the joint effort of MPE, Federated Co-operatives Limited, Manitoba Farm Bureau, and United Grain Growers.

See also fonds level description of RG 4 for history/bio of MPE

Scope and Content:

.This sub-series consists of two files of the Wasagaming Foundation.

Notes: Description by Jillian Sutherland (2010)

Name Access: The Wasagaming Foundation

Camp Wannakumbac

Clear Lake

Subject Access: agricultural education

Storage Location: RG 4 Manitoba Pool Elevator fonds

Series C: Subsidiary Companies and Co-operatives