

Fallows Family Fonds

Finding Aid

15 December 1995

In order to improve access to more of the existing holdings of Western Archives copies of a number of preliminary finding aids are being made available. These preliminary finding aids, some of which were prepared many years ago, vary in degrees of completeness, detail and accuracy. Some provide only basic box listings of the contents of a fonds or a collection, while others provide additional background material. All are intended to be the starting point for access to the records and they should not be considered a definitive source of information on the full nature and contents of the fonds or collection. Questions about the information provided in the preliminary finding aids should be directed to archives.services@uwo.ca

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Fallows Family Fonds

Dates of Creation: 1838-1912 (predominantly 1880-90).

Physical Description: 254 cm of textual records
3 photographic prints, positive polarity: 7.5 x 5 cm

Biographical Sketch

Joseph Seymour Fallows was born in Northfield, Worcester, England on the 7th of July, 1838. He had three brothers and one sister. At some point, Joseph came to Canada, and from around the 1860s was farming in West Nissouri Township, with the post office address of Evelyn. He was soon also involved in business, both local and international. In the 1870s he was connected with Frederick Ardell Fitzgerald (1840-?), a London oil refiner and first president of Imperial Oil on its founding in 1880. Fallows was an original shareholder in Imperial Oil, and by 1909, also seems to have been a partner with Fitzgerald in the London Furniture Manufacturing Company. His international ventures were in the sale of cattle to Great Britain, particularly Scotland. He seems to have been a local agent for area farmers, bringing a number of head together for export. He was connected with the livestock agents John Swan & Sons of Scotland and their Canadian and American agent, J. Henry Smith in Montreal as well as J. McLeod in Washington D.C. (later Wheeling, West Virginia). On McLeod's death, Joseph administered McLeod's estate for his wife and children.

Joseph married Catharine Keen (1834-1883), daughter of John (1800-1886) and Catharine Keen. They had three children: Ellen, who died in infancy in 1861; John (1863-1898); and Howard (1867-1946). John went to school in Toronto, was a doctor's assistant around West Nissouri, and went to intern in Kensal, England. He became a ship's doctor and medical companion, travelling to South Africa and Argentina and throughout Europe. He contracted malaria in South Africa and was always sickly. He died at the age of 35 in the wreck of the S.S. Mohegan off Cornwall, England. Howard, who was sickly as a child, remained in Canada and assisted his father in business, making several trips to England. At some point he took over running the family farm for which his father paid him a salary, and eventually bought it outright. He married Isabella Reavely whose nephew, Harold Reavely, was a professor at U.W.O. in the late 1950s.

Joseph Fallows' brothers and sister remained in England. Thomas became an alderman of Birmingham in 1893 and magistrate of Birmingham, Stafford and the county of Norwich. Later, he became Lord Mayor. He married, and had three children: Arthur, Ada, and Jessie. Howard, Joseph and Thomas' younger brother, was lame and never in good health. He married and had one daughter, Florie. The sister died at the age of 40.

Custodial History

The papers have been in the Regional Collection since the 1950s, although the exact date of acquisition is unknown. According to the former archivist, the papers were probably donated by a family member. A possible donor is Harold Reavely, the nephew of Howard and Isabella Fallows, and a professor of geology at U.W.O. in the late 1950s. It is unknown what condition the papers were in when they arrived, but various people have worked on organizing them into the present order. The Regional Collection has no record of the acquisition.

General Scope and Content

Fonds contains the private and business papers, administrative records, trade brochures, trade journals, railway timetables, and diary of Joseph Seymour Fallows, businessman and oil refiner, Nissouri West Township, 1850-1914. Records include his private and business papers and those of his father-in-law John Keen, 1850-1914, legal papers, 1895-1902, administrative records, 1860-1914, a diary, agricultural and pioneer brochures, and a railroad timetable. It also contains personal diaries of his son John, a diary and personal and business letters of his son Howard, and personal letters addressed to his wife Catharine.

Series I: Business & Personal Diaries of Joseph, Howard & John Fallows

Series II: Correspondence

Series III: Financial Records

Series IV: Legal Records

Series V: Trade Brochures, Publications & Journals

Series VI: Study Notes of John Fallows

Non-Record Series: Educational Papers

Notes

Educational Records of S.S. 11 West Nissouri Township may be owned by the country government

Series I: Business & Personal Diaries of Joseph, Howard & John Fallows

Dates of Creation: 1864, 1881-85, 1889, 1896-1898, 1900-1901

Physical Description: 10 cm of textual records
3 photographic prints, positive polarity, 7.5 x 5 cm

Series contains a business diary/notebook of Joseph Fallows, 2 farm diaries of Howard Fallows, and 5 personal diaries of John Fallows: one from when he was at school (ages 17-19) and the other a draft diary during his trip to Paris. The photographic prints were found in Howard Fallows' diary on acquisition of the collection. They are thought to be of John Keen, Joseph Fallows' father-in-law.

