



MG463 – Helen Evans Reid fonds

Dates: [196-]-1988 (inclusive) ; 1963-1969 (predominant).

Extent: 28 cm of textual records ; 36 photographs ; 6 audio reels

Biography: Dr. Helen Evans Reid, former Head of the Medical Publications Department of the Hospital for Sick children in Toronto, is the author of All Silent, All Damned: The Search for Isaac Barr (Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1969. Shortt FE 3242.9 B37R45 1969). Reid spent six years and travelled to various countries to carry out her research on Isaac Montgomery Barr. Although an Anglican minister, Barr, working under the auspices of both the British and Canadian governments, organized a colony of middle class British immigrants to settle in the Lloydminster area. Barr was responsible for all arrangements including transportation, sleeping accommodations, the allotment of homesteads and the supply of foods, equipment, livestock and other homestead items. Since Barr lacked administrative skills, he was blamed for many of the colony's problems. In fact, he was even accused of absconding with the immigrant's funds. Reid challenges this negative interpretation of Barr in her sympathetic biography. She portrays Barr as a man with "a vision".

Custodial History: In April – May 1988 Reid decided to deposit her research material in the University of Saskatchewan Library, Special Collections.

Scope and Content: The types of materials that Reid gathered to support her thesis are noted in her acknowledgments. She states:

"Since the memory of the elderly is keen but capricious and recall tends to telescope time, I have relied, with one notable exception, on personal accounts for opinions, descriptions and anecdotes only. For facts, in the search for Isaac Barr, I have relied on original documents, official reports and newspaper accounts published at the time – not in retrospect."

Arrangement: In preparing a finding aid to her material, we decided to sort it into three broad categories: I. Manuscripts, II. Research Notes and Documents, III. Taped Material.

Reid's original file titles have been kept where possible. New file titles have been created only when it was appropriate to do so. Each file has a brief description of the contents.

- I. Manuscripts
 - A. Articles
 - B. Monograph
 - C. Scripts

D. Other Publications

II. Research Notes and Documents

A. Barr Family Personal Material

1. Barr, Isaac – Pastoral Records
2. Barr, William H. Documents
3. Barr, William – Visit to Lloydminster 1969
4. Barr family in Australia
5. Barr family Records and Photographs
6. Curriculum, 1883-1964
7. Personal Material
8. Search for Emma Williams
9. Vital Statistics

B. Barr Colony material

1. Barr Colony, 1903
2. Correspondence, 1964-1969
3. Dominion Archives
4. Flag Description
5. Historical Accounts
6. Immigration Pamphlets
7. Lloyd, Rev. George Exton
8. The Mavor Papers
9. Narratives and McComick Diary
10. Newspapers
11. Records of Temperatures
12. "S.S. Lake Manitoba" Data
13. Saskatchewan Herald
14. Trail of 19.3
15. Western Trip – 1964

C. Barr Colonists – Reminiscences

1. Barr Colonists – memories and opinions
2. Foster, Arthur (Colonist)
3. Interviews
 - a) Harry Messum
 - b) Samuel Noyes
Mrs. Jos. Harris
 - c) Thomas Parr
 - d) Lachlan Taylor
 - e) Dr. Frank H. Thorne

- f) Mrs. W. S. Topott
- 4. Messum and Lyle Material
- 5. Peake, Frank
- 6. Pick, Harry

- D. Reviews of All Silent, All Damned
 - a) Correspondence, 1968-1983
 - b) Clippings

- III. Tapped Material
 - A. CBC Radio Canada
 - B. Barr Colony Interviews

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Prepared by Glen Makahonuk, May 1988. Edited for formatting and restrictions by Amy Putnam, 2018.

I. Manuscripts

A. Articles

1. "Barr's Lambs" (typescript with holograph annotations). Two versions of the same article on the Rev. Isaac M. Barr submitted to Maclean's Magazine for publication. The first draft has a note on it: "Original manuscript more suitable for essay than the "hot" magazine." (2 copies) Both copies have written annotations and corrections. The second draft has a note on it "Manuscript as in Maclean's without editing . . ." Also the correspondence concerning the publication of the article is included.
2. "The Con Man...". Photocopy of article from Maclean's magazine.

