

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Evan McDonald Whidden fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4228>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: MG 1 1.8  
Accession Number: 1-2001, 8-2003, 9-2006  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1915-1936; predominant 1917-1922.  
Physical Description: 6 cm. textual records; 1921 Brandon College Quill (Commencement Number); approx. 150 photographs

### History /

#### Biographical:

Evan McDonald Whidden (1898-1980) was born in Galt, Ontario. He was educated at Brandon College. Following service in the Great War he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University (Brandon College) in 1921. He obtained a Master of Arts in history (McMaster [n.d.]) and in 1928, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale. Whidden married Frances Margaret Billington in 1941. Together they had three children: Howard John (b. 1943), Roberta Katherine (b. 1945) and Eric Christopher (b. 1947).

Dr. Whidden served in Baptist churches in Saskatchewan and Manitoba before joining the faculty of Brandon College in 1936. In 1938, he was appointed Thomas J. Armstrong Professor of church history at Acadia University. He became Dean of the School of Theology at Acadia in 1954, and served in that capacity until 1963. He retired from the faculty of Acadia University in 1967. Dr. Whidden has written in the field of church history and education. He was awarded honorary degrees by the Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax, N.S. (1950), McMaster University [n.d.] and Acadia University (1969).

#### Custodial History:

Since his death in 1980, the fonds has been in the custody of his widow, Mrs. Frances Margaret Whidden. The first accession was donated to the McKee Archives in April, 2001; the second in 2003; and the third in May 2005.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of Evan Whidden's reports to family members, in particular to his father and mother, on his experience as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the years 1917-1919. Records also include correspondence from his mother, Katherine Louise Whidden (nee Ganong), to Evan during these years. In these reports, Whidden records his impressions of military life through his training in Canada and England and his experience of war in Europe with the Canadian Expeditionary Force from 1917-1918. He was involved in the conflict only briefly at the conclusion of the war. His letters provide an account of life in France, Belgium and Germany in 1918.

The fonds also contains correspondence dating from the early 1920s from Chester New, a history professor at McMaster, who had previously taught at Brandon College. Fonds also contains correspondence from Whidden's father, Howard Primrose Whidden, President of Brandon College 1912-1922 and, from 1922-1949, Chancellor of McMaster University. This correspondence deals principally with the progress of Evan Whidden's education and his choice of a career in the church or the academic world.

Fonds contains several publications containing the work of Evan Whidden, mostly on religious themes. It also includes newspaper clippings and convocation programs dealing with Dr. Whidden's graduation from Yale and the presentation of honorary degrees to him at Pine Hill and Acadia. The fonds contains newspaper stories on the occasion of the retirement of Howard Primrose Whidden following his lengthy career as President of McMaster University. Death notices for Dr. H.P. Whidden and his wife are also to be found.

Finally, fonds contains approximately 150 b&w photographs of group portraits, individual portraits and activities at Brandon College and a copy of the 1921 Commencement Issue of the Brandon College Quill.

Name Access:	Evan Whidden Chester New Howard Whidden
Subject Access:	Brandon College 1920s
Storage Location:	MG 1 Brandon College Teaching and Administration 1.8 Evan McDonald Whidden
Related Material:	Whidden's father, Howard Primrose Whidden served as President of Brandon College 1912-1922. His records are located in RG 1, series 2.2 (Brandon College fonds, Office of the President). Records from Evan Whidden's time as College Dean are located in RG 1, series 6 (Brandon College fonds, Office of the College Dean).



