

Kamloops Museum and Archives

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Manson family fonds

2008.001, 0.2948, 0.2949, 0.2951, 1969.126.005

Compiled by
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Revised by
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KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

2008.001, etc.

Access: Open.

Manson family fonds

Textual, Graphic, Cartographic

1853-1951

0.22 metres

Title: Manson family fonds

Dates of creation: 1853 – 1951, predominant 1870 – 1930

Physical description: 22 cm of textual records, 50 photographs, and 2 maps

Biographical sketch:

William Manson was born circa 1829, at Fort George, Oregon, the son of Hudson Bay Company officer Donald Manson of Thurso, Scotland, and Félicité Lucier of Marion County, Oregon. He graduated from Edinburgh University in Scotland as a young man and entered into service with the New Caledonian Department of the Hudson Bay Company in 1848. After seven years as an apprentice clerk with the H.B.C., he was appointed to a full clerk position in 1855 and in the following years served at various posts throughout British Columbia, including New Caledonia (1855-1858), Thompson River (1858-1863), Fort Alexandria (1863-1865), and Fort Simpson (1866-1868). In 1856 he married Elizabeth McLean, the daughter of H.B.C. chief trader Donald McLean, and a year later they had a son, Donald Manson. Between 1858 and 1862, William worked as a clerk under his father-in-law Donald McLean and then Joseph McKay at Fort Kamloops. He was eventually promoted to chief trader with the H.B.C. and was assigned to the post at Fort Simpson (1866-1868). Following a furlough in 1869, he became the chief trader for exploring which he held from 1870 until his retirement from the H.B.C. in 1873. William later remarried Adelaide Ogden, the daughter of Peter Ogden Jr., on May 29, 1861. Together they had a number of children, including Lizzie, William, Martha, Peter Ogden, Sarah, and Margaret. After retiring as an H.B.C. officer, William moved to his ranch at 111 Mile House where he lived until the death of his wife Adelaide in 1880. He worked for a period during the 1880s as a teacher at William Lake and as an agent for the publishing house Law, King and Law. His final years were spent on his ranch near Lac La Hache and later at Louis Creek where he died on July 1, 1892 at the age of 60.

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Elizabeth McLean was born circa 1838 the daughter of Hudson Bay Company officer Donald McLean and Ali. She was likely educated in Europe. In 1856 she married William Manson and had one son, Donald Manson, a year later. She died in 1857 from complications in childbirth.

Donald Manson was born September 12, 1857, at Fort St. James, B.C., the son of Hudson Bay Company officer William Manson and Elizabeth McLean. He was educated at Langley and as a young man worked as a farmhand in the Kamloops area. He married Annie McIvor and they had a number of children, including Donald, Lillian, Eva, Margaret, Mabel, Stanley, and Eleanor. He died on January 7, 1930, in Kamloops.

Custodial history:

Fonds was donated by Lorraine Manson, great granddaughter of William Manson, to the Mary Balf Archives, Kamloops Museum and Archives, on October 15, 2008, in one accession. The records were previously in the possession of her father Stanley Manson.

Additional records, which had previously been placed in the Vertical Files collection, were accrued to this collection during reprocessing in 2020. Accessions 0.2948, 0.2949, and 0.2951 have no donor information available. Accession 1969.126 was donated on December 2, 1969 by Mrs. D. Applin, the granddaughter of William Manson. Records were placed in the established series to which they relate.

Scope and content:

The fonds consists of records which document three generations of the Manson family of Kamloops. The majority of the records document Hudson Bay Company officer William Manson (c. 1829-1892) and his son Donald Manson (1857-1930), though there is also information about their descendents and related family members from the McLean and McAuley families. Records include correspondence, photographs, certificates, journals, notebooks, account statements, and military records. William Manson's records include his professional and personal correspondence, a pre-emption certificate for his property near Louis Creek, and copies of Donald McLean's marriage certificates. Also included are Elizabeth McLean's journal from 1853 to 1856 and correspondence relating to the Donald McLean Estate.

