

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**



**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**

**AFC 24**

Inventory prepared by Claire James – April, 2006  
Revised by Bev Brereton – March, 2007  
Revised by Theresa Regnier –November 2017

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**  
**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**

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**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**FONDS DESCRIPTION**

**Dates**

1805 – [1934]; added material 1819 - 1833, 2006

**Extent and Material**

61 cm of textual records  
2 volumes

**Biographical Sketch**

Henry Corry Rowley Becher immigrated to London in 1835. The Becher family was prominent in the legal profession, political and community activities, and military service. Henry C.R. Becher was a prominent attorney and active in politics. Henry Becher was a lawyer and active in London politics. Katharine Becher was active in community affairs. Henry Campbell Becher was a lawyer and stockbroker who served in World War I. Archibald Valancey Becher, a physician, also served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Thornwood, the Becher family home, was designated as a heritage building by the City of London in 1992.

**Scope and Content**

The fonds consists of materials documenting the business activities, military careers and personal lives of members of the Becher family. Included are property and legal documents, client files, financial records, military records, estate and other personal papers, photographs, and scrapbooks.

**Arrangement**

The fonds is arranged into the following sous-fonds:

- A. Henry Corry Rowley Becher
- B. Henry Becher
- C. Katharine Moore Campbell Becher
- D. Henry Campbell Becher
- E. Archibald Valancey Becher
- F. Becher Family

The fonds has been arranged by the archivist.

**Related Materials**

See additional Becher family correspondence in Series 3 of Harris Family fonds; with other material related to Becher family members in the Harris Family fonds, Lionel Ridout fonds and the H.S. Blackburn fonds.

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS DESCRIPTIONS  
SOUS-FONDS A  
HENRY CORRY ROWLEY BECHER**

**Sous-fonds A: Henry Corry Rowley Becher**

**Dates**

1833 - 1885; added material 1805, 1819

**Extent and Material**

39 cm textual material

**Biographical Sketch**

Henry Corry Rowley Becher was born June 5, 1817 in London, England, the youngest son of Captain Alexander Becher, Royal Navy, and Frances Scott Becher. He immigrated to London, Ontario in 1835.

Becher began his legal career by articling with John Wilson and was admitted as a law student at Osgoode Hall in 1836. He was appointed Registrar of the Surrogate Court of Middlesex County in 1839. Admitted as an attorney in 1840 and called to the bar in 1841, Becher was elected a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1853 and called to the bar at the Inner Temple, London, England in 1882. Becher was partner with Samuel Barker and William Purvis Rochfort Street in the law firm of Becher, Barker and Street. The firm became Becher, Street & Becher, when his son, Henry Becher, was admitted to a partnership in 1872. He served as solicitor for Colonel Thomas Talbot in the 1850s, drawing up the will that bequeathed the bulk of Talbot's estate to George Macbeth and settling a dispute between Talbot and his nephew Richard Airey; was involved in the settlement of the estate of George Jarvis Goodhue in the 1870s; and served as municipal solicitor for London from 1849 to 1853. In April and May of 1855, he alone handled the crown business at the assizes at St. Thomas, London, and Chatham, and submitted civil briefs at St. Thomas and London. Becher completed the transaction in which the Huron Diocese acquired Rough Park, the estate of Lionel Ridout which became the first site of Huron College in 1863. In 1856, Becher was appointed Queen's Counsel and lectured for a term at Osgoode Hall. He became solicitor for the Gore Bank and a director of the Great Western Railway in 1857.

Becher served on the London town council from 1850 to 1854. Attempting to enter provincial politics, he failed to obtain the Conservative nomination for London in 1857. He won the nomination in 1860, but lost the by-election. In 1861, he again vied for the nomination, but withdrew, after the intervention of John A. MacDonald, to stand for the Legislative Council for Malahide. Defeated, Becher did not run again for public office;

however, he remained an active party organizer.

