

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



THE ROWLAND HILL FONDS

AFC 23

Inventory prepared by Claire James – April, 2006

WESTERN ARCHIVES
THE ROWLAND HILL FONDS
AFC 23

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FONDS DESCRIPTION	4
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS	
Series 1 Personal Papers	6
Series 2 Photographs	8
Series 3 Business Papers	10

THE ROWLAND HILL FONDS
AFC 23
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1893 – 1947; added material 1983, 1985, 1992

Extent and Material

3 cm textual records
22 volumes
34 photographs

Biographical Sketch

Rowland Hill was born in London, England on September 24, 1866, the eldest son of Richard Hill and Charlotte Hall Hill. The family immigrated to London, Ontario in August, 1869.

Hill began his career in the shoe business in 1879, working for John McMechan in a custom shoe store. He then worked at J.P. Cook's Shoe Store from April, 1880 until May, 1900. On May 12, 1900, he opened the Rowland Hill Shoe Store, which was later named Rowland Hill Reliable Footwear. The first store was located on Wellington Street and was later moved to Dundas Street, and a second store was opened on Hamilton Road in 1907. Hill's sons Rowland and Clarence were involved in the business from an early age. They started by "making change" in 1904, then helped to run the two stores and later formed a partnership in the company.

Hill was very involved in the Hamilton Road Gospel Hall. For many years he was a member of the oversight committee and was also involved with the Sunday school, where he served both as teacher and superintendent. Hill was also a Gideon and member of the Christian Businessmen's Committee of London.

Hill married:

- 1) Ada Read on July 4, 1893. They had two children: Rowland (born 1894) and Clarence (1896). Ada died January 4, 1902;
- 2) Mae Wells on May 12, 1903. Mae died January 11, 1904;
- 3) Mary "Mollie" Russell Welch on August 6, 1906. They had two children: Arthur Clare (1907) and Dorothy May (1912).

Hill also had three stepsons: H. Alison, R. Travers and John Welch.

Rowland Hill died in London, Ontario on May 8, 1947.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of materials related to the personal and business activities of Rowland Hill. Included are transcripts of diaries, personal journals, photographs, and copies of

advertising materials and newspaper items.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged in the following series:

Series 1 Personal Papers

Series 2 Photographs

Series 3 Business Papers

The fonds has been arranged by the archivist.

Finding Aids

File and item lists available.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Martha Hill and Donald Hill, Rowland Hill's grandchildren, in 1994 and 1995.

Notes

Dr. Frederick Banting, the discoverer of insulin, purchased his London home from Rowland Hill in 1920.

THE ROWLAND HILL FONDS
AFC 23
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 1 Personal Papers

Dates

1893 – 1947; added material 1983, 1985

Extent and Material

1 cm textual records
 22 volumes

Scope and Content

Series consists of records relating to the personal activities of Rowland Hill. Included are a published transcription of his diaries, a transcription of his travel diary, his original journals, and photocopies of announcements of Gospel Hall events. Hill wrote in the journals almost daily about events in his personal life, as well as events in London, Canada, and the world.

Note

1. The Diaries of Rowland Hill transcribed from the original Canadian Pocket Diaries published by Brown Brothers, Toronto in 1983 by Martha Adele Hill. Sixty Days Abroad transcribed by Martha A. Hill in 1985. The originals remain with the Hill family.
2. Loose materials found in the journals have been removed and housed in corresponding files.

File and Item List

The Diaries of Rowland Hill, Sr. 1884 – 1892 [vol]	1983	AFC 23 - 2
Sixty Days Abroad: Observations by the Way on a Holiday Tour [vol]	Transcribed 1985 (originally created 1886)	AFC 23 – 2
Journal [vol]	January 1, 1893 – August 19, 1893	AFC 23 – 2
Journal [file]	January 1, 1893 – August 19, 1893	AFC 23 - 1 / 1
Journal [vol]	August 20, 1893 – December 31, 1894	AFC 23 – 2
Journal [vol]	January 1, 1895 – July 24, 1898	AFC 23 – 3
Journal [vol]	July 25, 1898 – April 7, 1902	AFC 23 – 3
Journal [vol]	April 8, 1902 – December 31, 1905	AFC 23 – 3
Journal [file]	April 8, 1902 – December 31, 1905	AFC 23 –1 / 2
Journal [vol]	January 1, 1906 – December 31, 1909	AFC 23 – 3
Journal [vol]	January 1, 1910 – May 31, 1912	AFC 23 – 4
Journal [file]	January 1, 1910 – May 31, 1912	AFC 23 –1 / 3
Journal [vol]	June 1, 1912 – August 27, 1915	AFC 23 – 4

Journal [vol]	August 28, 1915 – December 31, 1918	AFC 23 – 4
Journal [vol]	January 1, 1919 – February 28, 1922	AFC 23 – 4
Journal [vol]	March 1, 1922 – May 31, 1924	AFC 23 – 5
Journal [vol]	June 1, 1924 – October 31, 1926	AFC 23 – 5
Journal [vol]	November 1, 1926 – October 2, 1928	AFC 23 – 5
Journal [file]	November 1, 1926 – October 2, 1928	AFC 23 – 1 / 4
Journal [vol]	October 3, 1928 – November 27, 1930	AFC 23 – 5
Journal [file]	October 3, 1928 – November 27, 1930	AFC 23 – 1 / 5
Journal [vol]	November 28, 1930 – May 20, 1933	AFC 23 – 6
Journal [vol]	May 21, 1933 – February 6, 1937	AFC 23 – 6
Journal [vol]	February 7, 1937 – November 21, 1939	AFC 23 – 6
Journal [vol]	November 22, 1939 – October 20, 1942	AFC 23 – 7
Journal [vol]	October 21, 1942 – December 31, 1945	AFC 23 – 7
Journal [vol]	January 1, 1946 – April 26, 1947	AFC 23 – 7
Gospel Hill Announcements	[19--]	AFC 23 – 1 / 6

