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Demmon Family fonds 1995.008, 0.3873

Version 2.1, July 2023
Prepared by Jaimie Fedorak

Title: Demmon Family fonds

Dates of Creation: 1885-1945

Physical Description: 127 nitrate negatives, 77 glass plate negatives, and 0.5 cm of textual records.

Biographical Sketch:

Daniel Lewis Demmon was born on December 11, 1848 or 1849 in West Bend, Wisconsin, the son of Walter A. Demmon and Hilda Ann Cox. He was married to Sarah Marie Churchill, with whom he had five sons (Walter Fletcher, Robert Harlow, Alton Lyle, Daniel Lewis, and Archie Earl) and four daughters (Jennie Vivian, Gladys Violet, Anna Pearl, and Daisy Lulu). Demmon was occupied as a farmer in Knutsford from 1907 to the time of his death. Daniel Lewis Demmon died on July 2, 1915 at age 66 in Rose Hill, B.C.

Sarah Marie Demmon (nee Churchill) was born on March 21, 1854 in Skowhegen, Maine, the daughter of William Churchill and Eunice Culver. She married Daniel Lewis Demmon, with whom she had five sons (Walter Fletcher, Robert Harlow, Alton Lyle, Daniel Lewis, and Archie Earl) and four daughters (Jennie Vivian, Gladys Violet, Anna Pearl, and Daisy Lulu). Sarah Marie Demmon died on July 4, 1926 at the age of 72 in Kamloops, B.C.

Alton Lyle Demmon was born on August 16, 1890 in Neilsville, Wisconsin, the son of Daniel Lewis Demmon and Sarah Maria Churchill. In 1908 he came to Knutsford, before moving to Kamloops in 1918. Demmon married Annie Gordon in May 1917, with whom he had four daughters (Rose Iola, Barbara Margaret, Annie Adeline, and Violet. Alton Lyle Demmon died on November 6, 1978 at the age of 88 in Kamloops, B.C.

Anne (Annie) Pearl Cessna (nee Demmon, earlier Stevens and McVicker) was born on February 19, 1883 in Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, the daughter of Daniel Lewis Demmon and Sarah Marie Churchill. On January 1, 1902 she married Samuel Edgar Stevens in Pennington, South Dakota, with whom she had two sons (Edgar Churchill and Thomas Daniel). After the death of her first husband, she married Pearly McVicker in 1913 and later married Edward Oblinger Cessna ca. 1924. Anna Pearl Cessa died on January 22, 1968 at the age of 84 in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Daisy Lulu McCoy (nee Demmon) was born on December 25, 1879 in Wisconsin, the daughter of Daniel Lewis Demmon and Sarah Marie Churchill. In 1899 she married George William McCoy. Daisy Lulu McCoy died on April 6, 1916 at the age of 36 in Portland, Oregon.

Gladys Violet Woodward (nee Demmon, previously Alderson) was born on July 20, 1893 in Neilsville, Wisconsin, the daughter of Daniel Lewis Demmon and Sarah Marie Churchill. On September 20, 1910 she married Arthur Alderson in Kamloops, B.C., with whom she had one daughter (Sarah Marie). She later married William Herbert Woodward on June 16, 1920 at the Fairview Ranch in Rose Hill, B.C. The couple would have seven daughters (Theresa Jean, Carolyn Delores, Ruby Rosalie, Violet Joyce, Mary, Verna Mae, and Gladys Violet) and three sons (Donald Herbert, Guy W., and Myron H.). By 1940 she was living in Harlem, Montana. Gladys Violet Woodward died on June 9, 1974 at the age of 80 in Havre, Montana.

Jennie Vivian Coney (nee Demmon) was born on May 15, 1896 in Neilsville, Wisconsin, the daughter of Daniel Lewis Demmon and Sarah Maria Churchill. On June 16, 1920 she married Joseph N. Coney at the Fairview Ranch in Rose Hill, B.C. Jennie Vivian Coney died on June 23, 1986 at the age of 90 in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Robert Harlow Demmon was born on January 15, 1888 in Augusta, Wisconsin, the son of Daniel Lewis Demmon and Sarah Churchill. In 1908 the family moved to Knutsford, where Demmon's parents established a farm. Demmon worked on his parent's farm when he was young, as well as being involved in logging operations in the North Thompson Valley, and later established his own farm at Knutsford. In 1924 he married Flora Kate Goode. Demmon was a founding member of the Kamloops Agricultural Association, and served on its executive. Robert Harlow Demmon died on September 15, 1951 at Knutsford, B.C., at the age of 63.