Becher built Thornwood on 13 acres in London, and took up residence there in 1845. He rebuilt the house after it was destroyed by fire in 1852. Becher travelled extensively in Europe, visited the Middle East, made several trips to Florida, and wrote *A Trip to Mexico* after travelling there in 1878. In 1880, Becher became a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society. His diary has been published in the *London Advertiser* in 1926 and in *Papers and Records of the Ontario Historical Society* in 1939.

Becher married Sarah Evanson Leonard, daughter of Richard Leonard, the sheriff of the Niagara District, on October 27, 1841. Together, they had seven children: Frances Anna Maria (born 1842), Alexander (1844), Henry (1846), Richard Leonard (1848), twins Florence Mary and Constantia Ann (1850) and Alice Ethel Jane (1857), who died in infancy. Sara Becher died in 1864. On August 20, 1874, Becher married Mrs. Caroline Robertson, daughter of Samuel Street of Niagara Falls.

Henry Corry Rowley Becher died on July 6, 1885 in Sidcup, England.

### **Scope and Content**

Sous-fonds consists of records relating to the business and personal activities of Henry Corry Rowley Becher.

### **Arrangement**

The sous-fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1 Business Papers
- Series 2 Correspondence
- Series 3 Personal Papers

### **Related Material**

Additional material relating to Henry Corry Rowley Becher can be found in the Harris Family fonds, Lionel Ridout fonds and the H.S. Blackburn fonds. Material related to Becher is available at Library and Archives Canada.

*A Trip to Mexico*, is available in Special Collections under the call number F1215.B39.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Purchased from Alex Becher in 1984.

### **Notes**

1. Information for the Biographical Sketch was taken from *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**SOUS-FONDS A**  
**HENRY CORRY ROWLEY BECHER**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 1 Business Papers**

**Dates**

1805 – 1885, predominant 1850 – 1885

**Extent and Material**

30 cm textual records

**Scope and Content**

Series consists of records relating to Henry C. R. Becher's legal career. Included are a court notebook; records related to court proceedings and property transactions and office construction; insurance policies and tax assessments; client files; powers of attorney and wills.

**Notes**

1. The Jeffrey Hunter Estate Papers include documents created by Hunter between 1819 and 1841.
2. The court notebook is also available in microfilm under call number M1161.

**File Item List**

Accounts	1850	AFC 24 – 9 / 6
Accounts	1857	AFC 24 – 10 / 1
Agreements	1850, 1861 – 1873	AFC 24 – 1 / 1
Agreements	1841 – 1873	AFC 24 – 9 / 9
Bargain and Sale	1855, 1858	AFC 24 – 1 / 2
Bargain and Sale	1848 – 1865	AFC 24 – 9 / 10
Bargain and Sale	1835	AFC 24 – 10 / 2
Business Forms	[1850 – 1880]	AFC 24 – 1 / 3
Business Insurance	1859 – 1892	AFC 24 – 10 / 3
Caroline Robertson Becher	1873 – 1876	AFC 24 – 1 / 4
Caroline Becher	1855, 1875 – 1876	AFC 24 – 9 / 3
Caroline Becher	1855	AFC 24 – 10 / 4
Chancery	1862 – 1867	AFC 24 – 1 / 5
Colonel Richard Airey	1848 – 1873	AFC 24 – 1 / 6
Colonel Richard Airey - Receipts	1852 – 1865	AFC 24 – 1 / 7
Conveyance	1857, 1863, 1868	AFC 24 – 1 / 8