## John E. Robbins

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4244>

Part Of:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	2.6
GMD:	textual records
Date Range:	1960-1967

## History /

### Biographical:

Dr. John Everett Robbins was born 9 October 1903 in Hampton, Ontario the son of John and Gertrude (Brown) Robbins. He married Catherine St. Denis on 11 June 1934 in Ogdens, New York. John Robbins was raised in Darlingford, Manitoba. He attended the University of Manitoba graduating with a B.A. Hon 1928 and M.A. in 1929. Dr. Robbins completed a Ph.D at the University of Ottawa in 1935. From 1936-1951 he was Director of the Education Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Dr. Robbins helped to found the Canadian Association for Adult Education, the Social Science Research Council of Canada, the Humanities Research Council of Canada, the United Nations Association in Canada, and the Canadian Citizenship Council. In 1942 he became a member of the Board of Directors of Carlton University. Dr. Robbins was active in UNESCO work: he was a member of Canadian Government delegations to foreign conferences, and, in 1951-52, he spent a year as Director of an educational project for Palestinian Refugees in the Middle East.

In 1960, while editor-in-chief of the newly compiled "Encyclopedia Canadiana," Dr. Robbins was asked to become President of Brandon College. From 1960 to 1967, he oversaw construction of the Arts and Library Building and Lecture Theatre, a Men's Residence, a Dining Hall, a Heating Plant, a Ladies' Residence, a Music Building, a Physical Education Building and an Education Building. After the university charter was granted in 1967, Dr. Robbins was installed as the first President of Brandon University.

After his retirement from Brandon University Dr. Robbins was appointed Canadian Ambassador to the Vatican 1970-73. In the years after his departure from Brandon, he held many positions including President of World Federalists of Canada 1977-79 and President of the Canadian Writers Foundation 1976-78. Dr. Robbins served as Executive Chairman and Treasurer of Amnesty International in Canada 1973-75.

He was the recipient of an honorary LLD from the University of Manitoba (1967), Carleton University (1969) and Brandon University (1974). In 1994, the title President Emeritus of Brandon University was conferred on John Robbins by the Board of Governors of the University. Dr. Robbins died in 1995, at the age of 91.

### Scope and Content:

Dr. Robbins' administrative records are located in the Brandon University fonds.

Notes:	Dr. John E. Robbins archival papers are held at the Library and Archives Canada.
Name Access:	<b>John E. Robbins</b>
Storage Location:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds Series 2: Office of the Principal/President
Related Material:	See RG 6, series 3 (Office of the President) for additional records regarding John E. Robbins.



## J.R.C. Evans fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4724>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 1 1.10

Accession Number: 7-2004

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1918-1961

Physical Description: 5.5 cm textual records  
1 photograph

### History /

#### Biographical:

See RG 1 Brandon College fonds, series 2 (Office of the President), sub-series 2.5 (John Robert Charles Evans) for History/Bio information.

#### Custodial History:

Records were donated to the McKee Archives by Keith Evans, son of J.R.C. Evans, in June 1991.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds contains newspaper clippings dealing with Brandon College events and the death of Marion Doig, and a variety of pamphlets, including ones for piano/musical recitals held by Brandon College or independent performers, Brandon College's Annual Graduating Banquet (1959), Brandon College Library and Arts Building Cornerstone Laying Ceremony (1960), The Crucifixion and the D-6(?) Day Observance. Fonds also includes statistics regarding Brandon College Enrollment by departments 1899-1934, miscellaneous writings by J.R.C. Evans, a list of contributors to the J.R.C. Evans Student Loan Fund, the media kit for the 10th Eckhardt-Gramatté Music Competition, a copy of Gently Smiling Jaws by Alma Perry, a photo of Wilma Taylor, a felt book cover and a Brandon College pennant.

Notes: Description available on CAIN. Copies of the Brandon Daily Sun: Tuesday February 2, 1960 and the Brandon Sun: Monday September 10, 1962, Saturday October 12, 1963 were culled as duplicates. The Brandon College pennant has been placed in the map drawers in the McKee Reading Room.

Storage Location: MG 1 Brandon College Teaching and Administration  
1.10 J.R.C. Evans



## Robert Dudley Howland collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4726>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 2 2.16

Accession Number: 15-1999

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1885-1918

Physical Description: 1.46 m

## History /

### Biographical:

Dr. Robert Dudley Howland was born June 1, 1909 in Bexley, Kent, England. He attended Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Faversham, Kent. In 1926, he came to Canada where he attended Brandon College, graduating in Arts in 1935. He subsequently attended the London School of Economics where he obtained a doctorate in Economics.