Walter Fletcher Demmon was born on January 18, 1878 in Clarke County, Wisconsin, the son of Daniel Lewis Demmon and Sarah Churchill. In 1908 the family moved to Knutsford, where Demmon's parents established a farm. Demmon struck out on his own, and opened a service garage in downtown Kamloops, behind the Leland Hotel during the early 1920s. He was married to Helen Snedden McKechnie, with whom he had six sons (Daniel Yorke, Walter Archibald, John Alton, Frederick George, Arthur McKechnie, and Robert Rankin) and four daughters (Margaret Inez, Eunice Helen, Julia Evelyn, and Kathleen Marie). 1927 saw the family living in Westwold, and Demmon would eventually retire to Salmon Arm in 1936. Walter Fletcher Demmon died on May 16, 1939 in Salmon Arm, B.C. at the age of 61.

Helen Snedden Demmon (nee McKechnie) was born on April 19, 1884 in Kamloops, B.C., the daughter of Walter McKechnie and Mary S. Rankin. In 1909 she married Walter Fletcher Demmon, with whom she had five sons (Walter Archibald, John Alton, Frederick George, Arthur McKechnie, and Robert Rankin) and four daughters (Margaret Inez, Eunice Helen, Julia Evelyn, and Kathleen Marie). Helen Snedden Demmon died on February 13, 1969 at the age of 84 in Salmon Arm, B.C.

Arthur (Art) McKechnie Demmon was the son of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. During the 1960s he lived in Williams Lake, and later moved to Oregon.

Daniel Yorke Demmon was born on May 13, 1910 at Rose Hill, B.C., the son of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. Demmon was married to Beatrice Phelps in March 1940, and the couple continued to live at Rose Hill. Daniel Yorke Demmon died in November 1996.

Eunice Helen Portman (nee Demmon) was born on July 19, 1914 in Knutsford, B.C., the daughter of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. She attended Kamloops Public School and was active in the local Brownies Troop (notably as Patrol Leader in 1927). In 1935 she married Ernest Charles Portman, with whom she had two sons (Fred and Brian) and two daughters (Marilyn and Lorraine). The family relocated to Vernon in the late 1960s. Eunice Helen Portman died on June 5, 2005 at the age of 90 in Burnaby, B.C.

Frederick George Demmon was born on October 5, 1919 in Kamloops, B.C., the son of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. He was married to Irene Mary Currie, with whom he had two daughters (Beverly and Sandra). The family lived in Salmon Arm. Frederick George Demmon died on September 27, 2001 at the age of 81 in Nanaimo, B.C.

John Alton Demmon was born on February 10, 1916 in Kamloops, B.C., the son of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. He attended Stuart Wood School, and later moved to Salmon Arm. Demmon worked as a truck driver, and was the owner-operator of Truss Manufacturing. He was also active in the local Lions and Elks Clubs and was a founding member of the Jam Can Curling Bonspiel. On November 12, 1942 he married Jean Ruby Currie, with whom he had two sons (Randy and Flec) and one daughter (Sandy). John Alton Demmon died on June 13, 1981 at the age of 65 in Kamloops, B.C.

Julia Evelyn Demmon was born on July 1, 1921 in Kamloops, B.C., the daughter of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. She died on July 13 or 14, 1931 at the age of 10 in Westwold, B.C.

Kathleen (Kay) Marie Jones (nee Demmon) was born on January 15, 1913 in Knutsford, B.C., the daughter of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. She was married to Roderin Daryl Jones, with whom she had four sons (Gordon Francis, Bill, Bob, and Barry) and two daughters (Carol and Nancy). By the late 1960s the family was living in Westwold, B.C. Kathleen Marie Jones died on May 1, 2007 at the age of 94 in Salmon Arm, B.C.

Margaret Inez Starratt (nee Demmon) was born on September 3, 1923 in Kamloops, B.C., the daughter of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. During World War II she served in the Canadian Army. In 1947 she married E. Vaughn Starratt, with whom she had one son (David) and two daughters (Anita and Judee). The family moved to California in 1953, and she later moved to Lebanon, Oregon in 1992. Margaret Inez Starratt died on April 28, 2014 at the age of 90 in Lebanon, Oregon.

