

Carson Piper Historical Collection

1763-1951

65 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

Carson F. Piper (born in Fort William in 1901, died 1983) worked at the Empire Elevator and at W.S. Piper Hardware Store which he managed until 1960. He served in the armed forces during World War II, was a trustee of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, a member of the Fort William Rotary Club, the Fort William Sanatorium, the Red Cross and other groups. He was a long-time member of the Thunder Bay Historical Society and was its president from 1937-1940. He actively collected items of historical interest to Northwestern Ontario and was largely responsible for creating the Thunder Bay Historical Society's museum in 1942. Married Helen Briggs of Minnesota in 1931.

Scope and Content

The Carson Piper Historical Collection is composed of both original and published material pertaining to a broad expanse of the history of Northwestern Ontario, concentrating primarily on early fur trading and settlement activities. It is arranged into 12 series by record type. The first and eleventh series contains material relating to Mr. Piper's activities as President and member of the Thunder Bay Historical Society. Most of the rest of the collection contains pamphlets, articles and reports published between 1763 and 1951.

Series A 48/1/1-30 - Papers and addresses - 8cm. - 1932-1938

Papers and addresses given before the Thunder Bay Historical Society (TBHS) and elsewhere, primarily during the 1930s and relating to the history of the district of Thunder Bay.

1) "The North West Co. on the North Shore of Lake Superior" by William E. Culkin, read before the TBHS, 14 June 1932.

2) Untitled address delivered by Miss Charlotte Wiegand before TBHS, March 1934.

3) "Reminiscences of the History of Port Arthur", by S.W. Ray, read before the TBHS, 22 June 1934

4) "North Shore Recollections" by Rev. E.F. Lindquist, read before the TBHS, 11 June 1935.

5) "Trails, Ancient and Modern, From Lake Superior to the Prairies", author unknown, read before the TBHS, 1936.

6) "Lumbering in the Thunder Bay District", by William Scott, read before the TBHS, ca.1936.

7) "The Romance of the Fur Trade", by Willoughby M. Babcock, read before the TBHS, Aug. 26, 1938.

8) Untitled, synopsis of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, by Carson F. Piper, read before the TBHS, undated.

9) Untitled, the historical importance of Fort William, by C.F. Piper, read before the TBHS, undated.

10) Untitled, first things and events in Fort William and Port Arthur, by C.F. Piper, read before the TBHS, undated.

11) Untitled, general history, by C.F. Piper, read before the TBHS, undated.

12) Untitled, general history, by C.F. Piper, read before the TBHS, undated.

13) "A.D. 1872", by Charlotte Wiegand, read before the TBHS, undated.

14) "Old Time Memories", by Neil McDougall, read before the TBHS, undated.

