

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**



**KATHLEEN AND ROBINA LIZARS FAMILY FONDS**

**AFC 143**

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – March 2010

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AFC 143  
KATHLEEN AND ROBINA LIZARS FAMILY FONDS**

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**KATHLEEN AND ROBINA LIZARS FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 143**  
**FONDS DESCRIPTION**

**Dates**

1847-1849, 1854-1855, 1861-1913, 1917, 1921, 1938, [transcribed ca. 1900 (original material 1836)], predominant 1896-1913

**Extent**

73 cm of textual records  
14 photographs  
2 sketches  
1 engraving

**Biographical Sketch**

Robina Alison Lizars was born on October 10, 1853 in Stratford, Ontario, to Daniel Home and Esther (née Longworth) Lizars. Sometimes known as Ruby, Robina married widower Robert Smith, a Stratford lawyer, on July 25, 1876. Robina and Robert had two sons:

Home Robert Smith (July 1877 – Feb. 1935)

Bruce Longworth Smith (b. Aug. 1879)

Robert accepted an appointment as a Judge in Manitoba in July 1884; Robina and her sons, as well as Robert's three children by his late wife, remained in Stratford so that the children could continue their schooling there. When Robert died suddenly in January 1885, Robina and her two sons moved back to the family home.

Robina's younger sister, Kathleen MacFarlane Lizars, was born on March 12, 1857. Educated in Toronto and in Scotland, Kathleen briefly worked as a personal secretary for British Columbia Premier John Robson. In 1892, after three years in British Columbia, Kathleen moved back to the Stratford family home.

In 1896, the sisters published their first of three successful books, *In the Days of the Canada Company*. This first work was a biography of the founder of the Huron Tract, John Galt, and a history of the Canada Company in the area. Written more for entertainment than as a factual historical narrative, the book was based, in part, on researched anecdotes and reminiscences. In 1897, the Lizars published a history of the 1837 rebellions, *Humours of '37*. Their third work, *Committed to His Charge: a Canadian Chronicle*, was published in 1900. *Committed to His Charge* was written as a romantic novel, but also served as a social commentary.

Kathleen continued writing independently, publishing *The Valley of the Humber* in 1913. Robina was an accomplished musician and well-known music teacher, at one time serving on the executive of the Ontario Music Teachers' Association. Robina Lizars Smith died in 1918, and Kathleen Lizars died in 1931.

## **Scope and Content**

This fonds contains documents relating to the literary and personal activities of Kathleen Lizars and Robina (née Lizars) Smith. Drafts of their novel *In the Days of the Canada Company* and Kathleen's work entitled *Valley of the Humber*, newspaper clippings of reviews of their books, research notes and other papers, and genealogical and other documents relating to the Lizars and Smith families are included.

## **Arrangement**

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Manuscripts
- Series 2: Book reviews
- Series 3: Research materials
- Series 4: Miscellaneous documents
- Series 5: Family documents
- Series 6: Photographs and sketches

## **Finding Aids**

File and item lists are available.

## **Associated Material**

Lizars family records, as well as Kathleen and Robina Lizars' father's private library, are available at the University of Guelph.

Some of the Lizars sisters' books are available at [www.canadiana.org](http://www.canadiana.org). *Committed to his Charge*, *Humours of '37*, and *In the Days of the Canada Company* are included.

## **Related Material**

Other Lizars family records, as well as some of the correspondence of Kathleen and Robina Lizars' father, Daniel Home Lizars, are available in print and/or on microfilm at Western Archives. Relevant call numbers include M823, M836, B41, B55, and B68.

## **Custodial History**

Donated by Mrs. Bruce Smith, daughter-in-law of Robina (Lizars) Smith, in 1956.

## **Conditions Governing Access**

For preservation reasons, the plan of Quebec City in file B4307-15 has been restricted. Please consult the responsible archivist for more information.

**KATHLEEN AND ROBINA LIZARS FAMILY FONDS  
AFC 143  
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 1      Manuscripts**

**Dates**

[1896?], [ca. 1900], 1913

**Extent**

35 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains manuscripts, hand-written and typed, of Kathleen and Robina Lizars' writings. Drafts of Kathleen and Robina's 1896 work, "In the days of the Canada Company," as well as Kathleen's 1913 book "The valley of the Humber" are included. A draft for an untitled and unpublished novel, as well as some short stories, is also included.

