



MG 385 - McKay family fonds

Dates: 1878-1984, predominant ca. 1878-1917

Extent: 32 cm of textual records and graphic material (376 photographs, 319 negatives, 2 postcards and 16 drawings) ; 2 wooden document boxes.

Biography: The McKay family was prominent family in the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan. The extended family were involved in business, education, church and political life.

Annie Maude ("Nan") McKay was born in 1892 at Fort a la Corne, Northwest Territories, the daughter of a Hudson Bay Company employee, Angus McKay. She completed high school in Prince Albert where she won a scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan. At the U of S McKay took an honours course in English and French, was active in student affairs, serving on the student council and the executives of the YWCA, Penta Kai Dekka, and was the staff artist of the *Sheaf*. McKay was a member of the U of S women's ice hockey team in 1915 and played hockey on University-affiliated teams until well into the 1920s. In the 'flu epidemic of 1918 she worked as a volunteer nurse (her name is painted on the stairwell in the College Building) and was chosen to unveil the plaque commemorating the undergraduate student who died in the epidemic. When she graduated in 1915 McKay was hired as assistant librarian of the University Library, and would become the first secretary-treasurer of the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association (established in 1917). McKay worked at the Library until her retirement in 1959.

Angus McKay, the son of William and Mary was born at Fort Pelly in December, 1858. Educated at St. John's College, Winnipeg, he joined the Hudson's Bay Company as an apprentice clerk at Fort Carlton in 1877 and remained there until 1882 when he was transferred to Prince Albert. In 1885 he was sent to Fort Pitt to help re-establish it after the post had been plundered during the North West Resistance. Promoted to clerk-in-charge, he operated Fort a la Corne, 1889-1899; Green Lake 1899-1907; Ile-A-La-Crosse 1907-1909 and was transferred to La Ronge in 1909. He was given the title 'Post Manager' in 1913 and finally retired from La Ronge in 1921 after 44 years service. He also served as a Justice of the Peace. He died in 1952.

Scope and content: The McKay family fonds contains material created and assembled primarily by Angus McKay and his daughter Nan McKay. The photographs include family members as well as HBC staff; the University of Saskatchewan campus during Nan McKay's time as a student; and a variety of scenes and people in Northern Saskatchewan, documenting Angus McKay's work and family life at various posting, and including a photo identified as a treaty party in La Ronge. The textual material accumulated by Angus McKay includes business, family and personal correspondence, including correspondence relating to his award of scrip, receipts, financial accounts, price lists, tax assessments, etc. There is also material relating to the McKay family tree; printed reminiscences (1935) of the Riel Rebellion of 1885; notes and sketches for a talk by Nan McKay about bird watching.

Arrangement: The first three accessions (2008-107, 2009-106, 2011-094) were combined and filed together. The fourth accession (2012-037) was kept separate and has its own arrangement and structure.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Original finding aid by Patrick Hayes, with additional details by Stevie Horn, Tim Hutchinson and Cheryl Avery. Formatted by Amy Putnam, July 2017. Artifacts reboxed and box numbering updated by Amy Putnam, 2023.

Box 1

Scanned photos. – 33 photos, one ink drawing, cd copy of scanned images. – 1900-1952; nd.
Scenes and people in northern Saskatchewan. Numbered 1-34.

Available detail:

2. "Dad & Maff(?) at Isle a la Crosse with Percy beside him"
8. "Angus McKay"
13. "Treaty Party leaving(?) Ile a la Crosse"
31. "Percy?"
33. Taken about 1900: Green Lake
5th back row: Fortesque McKay eldest son of Angus McKay
[Front row] Angus McKay, Nell McKay, Mary Traill (teacher, niece of Angus),
daughter Nan, Mrs. Angus McKay, Tommy Clarke with Marion McKay.
Back row: Paul Gregaud (HBC), Miller (a transient), Bird (?), NWMP, Louis
Morin (freighter for HBC) and Forty McKay
34. May 1952, Prince Albert 615 River Street East
This picture was taken at Granddad Angus McKay's funeral. It must have been
taken by Jean Totty or Forty's wife Georgie, Nan's sister-in-law.
Back row:
Marion McKay, niece, Percy's daughter; Charles Angus Percival McKay (Percy
or Cap), Nan's youngest full brother; Mrs. Barbara Morrow, nee Traill, cousin;
Robin Coleman, Helen's husband; Bill McCloy, cousin; Elsie Marian McKay,
Nan's sister and companion caregiver, Joseph Fortescue (Forty) McKay, her
eldest brother; Maud Maria (Yummie) McCloy, nee Traill, cousin; Fred
Skerratt, Marjorie's husband; Bill Totty, Katie's husband; Margaret McKay,
Nan's stepmother (almost cut off in the picture);
Second row:
Nan [McKay]; Bevan Skerratt, nephew; Catharine Parr (Katie) Totty, nee Traill,
cousin; Jessie McKay, nee Traill, Percy's wife