Robert Rankin Demmon was born on April 3, 1918 in Kamloops, B.C., the son of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. He died on October 5, 1918 at the age of 6 months in Kamloops, B.C.

Walter (Archie) Archibald Demmon was born on September 6, 1911 in Knutsford, B.C., the sons of Walter Fletcher Demmon and Helen Snedden McKechnie. He worked for the RCMP for 25 years and served in the military during World War II. In May 1937 he married Viola Muriel Dunlop, with whom he had two sons (Dennis and Arden) and two daughters (Helen and Sharon). He later remarried to Erma. Walter Archibald Demmon died on June 8, 1991 at the age of 79 in Pinantan, B.C.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists predominantly of photographic material (glass plate negatives and nitrate negatives) depicting the Demmon family. Also included are a small amount of textual records such as certificates of naturalization and birth, farming records, and correspondence.

Custodial History:

Accession 1995.008 was donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives on June 1, 1995 by Dan Bruce. Accession 0.3873 was donated at an unknown date prior to accessioning in 1990 by Art Demmon.

Notes:

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of fonds.

Arrangement: Order that records in accession 1995.008 arrived in was maintained by the archivist. Photographic materials from accession 0.3873 were separated into files based on format to facilitate access. Original numbering and order has been retained within each file where possible, with the exception of unnumbered materials which were assigned numbering based on the order in which they were found during processing in 2023.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access. The archivist reserves the right to restrict access to any fragile material for preservation purposes.

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Finding aids: File list is available for this collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Accession	Description	Dates	Location
0.3873.001	Glass plate negatives – File contains glass plate negatives depicting the Demmon family. See Appendix 1 for details. – 47 glass plate negatives	[ca. late 1800s-1915]	Box 1
0.3873.002	Nitrate negatives – File contains nitrate negatives depicting the Demmon family. See Appendix 2 for details. – 127 nitrate negatives	[ca. late 1800s-1930]	Box 2, 3
0.3873.003	Additional glass plate negatives – File contains glass plate negatives, which are unnumbered and unidentified. – 30 glass plate negatives	[ca. late 1800s-early 1900s]	Box 1
1995.008.001	Certificate of Naturalization for Robert Harlow Demmon – File contains Robert Harlow Demmon’s Naturalization Certificate. – 1 textual record	1912	1
1995.008.002	Certificate of Birth for Daniel Yorke Demmon – File contains a reissued copy of Daniel Yorke Demmon’s birth certificate. – 1 textual record	1940	2
1995.008.003-004	R.H. Demmon’s Farming Records – File contains a homestead application and brand certificate for Robert Harlow Demmon. – 2 textual records	1912-1945	3-4
1995.008.005-011	Correspondence – File contains correspondence received by Walter and Mrs. Demmon from their lawyers, Thomas F. Laughlin and the firm of Stapler and Wood. – 6 textual records	1885-1887	5-11

Appendix 1: 0.3873.001: Glass plate negatives

1. Kamloops ca. 1915.
2. Walter Demmon.
5. Knought Lake.
9. Kathleen Demmon.
11. Jennie Demmon and Helen McKechnie.
13. Demmon Ranch.
14. Demmon Ranch.
15. Alton Demmon.
16. Annie (Demmon) Stevens.
17. Gladys (Demmon) Alderson.
18. Robert Demmon.
19. Daisy (Demmon) and George McCoy.
20. ?
21. George and Daisy McCoy.
22. Alton Demmon.
23. Tom, Annie, and Tommy Stevens.
24. ?
25. Jennie and Gladys Demmon.
26. Jennie.
27. Sarah Maria (Churchill) and Daniel Lewis Demmon.
28. Robert and Daniel L. Demmon.
29. Demmon family and Johnny Columbus.
30. Sarah Maria Demmon.
31. Daniel and Sarah Demmon homestead ca. 1909.
32. Demmon homestead.
33. Demmon homestead.
34. Demmon homestead.
35. Demmon homestead.
36. Demmon homestead.
37. Demmon homestead.
38. Arthur and Gladys (Demmon) Alderson.
39. Sarah and Daniel Demmon.
40. Demmon homestead.
41. Mable Walpole and Jennie Demmon.
42. Demmon homestead.
44. Demmon homestead.
45. Demmon homestead.
46. Sadie Hadlie and Mary Davidson.
47. Fred Humphrey's homestead.
48. Potato field at Knutsford.
49. Homestead.
50. Mrs. Skinner and Mrs. Pain.
51. Homestead.
52. Knutsford Mayday.
53. Grain field 1915 Knutsford.

