

# W.S. Piper Hardware Company fonds

1890-[195-?]

62 cm of textual records

## *Administrative history*

William S. Piper founded the firm bearing his name in 1884. His first hardware store was located on Brown Street in Westfort, Fort William (now Thunder Bay), and in 1886 he opened a Port Arthur branch which was managed by his younger brother Hugh M. Piper, but it was destroyed by fire a year later. In 1888, a Victoria Avenue site was purchased, a store was opened and Hugh operated it. William S. Piper began the Fort William Brick and Tile Company in 1892 which was still in operation until the Second World War, and he established a farm in Slate River which he operated from 1888 until his death in 1927. His brothers Hugh, Robert, James, Thomas and Carson were also in the hardware business.

## *Scope and Content*

A collection of day books, ledgers, letter books, and records regarding the establishment and business of the W.S. Piper Hardware store.

**Series B 17/1/1-4.** - Day books. - 18 cm. - 1890-1896

Journals of first entry giving daily accounts of cash sales. 1) Piper brothers, from 11 Dec. 1890 to 20 Oct. 1891. 2) Piper brothers, from 20 Oct. 1891 to 23 June 1892. 3) W.S. Piper, from 21 Jan. 1895 to 24 Sept. 1895. 4) W.S. Piper, from 25 Sept. 1895 to 10 July 1896. These volumes are numbered 1, 2, 6, and 7 respectively.

**Series B 17/2/1.** - Ledgers. - 35 cm. - 1890-1901

Ledgers or journals of second entry for W.S. Piper and Piper Brothers hardware.

1) 1890

2) 1892

3) Index to 1892 ledger

4) 1897-1898

5) 1899-1901

**Series B 17/3/1.** - Letterbook. - 3 cm. - 1908-1917

Copies of letters of W.S. Piper made by the letter press method, and relating mainly to the activities of his hardware business. Some letters may also relate to the Fort William Brick and Tile Company which Piper founded. Most entries are dated 1908 and refer to requests for information about stock and orders for stock. There were 411 pages used.

**Series B 17/4/1.** - Miscellanea. - 6 cm. - 1895-[195-?]

Invoices relating to W.S. Piper farm account, 1919-1920; miscellaneous invoices, 1895-1896 and 1902; court summons and legal papers regarding recovery of debts, 1891 and 1892; charter of W.S. Piper Limited and two stock certificates, 1927; Blank order forms and letterhead; two booklets celebrating the 50th and 60th anniversaries of W.S. Piper Hardware; scrapbook of W.S. Piper newspaper advertisements, 1930-1937; and a Certificate of Appreciation Imperial Oil to W.S. Piper.

## *Notes*

Formerly catalogued into the museum collection, 972.76.4-7; 972.76.9-12; 978.77.6; 978.77.2; 975.6.271-74, 218, 307; 972.2.372a; 975.6.40; 972.76.17b and 22; 977.122.1; 975.100.11; 975.6.39, 290, 38, 280-282.