WESTERN ARCHIVES

THE DONALD MACKENZIE CAMERON FONDS

AFC 63

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FONDS DESCRIPTION ................................................................. 4

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS
  Series 1: Family correspondence ............................................. 6
  Series 2: Business correspondence .......................................... 7
  Series 3: Legal and administrative documents ......................... 8
  Series 4: Financial records ...................................................... 9
  Series 5: Miscellaneous documents ......................................... 10
  Series 6: Cameron & Son business documents ......................... 11
THE DONALD MACKENZIE CAMERON FONDS
AFC 63
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates
1869 - 1905

Extent and Material
19 cm of textual records
2 volumes of textual records

Biographical Sketch
Donald MacKenzie Cameron was born in Dingwall, Scotland on November 11, 1843. Moving to Canada in 1859, Cameron married Victoria Gooderham (b. 2 April 1846). In addition to Lillian (b. 1874), Victoria’s daughter from her previous marriage to Robert Wilson, the couple had four children:

- Victoria Cameron Routledge (b. 27 Feb. 1876)
- Kenneth Cameron (b. 1 Nov. 1880)
- Norman Cameron (b. 7 Jan. 1882)
- Evan Cameron (b. 18 May 1885)

After working as a reporter for the London, Ontario *Prototype* and the Toronto *Globe* newspapers, Donald Cameron took over his father’s Strathroy, Ontario shoe store in the 1860s. He served as Deputy Reeve and Reeve of Strathroy between 1878 and 1883, and was elected Liberal Member of Parliament for West Middlesex in an 1883 by-election. Cameron was defeated in the federal election of 1887.

Cameron left his family shoe store, Cameron and Son, in 1894 and the family moved to London, Ontario. He was appointed Sheriff of Middlesex County in 1894 – a position he would hold for 27 years. Beginning in 1897, he served for 20 years as President of the London and Middlesex County Children’s Aid Society. Cameron was also active in lobbying railway companies to extend routes through rural South-western Ontario towns.

After Victoria Gooderham Cameron died in December, 1922, Sheriff Cameron remained at the family home in London until 1926. He then moved in with his son Kenneth in Ottawa, where he lived until his death on May 12, 1936. Donald MacKenzie Cameron and his wife are interred in the mausoleum at London’s Woodland Cemetery.

Scope and Content
The fonds consists of materials related to Cameron’s business activities and personal life. Included are legal and financial records, correspondence, and miscellaneous documents.
Arrangement
The fonds is arranged into the following series:
   Series 1  Family correspondence
   Series 2  Business correspondence
   Series 3  Legal and administrative documents
   Series 4  Financial documents
   Series 5  Miscellaneous documents
   Series 6  Cameron & Son business documents

Finding Aids
File and item lists are available.

Related Material
Western Archives has many records from the Middlesex County Sheriff that cover D.M. Cameron’s time in that office. Box numbers are included in the list below:
   Cash books       X196-199
   Day books        X153-176
   Fee books        X189-190
   Ledgers          X191-195
   Petit cash books B48
   Record of fees due B37

Conditions Governing Access
No restrictions on access.
Series 1  Family correspondence

Dates
1902-1905

Extent
4 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of letters to Donald MacKenzie Cameron from two of his sons, Kenneth and Evan. Also included are letters from Col. R. Reade of the Royal Military College of Canada regarding Keith and Evan’s attendance there. Family attendance records, report cards and receipts are also included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters family – undated</td>
<td>[ca. 1905]</td>
<td>B4014-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters &amp; undated correspondence (family)</td>
<td>[ca. 1905]</td>
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</table>
Series 2   General correspondence

Dates
1889-1912

Extent
6 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series consists of correspondence and other documents related to Cameron’s involvement with the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Strathroy Collegiate Institute. Letters from the man who had been contracted to maintain the family cottage near Sarnia are also included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>1896-1898</td>
<td>B4014-18</td>
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<td>General accounts, letters, 1899</td>
<td>1899</td>
<td>B4014-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>General accounts, letters, 1900-1912</td>
<td>1900-1912</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Series 3  Legal and administrative documents

Dates
1893-1905

Extent
3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of legal and administrative documents relating to Cameron’s personal property and business. Included are indentures, a blank mortgage form, and petitions, acts, votes, and proceedings regarding the proposed Canadian National railroad through Arkona, Ontario.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>Administrative records, railway petitions 1900</td>
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<td>Administrative records, acts, votes, and proceedings 1897-1899</td>
<td>1897-1899</td>
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</table>
THE DONALD MACKENZIE CAMERON FONDS  
AFC 63  
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 4  Financial documents

Dates
1893-1902

Extent
2 folders of textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of financial records of Donald MacKenzie Cameron’s personal life. The records include property tax documents from Sarnia and Strathroy, as well as receipts for goods and services.

File List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General accounts, taxes &amp; assessment notices 1893-1902</td>
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<tr>
<td>General accounts, statements &amp; accounts 1893-1898</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Series 5  Miscellaneous documents

Dates
1887-1898

Extent
4 folders of textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of sketches and correspondence related to building plans and Cameron’s Lake Shore Cottage in Sarnia, Ontario. Receipts, letters, copies of subpoenas, and a catalogue section are included. Records relating to Samuel Carroll, supported by Cameron after being accused of perjury in 1887, are also included.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General accounts, property &amp; building plans.</td>
<td>[ca. 1890]</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1895-1896</td>
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<td>General accounts, Samuel Carroll papers 1887-1898</td>
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</table>
THE DONALD MACKENZIE CAMERON FONDS
AFC 63
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 6  Cameron & Son business documents

Dates
1869-1895

Extent
3 folders of textual records
2 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of correspondence, a ledger, and an account book from the Cameron & Son Shoe Company. The ledger records transactions, sorted by customer. The account book lists credit and cash transactions by date.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameron &amp; Son (Wm. &amp; Donald M) Strathroy, Boots &amp; Shoes (dealers in) Ledger, 1869-1883 [vol.]</td>
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<td>Cameron, D.M., account book [vol.]</td>
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<td>General accounts, letters, 1872-1890</td>
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<td>General accounts, letters, 1891</td>
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<td>General accounts, letters, 1892-1895</td>
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