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Notes:

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

Arrangement: The records were received in no discernible order, though some records were bundled according to their creators. This order has been retained by the archives but otherwise order has been imposed by the archivist. The fonds has been arranged into six series: 1. William Manson; 2. Elizabeth McLean; 3. Donald Manson; 4. Other family members; 5. Miscellaneous records, and 6. Photographs.

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 lists are available for this fonds.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Related material: Related material can be found in the Hudson Bay Company collection (1937.022) which includes copies of his H.B.C. journals and a William Manson subject file.

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Series 1: William Manson (1829-1892)

1857-1951 — 8 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence, certificates, notes, and a family Bible documenting William Manson's personal and professional life as a Hudson Bay Company officer, teacher, and publishing house agent from approximately 1857 to 1891. The records mainly consist of Manson's personal and professional correspondence with family members and others such as John Fremont Smith, J.A. Mara, and G.C. Tunstall. The letters are arranged chronologically in two general files of professional correspondence and by recipient or subject in six subsequent files. Also included in the series are records relating to Donald McLean, including copies of his marriage certificates, two letters he wrote to William and Stephen Manson in 1871, and a file of correspondence from William and Donald Manson and their attorneys Davie and Pooley concerning the Donald McLean estate.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2008.001/001(01)	Family Bible – File contains the Manson family Bible, inscribed with the names of the Manson children. – 2 cm of textual records	1857-1936	1/1
2008.001/001(02)	Certificates – File contains a certificate of pre-emption for William Manson at Lewis Creek and a death certificate for William Manson. – 2 textual records	1891-1928	1/2
2008.001/001(03)	Donald McLean marriage certificates (copies) – File contains copies of Donald McLean's marriage certificates, with William Manson and Alex Caulfield Anderson's notes. – 6 textual records	1866	1/3
2008.001/001(04)	Account Statements – File contains Donald McLean's financial records. – 1 cm of textual records	1874-1891	1/4
2008.001/001(05)	Poetry and notes – File contains poetry and notes written by William Manson. – 7 textual records	[188-?]- [189-?]	1/5
2008.001/001(06)	Notebook – File contains a notebook used by William Manson to note potential property	1891-1951	1/6

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	improvements and by an unidentified person to record rental payments. – 1 cm of textual records		
2008.001/001(07)	Professional Correspondence 1871-1888 – File contains William Manson’s professional correspondence with Donald A. McLean, H. Ross, Walter Budd, Alex Munro, George Adolphus Vieth, and Robert Borlund, among others. – 18 textual records	1871-1888	1/7
2008.001/001(08)	Professional Correspondence 1889-1891 – File contains William Manson’s professional correspondence with John Fremont Smith, Alex McLean, J.A. Mara, George Adolphus Vieth, Robert Borland, and G.C. Tunstall, among others. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1889-1891	1/8
2008.001/001(09)	Donald McLean Estate Correspondence – File contains William Manson’s correspondence with his son Donald Manson and Attorneys A.E.B. Davie and Charles Edward Pooley relating to the Donald McLean estate. – 0.75 cm of textual records	1883-1886	1/9
2008.001/001(10)	Union Credit Correspondence – File contains William Manson’s correspondence with the Union Credit and Protective Association. – 10 textual records	1884-1890	1/10
2008.001/001(11)	Law, King and Law Publishing House Correspondence – File contains William Manson’s correspondence with Law, King and Law Publishing House relating to him becoming a sales agent for their publications. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1886-1888	1/11
2008.001/001(12)	Professional Correspondence with S.D. Pope – File contains William Manson’s correspondence with S.D. Pope, B.C. Superintendent of Education. – 10 textual records	1887-1888	1/12
2008.001/001(13)	Donald Manson correspondence – File contains William Manson’s correspondence with his son Donald. – 11 textual records	1889-1891	1/13

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2008.001/001(14)	Personal Correspondence with his children – File contains William Manson’s correspondence with his children Lizzie, Margaret, Martha, Sarah, and William. – 13 textual records	1889-1891	1/14
1969.126.005	Notebooks – File contains two notebooks used by William Manson (1869-1874 and 1885-1889) containing clippings and accounts. – 2 cm of textual records	1869-1889	2/33