During his years at Brandon College, Howland participated in debating and drama. He also acted as a student minister for the Baptist Church.

Howland spent his working years in various positions in the federal and provincial governments. Energy was an important focus of his work. His introduction to energy problems came in 1944, when he was appointed Secretary of the Carroll Commission on coal. From this experience he accepted appointments in Nova Scotia as Vice-President of their Research Foundation; Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry and Economic Advisor to the Nova Scotia government.

In addition to the Carroll Royal Commission on Coal, Howland was associated with the Royal Commission on Saskatchewan's Coal Mining Industry, was an economist on Canada's Economic Prospects from 1955-1957, and a member of the Royal Commission on Energy.

In 1959, Howland was appointed Vice-President of the National Energy Board and Chairman from July 1, 1968, until his retirement in August 1973. Howland was granted an honorary LL.D. by Brandon University in May 1974.

Howland had a lifelong interest in the Fabian Society and Fabian Socialism, assembling a rich collection of original edition Fabian publications.

### Custodial History:

Dr. Howland presented his collection of Fabian publications to Brandon University sometime in the 1970s. The collection remained in the John E. Robbins Library until it was placed in the Archives in 1997.

### Scope and Content:

The Howland Collection includes a wide range of books, pamphlets, and assorted publications of the Fabian Society assembled by Dr. Howland.

The Fabian Society, a socialist society, was founded in 1883-1884, in London. The Fabian Society was created with the goal of fostering the creation of democratic socialism in Great Britain. Unlike revolutionary Marxists, the Fabians placed their hopes for change in evolutionary socialism not revolution.

The creation of the Fabian Society is generally attributed to Thomas Davidson, a Scottish philosopher. Its charter members included George Bernard Shaw, Sidney Webb, Annie Besant, Edward Pease, and Graham Wallas. Shaw and Webb, later joined by Webb's wife, Beatrice, were the outstanding leaders of the Society for many years. In 1889, the Society published its best-known tract, "Fabian Essays in Socialism," edited by Shaw. The Fabian Society played an integral role in the creation of the British Labour Party.

Notes: The items in the collection have been added to the Brandon University Library catalogue. Description by Mike White.

Storage Location: MG 2 Brandon College Students  
2.16 Robert Dudley Howland



## Charles H. Koester fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4727>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 2 2.17

Accession Number: 02-2007

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1948

Physical Description: 1 cm

History /

Biographical:

According to the typed sheet in the back of the secondo score, the Blue and Gold March was an original composition written by a Third Year Arts student, Mr. Charles Koester. It was accepted and named "The Blue and Gold March of Brandon College" by President J.R.C. Evans in April 1948.

The piece was the result of many years of work. The melody first entered Koester's thoughts during the war when he was an RCAF Flight Lieutenant in North Africa. It was first played as a piano duet by Miss Zen Koester and Mr. Gordon Sefton at regular Chapel service. In his remarks at the occasion, Charles Koester acknowledge the assistance he received from Zen Koester, Gordon Sefton and Professor E. Savage in arranging the music.

Charles Henry Koester attended Brandon College ca. 1911-1916 and served in World War I.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of the original score of the Blue and Gold March of Brandon College written by Charles H. Koester and arranged by Elizabeth Z. Koester and Charles H. Koester. Written as a piano duet, there is sheet music for the primo and secondo parts. At the back of the secondo score, there is a brief history of the March and a copy of "Hail Our College" (music and lyrics). Fonds also includes the sheet music for the B flat saxophone part of the march.

Notes: Description by Christy Henry, with help from Donna Lowe (2007).

Accruals: The Faculty of Music is planning to record the March and donate a copy of the recording to the Archives.

Repro Restriction: While technically copyright remains with Charles Koester, it is clear that he wrote this music for use by Brandon College. Individuals or organizations other than Brandon College or Brandon University are limited by the copyright provisions affecting this composition.