Conveyance	1865, 1876	AFC 24 – 9 / 11
Court Notebook [vol.]	1859 – 1870	AFC 24 – 8
Deeds	1805 – 1872	AFC 24 – 9 / 7
Deeds	1858	AFC 24 – 10 / 5
Hobbes Family Legal Papers	1863 – 1867	AFC 24 – 1 / 9
Hobbes	1863, 1865	AFC 24 – 9 / 6
Insurance Policies	1851 – 1885	AFC 24 – 1 / 10
Invoices and Receipts	1850 – 1875	AFC 24 – 1 / 11
Jeffrey Hunter Estate Papers	1819 – 1864	AFC 24 – 1 / 17
Jeffrey Hunter Estate Papers	1819 – 1864	AFC 24 – 9 / 14
Leases	1862, 1866	AFC 24 – 9 / 1
Legal Documents	1852 – 1882	AFC 24 – 1 / 12
Legal Documents	1853, 1856	AFC 24 – 9 / 4
Mortgages	1853 – 1883	AFC 24 – 1 / 13
Mortgages	1851 – 1862	AFC 24 – 10 / 6
Mortgages (1)	1853 – 1863	AFC 24 – 9 / 13
Mortgages (2)	1864 – 1876	AFC 24 – 9 / 12
Office Construction	1858; 1868	AFC 24 – 1 / 14
Plans	1858	AFC 24 – 1 / 15
Personal Insurance	1864, 1867	AFC 24 – 9 / 6
Plans [Drummondhill]	185-, 1855	MC 7 -1
Power of Attorney	1876	AFC 24 – 1 / 16
Power of Attorney	1852	AFC 24-10 / 7
Property	1852 – 1883	AFC 24 – 2 / 1
Property	1858, 1862	AFC 24 – 9 / 5
Sales	1861 – 1875	AFC 24 – 9 / 2
Taxes and Assessment Notices	1852 – 1878	AFC 24 – 2 / 2
Wills and Estates	1833 – 1878	AFC 24 – 2 / 3
Wills and Estates	1866	AFC 24 – 10 / 7

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**SOUS-FONDS A**  
**HENRY CORRY ROWLEY BECHER**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 2 Correspondence**

**Dates**

1852 - 1882

**Extent and Material**

6 cm textual records

**Scope and Content**

Series consists of correspondence of Henry C.R. Becher. Included are letters from clients, family members and friends.

**Notes**

1. Includes photocopies of letters from John A. MacDonald. Originals have been retained by the Becher family.

**File List**

Correspondence	1852 – 1866	AFC 24 – 2 / 4
Correspondence	1867 – 1882	AFC 24 – 2 / 5
Correspondence – Julius Airey	1839 – 1845	AFC 24 – 2 / 6
Correspondence – George Macbeth	1847 – 1854	AFC 24 – 2 / 7
Correspondence – Colonel Thomas Talbot	1848 – 1851	AFC 24 – 2 / 8
Correspondence – John A. MacDonald [photocopies]	1854 – 1862	AFC 24 – 2 / 9
Correspondence – Richard Airey	1876 – 1880	AFC 24 – 2 / 10

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**SOUS-FONDS A**  
**HENRY CORRY ROWLEY BECHER**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 3 Personal Papers**

**Dates**

1835 - 1883

**Extent and Material**

3 cm textual records

**Scope and Content**

Series consists of records relating to the personal activities of Henry C.R. Becher. Included are items from a family Bible, a transcribed copy of his diary; deeds, agreements, mortgages and insurance policies; and a certificate of commission to be a Notary Public.

**File List**

Diary	1835 – 1883	AFC 24 – 2 / 11
Items from Family Bible		AFC 24 – 4 / 8
Legal Documents	1844 – 1878	AFC 24 – 2 / 12

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**SOUS-FONDS DESCRIPTIONS**  
**SOUS-FONDS B**  
**HENRY BECHER**

**Sous-fonds B: Henry Becher**

**Dates**

1865, 1867 - 1888

**Extent and Material**

4 cm textual material

**Biographical Sketch**

The second son of Henry Corry Rowley Becher and Sarah Evanson Leonard Becher. Henry Becher was born at Thornwood on July 5, 1846. He studied law with his father's firm of Becher, Barker and Street, joined the firm after being called to the bar in 1867, and was admitted as a partner in the firm of Becher, Street and Becher in 1872. After his father's death, he remained in partnership with Street, as the firm Street and Becher. When Street was elevated to the bench in 1887, Becher was associated with Henry Stephen Blackburn in the firm of Becher and Blackburn. Henry Becher was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1885. He served as solicitor for the Bank of Montreal, served as a London alderman for several years and was mayor of the city in 1886. He was active in the London Hunt and served as the organization's president.