**File List**

Title	Dates	Box/File
"In the days of the Canada Company" typed draft complete	[1896?]	B4305-1
"In the days of the Canada Company" index and letter of thanks	[1896?]	B4307-3
"In the days of the Canada Company" draft chapter 1	[1896?]	B4307-4
"In the days of the Canada Company" draft chapter 5	[1896?]	B4307-5
"In the days of the Canada Company" draft chapter 6	[1896?]	B4307-6
"In the days of the Canada Company" draft chapter 7	[1896?]	B4307-7
"In the days of the Canada Company" draft chapter 8	[1896?]	B4307-8

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
“In the days of the Canada Company” draft chapter 9	[1896?]	B4307-9
“In the days of the Canada Company” draft chapter 11	[1896?]	B4307-10
“In the days of the Canada Company” draft chapter 14	[1896?]	B4307-11
“In the days of the Canada Company” draft chapter 16	[1896?]	B4307-12
“In the days of the Canada Company” synopses of chapters 12-16	[1896?]	B4307-13
Untitled novel – part I, chapters 1-4	[ca. 1900]	B4305-2
Untitled novel – part II, chapters 1-6	[ca. 1900]	B4305-3
Untitled novel – part III, chapters 1-11	[ca. 1900]	B4305-5
Untitled novel – part IV, chapters 1-8	[ca. 1900]	B4305-4
Untitled novel – part IV, chapters 9-19	[ca. 1900]	B4305-6
Short stories	[ca. 1900]	B4305-7
Drafts of “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4306-6
Drafts of “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4306-7

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**Series 2      Book reviews**

**Dates**

1896-1898, 1900-1901

**Extent**

2 cm of textual records

2 volumes of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and press notices for the Lizars sisters' books. Reviews of "Committed to his charge," "In the days of the Canada Company", and "Humours of '37" are included.

**File/Item List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Reviews of "In the days of the Canada company"	1896	B4305-10
Reviews of "In the days of the Canada company" [vol.]	1896-1898	B4305-8
Reviews of "Humours of '37"	1897-1898	B4305-9
Reviews of "Committed to his charge" [vol.]	1900-1901	B4305-7



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**Series 3      Research materials**

**Dates**

1854, 1870-1903, 1913, 1917

**Extent**

23 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains notebooks, presumably written by Kathleen and Robina Lizars as research for their books. Handwritten extracts of older newspaper articles and anecdotes, as well as notebooks of quotes and clippings are included.

**Conditions Governing Access**

For preservation reasons, the plan of Quebec City in file B4307-15 has been restricted. Please consult the responsible archivist for more information.

**File List**

Title	Dates	Box/File
Plan of Quebec City	1854	B4307-15
Scrapbooks – French Canada research	1870-1903	B4307-1
Notebooks – research	[ca. 1895]	B4305-11
Research correspondence and notes – for “Humours of ‘37”	1897	B4305-15
Notebooks – quotes and clippings	[ca. 1900]	B4305-12
Scrapbooks – miscellaneous research	1901-1903	B4307-2
Notes for “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4306-1
Notes for “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4306-2
Notes for “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4306-3

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Notes for “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4306-4
Notes for “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4306-5
Research correspondence and notes – probably for “The valley of the Humber”	1913	B4305-13
Canadian magazine – likely researching early Humber river settlement	1917	B4305-14

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**Series 4      Miscellaneous documents**

**Dates**

1869-1916

**Extent**

1 folder of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains miscellaneous documents collected by Kathleen and Robina Lizars. Notes, sketches, and advertisements are included.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Miscellaneous documents	1869-1916	B4305-17

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**Series 5      Smith and Lizars family documents**

**Dates**

1847-1849, 1855, 1861-1913, 1921, 1938, [transcribed ca. 1900 (original material 1836)]

**Extent**

15 cm of textual records  
1 engraving

**Scope and Content**

This series contains documents relating to Robina (Lizars) Smith's family. Her husband Robert Smith's official documents and obituaries, her son Bruce's high school commercial certificate and record of confirmation, her father Daniel Home Lizars' will and memorandum of partnership, and other documents are included. An engraved portrait of Robert Smith is also included.

**File/Item List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Daniel Home Lizars – miscellaneous documents	1847-1849, 1875, 1894	B4306-10
Cumberland land advertisements	1855, 1861-1868	B4306-13
Robert Smith – miscellaneous documents [includes engraving]	1861-1885, 1938	B4306-8
Newspaper clippings – mostly obituaries	1867-1913	B4305-16
Robina (Ruby) Smith miscellaneous documents	1885-1889, 1918	B4306-15
Stratford Ontario land deeds	1890-1891	B4306-12
Home Robert Smith – miscellaneous documents	1892-1896, 1921	B4306-11
Lizars and Smith genealogy records	1894	B4306-14
Bruce Smith – miscellaneous documents	1894-1895	B4306-9

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Letter from Daniel Lizars	[transcribed ca. 1900 (original material 1836)]	B4306-16

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**Series 6      Photographs and sketches**

**Dates**

[1895?]

**Extent**

8 photographs : b&w ; 17 x 11 cm or smaller

6 photocopied photographs : b&w ; 17 x 11 cm or smaller

2 sketches : b&w ; 64 x 14 cm or smaller

**Scope and Content**

This series contains photographs and sketches made for use in the Lizars' book, "In the days of the Canada Company." The book's main characters and places, as well as some artefacts, are depicted.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
"In the days of the Canada Company" illustrations	[1895?]	B4307-14