Storage Location: MG 2 Brandon College Students  
2.17 Charles H. Koester



## Margaret Doran Roberts collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4876>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 2 2.22

Accession Number: 18-2003, 27-2003

GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1901, 1915, 1924, 1932-1997; predominant 1936-1960  
Physical Description: 24 cm textual records  
ca. 95 photographs  
memorabilia

History /

Biographical:

Margaret (Peggy) Doran was born on May 27, 1919 in Brandon, Manitoba to parents Sol and Margaret (Honan) Roberts. Doran grew up in Brandon and was very active in theatre during her high school and college years. Her first theatrical success came at age 20, when she directed Brandon Little Theatre's production of "Send Her Victorious," which received top honours in the Manitoba Drama Festival.

Following her graduation from Brandon College in 1941, she trained as a nurse at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital during the Second World War and worked at Vancouver General Hospital for almost a year.

On August 25, 1945, Peg married Dennis Roberts, whom she had met in high school. Dennis, a music graduate from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, became interested in psychology after serving overseas with the Royal Canadian Air Force, so the couple moved to Toronto so that he could pursue a psychology degree at the University of Toronto. After Dennis graduated in 1950, the family moved to Sudbury, where Dennis and Peg became actively involved with the education and cultural life of the city. Peg was especially involved with the Sudbury Little Theatre Guild (SLTG), which was founded in 1948.

Between 1950 and 1956, Peg directed or acted in five plays. Her directorial works included: *Blithe Spirit*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Antigone*. Peg was recognized for her directing of *Antigone* when she won the Edgar Stone Trophy for Directing in the Dominion Drama Festival in 1955. For the 1956-1957 season, Peg assumed the role of President of the SLTG. During this time, she successfully petitioned the Dominion Drama Festival to create a new region and thus in 1957, the Quebec-Ontario Theatre Association (QUONTA) was founded and Peg acted as its first regional chairperson. Peg's further accomplishments included co-founding and serving on the board of directors of the Sudbury Theatre Centre, as well as acting as drama consultant for the Sudbury Secondary School Board.

Peg was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997 and, shortly after, in 1998, she moved back to Toronto. She died there on April 2, 2003. Peg and Dennis had three children: Judith Marion (b. June 23, 1946), Steven John (b. September 8, 1950), and Patricia May (b. April 5, 1955).

Custodial History:

After Peg's death in April 2003, materials in the collection were gathered and donated to the S.J. McKee Archives by her children Judith, Steven and Patricia Roberts on July 19, 2003.

Scope and Content:

Collection consists of textual records, photographs and other material that belonged to Margaret Doran Roberts. The textual materials include various personal letters, yearbooks, newspaper articles, journals, graduation diplomas, playbills and other miscellaneous records. The collection also includes approximately 95 photographs, mostly personal photographs of weddings and family, but also professionally taken group photos of the play casts. Other materials in the collection include various artefacts kept by Peg throughout her life.

Notes: Description and inventory by Ayn Lewandoski (2003).  
Storage Location: MG 2 Brandon College students  
2.22 Margaret Doran Roberts

Related Material: Additional archival material pertaining to Peg and Dennis Roberts is located in the archives at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario.

Arrangement:

Inventory of the collection:

