

Kamloops Museum and Archives



George Loney collection

0.2940, 0.3527, 0.3528, 2020.011

Compiled by
Jaimie Fedorak, February 2020

KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

0.2940, etc.

Access: Open.

George Loney collection

Textual

1886-1897

0.002 meters

Title: George Loney collection

Dates of Creation: 1886-1897

Physical Description: 0.25 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch:

George Loney was born on February 19, 1833 in Kingston, Ontario. Loney came to British Columbia ca. 1880, following the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and settling for a short time at Yale. He was transferred to Kamloops in 1883 as construction continued their expansion north. In 1885 Loney purchased land northwest of the junction of the Thompson Rivers, and established a successful horse breeding and cattle ranching enterprise. Due to the location of his property, he was contracted to provide ferry services across the Thompson River when Jean Laveau (of the Hudson's Bay Company) retired in 1887, holding the position until 1894. Shortly after this contract began, Loney made a prospecting trip up the North Thompson River, and returned with a supply of coal but did not pursue a mining claim. The following year Loney partnered with Edwin Guerin on a coal mining venture at Coal Hill, but this venture was quickly abandoned after more lucrative deposits of copper and gold were discovered nearby. In 1890 Loney married Caroline Valentine Bennett, with whom he had three daughters (Myrtle, Florence Isabel, and Bertha) and one son (Vivian George). The family continued to reside on Loney's ranch on the river junction until 1903, when they moved into Kamloops so that his children could attend school. Loney quickly established himself in the community, opening the Excelsior store on Main Street which sold new and used general goods. He also became active in local politics, running successfully for Alderman in 1904 and 1906 and routinely writing in to the newspaper to express his opinions about how Council and the Mayor were running the city. This was not the first instance of Loney writing to the paper, as he was already well known in the district for routinely submitting poetry on various local topics. He began submitting poetry to the Inland Sentinel when it was being published by Michael Hagan out of Emory, and with the exception of a few years when he sent poems to the newspapers in Victoria he continued this partnership with the Sentinel for most of his life, earning him the designation of Kamloops' unofficial Poet Laureate. In 1912 Loney briefly moved his family to Golden, B.C., but they soon returned to Kamloops. Loney was also a member of the A.F. and A.F. Kamloops Lodge No. 10 and the Anglican Church. George Loney died on December 22, 1919 in Kamloops, B.C. at the age of 86.

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Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of the personal records of George Loney including financial records, a ballot for the A.F. and A.M. Kamloops Lodge No. 10, a mining license, and a poem.

Custodial History:

There is no available donor information for this collection. Accessions 0.2940, 0.3527, and 0.3528 were previously placed in the Vertical Files, and were brought together as a collection during reprocessing in 2020. Accession 2020.011 was found in the collection in 2019.

Notes:

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

Arrangement: No apparent order to this collection exists, so order of accessions were maintained.

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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0.002 meters

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
0.2940	Financial Records – File contains a receipt from McArthur and Harper, an invoice from John Beaton, and two invoices from the Hudson's Bay Company issued to George Loney. – 4 textual records	1894-1897	1
0.3527	Kamloops Lodge No. 10 A.F. and A.M. ballot – File contains a ballot for George Loney to be initiated into the Kamloops Lodge No. 10 of the A.F. and A.M., issued to Brother Lee. – 1 textual record	1887	2
0.3528	British Columbia Mining License – File contains a British Columbia Mining License issued to George Loney for coal located on the east side of the North Thompson River 40 miles from Kamloops. – 1 textual record	1886	3
2020.011	Sweet Thompson – File contains a handwritten poem by George Loney "Sweet Thompson" held in a modern frame. – 1 textual record [in wooden frame]	[ca. 1880s]	Oversize Storage