- 15) "La Verendrye Along the International Boundary", by N.J. Bray, read before the TBHS, undated.
 - 16) "A Sort History of the Thunder Bay District", by George E. Eakins, read before the TBHS, undated.
 - 17) "Do You Remember", by C.F. Piper, TBHS, undated.
 - 18) "Suggestions for further Development in Thunder Bay District" by C.E. King, prepared for the City and District Development Service, Port Arthur, Dec. 1935.
 - 19) Untitled manuscript on the early fur trade, author unknown.
 - 20) "Reminiscences regarding part of Lake Superior Shore and Country adjacent to it. Chippewa Park to Pigeon River", by D.C. Rea, 1938.
 - 21) "My Home Town", by C.F. Piper, read before the Rotary Club of Fort William, date unknown, clippings included.
 - 22) "Construction Days on the C.P.R.", by E.A. LeMay, undated.
 - 23) "The Beginnings of the CPR and the Western Grain Trade" by W.F. Langworthy, 2 Nov. 1934 and read before the Shuniah Club.
 - 24) "The Mission", by J.L.B., undated.
 - 25) "A Trout Trip to St. Ignace Island in 1877", by W. Thomson, undated.
 - 26) Untitled manuscript on John McPherson's family, pioneers, undated.
 - 27) "Fort William Historical", author and date unknown.
 - 28) "The Life and Work of Father Baxter, Missionary" by S.C. Young (3 Feb. 1933) reprinted in *Papers & Records*, 1983
 - 29) "The Development of the Harbours of Port Arthur and Fort William" by A.A. Anderson (ca.1930), reprinted in *Papers & Records*, 1983
 - 30) "Incidents in the Life of James Conmee 1848-1913" by Mrs. James Conmee (25 Feb. 1936), reprinted in *Papers & Records*, 1983
- Series A 48/2/1-3** - Election literature - 3 files - 1937-1948
- 1) Harry Murphy, liberal candidate in 1937 provincial election for the Fort William riding (5 items)
 - 2) Federal election of 1940 in Fort William. Dr. R.J. Manion vs. Rev. Dan McIvor. Includes letters to electors, newspaper clippings and pamphlets from both candidates.
 - 3) Civic election of 1948, Fort William. Containing items from A. Johnson, C.W. Cox and Hubert Badanai as well as by-laws.
- Series A 48/3/1-31** - Articles and booklets - 8cm. - 1763-1948
- Articles and books of a historical nature usually dealing with Northwestern Ontario.
- 1) "Fortitude of an Indian Chief", *The London Magazine*, 1763
 - 2) "The River St. Clair and the Chippewa Indians", *The Penny Magazine*, 29 Apr. 1837
 - 3) "Civil Revolution in the Canadas", *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, 1850
 - 4) "A visit to Red River", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1856
 - 5) "To Red River and Beyond", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1860
 - 6) "A Cruise on the Winnipeg River", *Ladesdale Grange*, 1862
 - 7) "The Pictured Rocks of Lake Superior", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1867
 - 8) "A Round Trip to Lake Superior and the Mississippi from New York", *Appleton's Journal of Popular Literature, Science and Art*, 1870
 - 9) "The Honourable Hudson's Bay Co.", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1879
 - 10) "The Red River of the North", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1880
 - 11) "The Great North West", *The Dominion of Canada*, 1880

- 12) "Water Routes from the Great North West", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1881
 - 13) "The Copper Industry of the United States", "General Gordon", The Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1885
 - 14) "Up the Nipigon", 1889
 - 15) "The International Boundary between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods", *Minnesota Historical Society Collections*, 1895
 - 16) "Brother to the Sea", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1896
 - 17) "The Glacial and Post-Glacial Lakes of the Great Lakes Basin", by F.B. Taylor, *Smithsonian Report for 1912*
 - 18) "Highway of the Fur Trade", by Lawrence Burpee, *The Royal Society of Canada*, 1914
 - 19) "The North West Company", by Lawrence Burpee, *CHA Annual Report, 1926*
 - 20) "Snow Shoe Medicine" and "Experiences with the Indians: their Characteristics, language, traditions and legends of Thunder Bay", by Dr. Herman Bryan, n.d.
 - 21) Ontario Dept. of Highways historical information on Silver Islet, Pigeon River, etc., 1938
 - 22) "Dawson Route from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry", by S.E. Flook, *Annual Report of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors*, 1939
 - 23) Canada Steamship Lines, c.1940s
 - 24) "Bats Hibernating in the District of Thunder Bay", by A.E. Allin, *The Canadian Field Naturalist*, 1942
 - 25) "City of Fort William - A Descriptive Outline", Chamber of Commerce, 1947
 - 26) "A Winter in the St. Croix Valley, George Nelson's Reminiscences, 1802-03", ed. by R. Bardon and G.L. Nute (Minnesota Historical Society, 1948)
 - 27) "Historic Silver Islet", by J.C. Livingstone, n.d.
 - 28) "The Maple Leaf Scrapbook", souvenir book of Canadian forces overseas, ca.1945
 - 29) "Catalogue of an Exhibition from the Marine Collection of Canada Steamship Lines", 1942. An exhibition staged by the Thunder Bay Historical Society.
 - 30) "The Far West, a Catalogue of a selection of early views, maps, charts and plans of the Great Lakes...", staged by the TBHS, 1943
 - 31) "Testimonials in favour of Miss L. Morton", published 1888
- Series A 48/4/1-41** - Programs and Souvenir Booklets - 10cm. - 1915-1950
- 1) Fort William Collegiate Literary Society, 1915-1920
 - 2) Souvenir of the New Ontario Soldiers' reunion and Discovery Week celebrations, Sault Ste. Marie, 1923
 - 3) Programme of Pianoforte Recital by Miss Nora Piper, 1925
 - 4) The Hydro-Electric Commission of the City of Fort William, souvenir of the turning on of Cameron Falls Power, 1926
 - 5) Programme and book of words for recital by Dame Clara Butt, et al., n.d.
 - 6) City of Fort William souvenir coronation programme, 1937
 - 7) Fort William Lodge Souvenir Summons, Golden Jubilee, 1887-1937
 - 8) Dedication ceremony for the Kiwanis Boundary Peace Plaque, 1938
 - 9) Souvenir programme of the La Verendrye Bi-Centennial celebration, Winnipeg, 1938
 - 10) Dinner programme, Associated Chambers of Commerce, 1938
 - 11) Programme for 10th annual meeting of the North Shore Historical Assembly, 1938
 - 12) Annual tri-county meeting of the historical societies of St. Louis, Lake and Cook Counties, 1939
 - 13) City of Fort William souvenir programme of the Royal Visit, 1939