Pack of matches from Mona's Dress Shop  
Cigar that belonged to Sol Doran  
Water colour picture, in frame, of St. Paul's Cathedral by Ev Lindsay Hunt from Brandon (1930s)  
Earl Haig Graduation bracelet and Grade IX notebook belonging to Peg Doran  
Nursing diploma and various other memorabilia from Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal  
Unidentified pictures of war squadron, World War II  
RCAF Christmas card from Sergeant William S. Day  
Possible home economic project of Peg Doran filled with cake recipes  
Photograph: Gordon Savage and Edith Laycock, plus Royal Winnipeg Rifles locket given by Gordon Savage to Peg Doran (with pictures of Gordon and Peg inside)  
Francis Bernard Roberts' (Dennis' father) materials: correspondence with Mayo Clinic, photographs and negatives of Indian Chief etc.  
Shares belonging to F.B. Roberts  
Unidentified photos of children from Brandon (2)  
"Willa Cather and the West," essay by Dennis Roberts  
Various letters and memorabilia in letter case including:  
- personal letters  
- Brandon College Annual Arts Banquet programme 1941  
- Brandon College Annual Commencement programme 1941  
- Brandon College Alumni Dinner program 1941  
- Season ticket Manitoba Drama League Provincial Finals Festival 1939  
- Manitoba Medical College 4th Annual Ball dance card 1902  
- Postcard to Peggy - University of Manitoba Arts Building 1939  
- Various report cards from Brandon Collegiate  
- Brandon Little Theatre 1936 production "Hay Fever" programme  
- Shares from the Brandon Golf and Country Club 1968  
- Margaret Doran's United Church of Canada Member's certificate 1933  
Blue scribbler from Expression class, filled with various poems, stories, plays etc. belonging to Peg Doran  
Miscellaneous newspaper clippings ranging from 1940-1979 (when dated)  
Brandon Sun 75th Anniversary edition Saturday January 19, 1957  
Sol Doran's daily journal - 1963 (the year of his death)  
Picture of Bessie Scott, housekeeper to Sol and Margaret Doran  
Wedding photographs, Peg Doran and Dennis Roberts - one in glass frame  
"Through the Gateway to Yesteryear" written by Eric Wells and Gordon Tucker and Friends, with inside inscription from Una Johnston  
Sheet music (11) of F.B. Roberts, father-in-law of Peg Doran  
Sheet music (8) of May Roberts, mother-in-law of Peg Doran  
Sheet music (4) of Peg (Doran) Roberts  
Unidentified school project, possibly a rough copy of a play, maybe Peg Doran's handwriting  
Photo of cast of play "Out to Sea" 1940  
Tube containing various graduation diplomas of Dennis Francis Roberts  
Peg Doran's graduation diploma, Brandon College 1941; letter and certificate recognizing the change from Brandon College to Brandon University; recognition certificate of attendance to 50th Reunion (1991) as well as photographs from the event attended by Peg and one of her Brandon friends, Jean Downing  
Identification bracelet, probably belonging to May Roberts from hospital in London when Dennis Roberts was born  
Small glass from Smith Drug Store  
Two teaspoons, with initials G.E.B.- George Edward Bennest - uncle of Doh (Doran) Bennest



Hammond, lawyer in Winnipeg (Doh's mother, Nell Doran, married Fred Bennest)  
Sterling silver child's cup (Peggy) and baby spoon, both belonging to Peg Doran  
Various photographs  
Dennis Roberts RCAF memorabilia including a hat, epaulettes, brass buttons etc.  
Dennis Roberts' Men's Handicap Singles tennis trophy 1932  
L.W.G.A. trophy 1933-34, believed to be awarded to Margaret [Mrs. Sol] Doran, an avid golfer  
Several pages of photographs of family holidays  
- 1958 - to Cornwall, Ontario to look for Doran relatives before St. Lawrence Seaway flooded low-lying graveyards  
- 1959 - when family rented a cottage in Clear Lake  
Two framed photos of Peg Roberts: as a baby and as a toddler  
Wedding announcement of Peg Doran and Dennis Roberts  
Dauphin Musical Society photograph 1924  
Playbills: Othello (1943); Wonderful Town; and The King & I  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers Annual Blue & Gold Football Game program 1959  
Play scripts: "Symphony in Illusion;" "Buddy Speaks a Piece;" "At the Photographer's;" and "At the Matinee"  
YMCA Winnipeg song sheet  
The New Era: 1937 & 1938  
The Sickle: 1939, 1940 & 1941  
The Quill: Vol. XXIX No. 4 (Oct. 26/38); Vol. XXIX No. 5 (Nov. 4/38); Vol. XXIX No. 6 (Nov. 9/38); Vol. XXXI No. 8 (Dec. 12/40)



## Dr. Robert Harvey fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4885>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: MG 2 2.18  
Accession Number: 3-1998  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: 1912-1980; predominant 1912-1950  
Physical Description: 1.08 m  
History /  
Biographical:

Dr. Robert Harvey graduated from Brandon College in 1913 (McMaster Arts). He received a diploma in theology from Brandon College in 1915. Initially a minister in the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Harvey spent the greater part of his life as a minister in the service of the United Church of Canada.