Photographs. – 156 photographs ; 320 negatives. – nd, 1913-1937. – 2 folders.

- Envelope 1. – 9 photos; 2 coupons; 1 poem about Nan McKay; 20 negs. – ca 1913; nd.
Interior and exterior shots of Northern Saskatchewan and campus.
- Envelope 2. – 15 photos; 1 postcard; two Alpine Canada tags. – ca 1914-1937.
Interior and exterior shots and one postcard of soldiers.
- Envelope 3. – ca 1915. - 22 photos, 1 postcard and a greeting card of a baby with a pipe.
Interior and exterior shots including the Murray family at "Camp Kilkare",
Dexter Brothers, Rocky Mountains, U of S Campus and S.S. Olympic.
- Envelope 4. – nd. - 21 photos.
Interior and exterior shots including the U of S Campus and Rocky
Mountains.
- Envelope 5. – nd. - 27 photos.
Interior and exterior shots including the U of S Campus and Rocky
Mountains.

- Envelope 6. – 1925. - 8 photos; 1 negative.
Interior and exterior shots. One of the buildings has the sign J.E. McKay
Barrister and Solicitor.
- Envelope 7. – nd. - 4 photos; 73 negatives.
Interior and exterior shots including campus, Hazel, a canoe with a sail.
- Envelope 8. – nd, [ca. 1915]. - 2 photos.
Two rivers – South Saskatchewan just west of the Saskatoon CP bridge
and an unidentified river with logs.
- Envelope 9. – [ca. 1917]. - 36 photos; 1 post card.
Interior and exterior shots of northern Saskatchewan and campus. Post
card from to N. McKay from G. Glover.
- Envelope 10. – [ca. 1917]. - 12 photos; 53 negatives.
Interior and exterior shots of northern Saskatchewan and an urban
environment. .
- Envelope 11. – [ca. 1917]. – 134 negatives.
Interior and exterior shots of northern Saskatchewan, golfing and USask
campus.
- Envelope 12. – nd. – 59 colour negatives.
Interior and exterior shots.

McKay family tree etc. – 1944, 1984.
Cartoon, family tree and Christmas letter.

Miles Macdonell's Journal. – nd. - 1 photograph; 1 post card; 18 file cards; 15 sketches.
Notes for a talk by N. McKay re bird watching, sketches of birds, a post card of a prairie
scene, a photo of a mountain and a sketch of a dog.

Family correspondence. – 1897-1916.

Reminiscences of the Riel Rebellion of 1885. – 1935.
Reprinted from the Prince Albert Daily Harold.

Greystone. - 1931.

Photograph album. – [1914-1915], 1974. - 183 photos, 2 clippings.
Campus (women's hockey, tennis, fancy dress, buildings, groups) Northern
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon river bank, Better Farming Train and military images. Two
clippings of letters to the editors by J.F. McKay.

Private Papers of Mr. Angus McKay. – ca. 1878-1952, predominant ca. 1879-1911.

Originally housed in two wooden boxes. Primarily personal and work transaction related records, relating to McKay's roles as both HBC agent and postmaster. There is also family and other personal correspondence, particularly from his brother James while he was at St. John's College in Winnipeg, [ca. 1878-1882] (filed separately), and a few clippings. The file contains receipts, game and fishing regulations, financial accounts, correspondence (customers, various levels of government, relating to land sales, etc.), family correspondence, fur pricing and other price lists (including *W.F. Sheard's Classified Quotations of Raw Furs and Skins*, 1896-1897 and a price list from the New York Fur Exporting Co., 1895-1896), assessment notices, timeline for HBC/Selkirk settlement, HBC employment contract, record of employment, photos, circulars including from St. John's College (Winnipeg) and from Philip Turner - candidate for Cumberland (Legislative Assembly, Northwest Territories), newspaper and magazine subscription receipts, etc. Items of note include letters from the Department of the Interior, 1886-1887, relating to taking scrip or accepting a land warrant (filed separately); appointments as Justice of the Peace; telegram from John Diefenbaker after death of Angus McKay (1952); McKay's record of service from the HBC, covering 1877-1905; McKay's appointment as postmaster in Fort Pitt, 1886.

