

Kamloops Museum and Archives

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Clemitson Family fonds

0.2806, 0.3122, 1965.137, 1967.030, 1970.050, 1988.015

Compiled by
Jaimie Fedorak, March 2019

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0.2806, etc.

Access: Open.

Clemitson Family fonds

Textual, Graphic

1884-1968

0.01 meters

Title: Clemitson Family fonds

Dates of Creation: 1884-1968

Physical Description: 0.5 cm of textual records, 3 b&w glass plate negatives, and 1 b&w photograph

Biographical Sketch:

Robert Midgely Clemitson was born in 1843 in Hexam, England, the son of Thomas and Sarah Ann Clemitson. In 1873 Clemitson passed his teacher's exam, and began teaching at the school in Maple Bay. After the death of his first wife, Christina Bell, he moved to Victoria and briefly taught there before being appointed the Superintendent of Education. In 1879 he married Lucy Sarah Jones, with whom he would have one daughter (Jessie Sarah) and two sons (Thomas Joseph and Percy Raymond). The following year after their marriage, the family seems to have moved to the central interior of BC, evidenced by the birth of their daughter being recorded at Grande Prairie (Westwold). In 1882 Clemitson was employed by his father-in-law J.T. Jones, but he would return to teaching in 1884 at Cache Creek as well as ranching in Grande Prairie. With the establishment of the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, B.C., Clemitson became the director for Grande Prairie, collecting subscriptions and supporting the hospital. Clemitson would also act as Grande Prairie's postmaster, and kept weather records during his tenure there. Robert Midgely Clemitson died on April 24, 1895 near Kamloops.

Lucy Sarah Clemitson (nee Jones) was born on March 9, 1861 at Coventry, England, the daughter of Joseph Thatcher Jones and Sarah Townsend. She married Robert Midgely Clemitson in 1879, with whom she had 1 daughter (Jessie Sarah) and 2 sons (Thomas Joseph and Percy Raymond). Lucy Sarah Clemitson died on September 6, 1953 at Kamloops, at age 92.

Jessie Sarah Atkins (nee Clemitson) was born on February 28, 1880 at Westwold, B.C., the daughter of Robert Midgely Clemitson and Lucy Sarah Jones. In 1904 she married Robert Oliphant Atkins, with whom she had 3 sons (Robert Lindsay, John Meredith, and Milner Lyall). Jessie Sarah Atkins died on March 22, 1961 at Burnaby, B.C., at age 81.

Thomas Joseph "Tottie" Clemitson was born on July 27, 1881 at Westwold, B.C., the son of Robert Midgely Clemitson and Lucy Sarah Jones. He was married to Sarah Frances Atkins, with

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whom he had one son (James Robert Logan). After the death of Lucy, Clemitson would marry Viola May Pettman. Clemitson was a rancher at Westwold, was active in the local polo team, and was the School Trustee for Westwold from 1940-1945 before it became part of School District 23. Thomas Joseph Clemitson died on August 11, 1963 at Kamloops, at age 82.

Percy Raymond Clemitson was born on November 16, 1886 at Cache Creek, B.C., the son of Robert Midgely Clemitson and Lucy Sarah Jones. He worked as a farmer in Westwold until his retirement in 1936. Percy Raymond Clemitson died on December 5, 1962 at Kamloops, at age 76.

Viola May Clemitson (nee Pettman) was born on May 6, 1901 at Okanagan Landing, B.C. She was the second wife of Thomas Joseph Clemitson. Viola May Clemitson died on May 15, 1896 at Vernon, B.C., at age 85.

James Robert Logan Clemitson was born on October 10, 1908 at Vancouver, B.C., the son of Thomas Joseph Clemitson and Sarah Frances Atkins. In 1931 he married Mary Margaret Pettman, with whom he had 2 sons (Robert jr., Harry) and 1 daughter (Peggy). Clemitson worked as a rancher in Westwold and was a member of the Westwold Livestock Association, as well as being very involved in the school board (acting as a trustee for 20 years) and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (acting as a member of the steering committee and board for 17 years). R.L. Clemitson elementary school in Barnhartvale (Kamloops) is named after him. James Robert Logan Clemitson died on December 2, 1996 at Westwold, B.C., at age 88.

Mary Margaret Clemitson (nee Pettman) was born on May 4, 1909 at Victoria, B.C. She married James Robert Logan Clemitson, with whom she had 2 sons (Robert jr., Harry) and 1 daughter (Peggy). Mary Margaret Clemitson died on August 13, 1989 at Vernon, B.C. at age 80.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of an essay by Viola Clemitson about early life in Westwold, various souvenirs from events, a letter to "Toddy" Clemitson, and a small amount of photographic material.

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Custodial History:

The majority of this fonds was formerly placed in the Vertical Files collection before being brought together during reprocessing in 2019. Photographic materials (accessions 1970.050.003 and 1988.015) were placed in the Photograph Collection. Accession 0.2806 has no donor information. Accession 1988.015 was donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives by Margaret Clemitson on May 12, 1988. The remainder of accessions were donated by Viola Clemitson as follows: 0.3122 at an unspecified time (likely ca. 1968); 1965.137 on September 16, 1965; 1967.030 on March 8, 1967; 1970.050 on June 4, 1970; and 1988.015 on May 12, 1988.

Notes:

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

Arrangement: Order of fonds imposed by the Archivist during processing, based on chronological accession date of materials.

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

Terms governing use and reproduction: No reproduction permitted without consent of copyright holder. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission for the reproduction of materials for publication or dissemination.

Finding aids: File list is available for this collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

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Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
0.2806	Letter to “Toddy” Clemitson – File contains a letter to Toddy Clemitson from an unknown sender in Falkland. – 1 textual record	August 19, 1944	1
0.3122	The Early History of Grande Prairie (Westwold) – File contains an essay written by Viola Clemitson about the early history of Westwold. – 0.25 cm of textual records	June 1968	2
1965.137	Pioneers’ Reunion Souvenirs – File contains a banquet menu, programme, and song sheet for the B.C. Pioneers’ Reunion held from May 7-9, 1925 at the Hotel Vancouver. – 3 textual records	1925	3
1967.030	Death Notice of Preston Bennett – File contains an In Memoriam card for Preston Bennett. – 2 textual records	March 8, 1967	4
1970.050.003	Glass Plate Negatives – File contains 3 glass plate negatives taken with R.M. Clemitson’s camera. Photos depict a hunting party, a family portrait, and a hunter with deer. – 3 b&w glass plate negatives	[ca. 1800s]	Special Photo Collection
1970.050.004	Registrar’s Notice – File contains a notice regarding land subdivision from G.C. Tunstall. – 1 textual record	July 5, 1884	5
1988.015	Photo of R.M. Clemitson – File contains a copy photograph of R.M. Clemitson. – 1 b&w photograph	[ca. 1800s]	Photo Collection