On September 19, 1872, Becher married Katharine Moore Campbell, eldest daughter of Duncan Campbell of Simcoe. The couple had three children: Henry Campbell (born 1874), Alexander Lorne (1875) and Archibald Valancey (1877).

Henry Becher died at Thornwood on January 15, 1889.

**Scope and Content**

**Arrangement**

The sous-fonds is arranged into the following series:

Series 1 Business Papers

Series 2 Personal Papers

**Related Materials**

See additional legal practice documents in the H.S. Blackburn fonds.

**Notes**

Biographical information taken from obituary and funeral notices appearing in *The Daily Free Press*, January 16, 1889 and January 18, 1889.

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**SOUS-FONDS B**  
**HENRY BECHER**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 1 Business Papers**

**Dates**

1882 - 1889

**Extent and Material**

2 cm textual records

**Scope and Content**

Series consists of records relating to Henry Becher's career as a lawyer. Included are agreements, deeds, correspondence, receipts, client file, and a printed notice of award of damages marked on reverse "Henry's last case."

**File List**

Business Papers	1882 – 1889	AFC 24 – 3 / 1
Deeds	1886, 1890, 1897	AFC 24 – 9 / 8
James O'Connor Papers	1871 – 1886	AFC 24 – 3 / 2

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**SOUS-FONDS B**  
**HENRY BECHER**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 2 Personal Papers**

**Dates**

1865 - 1889

**Extent and Material**

2 cm textual records

**Scope and Content**

Series consists of records relating to the personal activities and estate of Henry Becher. Included is a diary recording his daily activities, invoices, an agreement relating to stock transactions, and certificate on being called to the bar. Estate records include invoices and receipts, financial statements, a copy of an inventory of goods, statutory declarations, and correspondence and statements relating to Katharine Campbell Becher's trust.

**File List**

Diary	1865	AFC 24 – 3 / 3
Estate Papers	1888 – 1893	AFC 24 – 3 / 4
Invoices	1885 – 1889	AFC 24 – 3 / 5
Personal Documents	1867, 1887	AFC 24 – 3 / 6

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS DESCRIPTIONS  
SOUS-FONDS C  
KATHARINE MOORE CAMPBELL BECHER**

**Sous-fonds C: Katharine Moore Campbell Becher**

**Dates**

1868 – 1899; added material 1975, 1977

**Extent and Material**

8 cm textual records

67 photographs

1 volume

**Biographical Sketch**

Katharine Moore Campbell was born on December 4, 1849 to Duncan Campbell and Clara Anne Perkins Campbell of Lynnwood, Simcoe. She married Henry Becher on September 19, 1872. The couple had three children: Henry Campbell (born 1874), Alexander Lorne (1875) and Archibald Valancey (1877). Mrs. Becher was active in church organizations working on behalf of St. Paul's Cathedral, was a honorary president of the Red Cross Society, and served for twenty-five years as president of the Protestant Orphans Home Board. Katharine Campbell Becher died at Thornwood in London, Ontario on February 2, 1940.

**Scope and Content**

Sous-fonds consists of personal records of Katharine Campbell Becher. Included are an account book; a register of family births, marriages and deaths; personal papers; a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings about World War I, including London and area soldiers; and a sketch / photograph album containing mainly portraits (unidentified individuals), some embellished, and artwork.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

1. Papers purchased from Alex Becher in 1984.
2. Account Book and Sketch / Photograph Album purchased from Book Brothers in 1984.

**Notes**

1. Biographical information taken from the obituary notice for Mrs. Becher appearing in the *The London Free Press* on February 3, 1940.
2. Records relating to the Katharine Campbell's trust can be found in the Estate Papers file of the Personal Papers series of the Henry Becher sous-fonds.
3. The family register in the Bible had been updated after the death of Katharine Becher.