THE ROWLAND HILL FONDS
AFC 23
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 2 Photographs

Dates

1889 – [ca.1951]

Extent and Material

1 cm textual records
 21 photographs - b&w print
 13 photographs - b&w negative
 20 photocopies – b&w

Scope and Content

Series consists of images of members of Hill's family and the Rowland Hill shoe store, store staff and store vehicles. Includes prints, negatives, and photocopies of photographs retained by the Hill family.

Note

1. Negatives are stored in Copy Negatives.

File and Item List

1. Rowland Hill [print]	[19--]	AFC 23 – 1 / 7
2. Charlotte Hill [Mother of Rowland Hill] [photocopy]	[189-?]	AFC 23 – 1 / 8
Richard Hill II [Father of Rowland Hill] [photocopy]	[189-?]	
3. The Hill Sisters: Bertha, Lizzie, Lottie, May	1889	AFC 23 – 1 / 9
[Sisters of Rowland Hill] [photocopy]		
The Hill Brothers: Rowland, Tom, Dick, Arthur,	1890	
George [photocopy]		
4. Rowland Hill, Ada Hill, Clarence Hill, Rowland Hill	[189-?]	AFC 23 – 1 / 10
Jr. [print]		
5. a. Rowland Hill Jr. [print]	[19--]	AFC 23 – 1 / 11
b. Rowland Hill Jr. [print]	[19--]	
6. Rowland Wilkins Hill [Rowland Hill III] [print]	[194-]	AFC 23 – 1 / 12
7. Rowland Hill Shoe Store [129-131 Wellington]	[ca. 1900]	AFC 23 – 1 / 13
[print]		
Rowland Hill Shoe Store [129-131 Wellington]	[ca. 1900]	RC 30053
[negative]		
8. Rowland Hill Shoes [189 Dundas] [print]	[ca. 1905]	AFC 23 – 1 / 14
Rowland Hill Shoes [189 Dundas] [negative]	[ca. 1905]	RC 30050

9. Rowland Hill Shoes [189 Dundas] [print]	[1905]	AFC 23 – 1 / 15
Rowland Hill Shoes [189 Dundas] [negative]	[1905]	RC 30051
10. Rowland Hill Shoes [189 Dundas] [print]	[1905]	AFC 23 – 1 / 16
Rowland Hill Shoes [negative]	[1905]	RC 30049
11. Rowland Hill Shoes [189 Dundas] [print]	[1905?]	AFC 23 – 1 / 17
Rowland Hill Shoes [negative]	[1905?]	RC 30047
12. Rowland Hill Shoes [191-193 Dundas] [print]	[ca. 1938]	AFC 23 – 1 / 18
Rowland Hill Shoes [negative]	[ca. 1938]	RC 30045
13. Rowland Hill Shoes [203 Dundas] [print]	[ca. 1951]	AFC 23 – 1 / 19
Rowland Hill Shoes [negative]	[ca. 1951]	RC 30041
14. Rowland Hill Shoes [203 Dundas] [print]	[ca. 1951]	AFC 23 – 1 / 20
Rowland Hill Shoes [negative]	[ca. 1951]	RC 30043
15. Rowland Hill Shoes [203 Dundas] [print]	[ca. 1951]	AFC 23 – 1 / 21
Rowland Hill Shoes [negative]	[ca. 1951]	RC 30044
16. Rowland Hill Shoes [662 Dundas] [print]	[ca. 1951]	AFC 23 – 1 / 22
Rowland Hill Shoes [negative]	[ca. 1951]	RC 30042
17. Rowland Hill Shoe Store Staff Picnic [print]	1923	AFC 23 – 1 / 23
[Includes identification key]		
18. Rowland Hill Shoes Staff [print]	[ca. 1933]	AFC 23 – 1 / 24
Rowland Hill Shoes Staff [negative]	[ca. 1933]	RC 30046
19. Rowland Hill Shoe Store Staff Christmas Party [print] [Includes identification key]	[ca. 1945]	AFC 23 – 1 / 25
20. Delivery Truck [print]	[ca. 1925]	AFC 23 – 1 / 26
Delivery Truck [negative]	[ca. 1925]	RC 30052
21. Delivery Motorcycle [2 prints]	[1937]	AFC 23 – 1 / 27
Delivery Motorcycle [negative]	[1937]	RC 30048
Photocopies of Prints	1889 - [ca. 1951]	AFC 23 – 1 / 28

THE ROWLAND HILL FONDS
AFC 23
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 3 Business Papers

Dates

19[--]; added material 1992

Extent and Material

1 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of records relating to the business activities of Rowland Hill. Included are photocopies of newspaper items about the store and store advertisements, and the going out of business announcement prepared by Donald C. Hill, Rowland's grandson, in 1992.

File List

Business Papers

[19--]; 1992

AFC 23 – 1 / 29