- 14) Times-Journal 25th Annual Road Race programme, 1939
- 15) Mountain Chapel rededication programme, 1939
- 16) Memorial Service programme for M.J.L. Black
- 17) Port Arthur Royal Visit programme, 1939
- 18) Programme of Dominion Ski Championships, Fort William, 1939
- 19) Lake Superior Rotary International Goodwill meeting programme, 1940
- 20) Programme for civic banquet honouring Senator and Mrs. N.M. Paterson, 1940
- 21) Civic Memorial Service for Lord Tweedsmuir programme, 1940
- 22) Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce 9th Annual Convention programme, 1941
- 23) Royal Edward Hotel, New Year's menu, 1941
- 24) Programme of the golden jubilee bonspiel, Fort William Curling Club, 1941
- 25) Programme, 14th Annual meeting of the North Shore Historical Assembly, 1942
- 26) Programme, International Goodwill meeting, Port Arthur, 1942
- 27) Royal Edward Hotel New Year's dinner menus, 1942, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1951
- 28) Annual dinner programme for the graduating class of McKellar General Hospital Training School of Nursing, 1944 (and songbook)
- 29) City of Port Arthur complimentary dinner programme, 1944 (and invitation)
- 30) YMCA commemorative dinner programme, 1944 (and invitation)
- 31) V-E Day Thanksgiving Observance programme, May 1945
- 32) Complimentary banquet, City of Fort William. Given for the HMCS Fort William minesweeper, 1945 (and letter)
- 33) Civic Luncheon in honour of General H.G.D. Crerar, 1946
- 34) Paterson Sailors' Memorial, 1946. Programmes and invitation
- 35) 19th Annual Victory Dance programme, Street Railway Employees' Union, 1946
- 36) "Rose of the Danube" programme, 1947
- 37) America Day programme, 1948. (includes map and buttons)
- 38) Official programme for opening of the Nipigon Memorial Hospital, 1949
- 39) Menu from Port Arthur, Texas, Cafe with post cards, 1950
- 40) Programme for testimonial dinner, Can Car's 2,000th coach, 1950
- 41) Programme for PACI commencement exercises, 1 Dec. 1916 and introductory speech by Chairman of the Board of Education.