B. Monograph

1. All Silent, All Damned. Although this file does not contain Reid's manuscript *per se*, it nevertheless makes reference to it by way of an outline, a reader's comments and correspondence concerning the Ryerson Press's agreement to publish it.

C. Scripts

1. "Scalawag or Scapegoat?" A Documentary About Isaac Barr" by Muriel Clements, pp. 1-44. CBC Radio Series: Between Ourselves.

D. Other Publications

1. The Art of Prose (ed) Alan Dawe Correspondence, 1970 Re: a request to use a selection from All Silent, All Damned for inclusion in The Art of Prose, a high school text containing about one hundred selections of creative writing.

II. Research Notes and Documents

A. Barr Family Personal Material

1. Barr, Isaac Pastoral Records
Correspondence, 1964 Re: Reid's search for the record of Isaac Barr's ministry at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Point Edward, Ontario; Exeter, Ontario; the Church of the Good Shepherd and All Saint's in Woodstock, Ontario; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harriman, Tennessee; St. Saviour's , Tollington Park, Islington, England; and the Anglican missionary on the Tuscarora Reserve, Ontario.
2. Barr, Williams H

Documents. File contains documents, interviews and correspondence pertaining to Isaac Barr being ordained a Deacon, testimony of the worth and ability of Re. Isaac M. Barr's application to become a citizen of the U. S., I. Barr's decision to resign as rector of St. Paul's Church, Whatcom, Washington and to leave for South Africa, the Barr's family's decision to move to Australia, Barr's comments about the hypocrisy of the Church, and William's personal account and assessment of his father's (Isaac) personality and beliefs.

3. Barr, William – Visit to Lloydminster 1969.

A. Newspapers: copy of The Lloydminster Times, July 17 1963 re: the 60th anniversary of the Barr colony and the tribute to these pioneers.

B. Photographs of the Banquet

- a) William Hall Barr speaking in Lloydminster 1969 – made honorary citizen (2 copies)
- b) William Hall Barr presents flag that Isaac raised over colony site
- c) Helen Evans Reid (?) presentation July 24, 1969
- d) Phyllis Barr, wife of W.H. Barr
- e) W.H. Barr, P. Barr & colonist
- f) Barr colonist at July 24, 1969 banquet

4. Barr family in Australia

Correspondence, 1964-69 re: obituary notice of the Rev. Isaac M. Barr, an inquiry about Barr's attempts to establish a British settlement in Australia, Reid's search for the surviving members of Isaac Barr's family in Australia, Reid concerned with finding information about the "feeling" of Isaac Barr, information about the struggle between Barr and Lloyd, documentation of Lloyd's enmity and efforts to undermine Barr, information on the Barr Colony in Prof. Mavor's Papers, Reid's interest in gathering information from William Barr about his father, William Barr's inquiries about the type of person Helen Evans Reid is, William Barr's interest in learning about what has been written about his father, a list of research questions about Isaac Barr for William to answer, and William Barr's visit to Lloydminster in order to be honoured at a ceremony making him a Freeman of the City.

5. Barr family Records and Photographs

A. File contains correspondence and copies of documents and related material re: birth records of the Barr family, I. Barr's Marriage License, Divorce Registry, the Last Will and Testament of Christina Barr, an Indenture of Bargain and Sale, death certificates of Emma L. Barr and Isaac M. Barr, a marriage record book of the period 1897 to 1899, application for Probate or Letters of Administration in the name of Isaac

Montgomery Barr, no record of South African service for the Rev. I.M. Barr, no record of Harry Baird Barr being a student at the University of Toronto or the University of Western Ontario, the property holdings of William Barr in Trafalgar Township, and Reid's inquiry about the records of the Hornby Church listing Isaac Barr's birth date and baptism.

