

Kamloops Museum and Archives

**PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU
KMA**

Walter Unett Homfray fonds

0.2826, 0.2827, 0.2828

Compiled by
Jaimie Fedorak, March 2020

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KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

0.2826, etc.
Access: Open.

Walter Unett Homfray fonds
Textual

1900s
0.02 meters

Title: Walter Unett Homfray fonds

Dates of Creation: ca. 1900s

Physical Description: 2 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch:

Walter Unett Homfray was born on July 24, 1867 in Ingleton, England, the son of George Jeston Homfray. Homfray immigrated to Canada with his brother in 1885, landing first in New York and then travelling to the Interior of British Columbia after being told of the ranching opportunities by G.B. Martin, whom the brothers met in Victoria, B.C. The brothers purchased undeveloped land from T.J. Jones in Grande Prairie (later Westwold) soon afterwards, and began to develop their property by clearcutting it. After Homfray's brother returned to England due to ill health, he continued working the property and developed a successful ranching enterprise. In 1892 he married Alice Kathleen Roper, with whom he had at four daughters (Kathleen Winnifred, Rosabell, Ellie and Geraldine) and one son (Kenyon). After the success of his ranch, Homfray invested in other business ventures in Grande Prairie, including constructing the Adelphi Hotel in 1895 and a pork factory in 1897. He then began looking towards the world of real estate and development, investing in property in the region and in the North Thompson Power Company in Louis Creek. In 1911 he sold the Adelphi Hotel and his property in Grande Prairie and moved to Kamloops to further this enterprise, but his success was short lived. By 1912 Homfray had returned to ranching activities, this time at Meadow Creek near Lac Le Jeune, but during the post-war market crash he lost almost all of his investments. Homfray would continue to work throughout the region, and by 1925 he was acting as a local agent for Merritt Mines Ltd. In 1927 his life divorced him, and left for the coast along with one of his daughters. Homfray attempted to enter politics in 1941, running in the provincial election as an Independant candidate, but he was not successful in his bid. He eventually retired to the Provincial Home in Kamloops, B.C. Walter Unett Homfray died on February 19, 1951 in Kamloops, B.C. at the age of 83 after a prolonged illness.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of transcribed stories told by Walter Unett Homfray, which recall his own life and local historical events, and a letter from Homfray to B.A. McKelvie.

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Custodial History:

Accessions 0.2826, 0.2827, and 0.2828 were donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives at an unknown time by Walter U. Homfray. Records were initially placed in the Vertical Files collection, and were brought together as a distinct collection during reprocessing in 2020.

Notes:

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

Arrangement: Order that fonds arrived in was maintained by the archivist.

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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0.2826, etc.
Access: Open.

Walter Unett Homfray fonds
Textual

1900s
0.02 meters

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
0.2826	Stories Written by Walter Homfray – File contains stories written by Walter Homfray which reminisce about his life and local historical events. – 1 cm of textual records	[1900s]	1
0.2827	Saul Tomma Stories Written by Walter Homfray – File contains stories written by Walter Homfray about local First Nations tracker Saul Tomma. – 12 textual records	[1900s]	2
0.2828	Letter from Walter U. Homfray to B.A. McKelvie – File contains a letter from Walter U. Homfray to B.A. McKelvie about a grave site on the bank of Monte Creek or Peterson Creek. – 2 textual records	[1900s]	3