

David Smith fonds

1869-1909, 1930-1960
20 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

David Smith was born in Fort Frances, Ont. on 25 Dec. 1872 (died Feb. 1957) and arrived at the Lakehead in 1887. He began working at the *Port Arthur Herald* newspaper and three years later moved to the *Fort William Journal*. In 1899, Smith and T.W. Rutledge began publishing a semi-weekly newspaper called *The Times*. When T.A. Bell, owner of the *Fort William Journal* died in late 1899, Smith and Rutledge purchased the paper and formed the *Fort William Times- Journal*. From then on Smith was instrumental in the growth and expansion of the *Times-Journal* into one of the best papers of its size in the country. He spent over 40 years as the managing director of the paper and was also part owner. Smith wrote many columns on the history of newspapers at the Lakehead.

Scope and Content

The David Smith Papers, arranged by record type into four series, include primarily files and correspondence from the 1930s to the 1950s relating to his general interest in local history and railways.

Series A 20/1/1-10 - History files - 15cm. - [1930-1950]

Files arranged alphabetically according to title given by compiler, David Smith. Most relate to local history.

- 1) General file: personal material such as notes for a history of the *Times-Journal* newspaper as well as clippings
- 2) Local: clippings and manuscripts dealing with the Fort William to Fort Garry road as well as local mail service
- 3) Masons: copy of speech by Alex. McNaughten, city clerk, to Royal Lodge A.F.& A.M. 453, Fort William on its 42nd anniversary
- 4) Mining: notes from article in the "Engineering and Mining Journal", reprinted in the *Thunder Bay Sentinel*, 4 Nov. 1881. Also includes an article and notes on the Montreal Mining Co.
- 5) Newspaper file: two files with clippings and articles on local newspaper and printing history as well as local history generally
- 6) N.W. Ont. Associated Chambers of Commerce: correspondence, minutes and memberships lists of the organization
- 7) Port Arthur/Fort William: clippings and article on various aspects of local history
- 8) Printing: brochures, booklets and clippings dealing with Canadian printing and advertising
- 9) Railways: a series of articles on railway history
- 10) Rotary: two files dealing with Smith's membership in the Fort William Rotary Club including booklets, correspondence, newsletters, convention programmes and financial statements (1931-1939, 1942-1949)

Series A 20/2/1-3 - Correspondence - 1cm. - 1946, 1956

Three envelopes of personal correspondence of David Smith.

Series A 20/3/1-4 - Railroad timetables - 2cm - 1892-1909

Railway timetables for the Port Arthur Duluth and Western Railway, C.P.R., C.N.R, Grand Trunk, and Grand Trunk Pacific contained in four envelopes.

Series A 20/4/1 - Miscellaneous - 2cm. - 1869-1956

- 1) Brochure on Fort William, [ca.1892]
- 2) Booklet regarding railway from L. Superior to Red River, 1869
- 3) Stock certificate for the Whitefish Valley Colonization Co., 1887
- 4) Manuscript by Carson Piper on history of Fort William, 19 Jan. 1956
- 5) Magazine, "The Town of Fort William", [ca.1910]
- 6) Travel Guide to Fort William, Scotland, [ca.1940]
- 7) Historical notes compiled by Smith including articles written for the *Times-Journal* on the History of Fort William

Additional Information

Custodial History - formerly catalogued into the museum collection, 980.86.15-22, 38-40, 42-51.

Associated Material - see photo catalogue 980.86