"Private Papers Mr Angus McKay Hudson's Bay Company Saskatchewan, NWT." - 1878-1911.
From wood box 1. – 5 folders.

Box 2

"Private Papers Mr Angus McKay Hudson's Bay Company Carlton Saskatchewan, NWT." - 1879-1952. - From wood box 2. – 2 folders.

Correspondence with James. - From wood box 2. – 1979-1880.

Correspondence re scrip. – From wood box 2. – 1886-1887.

After initially electing to accept a land warrant, McKay was issued Military Bounty Scrip Note. 4796. Includes handwritten letters from the Department of Interior.

4 photographs. - From wood box 2. – nd.

Portrait of Justice James McKay, Supreme Court (by Steele & Wing's, Winnipeg); and two unidentified photographs.

Memoirs of trip from Fort Garry to Carlton, June 1877.

One-page transcript

Wooden Box (1). – **see Murray North G83.2/5, OS Box 1**

Reads: "Private papers. Mr. Angus McKay / Hudson Bay Company / Carlton Saskⁿ / N.W.T."

Wooden Box (2). – see **Murray North G83.2/5, OS Box 1**

Reads: "Private papers. Mr. Angus McKay / Hudson Bay Company / Saskatchewan N.W.T."

Accession 2012-037. – 1874-1996 (inclusive); 1880-1902 (predominant). – 12 cm of textual records, 2 photographs.

The majority of this accession is business and personal correspondence sent to Angus McKay. Organized in the following series:

- A. Angus McKay
 - Business correspondence
 - Miscellaneous
 - Personal Correspondence
 - Speeches
- B. Other Family

There are no restrictions on access.

Donated to the University of Saskatchewan Archives in 2012.

A. Angus McKay

Business Correspondence. – nd, 1882-1909.

Includes tax assessments, receipts for goods, correspondence regarding trade in scrip; subscriptions to the Nor'Wester and London Illustrated News; material from Henderson's directory; HBC staff record; etc.

Miscellaneous.

Includes "To Smoke or Not to Smoke;" copy of "memoirs of trip from Fort Garry to Carlton," 1877.

Personal Correspondence. – Thos. Anderson – Slave Lake, Isle a la Crosse. – 1901-1902.

Letter and 2 copies of transcript:

- 27 Mar 1901
- 4 Jun 1901
- 23 Jul 1901
- 8 Dec 1901
- 15 Jan 1902
- 11 Feb 1902

Personal Correspondence. - Geo. Crumm – Cumberland House. – 1880-1895.

Letter only: 3 May 1880

Letter only: 8 Dec 1894
Letter only: 10 Jan 1895
Letter, 2 copies of transcript: 6 Nov 1895
Letter and transcript: 15 Nov 1895

Personal Correspondence. - G.S. Davison – Prince Albert. – [1881-1888].

Letters only:
26 Aug 1881
25 Mar 1882
17 Feb 1886
26 Feb 1886
5 Jan 1888

Personal Correspondence. - J. Fortescue – Moose Factory. – nd, 1890-1892.
[Father-in law].

Letters only:
4 Mar [?]
13 May [1889]
22 Jun [1890]
10 Jul 1890
Letter and transcript: 20 Jan 1891
Letter only: 10 Jan 1892

Personal Correspondence – C. Garson – Carlton; Prince Albert. – 1884, 1889.

Letter and 2 copies of transcript:
22 Mar 1884
23 Jan 1886

Personal Correspondence - William Kennedy – Winnipeg. – 1880-1882.

Letter only:
23 May 1880
5 Apr 1881
22 June 1882

Personal Correspondence - [?] MacFarlane – Cumberland House, Winnipeg. – 1894, 1899.