### Custodial History:

This fonds was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. Prior custodial history is unknown.

### Scope and Content:

This fonds consists of manuscripts written by Dr. Robert Harvey, various newspaper clippings, primarily from the Brandon Sun, featuring articles written by Harvey. Fonds also contains war-time publications from the Soviet Union, United States of America, and Canada. Topics include: the armistice, biographical accounts of war-time figures, the history of the church in Canada, human rights, communism and fascism.

Notes: CAIN No. 202618  
Subject Access: United Church of Canada  
Brandon Sun  
WW II  
Soviet Union  
Storage Location: MG 2 Brandon College Students  
2.18 Dr. Robert Harvey  
Related Material: Brandon College registration cards



## Martin Johns fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5087>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Description Level: Sub-series  
Series Number: MG 1 1.11  
Accession Number: 17-2007, 8-2009  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1939-1944  
Physical Description: 0.5 cm textual records  
21 b/w photographs

## History /

### Biographical:

Martin Wesley Johns was born to missionary parents Alfred and Myrtle Johns in Chengtu, West China on March 23, 1913. The family returned to Canada in 1925. Johns attended high schools in Tacoma, Washington; Vancouver, BC; Brandon, Manitoba; and Exeter, Ontario. He studied at Brandon College from 1928-1931 before obtaining his B.A. (1932) and M.A. (1934) from McMaster University and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto (1938). From 1937-1946, he taught physics at Brandon College. In 1972, Brandon University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Johns served in the Canadian Officers Training Corps (C.O.T.C.) in 1940-1941 doing research concerned with neutron physics at Chalk River. In 1947, he joined the Physics Department at McMaster University, where he remained for the remainder of his career.

Johns married Margaret Mary Hilborn on July 15, 1939. Together they have four children: Robert, Elizabeth, Kenneth and Kathryn. Following Margaret's death c. 1979, Johns was married to Elsie North for twenty years. At the age of 90, Johns fell in love with his sweetheart Marian Thompson.

Martin Wesley Johns died on September 18, 2008 at McMaster Hospital.

### Custodial History:

The notebooks in accession 17-2007 were in the possession of Wesley Wong, former member of the Physics Department at Brandon College, who mailed them to Martin Johns in 2002. Wong suggested Johns donate them to the McKee Archives, which he did on January 28, 2004. The photographs in accession 8-2009 were sent to Carla Eisler, Alumni Relations Officer, Brandon University by Ken Johns (Martin Johns' son) following Martin's death. Eisler transferred them to the Archives in February 2009.

### Scope and Content:

Accession 17-2007 contains two lab record notebooks used by Martin Johns while he was a member of Brandon College's Department of Physics. The notebooks record class lists, grades, absences, and seating charts for courses Johns taught, as well as regulations for lab reports and major assignments.

Accession 8-2009 contains twenty-one black and white photographs dealing with Brandon College students, faculty and buildings. There are a few photographs of Brandon, as well as one of the Queen Mother from her visit to Brandon in 1939.

Notes: History/Bio information taken from the Martin W. Johns bio file in the Archives reading room.

Subject Access: Brandon College  
faculty  
freshman initiation  
freshies  
Assiniboine bridge  
student elections  
Second World War  
C.O.T.C.  
classroom activities

Storage Location: MG 1 Brandon College Teaching and Administration  
1.11 Martin Johns

Photographs: MG photograph storage drawer



## 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  
Roberta 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

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