4. As the Bible was in poor condition, the family register and other items stored between the pages have been removed and placed in a file.
5. Pages have been removed from sketch/photograph album and housed separately for conservation reasons.
6. The scrapbook was compiled in the 1908 – 1912 deed book of the Ontario Loan and Debenture Company. Some of the original entries can still be viewed.
7. Loose pages from the scrapbook have been removed and placed in the file Scrapbook Inserts.

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS C  
KATHARINE CAMPBELL BECHER  
FILE and ITEM LIST**

**File and Item List**

Account Book	1899 – 1913	AFC 24 – 3 / 7
Bible Pages	1872 – 1977	AFC 24 – 3 / 8
Items from Bible – Katharine Moore Campbell	1872 – 1977	AFC 24 – 3 / 8
Personal Papers	1882 – 1915	AFC 24 – 3 / 9
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 1 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 10
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 2 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 11
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 3 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 12
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 4 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 13
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 5 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 14
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 6 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 15
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 7 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 16
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 8 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 17
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 9 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 18
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 10 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 19
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 11 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 20
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 12 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 21
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 13 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 22
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 14 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 23
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 15 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 24
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 16 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 25
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 17 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 26
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 18 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 27
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 19 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 28
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 20 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 29
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 21 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 30
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 22 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 31
Sketch / Photograph Album pg. 23 [item]	1868	AFC 24 – 3 / 32
Scrapbook [vol.]	ca. 1914 – 1919	AFC 24 – 6
Scrapbook Inserts	[1890] – [1975]	AFC 24 – 3 / 33

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS DESCRIPTIONS  
SOUS-FONDS D  
HENRY CAMPBELL BECHER**

**Sous-fonds D: Henry Campbell Becher**

**Dates**

1902 - 1913; added material 2006

**Extent and Material**

1 cm textual records  
1 volume

**Biographical Sketch**

The eldest son of Henry and Katharine Campbell Becher, Henry Campbell Becher was born at Thornwood on January 20, 1874. He was educated privately and at Trinity College School in Port Hope. He articulated with the firm of Blackburn and Cox before being admitted to the Bar and entering into partnership with Andrew Greenlees. Becher retired from legal practice in the early 1900s to open a brokerage business.

Becher was a member of the London Hunt and Country Club and served as its honorary secretary. A member of the London Dramatic Club, he appeared with the company in London, Toronto and Winnipeg.

Active in the 7th Regiment, Becher assumed command of the unit, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, in May, 1914. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in September, 1914 as a Major in the 1st (Western Ontario) Battalion. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, second in command of the battalion, in 1915.

Henry Campbell Becher was killed in action at Givenchy, France on June 15, 1915.

**Scope and Content**

Sous-fonds consists of records documenting Henry Becher's business and personal activities, and his military career. Included are an accounts book containing client accounts and records of stock market transactions and payment of dividends; an invitation to a White House reception; sundry business papers; and records relating to his military career.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

1. Accounts Ledger purchased from Attic Books in 1984.
2. Material relating to Becher's military career was downloaded in 2006 from the web sites of Library and Archives Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada and the Commonwealth War

Graves Commission.

**Notes**

1. Biographical information taken from obituary notices appearing in *The Free Press*, June 18, 1915 and July 5, 1915.
2. The White House invitation was to an Army and Navy Reception given by President Theodore Roosevelt on February 18, 1909. Among the more than 3800 attendees were guests from the Army and Navy; Vice-President Charles Fairbanks; members of the cabinet, including Attorney General Charles Joseph Bonaparte; members of the Supreme Court; the Assistant Secretaries of the Army and Navy; society members; and newspaper correspondents. Mrs. Bonaparte was Ellen Channing Day Bonaparte, the wife of the Attorney General. The Portland may refer to the Portland Flats, a luxury apartment building in Washington, D.C.