- 54. ? Johnny Columbus place.
- 116. Johnny Columbus.

Appendix 2: 0.3873.002: Nitrate negatives

- 4. Helen (McKechnie Demmon).
- 6. Kathleen Demmon.
- 7. Helen Demmon (mother) and Daniel.
- 8. Daniel Demmon.
- 10. Daniel Demmon.
- 43. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bulman and Joe jr.
- 55. Walter Demmon Cole "8".
- 56. Helen Demmon.
- 57. Walter Demmon and Bobbie Wahn.
- 58. Daniel L. Demmon homestead 1915, Tubhope 19.
- 59. Kathleen and Eunice Demmon at Westwold.
- 60. Helen Demmon, rest unknown.
- 61. Walter Demmon's children.
- 62. Walter Demmon's children, taken at Westwold.
- 63. Walter Demmon's children, taken at Westwold.
- 64. Walter Demmon's children, taken at Westwold.
- 65. Julia Demmon, Kamloops.
- 66. Art Demmon, Westwold.
- 67. Art Demmon and Alex Perro, Westwold.

All Walter and Helen Demmon family.

- 68. Dan and Archie.
- 69. Kay and Archie.
- 70. Fred, Eunice, John, and Julia.
- 71. Kay.
- 72. Kay.
- 73. Fred and Julia.
- 74. Fred, Julia, and John.
- 75. Fred, Julia, and John.
- 76. Dan.
- 77. Archie.
- 78. Kay.
- 79. Archie and Dan.
- 80. Dan, Kay, and Archie.
- 81. Dan.
- 82. Archie.
- 83. Kay.
- 84. Dan, Kay, and Archie.
- 85. Dan, Kay, and Archie.
- 86. Kay and Archie.
- 87. Dan, Archie and Kay.
- 88. Kay, Eunice, and John.

89. Kay.
90. Eunice and Fred.
91. Eunice and Fred.
92. Archie and John.
93. Dan.
94. Dan.
95. Margaret.

96. Mary McKechnie and Kay Demmon.
97. Helen Demmon, Mrs. Barker, and Mrs. Adamson, children unknown.
98. Unknown.
99. Tommy Bartlett and Bob Taylor.
100. Tommy Bartlett.
101. Tommy Bartlett, Archie Demmon, Bob Taylor, Dan Demmon, Helen Demmon, and Kay Demmon.
102. Bobby Taylor.
103. Bobby Taylor.
104. Helen Demmon feeding chickens.
105. Market Square in Kamloops.
106. Demmon homestead.
107. ?
108. Demmon homestead.
109. Demmon homestead.
110. Demmon homestead.
111. Greer's place.
112. Green Lake.
113. Paul Lake.
114. ?
115. Maggie (McKechnie) Robinson.
118. Oliver Brett's place.
119. Load of grain.
120. Picnic at Westwold ca. 1930?
121. Ruggles Truck with grain.
122. Ruggles Truck with grain.
123. Westwold as 120.
124. Demmons and Simpsons at Westwold.
125. Demmons and Simpsons at Westwold.
126. Demmons and Simpsons at Westwold.
127. Demmons and Simpsons at Westwold.
128. Demmons and Simpsons at Westwold.
129. Demmons and Simpsons at Westwold.
130. Park in Kamloops.
131. Park in Kamloops.
132. ?
134. Kamloops Park.
- 135-137. ?
- 138a. Fred Humphrey's homestead.

- 138. ?
- 139. Fred Humphrey's homestead.
- 140. Humphrey girls.
- 141. ?
- 142. Fred Humphrey homestead.
- 143-147. ?
- 149-157. ?
- 158. Margaret and Arthur Demmon, Westwold.
- 159. Julia Demmon, Kamloops.
- 160. Arthur, Margaret, and Fred, Westwold.
- 161. Margaret and Art.
- 162. Art, Margaret, and Fred, Westwold.
- 170-185. ?
- 194. ?
- 195. ?