

Kamloops Museum and Archives



Jessie O'Neill fonds

2012.005

Compiled by
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KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Jessie O'Neill fonds

2012.005

Textual

[ca. 1938]-1966
0.11 metres

Title: Jessie O'Neill fonds

Dates of creation: [ca. 1938]-1966

Physical description: 0.11 m of textual records

Biographical sketch

Jessie O'Neill (né Currie) was born near Yale, British Columbia, in 1883, the daughter of C.P.R. construction supervisor and farmer Henry Currie and Maggie Ferguson. She was raised in Westwold, Barkerville, and Kamloops, where she attended Kamloops Public School under Stuart Wood. In December 1907 she married locomotive engineer Thomas James O'Neill, who went on to become elected Liberal MP for Kamloops (1935-1945). Jessie O'Neill was active in a variety of local women's associations, serving as the President of the Canadian Daughters League and President of the Women's Liberal Association. In 1939 she accompanied her husband on a trip to Europe where he was serving as a technical advisor at the International Labour Conference in Geneva. Her travels through Europe were the inspiration for a series of public talks she delivered for community groups in Kamloops. In 1943 she wrote a series of newspaper columns on federal politics and her life in Ottawa which were published in the *Kamloops Sentinel*, *Salmon Arm Observer*, *Ashcroft Journal*, and the *Merritt Herald*. She and her husband lived for over four decades at their home at 437 Seymour Street in Kamloops where they raised three sons, T. Gordon, Edward (Ted), and Robert (Bob) O'Neill.

Custodial history

Records in this fonds were transferred by Jessie O'Neill to her niece Geraldine (Geri) Ethel Bain (né Currie) likely in April 1966. The records were subsequently donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives by Geraldine Bain on June 8, 2004.

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Scope and content

Fonds consists of correspondence, addresses, notebooks, journals, newspaper clippings, and reminiscences documenting the life and activities of Jessie O'Neill, wife of Kamloops M.P. Thomas O'Neill. Records include 8 addresses she delivered for community groups between 1938 and the early 1940s; copies of newspaper columns she wrote in 1943 on federal politics and her experiences living in Ottawa; travel journals from her trip to Europe in 1939; and, reminiscences of her childhood which were written for her niece in the mid-1960s.

Notes:

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

Access restrictions: All files are open. 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 fonds. See appendix.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Access points:

Kamloops, British Columbia
O'Neill, Jessie (née Currie)
O'Neill, Thomas James (Tip)

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Appendix 1 Jessie O'Neill fonds file list

Accession/Box	(file)	Description	Dates
2012.005/001	(01)	Jessie O'Neill's reminiscences	[196-?]-1966
	(02)- (03)	Notebooks	[ca. 1938]
	(04)- (05)	Travel journal	1939
	(06)	Address. "Grey Owl." Delivered at Ottawa, Mar. 8, 1938	1938
	(07)	Address. "Ottawa (re England)"	[1938?]
	(08)	Address. "Ottawa 1938"	1938
	(09)	Address. "B.C. talk"	[ca. 1939?]
	(10)	Address. "New Brunswick"	[ca. 1939?]
	(11)	Address. "Geneva"	[ca. 1940?]
	(12)	Address. "France"	[ca. 1940?]
	(13)	Address. "London"	[ca. 1940?]
	(14)	Clippings of Jessie O'Neill's newspaper columns: "Doings at Ottawa," <i>Kamloops Sentinel</i> ; "Eastern skies seen through western eyes," <i>Salmon Arm Observer</i> ; "In Ottawa," <i>Ashcroft Journal</i> ; "Items from Ottawa," <i>Merritt Herald</i>	1943
	(15)	Correspondence related to Jessie O'Neill's newspaper columns	1943
	(16)	Miscellaneous items: letter from Maggie, note, League of Nations pamphlet	1939-1952