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS D  
HENRY CAMPBELL BECHER  
FILE and ITEM LIST**

**File and Item List**

Accounts Book [vol.]	1902 - 1913	AFC 24 – 7
Business Papers	1904 - 1913	AFC 24 – 3 / 35
White House Invitation	1909	AFC 24 – 3 / 36
Military Records	2006	AFC 24 – 3 / 34

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS DESCRIPTIONS  
SOUS-FONDS E  
ARCHIBALD VALANCEY BECHER**

**Sous-fonds E: Archibald Valancey Becher**

**Dates**

1914; added material 2006

**Extent and Material**

1 cm textual material

**Biographical Sketch**

The youngest son of Henry and Katharine Campbell Becher, Archibald Valancey Becher was born at Thornwood on August 3, 1877. He was educated in private schools and graduated from the Medical Department of Western University in 1900. After completing his training, Dr. Becher practiced medicine in London.

Becher interrupted his medical studies in 1900 to serve with Canada's volunteer units in the South African War. He joined the 6th Field Battery in London in 1905 and became the unit's medical officer, with the rank of Major, in 1912. Major Becher enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I and served as medical officer in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.

A member of the Conservative Club, Becher served as its vice-president and was elected its president shortly before his departure for military service in 1915. He also and served as president of the Irish Benevolent Society from 1914 to 1915.

On January 8, 1913, Becher married Flora ("Topsy") Adine Wilson, daughter of Dr. John Dolway Wilson and Flora Jessie Edith Cameron of London. The Bechers had two children: John Campbell (born 1913) and Archibald Alexander Cameron (1916).

Archibald Becher died on December 25, 1915, on his way overseas with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.

**Scope and Content**

Sous-fonds consists of correspondence with Prime Minister Borden, and records documenting Becher's military career.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

1. Correspondence purchased from Alex Becher in 1984.

2. Material relating to Becher's military career was obtained from the web sites of Library and Archives Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 2006.

### Notes

1. The City of London presented Becher, and other London area volunteers in the South African War, with watches in [1901?]. A programme of a patriotic concert and the presentations can be found in the Edwin Seaborn fonds.
2. Biographical information taken from obituary and funeral notices appearing in *The Free Press* on December 27, 1915 and December 28, 1915.

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS E  
ARCHIBALD VALANCEY BECHER  
FILE LIST**

**File List**

Correspondence – R.L. Borden	1914	AFC 24 – 4 / 1
Military Records	2006	AFC 24 – 4 / 2

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 24**  
**SOUS-FONDS DESCRIPTIONS**  
**SOUS-FONDS F**  
**BECHER FAMILY**

**Sous-fonds F: Becher Family**

**Dates**

1865 - [1934]

**Extent and Material**

8 cm textual material

148 photographs – b & w print

**Scope and Content**

Sous-fonds consists of records relating to the Becher family. The photographs include many of Thornwood, the family home and surrounding grounds, some are within the photograph album compiled by Alexander Lorne Becher; photographs of members of the Becher and Campbell families, and photographs of unidentified persons. In addition there is a scrapbook compiled by Constantia A. Becher containing newspaper illustrations, accounts of sporting events, pencil sketches, and concert programmes. Included in the miscellaneous materials are a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Certificate from the Volunteer Militia, awarded to Alexander Becher, a notice of service and death for Colonel Sullivan Edward Becher, and a Public Utilities Commission report on Becher's Island.

**Notes**

1. Alexander Lorne Becher, born 1875, was the second son of Henry and Katharine Becher.
2. Constantia Becher, born 1859, was a daughter of Henry Corry Rowley Becher. She married Sullivan Becher, an officer in the Indian Army, on October 14, 1874. Sullivan Becher was killed in 1877.
3. Alexander Becher, (1844-1897) was the eldest son of Henry Corry Rowley Becher.
4. The photograph album that belonged to A. Lorne Becher was in poor condition; therefore, the pages were removed from the album and placed in a file folder.
5. Pages from Constantia Becher's scrapbook have been removed from the boards and place in a file folder. A photocopy has replaced the last page.