Series 2: Elizabeth McLean (1838-1857)

1853-1856 — 2 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of a journal used by Elizabeth McLean from 1853 to 1856 to record poetry, letters, and thoughts. The journal was written largely while she was living at Fort Alexandria.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2008.001/001(15)	Elizabeth McLean Journal – File contains Elizabeth McLean’s journal. Following file also contains a photocopy of the journal for reference use. – 2 cm of textual records	1853-1856	1/15

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Series 3: Donald Manson (1857-1930)

1879-1929 — 7 cm of textual records and 1 map

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence, certificates, notes, and account statements that document Donald Manson's family life and career as a farmhand and rancher in the Kamloops region. The records principally consist of his personal correspondence with family members from approximately 1900-1930. Other records include his certificate of pre-emption for land at Louis Creek and a file of records related to his son Donald A.R. Manson's military service and death during WWI.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2008.001/001(16)	Official Records – File contains Donald Manson's certificate of pre-emption record and a Canada Registration Board certificate. Pre-emption record contains a hand-drawn map of property on verso. – 2 textual records and 1 map	1881-1918	1/16
2008.001/001(17)	Account statements and notice of assessment – File contains Donald Manson's tax and financial records. – 16 textual records	[190-]-1923	1/17
2008.001/001(18)	Donald Manson Poems – File contains a notebook of Donald Manson's poems. – 1 cm of textual records	[188-?]	1/18
2008.001/001(19)	Manson children notes – File contains notes on the Manson family children. – 5 textual records	[191-?]	1/19
2008.001/001(20)	Professional Correspondence 1879-1926 – File contains Donald Manson's professional correspondence with J.W. Moxley, Jean-Marie Le Jacq, H.A. Fowler, and James Stewart, among others. – 18 textual records	1879-1926	1/20
2008.001/001(21)	Oregon Property Title correspondence – File contains Donald Manson's correspondence with his brother William Manson and Attorney Willis S. Moore relating to the Oregon property title suit. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1918-1919	1/21

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2008.001/001(22)-(23)	Lizzie Manson Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his sister Lizzie Manson. – 1 cm of textual records	1906-1923	1/22-23
2008.001/002(01)	Donald A.R. Manson “Pets” Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his son Donald A.R. Manson. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1911-1915	2/1
2008.001/002(02)	Donald A.R. Manson “Pets” Army Papers – File contains Donald A.R. Manson’s military papers, including correspondence with the Department of Militia and Defense and the Board of Pension Commissioners of Canada, a certificate of death, and a telegram from the Adjutant General. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1915-1926	2/2
2008.001/002(03)	Lillian Manson Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his daughter Lillian Manson. – 1 cm of textual records	1911-1929	2/3
2008.001/002(04)	William Brown Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his son-in-law William Brown. – 7 textual records	1913-[1923?]	2/4
2008.001/002(05)	Eleanor Manson Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his daughter Eleanor. – 3 textual records	1914-1926	2/5
2008.001/002(06)	Mabel Manson Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his daughter Mabel. – 13 textual records	1923-1928	2/6
2008.001/002(07)	Margaret Manson Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his daughter Margaret. – 15 textual records	1914-1927	2/7
2008.001/002(08)	Stanley Manson Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with his son Stanley. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1922-1929	2/8
2008.001/002(09)	Chrissie Correspondence – File contains Donald Manson’s correspondence with	1923-1925	2/9

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	"Chrissie." – 6 textual records		
2008.001/002(10)	Correspondence with Family – File contains Donald Manson's correspondence with other family members. – 11 textual records	1890- [1921?]	2/10

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Manson family fonds

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Series 4: Other family members