Series A 48/5/1-14 - Misc. records and transcripts - 7cm. - 1803-1949 (Original of A 48/5/3 is from Ely-Winton Historical Society)

Miscellaneous extracts from various historical sources transcribed and/or printed, including some original documents.

- 1) Extracts from Lord Selkirk's diaries in Upper and Lower Canada in 1803-1804, by George Bryce, The Royal Society of Canada, 1912.
- 2) Ant. Larocque's Journal of a Voyage to the Rocky Mountains, 1805 (68 p.)
- 3) J. Wm. Trygg Historical Collection, Ely-Winton Historical Society, dealing with Minnesota history, especially lumbering, land settlement and indian treaties in the 19th century.
- 4) Dominion sessional paper #12, 1870. Dawson's proposed line of transportation from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry
- 5) Letters: W. Holton to Rev. Rob't Burnet regarding fruit trees sent to Governor John McIntyre at the Hudson's Bay Co. post Fort William, 1873. A.E. McIntyre to J.R. Lumby, 1932, regarding fruit growing in Fort William (and two issues of "Fruit Branch Circular" (Ont. Dept. of

Agriculture, 1917, 1919) T.F. Chamberlain to Dr. W.H. Hamilton, 1892, appointing to latter gaol surgeon at the Fort William lockup.

- 6) Town of Fort William By-Law No. 2, to regulate and adopt rules of order for council proceedings.
 - 7) Town of Fort William voters' list, 1900
 - 8) Town of Fort William treasurer's report for 1901
 - 9) Financial statement of the Mount McKay and Kakabeka Falls Railway, 1930
 - 10) Poetry, mostly handwritten, by J.C. Banks of Port Arthur, 1918-1932
 - 11) Letters, reports and newspapers relating to the activities of the Canadian Red Cross Society, Fort William Branch, 1942- 46. Includes copies of *Aircrafter* (Nov. 14, 1944) and *The Expeditor* (Fort William Junior Chamber of Commerce, 18 June 1945)
 - 12) Transcript of a C.B.C. broadcast, 6 Feb. 1949, "John Fisher Reports" on the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur entitled "Twins of Tomorrow".
 - 13) Presentation delivered in the fall of 1933 by Dr. W.P. Hogarth to the City Council of Fort William on behalf of the Fort William Tuberculosis Committee on the subject of Tuberculosis in Northwestern Ontario.
 - 14) Letters: T.H. Johnson, asst. commissioner of crown lands, to Mrs. Margaret Ross of Thunder Bay, 1882, regarding the purchase of waterfront land in Prince Arthur's Landing. Mr. S.T. Green, Port Office Dept., Thunder Bay, to Col. Wolsley, 7 June 1870, regarding postal service in Northwestern Ontario. W.H. Griffin, Dept. of the Post Master General, to S.T. Green giving him instructions regarding postal services for the Red River expedition's forces, 1870.
- Series A 48/6/1-16** - Promotional books and pamphlets - 5cm. - 1883-1949
- 1) "Northwestern Ontario...the Districts of Thunder Bay and Algoma, A Brief Description" by G.R. Patullo (Port Arthur, 1883), 32p.
 - 2) "Prince Arthur's Landing or Port Arthur...and her Industries" by Steen and Boyce (Winnipeg, 1883), 82 pp.
 - 3) "The Pioneer Farm and The Wabigoon Country, Rainy River District", Ontario Dept. of Agriculture (Toronto, 1896)
 - 4) "Fort William, the Gateway to the Gold Fields to the Wheat Fields", Fort William Board of Trade (Fort William, 1898)
 - 5) "Fort William Town, Past, Present and Future", Daily Journal (Fort William, 1899)
 - 6) "Picturesque Port Arthur", The Forde Studio (Grand Rapids, ca.1910)
 - 7) "Canada, the Thunder Bay District of New Ontario", Ministry of Interior (Ottawa, 1908)
 - 8) "The Focal Point of Canada's Commerce", Eoll and Lavery (Fort William, ca.1910)
 - 9) "Fort William", W.G. MacFarlane (Toronto, ca.1908)
 - 10) "Farming Opportunities in the Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora Districts", G.A. Collins, Ontario Department of Agriculture (Fort William, 1912)
 - 11) "Souvenir of Silver Islet", J.F. Cooke (Port Arthur, 1913)
 - 12) "Northern Ontario...Climate, Soil, Bush Life", Ontario Ministry of Lands, Forests and Mines (Toronto, 1917)
 - 13) "From the Landing to Modern Port Arthur", C.E. King (Port Arthur, 1927)
 - 14) "Factual Brevities...Fort William", Fort William Chamber of Commerce (Fort William, ca.1940)
 - 15) "In the Shadow of the Sleeping Giant", Helena K. Reeves (Port Arthur, 1947)
 - 16) "Port Arthur...Industrial and Economic Survey", Port Arthur Industrial Committee (Port Arthur, 1949)