Series II: Correspondence

Dates of Creation: 1861-1914

Physical Description: 68 cm of textual records

Series primarily contains the business and personal correspondence of Joseph Fallows and John Fallows and some personal correspondence of Howard Fallows and of Catharine Fallows. The letters of John Fallows to his parents and brother dominate the personal correspondence. They describe his life interning in England and travelling through Europe, South Africa and Argentina and are particularly interesting in illuminating the career of a young doctor in the 1880s. They also provide information about Thomas Fallows, Joseph Fallows' brother, who became Lord Mayor of Birmingham. The business letters of Joseph Fallows reveal his wide range of contacts in Canada, the United States, and Britain (particularly Scotland) and the many facets of his wide-ranging business ventures around London, Ontario.

Subseries A. Business Correspondence

Content: Subseries contains business correspondence of Joseph Fallows, including a copybook dating from 1895-97 and 2 address books.

Subseries B. Personal Correspondence

Content: Subseries contains family correspondence of the Fallows family. The bulk of the correspondence is from John to his parents and brother. Other writers include family members in England.

Notes

Business correspondence sometimes has receipts attached by straight pins. See also Financial Records, Receipts for other receipts.

Series III: Financial Records

Dates of Creation: 1872-1901

Physical Description: 150 cm of textual records

Series contains ledgers, account books, receipts, payment book, tax records and property assessments of Joseph Fallows' businesses and farm property. (Which business primarily?). Also contains fire insurance policies for the farm and life insurance policies. The life insurance policies are valuable in revealing some of the details of Joseph Fallows' background, including his birthplace and family history.

Subseries A. Business Financial Records

Content: Subseries includes ledgers, an employee payment book, and account books from Joseph Fallows' various businesses.

Subseries B. Farm Financial Records

Content: Subseries includes tax records and assessment notices for the farm, and fire and life insurance policies for Joseph Fallows and the farm.

Subseries C: Receipts

Content: Subseries includes receipts, both loose and stored in envelopes for farm, business and miscellaneous purchases.

Note: Receipts attached to, or otherwise associated with correspondence, are found in Series I, Subseries A, Business Correspondence.

Series IV: Legal Records

Dates of Creation: 1880?-1902

Physical Description: 30? cm of textual records

Series contains the legal records of Joseph and John Fallows. Includes the certificate signed by Joseph Fallows committing his father-in-law John Keen to the London Lunatic Asylum, various documents covering the farm property, a document in which Joseph Fallows sold the farm to his son Howard, and lawyers' records of John Fallows' failed negotiations over medical partnerships in England and the expenses after his death. Also contains the papers of the John McLeod estate, which Joseph Fallows administered after McLeod's death on behalf of his wife and children and papers of John Keen, Joseph Fallows' father-in-law.

Subseries A. Joseph Fallows' Personal Records

Subseries B. John Fallows' Records

Subseries C. John Keen's Records

Subseries D. John McLeod Estate Records

Series V: Trade Brochures, Publications & Journals

Dates of Creation: 1878, ca. 1880?-1895

Physical Description: 18 cm of textual records

Series contains a large number of trade brochures from Canada and the United States for farm and other machinery, patent medicines and an organ. Many are beautifully illustrated. Also includes single issues of three journals, the European Tourist Gazette, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Monthly Journal, and the Medical Journal.

Subseries A: Trade Brochures

Content: Subseries contains trade brochures and advertisements for farm and other machinery, patent medicines and an organ.

Notes: Subseries is currently organized by state and province of the advertiser.

Subseries B: Journals

Content: Subseries contains single issues of the *European Tourist Gazette*, the *Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Monthly Journal*, and the *Medical Journal*.

Subseries C: Railway Timetable

Series VI: Study Notes of John Fallows

Dates of Creation: 1882

Physical Description: .5 cm of textual records

Series contains medical study notes of John Fallows when working as a student doctor in Nissouri Township.

Non-Record Series: Educational Records

Dates of Creation: 1853-1854

Physical Description: .5 cm of textual records

Series contains letters to the Board of Trustees, and teacher contracts and pay receipts for S.S. no. 11, Nissouri West, of which John Keen was a member.

Notes

These documents may belong to the county board of education. Documents are worm-eaten, brittle and stained by damp

Family Tree of the Fallows Family