**THE BECHER FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 24  
SOUS-FONDS F  
BECHER FAMILY  
FILE and ITEM LIST**

**File and Item List**

Photograph Album of Alexander Lorne Becher (see contents listed below)	1904	AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 1 Thornwood (RC40538)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 2 Thornwood (RC40537)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 3 Thornwood gardens/fountain (RC40669)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 4 Garden at Thornwood [grounds - crevasse] (RC40669/40674 as pic is cut in half- verso)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 5 Views of Thornwood (grounds, drive and family) (RC40674)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 6 View from Thornwood (RC40672)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 7 View of Thornwood (driveway and trees) (RC40671)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 8 Fountain and garden at Thornwood (RC40673)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 9 - 2 women and 1 man seated on bench in garden at Thornwood (RC40670)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 10-12 Men at mining camp?		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 13 Mann Mines - Boilers, hoists and ore cars etc.	April 1/09	AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 14 Mann Mines - No.1 vein	April 1/09	AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 15 Mann Mines - No.1 vein	April 1/09	AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 16 [Mann Mines - No.1 vein] -1 man in pic, loose photo		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 17-21 Unidentified people photos		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 22 - 2 girls standing in canoe		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 23 Woman and girl standing at water's edge		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 24 - 6 women and girls swimming and 1 in canoe		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No.25-31 Street scenes in unknown town in British Columbia		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 32-33, 35 Forest area, mining camp		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 34 - 3 men in unknown town		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 36 Man sitting on railway track with station and train cars in background		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 37, 39-40 Mountain terrain scenery		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 38 Man in boat with forest behind (same image as no.33)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 41 Man on horse facing camera in street (same image as no.27)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5

No. 42 - 3 men in unknown town (same image as no.34)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 43 Aerial panoramic view of unknown mountain community		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 44 Aerial panoramic view of unknown large mountain community (photo by Carpenter & Co. Rossland [B.C.]		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 46 - 4 men in suits		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 47 Men in suits (3 seated)		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 48 - 2 men playing cards at camp table		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 49-50 - 4 men in suits posed beside building [unknown town]		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 51-52 - 2 loose photos: baby in chair; 5 men in military uniforms		AFC 24 – 4 / 5
No. 1 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 2 Unidentified Children		AFC 24 – 5
No. 3 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 4 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 5 Unidentified Child		AFC 24 – 5
No. 6 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 7 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 8 Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 9 Unidentified Children		AFC 24 – 5
No. 10 Unidentified Child		AFC 24 – 5
No. 11 Unidentified Children		AFC 24 – 5
No. 12 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 13 Unidentified Child		AFC 24 – 5
No. 14 Unidentified Girl		AFC 24 – 5
No. 15 Unidentified Boy		AFC 24 – 5
No. 16 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 17 Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 18 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 19 Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 20 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 21 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 22 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 23 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 24 Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 25 Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 26 Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 27 Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 28 Unidentified Child		AFC 24 – 5