1867-1949 — 5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence from approximately 1910 to 1940 documenting the lives of Donald Manson's children: Donald A.R., Eva, Eleanor, Lillian, Margaret, and Stanley. Also included is correspondence exchanged between Stanley Manson and his wife Alice (née MacIvor). Other records include genealogical records, certificates, and licenses.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2008.001/002(11)	Baptismal Certificates – File contains baptismal certificates for Charles Ogden Ferdinand, Peter Charles Ogden Chismore, and Martha Manson. – 2 textual records	1867-1871	2/11
2008.001/002(12)	Minnie Manson Death Certificate – File contains Minnie Manson's death certificate. – 1 textual record	1896	2/12
2008.001/002(13)	Donald A.R. Manson Correspondence – File contains Donald A.R. Manson's correspondence and life insurance policies. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1910-1915	2/13
2008.001/002(14)	Eleanor Manson Correspondence – File contains Eleanor Manson's correspondence. – 5 textual records	1924-1936	2/14
2008.001/002(15)	Eva Manson Correspondence – File contains Eva Manson's correspondence. – 4 textual records	1914-1926	2/15
2008.001/002(16)	Lillian Brown (nee Manson) Correspondence – File contains Lillian Brown's correspondence. – 14 textual records	1911-1936	2/16
2008.001/002(17)	Margaret Manson Correspondence – File contains Margaret Manson's correspondence. – 9 textual records	1915-1936	2/17
2008.001/002(18)	Stanley Manson Official Records – File contains Stanley Manson's employment records, chauffeur's license and application, rental agreements, and receipts. – 0.75 cm of	1930-1948	2/18

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	textual records		
2008.001/002(19)	Stanley Manson Correspondence with B.B. – File contains Stanley Manson’s correspondence with B.B. – 13 textual records	1928-1929	2/19
2008.001/002(20)	Stanley Manson Correspondence with Alice Manson – File contains Stanley Manson’s correspondence with his wife Alice. – 1 cm of textual records	1934-1947	2/20
2008.001/002(21)	Stanley Manson Correspondence with Family – File contains Stanley Manson’s correspondence with Eleanor, Eva, Jack McLean, Lillian, Lorraine, Mabel, and Margaret. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1914-1949	2/21
2008.001/002(22)	Stanley Manson Miscellaneous Correspondence – File contains Stanley Manson’s correspondence. – 10 textual records	1924-1939	2/22
2008.001/002(23)	Alice Manson Correspondence – File contains Alice Manson’s correspondence. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1939-1947	2/23
2008.001/002(24)	Mrs. Manson Correspondence – File contains Mrs. Manson’s correspondence. – 2 textual records	1936	2/24
0.2951	Sarah Manson Baptismal Certificate – File contains Sarah Manson’s baptismal certificate. – 1 textual record	1876	2/32
0.2949	Donald McLean’s Poems – File contains three poems written by Donald McLean, copied from the Provincial Archives of B.C. – 3 textual records	[ca. 1800s]	2/33

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Series 5: Miscellaneous records

1893-[193-?] — 2 cm of textual records and 1 map

Scope and Content: This series consists of miscellaneous records that belonged to members of the Manson family. Records include correspondence from Emily Irene Frank, baptismal and death certificates, a certificate of pre-emption record, an indenture, and two wanted posters. Also included at the end of the series is a file of unidentified letters and notes.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2008.001/002(25)	Emily Frank Correspondence – File contains Emily Frank’s correspondence. – 10 textual records	1913	2/25
2008.001/002(26)	Thomas Clarke – File contains Thomas Clarke’s death certificate and correspondence. – 2 textual records	1915	2/26
2008.001/002(27)	Certificate of Pre-emption record for Sidney E. Cameron – File contains Sidney E. Cameron’s pre-emption record, which has a hand-drawn map of the property on the verso. – 2 textual records and 1 map	1905	2/27
2008.001/002(28)	Indenture between William Johnson and Peter Herod – File contains an indenture between William Johnson and Peter Herod. – 1 textual record	1908	2/28
2008.001/002(29)	Baptismal Certificates – File contains Baptismal certificates for William and John Sharp. – 2 textual records	1893-1895	2/29
2008.001/002(30)	Wanted Posters – File contains wanted posters for Pete Olsen and William Haney. – 2 textual records	1888-1908	2/30
2008.001/002(31)	Miscellaneous – File contains miscellaneous correspondence, notes, and clippings. – 16 textual records	[191-?]- [193-?]	2/31

