

# **Clemes Family fonds**

## **1979.053, 1993.012, 1993.048**

Version 2.1, June 2023  
Prepared by Jaimie Fedorak

**Title:** Clemes Family fonds

**Dates of Creation:** 1885-1958

**Physical Description:** 18 cm of textual records, 3 maps, and 9 b&w photographs

**Biographical Sketch:**

**Arthur “Archie” Clemes** was born in Cornwall, England on November 31, 1851, the son of William and Jane Clemes. The family emigrated to Canada, where they settled in Ontario. Clemes came to the Vancouver area during the 1870s, where he purchased numerous properties. He later settled in Spences Bridge around 1880 where he ran the Spences Bridge Light and Power Company, a grocery store, and the Spences Bridge Hotel. He also operated the B.C. Express Stables out of Nicomin Falls and owned a ranch in Westwold. Clemes was married twice, first to Esther, with whom he had two sons (Arthur Douglas and Frank Harold), and later to Rachel Oppenheim. Arthur Clemes died in February 1922.

**William Seth Clemes** was born on March 17, 1861, the son of William and Jane Clemes. After coming to Canada with his family as a young boy, Clemes would move to British Columbia and operate a ranch for his brother, Arthur, in Westwold. William Seth Clemes died in 1935.

**Dorothy Anne “Dolly” Clemes** was born on November 5, 1878 in Ontario, the daughter of William and Jane Clemes. On the death of her brother, Arthur Clemes, she took responsibility for much of his estate, including his ranch in Westwold. Dorothy Anne Clemes died on February 25, 1968 in Vernon, B.C. at the age of 89.

**Frank Harold Clemes** was born on August 14, 1911 in Vancouver, B.C., the son of Arthur and Esther Clemes. After growing up in the Vancouver and Victoria area, Clemes later moved to Spences Bridge. He was married to Agnes M. Calvin in 1935, with whom he had two daughters (Donna and Edna). In 1955 he moved to Kamloops, where he worked as a bus driver before opening his own trucking company. He later worked for the City of Kamloops. Frank Harold Clemes died on December 13, 1998 in Kamloops, B.C. at the age of 87.

**The Spences Bridge Light and Power Company** was established by Arthur Clemes in Spences Bridge, B.C., in 1912.

**Scope and Content:**

Fonds consists of correspondence, financial records, and legal documents of Arthur Clemes, William Seth (W.S.) Clemes, and Dorothy Clemes and records related to the Spences Bridge Light and Power Company. Fonds also includes a small amount of photographs.

**Custodial History:**

Fonds was donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives on August 30, 1979 by Mrs. Dan Ambrosi (Edith Laura MacDougall) (accession 1979.053). Additional material was accrued to the fonds during reprocessing in 2023. Accessions 1993.012 and 1993.048 were donated on February 19, 1993 and an unknown date in 1993 (respectively) by Frank Clemes.

**Notes:**

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of fonds.

**Arrangement:** Order that fonds arrived in was maintained by the archivist.

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access. The archivist reserves the right to restrict access to any fragile material for preservation purposes.

**Terms governing use and reproduction:** No reproduction permitted without consent of copyright holder. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission for the reproduction of materials for publication or dissemination.

**Finding aids:** File list is available for this collection.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Related Materials:** See the artifact collection for additional materials related to the Clemes family.

<b>Accession</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>
1979.053.001	Minute Book – File contains a bound book of meeting minutes of the Spences Bridge Light and Power Company Ltd., a list of shareholders, and a letter regarding the valuation of the company. – 1 cm of textual records	1912-1952	1
1979.053.002	Journal – File contains a bound book of accounts of the Spences Bridge Hotel and other accounts. – 1 cm of textual records	1929-1933	1
1979.053.003	Share Certificates Book – File contains a bound book of share certificates from the Spences Bridge Light and Power Company Ltd. and a letter from the company's barrister. – 1.5 cm of textual records	1917	1
1979.053.004	Art Clemes Papers – File contains 3 maps, land deeds, correspondence, agreements, and financial records of Arthur Clemes. – 1.5 cm of textual records and 3 maps	1885-1924	2/1
1979.053.005	W.S. Clemes Estate – File contains correspondence, an affidavit, and general records related to the estate of W.S. Clemes. – 1.5 cm of textual records	1934-1947	2/2
1979.053.006	Spences Bridge Light and Power Company Papers – File contains correspondence, tax assessments, receipts, construction costs, annual reports, and agreements relating to the Spences Bridge Light and Power Company. – 3 cm of textual records	1938-1941	2/3
1979.053.007	W.S. Clemes/D. Clemes Misc. Papers – File contains correspondence, agreements, and receipts. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1924-1936	2/4
1979.053.008	Dorothy Clemes Papers – File contains leases, tax assessments, notices, receipts, and correspondence related to property rentals. – 2 cm of textual records	1936-1958	2/5
1979.053.009	Misc. Documents – File contains correspondence related to the Spences Bridge Light and Power Company Ltd. and the Clemes Estate. – 2 cm of textual records	1939-1940	2/6

1979.053.010	Clemes Papers Misc. – File contains correspondence, inventories, postcards, tax documents, accounts, and 2 photographs (of an Inca monument and unidentified woman with dog). – 1 cm of textual records and 2 b&w photographs	1932-1944	2/7
1993.012, 1993.048	Photos from Frank Clemes – File contains 6 b&w photographs (some copy prints). See Appendix 1 for details. – 6 b&w photographs	[late 1890s- early 1990s]	Photograph collection

**Appendix 1: 1993.012, 1993.048: Photos from Frank Clemes**

1993.012: Arthur (Archie) Clemes.

1993.048.001: Arthur Clemes ca. late 1890s (copy print).

1993.048.002: Arthur Clemes and unidentified school teacher in Wolseley car in front of the “Hermitage” hotel in Spences Bridge, ca. 1902-1903 (copy print).

1993.048.003: Arthur Clemes in Wolseley car crossing Spences Bridge, early 1900s (copy print).

1993.048.004: Arthur Clemes in Wolseley car in front of “Hermitage” hotel in Spences Bridge, early 1900s (copy print).

1993.048.005: Clemes’ Westwold Ranch, early 1900s. Dolly Clemes on left, with unidentified farm hands. Photo by S.A. Smythe, Vancouver (copy print).