

Kamloops Museum and Archives

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Whitfield Chase fonds

1970.037, 0.2792

Compiled by
Jaimie Fedorak, January 2019

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KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

1970.037, etc.

Whitfield Chase fonds

Access: Open.

Textual

1851-1908
0.025 meters

Title: Whitefield Chase fonds

Dates of Creation: 1851-1908 (copied 1970)

Physical Description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch:

Whitfield Chase was born in Sidney, Delaware on November 9, 1819. He received training at the Delaware Literary Institute in Franklin, New York, before moving to Oregon in 1852 to practice the trade of carpentry. Chase ventured briefly to California before turning north and travelling to Vancouver Island to work as a carpenter. In 1859 Chase was beginning to contemplate travelling again, considering returning to California before eventually settling on trying his luck as prospecting on the South Thompson River. Despite extensive travels, Chase and his prospecting partner Donald McPherson did not find success in the gold rush. Chase then gained employment with the Hudson's Bay Company in the Cariboo region, working at a variety of jobs until he had saved up enough money to settle. By 1865 Chase had settled in the Shuswap area near present Chase (named in his honour) with the idea of settling down to work the land, becoming the first non-native settler to the area. At this time he married a First Nations woman named Elizabeth, the daughter of the Neskonlith Indian Band Chief Synsetia. The couple would have 10 children: four sons (Ulysses, Marcus, Hubert, and David) and six daughters (Ann Sarah, Ellen Grant, Minerva, Amy, Catherine, and Lillian). Chase's ranch and orchard would be the first in the area, and was very successful, allowing him and partner McPherson to establish a general merchandise company (W. Chase and Company) and invest in a hotel. Whitfield Chase died in 1896 at the age of 77.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of photocopies and typescripts of the personal papers of Whitefield Chase. Records include various reports, financial records, correspondence, and ephemera.

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Custodial History:

Accessions 1970.037 and 0.2792 were donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives in 1970 by Marjorie Pacquette, the granddaughter of Whitfield Chase, after being copied from original documents which are held at the Chase and District Museum and Archives Society.

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.

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1851-1908

Access: Open.

Textual

0.025 meters

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1970.037.002	W. Chase Archives – File contains photocopies of various records from the collection of Whitfield Chase. Records include an Indian Commission report of the Shuswap Petition of 1877, the Petition of 1878, correspondence (see Appendix A for additional details), financial records, tax records, Constitution of the Mainland and Pioneer Benevolent Society, Esther McDonald’s Shuswap Prairie report, Nellie Chase’s Shuswap Prairie Report, Whittaker’s account regarding Chase’s will, Inland Sentinel envelope, Conservative Association ballot, jury summons, W.E. McCartney prescription envelope, Pre-emption certificate for Alex McBryan, a biographical sketch of Chase, and details from an account book. – 1.5 cm of textual records	1866-1908	1
0.2792	W. Chase’s letters – File contains a typescript of letters from Whitfield Chase to various family members including his parents, brothers (Lucius and George), and sisters (Temperance and Mary). – 1 cm of textual records	1851-1880	2

Appendix A: Correspondents

Correspondents include: E.T.W. Pearse, William Dodd, J.F. Smith, J.T. Edwards, J.H. Woodside, William Saul, C.E. Williams, P. Burns, D.G. McPherson, J. Bannerman, Duncan McDonald, Robert Todd, A.G. Pemberton, Mrs. Williams, H. Moffatt, James McIntosh, G.B. Martin, J.B. Leighton, Martin Beattie, William Fortune, John Jane, Sara Chase, Marcus Chase, Alex Lindquist, and Nellie Roper.