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Series 6: Photographs

[18-]-[19-] — 50 b&w photographs

Scope and Content: This series consists of photographs taken of various members of the Manson family and their family friends, as well as other photographs that were collected or received by members of the Manson family. The series contains 49 photographs, including portraits of Donald Manson (1798-1880), William Manson, and Donald McLean, among others; 3 group photographs, including one of Lord Strathcona's Horse Scouts; and 1 photograph taken of a ranch. Many of the photographs are unidentified and undated. A partial identification key was included by the donor and has been preserved as the last file in the series.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2008.001/003(01)	Donald Manson – File contains a photograph of Donald Manson. – 1 b&w photograph	[185-?]	3/1
2008.001/003(02)	William Manson – File contains a photograph of William Manson. – 1 b&w photograph	[1855?]	3/2
2008.001/003(03)	Donald Manson and Peter Skene Ogden II – File contains a photograph of Donald Manson and a child believed to be Peter Skene Ogden II. – 1 b&w photograph	[18-]	3/3
2008.001/003(04)	Donald McLean – File contains a photograph of Donald McLean. – 1 b&w photograph	[185-?]	3/4
2008.001/003(05)	Todd Children – File contains a photograph of Margaret Alma, Mary, Joseph, and Eleanor Todd. – 1 b&w photograph	[18-]	3/5
2008.001/003(06)	“Willie Manson” – File contains a photograph of William George Cox Manson. – 1 glass plate negative	[18-]	3/6
2008.001/003(07)	Lizzie Manson – File contains a photograph of Lizzie Manson. – 1 b&w photograph	[190-?]	3/7
2008.001/003(08)	Sarah Manson – File contains a photograph of Sarah Manson taken by Mrs. R. Maynard. – 1 b&w photograph	[19-?]	3/8
2008.001/003(09)	Mabel Manson – File contains a photograph of Mabel Manson. – 1 b&w photograph	[19-?]	3/9

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2008.001/003(10)	Donald A.R. Manson – File contains a photograph of Donald A.R. Manson with a letter from Lillian Manson to her mother Annie Manson on the back. – 1 b&w photograph	1914	3/10
2008.001/003(11)	Lillian Manson – File contains a photograph of a woman believed to be Lillian Manson. – 1 b&w photograph	[192-?]	3/11
2008.001/003(12)	Manson Family photographs – File contains photographs of unidentified people. – 2 b&w photographs	[18-?]	3/12
2008.001/003(13)	Alfred McLean? – File contains a photograph of two unidentified men in Boer War uniforms, on believed to be Alfred McLean. – 1 b&w photograph	[ca. 1902]	3/13
2008.001/003(14)	Mary Ogden – File contains photographs of Mary Ogden. – 3 b&w photographs	[18-?]	3/14
2008.001/003(15)	Archie McKinley – File contains a photograph of Archie McKinley. – 1 b&w photograph	[18-?]	3/15
2008.001/003(16)	Portraits – File contains photographs of George Simpson, Joseph Hardesty, Robert Forsyth, and Sir James Douglas, among others. – 8 b&w photographs	[188-?]-[19-?]	3/16
2008.001/003(17)	Lord Strathcona's Horse. Scouts – File contains a photograph of the Scouts of Lord Strathcona's Horse. – 1 b&w photograph	[19-]	3/17
2008.001/003(18)-(22)	Unidentified portraits – File contains unidentified portraits, one taken by Mary Spencer and three taken by Mrs. R. Maynard. – 18 b&w photographs	[18-]-[19-]	3/18-22
2008.001/003(23)	Unidentified group photographs – File contains unidentified group photographs. – 2 b&w photographs	[18-]-[19-]	3/23
2008.001/003(24)	Unidentified photograph of a ranch – File contains a photograph of an unidentified ranch. – 1 b&w photograph	[19-?]	3/24

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2008.001/003(25)	Copies of photographs with identification key for some of the images – File contains photocopied photographs with notes identifying some of the photographs. – 0.25 cm of b&w photographs	n.d.	3/25
0.2948.002	Margaret McLean's Grave – File contains a handcoloured photograph of Margaret McLean's Grave. – 1 b&w photograph	[ca. 1920s?]	3/26