

MJ-41

Benson Family fonds. - [textual record]. – 1871, 1915-1945. - 18.0 cm of textual records.
Boxes V-28, H-110 - H-111

Biographical history

Archie (Archibald) Benson (B.A.) was a lawyer who lived in Moose Jaw along with his wife Frances Emily Benson and children Douglas, Harold and Marguerite. Archie Benson was a partner of William E. Knowles ca.1913-1918. About the time Knowles was elected as an MLA in a June 1918 by-election, Benson moved to a solo practice. He was also an avid gardener with entries in various local fairs. Frances Benson appears to have been active in the community.

Between 1914 and 1918 they lived at 1079 3rd Ave NE and ca. 1918/1919 appear to have one of the first homes in Wellesley Park in the Wakamow Valley along the Moose Jaw River (Lot 1 - Wilton Ave on the corner of Riverside Drive South).

Archie Benson died June 29, 1963 and was predeceased by Frances Benson who died April 18, 1948.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of a detailed gardening diary in which Mr. Benson records dates of planting, harvesting, weather, comments on the varieties of flowers and vegetables planted. He also records some other significant local events. There is also a journal/guest book kept by Mrs. Benson recording her hosting of two teas for elderly ladies in Moose Jaw in 1930 and 1931. The lists of attendees include address, and year and place of birth. The remaining file consists of one item of correspondence to Mrs. Benson relating to one of the teas. This fonds also consists of two photo albums, with pictures taken by or of Marguerite (Benson) Gardner, a scrapbook of Thomas William Clayton's scouting and an atlas from 1871.

Conservation note

This fonds was re-boxed and foldered in 2000 and in 2013.

Note of immediate source of acquisition

Accession number 41.BA donated to the archives by William J. and Marguerite (Benson) Gardner. The second accession was donated to the archive by Susan Gardner in 2013.

Associated materials

MJPL - Archive vertical files - Biography file for "Benson, Arch" - primarily receipts for furnishings and other misc. items.

Finding aids

See file list.

File List

001 - Gardening Diary 1915-1923

002 - "Old Ladies" Tea Journal 1930-1931

003 - Correspondence re: Tea [1930 or 1931]

Second Accession

004 - Photo Album. – n.d.

005 – Photo Album. – n.d.

006 – Thomas William Clayton Scrapbook. – 1945.

007 – Descriptive Hand Atlas of the World. – 1871.