B. Photographs

- a) William Hall Barr and Harry Montgomery Baird Barr
- b) Christina Helberry Barr
- c) William H. Barr
- d) H.C. Messum, Sept. 1966
- e) Kanyevo Mission at Brantford, n.d.
- f) Dr. H.E. Reid & Dr. Cooke (Lloydminster)
- g) Dr. H.E. Reid (speaking at banquet)
- h) Dr. H.E. Reid (speaking at banquet)
- i) William H. Barr and Barr Colony Flag
- j) Barr Colonist, passengers on S.S. Lake Manitoba, at banquet honouring William Barr

C. Slides for All Silent, All Damned

- a) Grave of Isaac Barr's mother, Catharine Baird Barr (2 copies)
- b) Barr Colony School, Lloydminster 1968-69? (Winter)
- c) William Hall Barr and his wife Phyllis Macorna
- d) Grave of Isaac Barr in Cohuna, Victoria, Australia
- e) William and Robert Barr holding the Barr Colony Flag (3 copies)
- f) Barr Colony School, Lloydminster 1968-69 (spring-summer, 2 copies)
- g) Unidentified monument or gravestone in a church yard, n.d.
- h) T.W. Lawr (?), City Clerk, Town of Ferndale to Whom It May Concern 10-1, 1910 re: Barr delegate to Dry Farming Congress

6. Curriculum, 1883-1964

Correspondence and notes re: Barr's willingness to subscribe *ex animo* to all the Canons, Articles and formularies of the Church, Barr's explanation of the utterances he made which were not in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England, Barr's application for American citizenship in 1903, a biographical article about Isaac Montgomery Barr, and curriculum of I. Barr listing in chronological order the major events of his life.

7. Personal Material

Correspondence, 1969-1973 re: Reid's visit to the University of Saskatchewan Library, the racist attitude of Rev. George Exton Lloyd, and inquiry about the publication of All Silent, All Damned in Australia, William Barr's sincere gratitude to Reid vindicating his father, for William Barr's travel arrangements to Lloydminster, the plans of the citizens of Lloydminster to honour Barr, the marriage of Glenys Barr, William Barr's description of his farm in Australia, and William Barr's account of family activities, plans and lifestyles.

Photographs:

- a) Glenys Barr's Christening Day Sept. 22, 1944
- b) Isaac Barr, Christina Helberg Barr, Harvey Baird Barr and William Hall Barr
- c) William Hall Barr, Phylis Barr (wife), and (children) Janette, Glennis and Robert
- d) William H. Barr
- e) Slide – Lilac tree hiding Catherine B, Barr's grave, Hornby

8. Search for Emma Williams

Correspondence, 1967 re: Reid's search for Emma L. Williams birth certificate in various locations in both Canada and the United States

9. Vital Statistics

Correspondence, 1964-67 re: the marriage certificate of Rev. I.M. Barr and the Christina Helberg, the registration of the birth of William Henry Barr, a copy of the death registration of Rev. I.M. Barr, a search for the will of Rev. I.M. Barr, the birth certificate of Christina Helberg, a search for I.M. Barr's 1903 address, divorce record of Eliza Taylor Barr vs. Isaac Montgomery Barr, death registration for Eliza Taylor Barr, a record of a marriage between Isaac M. Barr and Emma L. Williams.

B. Barr Colony Material

1. Barr Colony, 1903

File contains copies of the Barr Colony papers and documents in the Morton Collection MSS C550/1-29 and various accounts and opinions of Barr.

2. Correspondence, 1964-1988

Re: the CNR's decision of 1901 to build a line through Lloydminster, G.R. Stevens research assistance and information about the establishment of the Barr Colony on a CNR line, Reid's searching the Rhodes Papers for Barr's settlement plan, accounts of the Rev. I.M. Barr in the Auditor General's Reports, 1902-03 and 1903-04, inquiry about Barr's land settlement scheme in Southern Rhodesia, the

records of Barr's stay at Huron College, information about Barr from the records of Boston and Omagh Congregations', Reid's search of the records of the Old Church of Scotland in Milton, Ontario, the report of the Tennyson Committee on agricultural settlements in British colonies, no record of the death registration of Isaac M. Barr in South Australia, Prof. James over's report on "The Barr Colony", Reid's search of the records of all the Presbyterian Churches in Halton County and communication requesting genealogical data of the Barr family.