Letter and transcript: 30 Mar 1894
Letters only:
2 Apr 1894 15 May 1894
14 Apr 1894 30 May 1894
30 Apr 1894 18 Jun 1894
5 May 1894 29 Jun 1894
7 May 1894 20 Jul 1894
10 May 1894 15 Oct 1894
12 May 1894 10 May 1899

Letter and transcript: 10 Nov 1899
Letter and transcript: 28 Oct 1901
Letter and transcript: 14 Sep 1903

Personal Correspondence - C.C. McIntyre – Green Lake; Ile a la Crosse, Souris River. – 1880-1887.

Letter only: 22 June 1880
Letter; 2 copies of transcript (does not include first paragraph): 5 Feb, 13 Feb 1881
Letter only: 11 Mar 1883
Letter only: 18 Jul 1883
Letter and 2 copies of transcript: 28 Oct 1884
Letter and 2 copies of transcript: 17 Mar 1887

Personal Correspondence - McKay Family – Brothers. – 1874-1897

Letter only: 23 Dec 1874
Letter and transcript: 12 Jan 1879
Letter only: 27 Apr 1884
Letter only: 13 Feb 1888
Letter only: 18 Mar 1891
Letter only: 6 Jan 1897
Letter only: 24 Oct 1898

Personal Correspondence - McKay Family – Father (William). – 1874-1894

Letter and transcript: 17 Sep 1874
Letter and transcript: 9 Nov 1875
Letter only: 8 Mar 1881
Letter only: 14 Jun 1881
Letter only: 2 Dec 1882
Letter and transcript: 7 Jan 1894

Personal Correspondence - McKay Family – Sister [T. Gale?]

Letter only: 19 Feb ?

Personal Correspondence - McKay Family – Trails - Fort Pitt, Lesser Slave Lake, Fort Vermillion. – 1874-1888.

Letters only:
22 Apr 1883
[22 Apr 1883?]
11 Dec 1887
13 Sep 1888
13 Dec 1888

Personal Correspondence – C.P. Miller – McKenzie River. – 1887-1888.

Letter and 2 copies of transcript:

10 Jun 1887
30 May 1888

Personal Correspondence – J.B. Parker – Prince Albert. – 1884, 1886.

Letter and 2 copies of transcript: 20 Apr 1884

Letter only: 24 Jul 1886

Personal Correspondence – Charles Quinney. – 1886-1888.

Letters only:

25 [?]1886

6 June 1887

13 Jan 1888

Personal Correspondence – Scott Simpson – Green Lake; Fort McMurray. – 1880, 1884.

Letter and transcript: 3 Feb 1880

Letter only: 21 Feb 1880

Letter only: 16 Feb 1884

Personal Correspondence – F. Stanley Simpson – Fort Alexander. – 1886.

Letter and 2 copies of transcript:

15 Feb 1886

11 Mar 1886

Personal Correspondence – J.E. Stewart – Battleford. – 1883.

Letter and transcript: 28 Aug 1883

Letter only: 21 Sep 1883

Personal Correspondence - Albert Tate – Lesser Slave Lake. – 1881-1888.

Transcripts also identify him as Albert Gale; note indicates Albert Tate signed Treaty 10 in Alberta.

Transcript only: Dec 25th, no year;

Letter only: 5 [Jan?] 1881

Letter only: 30 May 1881

Letter and 3 copies of transcript: 29 Sep 1883

Letter and transcript: 4 June 1884

Letter only: 4 Oct [1885]

Letter and transcript: 13 Dec 1885

Letter and transcript: 27 Apr 1888

Personal Correspondence – Frs. Teston and Rapet – Green Lake, Isle a la Crosse. – 1900-1902.

Letters only:

25 Dec 1900

9 Oct 1901

24 Dec 1901

3 Feb 1902

Personal Correspondence – Various. – [1880]-1950.

Letter only:

10 Jul [?]

20 Mar 1880

20 Jul [1880]

3 Dec 1883

28 Dec 1883

15 Feb 1884

7 Sep 1885 [telegram re: trial]

14 Feb 1886

2 Mar 1887

Letter and transcript: 23 Aug 1887

Letter only:

3 Apr 1888

23 Mar 1889

2 May 1891

Letter and transcript: 11 Nov 1898

Letter only:

15 May 1899

19 Aug 1903

6 Dec 1950

Photographs. – 2 b&w photos.

Speeches / Addresses by [Angus McKay].

B. Other Family

Correspondence. – [1952], 1996.