

Robertson Family fonds

[1880]-1943

18 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

John Wilson Robertson, the "Bard of Glen Erie", was born 12 Apr. 1843 at Carolside, West Lodge, Berkshire, Scotland. He married ? Frazer in Roxyburyshire, Sept. 1868. His children were John Martin, James T., Edwin L., Thomas A., Mary and one other daughter who became Mrs. Manning.

He emigrated to Canada in 1891 and made his home in Fort William. In Fort William he helped establish the weekly tabloid, *The Fort William Echo* and was editor from 1893 to 1895. He continued to farm and write poetry until his death of heart failure, 17 Jan. 1913. He was noted for his poetry.

John Martin Robertson came to Canada in ca.1880 and worked for the Cumberland Railway, Spring Hill, Nova Scotia until 1889. In 1891 he was locomotive fireman for Joggins Mines Railways and, after coming to Fort William that year, he went to work for the C.P.R.. From 1895 to 1897 he worked for the Hawk Bay Gold Mine Co. and from 1898 to 1900 with Fort William Light and Water. After 1901 he worked for Imperial Oil and from 1916-1920 as a mechanic for the Merchant Grain Co.

Scope and Content

The records of the John Wilson Robertson family of Fort William. Includes the papers of John Wilson, his sons John Martin, J.A. and E.L., along with some items from his granddaughter, Belle Caroline Pudas and great granddaughter, Allane Pudas. The collection is divided into three series, John Wilson's papers, those of John Martin and those of the rest of the family.

Series A 43/1/1-2 - J.W. Robertson/Poetry - 2cm. - 1900-1909

- 1) Book of poems and songs dated from 12 June 1902 to 9 Mar. 1904. Written by J.W. Robertson. Poems are loose but inserted into a hard cover folder and the pages are numbered from 34 to 210. Some of these were later published in his book *Wood Notes Wild*.
- 2) A selection of 12 of J.W. Robertson's poems dated from 1900 to 1909. Some handwritten, others typed.

Series A 43/2/1-6 - John Martin Robertson personal files - 6cm. - [1880]-1930

- 1) 23 Newspaper clippings dealing primarily with sports in the 1890s contained in small pocket notebook
- 2) Newspaper clippings of poetry, ca.1900, 14 pages
- 3) Material relating to the mining industry, especially gold mining in Northern Ontario
- 4) Letters of reference concerning J.M. Robertson, 14 documents, 1890-1930
- 5) Union documents, mostly cards
- 6) Miscellaneous: photo, memorial card, receipt, invitations

Series A 43/3/1 - Family papers - 10cm. - 1893-1943

Poetry, newspaper clippings (Thomas Robertson tells of sinking of Arctic Steamer), passport and I.D. (Belle Pudas), remembrance card, invitations (E.L. Robertson), P.O. certificate, bus ticket, hand bill for liberal party, souvenir program, I.O.D.E. notice, greeting card, pocket bible.

Additional Information

Custodial History - Formerly catalogued into museum collection: 974.106.3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16-21, 24, 25, 32-37, 39-47, 50-53, 56-58, 63, 73, 77-79, 85-89, 91, 92-94, 96-97, 103-04.

Associated Material - See photo collection 974.106.