3. Dominion Archives

File contains extracts or copies of documents housed in the Dominion Archives (National Archives of Canada). The documents pertain to the 1903 Report from the Auditor General, payment of homestead entry fees for members of Barr's colony, request for repayment of absentee fees, a dispute about the list of colonists and their registration fees, Exton Lloyd's request for a townsite on CPR land, the leadership of the Barr Colonists was transferred from Barr to Lloyd, problem with destitute persons from the Barr Colony not finding work, the setting aside of land not for Barr but for his colonists, the distribution of homesteads and suggestion for a full investigation into the affairs of the Barr Colony.

4. Flag Description

Correspondence, 1966 re: Reid's inquiry about the variation of the Canadian red ensign flown in Canada about 1900.

5. Historical Accounts

The file contains a photocopied portion of C. Wetton, *The Promised Land: the Story of the Barr Colonists* (Lloydminster Times, 1953), an article entitled "The Coming of the Barr Colonists", Canadian Historical Association Annual Report 1926, extracts of correspondence published in the Church Historical Society Journal concerning Barr's resignation from the Prince Albert Mission, his academic career in religious studies at the University of Toronto and Huron College, London, an attempt to disqualify Barr from entering a pulpit of the Church of England, Barr's application to the Bishop of Rupert's Land, and Barr's confession spreading "views not in harmony with the doctrines of the church", and extracts from C. Tallant, "The Break with Barr, An Episode in the History of the Barr Colony", Saskatchewan History Vol. 6, Spring 1953.

6. Immigration Pamphlets

The file contains information about the organization of the right kind of British people to form settlements on Government free grant lands in the Canadian North West, the nature of the leadership and arrangements to be made for the

journey to the prairies, the establishment of the homestead and the planting of crops, and two of Barr's pamphlets describing the settlements, work and wages and the amount of money needed to get established.

7. Lloyd, Rev. George Exton

Correspondence 1964-65 re: biographical information about Rev. George Exton Lloyd (1861-1940).

8. The Mavor Papers

File contains extracts from the Mavor Papers housed at the University of Toronto Library. Information re: C.W. Speers 1905 report on the Barr Colony and its attempt to promote agricultural industry rather than lawn tennis, rifle range and the operatic society; the development of Lloydminster as a commercial centre; the commissioner of Immigration's assessment of the improvement in the colony from its miserable start; the North West Mounted Police's unfavorable assessment of Rev. Lloyd; the improvements in land production and crop yields; Walter Georg Hunt's note about some Barr colonist being 3rd rate farmers; the location of 378 homesteads taken by the original Barr Colonists; the Canadian Bank of Commerce's memorandum of 1905 entitled "Condition of the District"; promotion letters encouraging more British settlers to join the Barr Colony; Rev. Lloyd's response to accusations about the mismanagement of the colony; and extracts from Prof. James Mavor My Windows on the Street of the World Vol. 2.

9. Narratives and McCormick Diary

a) Men of the City, Narratives of Saskatoon 1882-1912 (Saskatoon, 1927) – photocopy of pp. 62-64.

b) J. McCormick, "Diary of Trail Journey" (Barr Colony), pp. 1-49 (typescript copy) – the diary records of the day to day activities of making and breaking camp, the journey to the Barr colony, the establishment of the homestead, the plowing of fields, and the hard work of building a house and barn.

10. Newspapers

File contains extracts from newspapers such as The Toronto News, The Toronto Star, Toronto Telegram, Toronto Globe, Evening Telegram, Saskatchewan Herald, and Manitoba Free Press for the period to 1903 to 1905. The extract pertain to some of the recommendations and observations of the Mavor Report on British immigration to Canada, the wheat growing possibilities of the Barr colony, the settlement of Salvation Army Colonies in Canada, Rev. Lloyd's reports on the religious matters of the colony, Rev. Barr's request from the Interior Department, a claim that a good portion of the Barr colonists were either

farmers, carpenters or mechanics, complaints about settlement conditions of the Barr Colonists, Barr's ambitious plans for the establishment of three municipalities, the class make up of the Barr colonists, the capital and supplies necessary to establish a homestead, government attempts to provide employment or destitute Barr colonists on the railways and in the sawmills, complaints about Barr and his mismanagement, hardships of the Barr colony, serious problems with the transportation charges and the baggage of the Barr colonists, the problems with inexperienced farmers and the Clinkskill Affair.

