

Dr. Mary Isabel Mackey Kelly Papers

[ca. 1960-1980]

63 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Mackey Kelly was a teacher at Port Arthur Collegiate Institute from 1922 to 1962 and retired as head of the mathematics department. She was born at Thornbury, Ontario, ca.1898, and was educated at Meaford and the University of Toronto where she graduated in 1919 with a degree in mathematics and physics. She earned her M.A. in those subjects from the U. of T. in 1920 and later received a Ph.D. Lack of opportunities for female physicists led her to become a teacher. She was known as a "strict disciplinarian" in her approach to teaching. She served as a trustee on the Lakehead Board of Education from at least 1968-1970. She married John Kelly in 1961-1962 and died in Sept. 1987. Her principal hobby was collecting material for a history of the Port Arthur school system and, in particular, Port Arthur Collegiate Institute and its forerunners.

Scope and Content

Dr. Kelly compiled this collection of material relating to the Port Arthur school system from 1870 to 1980 with the intention of producing a book on the subject. The book was never published but the collection of notes and manuscripts, almost all of which she transcribed and typed herself from the originals, remains in the form of binders.

Series A 37/1/1-2 - Manuscripts - 46cm. - [ca.1960-1980]

1) Manuscript entitled "The Port Arthur High School" containing mostly typed transcripts of material gathered from newspapers, Board of Education records, and from former students and teachers. Also contains photographs. Two copies, slight variations. Covers the period 1875-ca.1910.

2) Manuscript entitled "Thirty Years A Growing" in two volumes, consisting of transcripts of newspapers, articles, by-laws and reminiscences as well as lists, maps and photographs concerned with the history of Thunder Bay from 1870 and, in particular, the education system in Port Arthur. Vol. 1 covers ca.1870-1890; vol. 2 covers 1891-ca.1903 with some later material included in both. Also duplicates some material contained in A 37/1/1. Two complete copies of this manuscript exist, each with minor variations.

Series A 37/2/1-4 - Notes - 17cm. - [ca.1960-1980]

Four binders of miscellaneous notes, photographs and clippings relating to the history of the Port Arthur school system and to Thunder Bay's early history generally. Much of this material is contained in finished form in the manuscripts A 37/1-2.

Additional Information

Associated Material - See photos 987.49.1+