

# Keith Denis Collection

1861-1977

45 cm of textual records

## *Biographical Sketch*

Keith Denis (1909-1979) was a President of the Thunder Bay Historical Society from 1961-1969 and a long-time collector of historical information and writer of history. He worked at the Workman's Compensation Board in his later years but also worked on construction and mining projects and as a salesman. He was a noted naturalist and conservationist and served as President of the Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation. He was a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Lakehead Philatelic Society, the National Exhibition Centre and managed the Port Arthur Tourist Bureau.

## *Scope and Content*

The Keith Denis Collection is composed of six series dealing with his interests in Thunder Bay's history, in particular its 19th century history. Contains mainly research files, ephemera, publications, and some of the records of his business from 1937-1944 selling orange juice.

**Series A 45/1/1-2** - Personal Papers - 1cm. - 1947-1956

- 1) Letter from Stephen Leacock
- 2) Misc. cards, dues book and license

**Series A 45/2/1-27** - Research files - 15cm. - compiled 1959-1979

Files containing research correspondence, photocopies of records and books, maps, clippings and historical notes on the following subjects:

- 1) Silver Islet Harbour: history and origin, 1881
- 2) Hymers village: origin and history, 1880-1955
- 3) First grain elevator at the Lakehead, 1884
- 4) Memoirs of railroading by Angus Bell
- 5) Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway: history from 1889
- 6) Parkerville: origin and history, 1820-1900
- 7) Mining and roads in Ontario, 1874
- 8) Franchere's voyage, the Fort William segment
- 9) The French regime at Thunder Bay, 1656-1761
- 10) L. Agassiz's Lake Superior Trip, 1849
- 11) A.M. Weber's Rainy River Trip, 1892 dealing with the boundaries of the Thunder Bay District 1787-1869
- 12) Duncan Mine history, 1867 including Slate River and the Thunder Bay Silver mine, 1866
- 13) Chippewa vocabulary, pioneer crafts, and the fur trade and Fort William, 1816
- 14) Fort William: Journal of Transactions and Occurrences, 1823-1824
- 15) James Clouston, 1820; Hudson's Bay Co., 1670-1870; Erlandson, 1820-40; Robertson's letters, 1817-22; biographies c.1700-1800
- 16) Exploration expedition, 1820; Nipigon mission, 1904; St. Peter's River expedition, 1823, Sir John Richardson, 1848
- 17) Pigeon River Lumber, 1900
- 18) Hargrave correspondence, 1820, Hudson's Bay Co., c.1800
- 19) Shipwrecks and shipping history, 1856-1957

- 20) Exploring Quetico by car and canoe, 1957; the artist's trail, K. Kidd, 1956
- 21) Excerpts from historical diaries
- 22) Land formations and mining, Wye level; Paper on the history of gold, 1866-1930
- 23) Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Rwy history, 1870-1900
- 24) Poems; Mackenzie's mill; Eva Lake; Lac des Milles history, 1800
- 25) Fort William history
- 26) Parkerville history
- 27) Nouvelle mission, letters

**Series A 45/3/1** - Business records - Orange Juice Sales - 7cm. - 1937-1944

Statements (1937-1940), legal documents, accounting documents, notes and correspondence

**Series A 45/4/1-13** - Misc. Papers - 12cm. - 1880-1977

- 1) Newspaper clippings on mining in Ontario, 1934-1935
- 2) Newspaper clippings on Thunder Bay history, 1955-1963
- 3) Letterhead, 1880
- 4) Annual reports of Chamber of Commerce, 1927-1939 and Port Arthur General Hospital, 1955
- 5) Menus, Prince Arthur Hotel, 1950-1951
- 6) Tourist information
- 7) Programs, 1935-1944
- 8) Newsletters and bulletins
- 9) Cards
- 10) Political leaflets, 1914
- 11) Tickets: lottery and admission
- 12) Reports and surveys on Sibley School, 1944 and a Survey of Historical Sites, ca.1960
- 13) Booklet on how to judge character from physical features

**Series A 45/5/1** - Publications and Reports - 9cm. - 1914-1970

Includes *New Ontario: Thunder Bay Nipigon and St. Joe Rwy* c.1900; *Municipal Statistics*, 1914 (Ont. Dept. of Agriculture); *Northern Development*, 1914 (Legislative Assembly of Ont.); *The Iron Ranges*, 1925 (Port Arthur); *Steam and Electric Railways*, 1936-37 (Dept. of Transport); *Official Weekly Road Bulletin on Ont.*, 1941; *Steep Rock Echo*, March 1957 and Nov. 1959; *Abitibi Woodlands Laboratory*, 1961; *Camp Owakonze Ltd. 1965 Advance Canoe Trip to Hudson's Bay*; *Annual Report of the Gen. Manager*, 1968 (Northern Ontario Development Council); *Check List of Vascular Plants of Southwest Thunder Bay District* by H. Walker, 1968; *Design for Development. Northwestern Ontario Region*, 1970 (Government of Ontario); *The Slate River Islands* by Timmermann, Snider and Euler, 1974; *Quetico Park: Report of the Quetico Advisory Committee*, 1970; Map of N. Ont.; *N.W. Ontario Development Council Five-Year Program*, Feb. 1969; natural history map of Black Bay area; map of Ont. Provincial parks, c.1970 (Dept. of Lands and Forests); *Why Not Now? The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway...* by Frank Keefer, Port Arthur, 1927 (The Canadian Deep Waterways Assoc.) 24pp.

**Series A 45/6/1** - Documents - 1cm. - 1861-1915

Receipts, cheques, letters and statements collected by Denis relating to Treaty Money to Indians in the 1860s and local history.

#### *Additional Information*

*Custodial History* - Formerly catalogued into museum collection: 979.102.1-122; 980.27.3; 978.92.3; 975.91.2, 5; 977.55.1-2; and 982.45.6

*Associated Material* - See museum collections. Refer to donor file.