Box 2

11. Records of Temperatures

Correspondence, 1967 re: listings of daily maximum and minimum temperatures from Saskatoon for April 15 to 30, 1903, and North Battleford for April 15 to June 1, 1903.

12. "S.S. Lake Manitoba" Data

a) Correspondence, 1967 re: the year that SS Lake Manitoba was built, the details as to her length, size, tonnage, the number of passengers she was authorized to carry and a copy of the passenger list.

b) Photograph

1. S.S. Lake Manitoba, 1903

13. Saskatchewan Herald

Extracts from the Saskatchewan Herald, 1902-03 re: Rev. I.M. Barr's arrangements on behalf of the British Colonization Society to establish a colony of 500 British families on a site south of the Battle River, serious problems with the outfitting and transportation of the Barr Colonists, the need for experienced farmers familiar with work on prairie farms, question about the business ethics of suppliers in the west, preparations for building schools, and criticisms of the management of the Barr colony.

14. Trail of 1903

The file contains photocopy extracts from Rev. George Exton Lloyd, The Trail of 1903; a copy of Fred Williams, "More About the Barr Colony", Toronto Globe Feb, 28, 1937; a number of I.M. Barr's documents pertaining to the purchase of homesteads, supplies and equipment, and George Exton Lloyd's account description of the Barr colonists trip to their homesteads.

15. Western Trip – 1964

Correspondence, 1964 re: the publication of Rev. G.E. Lloyd's "The Trail of 1903" as a series of articles in the Lloydminster Times, the publication of Eric Knowles account of the Barr Colony in The Saskatoon Story, the availability of information at the University of Saskatchewan Library, Reid's request to interview Major C. Wetton, Reid's search of the Saskatchewan Herald files, Reid's search for information about the whole Barr family, and an inquiry about Robert Reesor being associated with the land dealer business.

C. Barr Colonists – Reminiscences

1. Barr Colonists – memories and opinions, Correspondence, 1964-1970, re: Reid's interest in gathering the Barr colonist's recollections and opinions of Rev. Isaac Barr and Rev. Lloyd.

2. Foster, Arthur (Colonist)

Correspondence, 1964-1965, re: the program "Hidden worlds, the Old Age Pensioner", Arthur Foster's stories about being a Barr Colonist, Arthur Foster's Diary of his Barr Colonist experiences (1903-1907), Foster's assessment of Barr's administrative skills in the handling of fees and the sale of equipment and supplies, Foster's explanation of why he emigrated to Canada in 1902, Foster's description of his family and upbringing, Foster's scrapbook about the Barr Colony and Foster's answers to a series of questions about Barr and Lloyd. Includes a photograph of Foster.

3. Interviews

a) Harry Messum – Barr Colonist, pp. 1-8.

In his interview, Messum points out that although Barr was a poor administrator, he was not a crook. Barr wanted to help those British workers who were suffering from appalling conditions after the Boer War. Most of Messum's account describes the Barr colonist's trip to the prairies, problems with supplies and homestead fees, and employment opportunities for the settlers.

b) Samuel Noyes, Lloydminster, and Mrs. Joe Harris – Noyes interview contains copies of his supplies and homestead fees.