Series A 48/7/1-16 - Travel and Tourism Booklets and Pamphlets - 6cm. - 1893-1950

- 1) "Summer Tours on the Canadian Pacific Railway", 1893
- 2) "The Canadian Pacific -- The Highway to the Orient", ca.1900
- 3) "North and North Western Ontario", by Lloyd Roberts (Ontario Dept. of Tourism, n.d.)
- 4) "North Western Ontario -- For Your Canadian Vacation" Ontario Dept. of Travel and Publicity, ca.1939
- 5) "Canadian Travelaide of 1938", Times-Journal (Fort William)
- 6) Fort William Tourist Information pamphlets, brochures and maps, 1939
- 7) "Tourist's Paradise, Nipigon, Ont", Revillon Bros., Nipigon
- 8) "Canadian Travel Aide of 1939", Times-Journal (Fort William)
- 9) "Canada Calls, Canadian Lakehead", 1945
- 10) "Northern and North Western Ontario -- Land of Romance", Ontario Travel and Publicity Bureau (1939)
- 11) "Canadian Geographic Journal", 1939 (issue on N.W. Ont.)
- 12) "Kenora Tourist information pamphlets and maps, ca.1940
- 13) Fort William and Port Arthur tourist folders with pamphlets, maps and brochures, 1940-1942
- 14) "Boating Magazine", July 1941 and Aug. 1941 ("Cruising Lake Superior", by E.J. Durie
- 15) "Picture Book of the North Shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota", 1947
- 16) "Land of the Sleeping Giant", 1947-1950

Series A 48/8/1-9 - Local Pamphlets and Booklets - 3cm. - 1874-1940

Pamphlets and booklets on historical subjects relating to Thunder Bay and its district.

- 1) "The Question of the Terminus of the Branch of the Pacific Railway on the North Shore of Lake Superior" (Ottawa, 1874), 2 copies.
- 2) Peter McKellar, "Mining on the North Shore, Lake Superior" (1874)
- 3) "The Peramublator", Feb. 1876, Toronto
- 4) "Pictorial Ontario -- The Premier Province of the Dominion" (Toronto, ca.1885)
- 5) Cummings (?), "Fort William calls a Halt to Port Arthur's Audacious Claims on Her Territory" (Fort William: ca.1891)
- 6) "Farming and Ranching in Western Canada", (Canadian Pacific Railway, ca.1892)
- 7) H. Sydney Hancock Jr., "Fort William's Water Supply" (Montreal: Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, 1909)
- 8) "Geraldton Directories" 1942-1943
- 9) J.P. Bertrand, "Our Untapped Resources" (ca.1940), 2 copies