No. 29	Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 30	Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 31	Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 32	Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 33	Unidentified Woman and Boy		AFC 24 – 5
No. 34	Ida Carling		AFC 24 – 5
No. 35	Leslie[?] Campbell Tupper[?] Age 7 Months		AFC 24 – 5
No. 36	May[?] [On reverse: “Your affect sister May”]		AFC 24 – 5
No. 37	Duncan Campbell 3 years 3 months August 1879	1879	AFC 24 – 5
No. 38	Mr. A. Campbell		AFC 24 – 5
No. 39	Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 40	Henry Campbell Age 2 [same photo as no. 42]		AFC 24 – 5
No. 41	Harry’s Brood X-Mas 1880 (Harry Campbell Becher, Alexander Lorne Becher, Archibald Valancey Becher	1880	AFC 24 – 5
No. 42	Henry Campbell Becher 2 ¼ Years 1876 [same Photo as no. 40]	1876	AFC 24 – 5
No. 43	Alex [Lorne]. Becher July 1877 1 Year 8 Months	1877	AFC 24 – 5
No. 44	Unidentified Woman holding tennis racket		AFC 24 – 5
No. 45	Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 46	Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 47	Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 48	H. [Henry]. Campbell Becher July 1877 3 ½ Yrs Old	1877	AFC 24 – 5
No. 49	Unidentified Group		AFC 24 – 5
No. 50	Baby Alec 4 Months with Unidentified Woman Jan 1890	1890	AFC 24 – 5
No. 51	Alec 2 ½ Yrs. Old 1892	1892	AFC 24 – 5
No. 52	Unknown Man [photographed by Frank Cooper]		AFC 24 – 5
No. 53	George Carleton Hale [?]		AFC 24 – 5
No. 54	Unidentified Man and Girl		AFC 24 – 5
No. 55	Unidentified Woman		AFC 24 – 5
No. 56	Unidentified Girl		AFC 24 – 5
No. 57	Unidentified Woman and Girl		AFC 24 – 5
No. 58	Unidentified Man and Boy		AFC 24 – 5
No. 59	H. [Henry] Campbell Becher August 1890	1890	AFC 24 – 5
No. 60	Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 61	Fane[?] 10 Months March 1893 [On reverse: “With much love to Alex”]	1893	AFC 24 – 5
No. 62	Unidentified Men		AFC 24 – 5
No. 63	Unidentified Man and Child		AFC 24 – 5
No. 64	Alec 3 ½ Years March 1893	1893	AFC 24 – 5

No. 65	Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 5
No. 66	[Richard Leonard] R.L. Becher Jan 1874	1874	AFC 24 – 5
No. 67	Dog		AFC 24 – 5
No. 68	Flora (Mrs. Archibald) Becher (RC-1838)		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 69	Archibald Becher, Flora Becher, John Campbell Becher (RC-20)		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 70	Archibald Becher, John Becher [cut out] (RC-20)		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 71	Henry Campbell Becher [Note on reverse is incorrect; H. C. Becher did not marry] (RC-19)		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 72	Henry (Harry) Becher (RC-535)		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 73	H.R.H. Prince Arthur (RC-403)		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 74	Officers Depot Co. [Company] A.M.C. / Canadian Expeditionary Force		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 75	Grave of Henry Campbell Becher, Pas de Calais, France		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 76	Grave of Henry Campbell Becher, Pas de Calais, France		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 77	Henry Becher (RC-905)		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 78	Unidentified Man		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 79	Unidentified residence [England?]		AFC 24 – 4 / 3
No. 80	Archibald Becher at Thornwood on horseback (RC-1853)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 81	Archibald Becher at Thornwood with horse and dogs (RC-1854)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 82	Archibald Becher at Thornwood on horseback (RC-1855)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 83	Archibald Becher at Thornwood on horseback (RC-1856)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 84	Thornwood – Grounds (RC-40041)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 85	Thornwood – Grounds (RC-40584)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 86	Thornwood – Grounds (RC-40667)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 87	Thornwood – House (RC-40668)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 88	Thornwood – Grounds (RC40665)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 89	Thornwood – Grounds (RC-40582)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 90	Thornwood – Grounds with Mrs. Becher (RC40664)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 91	Thornwood – House (RC-40666)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 92	Thornwood – Grounds and Thames River (RC-40583)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 93	Thornwood – Grounds [cut out of No. 92] (RC40583)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4

No. 94 Thornwood – Grounds (RC40702)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 95 Mrs. Becher at Thornwood (RC-1804)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 96 Mrs. Becher at Thornwood (RC-1805)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 97 Thornwood – Grounds – view from river showing oxbow (RC-40716)		AFC 24 – 4 / 4
No. 98 Unidentified child (Picton photographer)	1885	AFC 24 – 5
Scrapbook of Constantia Becher	1865	AFC 24 – 4 / 6
Miscellaneous	1865 - [1934]	AFC 24 – 4 / 7