Harris interview points out that she arrived with her child and parents in 1907. She was forced to take a job as a dining room maid. Description of living conditions of the homestead.

c) Thomas Parr brief discussion of investment transaction with Barr.

d) Lachlan Taylor – He describes how Barr hired him to go to the Saskatoon Colony site in order to locate the place for the village and put up a tent for the stores. Also mention is made of the problems that Barr encountered.

e) Dr. Frank H. Thorne – His memories of Barr are not favorable. He points out that many of the colonists complained about Barr's lack of administrative skills, his misinformation about conditions and their lost belongings. Reference is also made to Barr's appeal for men with capital to set up businesses in the colony. It is interesting to note that Barr did not have the philosophy of a clergyman but rather that of a businessman.

f) Mrs. W.S. Topott - She discusses the terrible travelling conditions to the Barr colony, her health and the birth of her son. Also she describes the homestead, living conditions, the purchase of a few cows, the process of "getting on our feet" and losing some money in Barr's hospital scheme.

4. Messum and Lyle Material

Correspondence, 1964-67 re: Messum's collection of material in connection with the Barr colony, Reid's request for Messum's opinion of Barr's appearance and personality and the stories about his drinking and profiteering, Messum's favorable opinion of Barr, Prof. Lyle's search of records to determine where Barr died, Lyle's research and accumulation of documents about Barr, and a discussion about the contents of the Mavor Papers. In addition photocopies of "Barr Colonists Mad a Raw Deal Pay", The Ottawa Citizen 1953; "Community Honouring founders on the 50th Anniversary of Arrival", Montreal Gazette: "Bar Colonists Like Children of Israel", Edmonton Bulletin; "Builders of the West", Lloydminster Times July 15, 1953.

5. Peake, Frank

Correspondence, 1982-1987 re: Reid's comments on Peake's two articles entitled "Anglican theological Education in Saskatchewan", Saskatchewan History Vol. XXV, No. 1, Winter 1982 and "Anglican theological Education in Saskatchewan Part II", Saskatchewan History Vol XXV, No. 2, Spring 1982; additional information about Isaac Barr from Ontario newspaper; Charles Addington's new information about Barr as a Deacon and a Priest.

6. Pick, Harry – (Barr colonist)

Correspondence, 1969 re: Pick's criticisms of Reid's research methods and her attempts to vindicate Barr's reputation in her book All Silent, All Damned, Pick's comments about Barr being a big fraud with an idiotic scheme, allegations about the falsification of the homestead entries, Pick's note about writing a book to ridicule and satirize the Barr and Lloyd conception, a Pick's recollection of events as he perceived them.

D. Reviews of All Silent, All Damned

1. Correspondence, 1968-1983 re: an error in the Toronto Evening Telegram about Rev. I. Barr being “an Anglican minister from Hornby, Rev. T.C. Boon’s favourable comments’ about Reid’s book, an inquiry about Reid’s interest in I. Barr, congratulations on the publication of All Silent, All Damned, media publicity for the book, review of Reid’s book in the Canadian Catholic Historical Society, a copy of Hart Browsfeild’s critical review of All Silent, All Damned, Jim Till’s claim that he found the book fascinating, an appreciation of the book from some of the surviving Barr colonist, Dr. F. Pecke’s critical and scathing review of Reid’s book, and inquiry about Rev. J.F. Dyke-Parker, and other readers’ favourable comments.

2. Clippings

Because of the large number of reviews, only the source will be listed here. The reviews are from The BC Library Quarterly, Book Mark – radio series broadcast, Canadian Author and Bookman, Calgary Herald Magazine, The Edmonton Journal, The Hamilton Spectator, Journal of Canadian Historical Society, Kingston Whig Church Standard, Lethbridge Herald, The Lloydminster Times, London Free Press, The Meridian Booster, Montreal Star, Listowel Banner, North Battleford News Optimist, Ottawa Citizen, Prince Albert Daily Herald, Regina Leader Post, Saskatoon Star Phoenix, Toronto Daily Star, Toronto Globe and Mail, Toronto Telegram, United Church Observer, Victor Colonist, Victoria Times, and Winnipeg Tribune.

III. Taped Material

A. CBC – Radio – Canada

1. Between ourselves – “Scalawag or Scapegoat” Parts 1 and 2.
2. Speaking of Books, July 20, 1969.

B. Barr Colony Interviews

1. Helen Reid Barr Colony Matinee. Parts 1 and 2.
2. William H. Barr.