Series A 48/9/1-17 - Annual Reports and Souvenir booklets - 5cm. - 1891-1948

- 1) First and Second Annual Reports of the Fort William Board of Trade, 1891-1892, 1893
- 2) Fort William Chamber of Commerce Annual Reports, 1943-1944
- 3) Fort William Chamber of Commerce Annual Report, 1945
- 4) Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce Annual Report, 1945
- 5) Women's Canadian Club Annual Reports, 1910, 1911-1912, 1912-1913
- 6) Women's Canadian Club Diamond Jubilee, 1927-1928
- 7) McKellar General Hospital Yearbook, 1927
- 8) St. Joseph's General Hospital Golden Jubilee, 1934
- 9) Fort William Sanatorium, 1934-1949 (1949)
- 10) First Baptist Church 50th Anniversary, 1935
- 11) St. Luke's Church, Fort William, 50th Anniversary, 1936
- 12) Half a Century of Odd Fellowship, 1938 (Algoma Lodge #267, Fort William)

13) Thunder Bay District Annual, 1939 (Kiwanis Club of Port Arthur and Fort William)

14) The Fort William Community Centre, 1945

15) McKellar School of Nursing course calendar, 1947

16) Kaministigoyan, Fort William Vocational School Yearbook, 1947

17) Sixty Years of Odd Fellowship, 1948 (Algoma Lodge #267, Fort William)

Series A 48/10/1-8 - Newspaper articles - 5cm.- 1889-1939, 1954-1970

1) "Great Grain Elevators", Chicago Times, 10 July, 1889

2) "The Prisoner of War", Canadian Red Cross, vol. 2, #18, Dec. 1943 (the official journal of the POW dept. of the Red Cross)

3) Articles compiled by Crawford C. McCullough from the Daily Times-Journal regarding the Fort William Board of Trade, 1928

4) "Did Norsemen Make Copper Spears on the Great Lakes", J.W. Curran, Sault Daily Star and Port Arthur News Chronicle, 8 Feb. 1939. Regarding James Dodd's alleged discovery of Norse Relics at Beardmore, *Evening News Chronicle*, 7 Oct. 1938.

5) "Founder of Firm still Driving Force", *Daily Times-Journal*, 1 Mar. 1939. Re: G.R. Duncan

6) "Colonization Plan urged as Key to New Growth -- Great Clay Belt Awaits Development", by Judge John McKay, Daily News- Chronicle, 14 Jan. 1939 and editorials and letters relating to the subject of this article, 19 Nov. 1938.

7) File of transcribed or clipped articles on local subjects first published in the *Daily Times-Journal* (1924-1931) and the *Detroit News* (1932): "Port Arthur Curling Club", 13 Dec. 1924; "Pioneering", 12 Dec. 1924, interview with Capt. J.W. Cousins; "Historic Port Arthur", 12 Dec. 1925; "An Interview with Col. S.W. Ray", 27 May 1926; "A.J. Boreham, a sketch", 19 Dec. 1928; "Pioneer Days" by W.F. Langworthy, 19 Dec. 1928; "Fort William's Water Front", by A.D. LeMay, 12 Dec. 1931; "An interview with Mrs. C.H. Kirkup", *Detroit News*, 17 Jan. 1932.

8) Misc. clipping relating to activities of the Thunder Bay Historical Society, 1954-1970

Series A 48/11/1 - Correspondence - Thunder Bay Historical Society - 4 cm. - 1934-1947

Correspondence of Carson F. Piper as President of the Thunder Bay Historical Society, or relating to historical research matters. Primarily 1937-1939.

Series A 48/12/1-2 - Personal correspondence and legal papers - 4 cm. - 1929-1931, 1887-1951

1) Correspondence between Carson F. Piper of Fort William and Helen Briggs of Rochester, Minnesota, between March 1929 and April 1931. All relate to their courtship and eventual marriage in 1931. Includes letters, telegrams, cards and newspaper clippings (Restricted access)

2) Legal papers relating to property owned by members of the Piper family, 1887-1951. Includes mortgages, title deeds, tax forms and agreements

Additional Information

Custodial History - A 48/12 formerly catalogued into the Museum's collection 984.56.1-8.

Associated Material - See various museum and photographic collections catalogued under Carson Piper, especially 981.39.