

Peter McKellar fonds

1872-1875

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Biographical Sketch

Peter McKellar (1838-1929), along with his brothers John, Donald and Archibald, was a pioneer of Fort William. He was born of Capt. Duncan McKellar and Margaret Brodie in Glencoe, Ont.. He became a surveyor in upper Michigan in 1853 and came to Thunder Bay in search of mineral wealth in the 1860s, settling in 1863. McKellar staked many mining claims along the North Shore of Lake Superior in partnership with his brothers and others, discovering Thunder Bay Silver Mine in 1866, Black Bay Bonanza in 1865 and Huronian Gold Mine in 1871. He was Municipal Health Officer in 1873 and played a prominent role in the selection of the Lake Superior terminus of the transcontinental railway in 1873. He edited and published the first local newspaper, the *Perambulator*, in 1874. He was reeve for McTavish ward on the first Shuniah municipal council in 1874, was a charter member of the Kaministiquia Club in 1879 and was on the committee to negotiate the dismantling of the Hudson's Bay Co. fort and the establishment of Thunder Bay harbour in 1881. McKellar was involved in land sales to the CPR for its shops and principal works. He donated land for the first St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1889 and laid the cornerstone of the new church in 1908. He also donated with his brother Donald land for McKellar hospital in 1900. He married Carlotta Burgess Spence (1874-1960). Peter McKellar was the founder of the Thunder Bay Historical Society in 1908 and served as its president from 1908 to 1923. He was also known as a writer and researcher on geology, mineral resources and historical subjects.

Scope and Content

Series A 7/1/1-2 - Diaries

The pocket diaries of Peter McKellar contained in two volumes. Includes personal data, information on local mineral resources and potential mining sites compiled by McKellar as he visited these sites, maps (hand-drawn), drawings of landscapes, and records of trips. Arranged chronologically. Handwritten.

1) 1872

2) 1874-75