

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**



**THE SOLON WOOLVERTON FAMILY FONDS**

**AFC 70**

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements - September 2009

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**  
**AFC 70**  
**THE SOLON WOOLVERTON FAMILY FONDS**

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**THE SOLON WOOLVERTON FAMILY FONDS**  
**AFC 70**  
**FONDS DESCRIPTION**

**Dates**

1805, 1822-1832, [ca. 1860]-1982, predominant 1890-1934

**Extent**

30 cm of textual records  
11 volumes  
19 photographs

**Biographical Sketch**

Solon Woolverton was born on March 31, 1845 in Grimsby Ontario, the fifth of six children of Dr. Jonathan and Dr. Emmeline (née Bergmann) Woolverton. Schooled at the Baptist college in Woodstock Ontario, Woolverton worked as a teacher before deciding to pursue dentistry. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and then the Royal College of Dental Surgery in Toronto, becoming Canada's first dental school graduate in 1871. On October 22, 1873 he married Elizabeth Jane Walker (b. April 4, 1850), also of Grimsby Ontario. The couple had six children:

Maude Woolverton (1874-1878)  
Edith Woolverton (1876-1878)  
John Arthur Woolverton (1879-1964)  
Euphemia Louise (Effie) Woolverton (1882-1959)  
Elizabeth Jane (Bessie) Woolverton Follinsbee (1883-1971)  
Laura B. Woolverton (1886-1982)

Dr. Woolverton practiced dentistry in Grimsby for ten years before moving to London, Ontario in 1881. While Dr. Woolverton's primary occupation was dentistry, he also held interests in geology, history, genealogy, astronomy and archaeology. He was a professor of geology at the University of Western Ontario in the late 1890's, and was active in the Entomological Society of Ontario, the London and Middlesex Historical Society, and the Ontario Historical Society. In 1910, Dr. Woolverton also founded the Albemarle Zinc Company.

Dr. Woolverton's collected a wide variety of objects including coins, shells, Indian relics, rocks and minerals, fossils and corals, war implements, skulls and human bones, and numerous other curiosities. He also collected historical documents such as land grants and possessed the diary of Joseph Willcocks [Wilcox], an important figure in the War of 1812. In the 1920s, Dr. Woolverton attempted to sell his collection as the basis for a museum; no final sale was ever documented. The Joseph Willcocks material was eventually donated to Library and Archives Canada.

Dr. Woolverton continued practicing dentistry until 1931, at the age of 88. The Woolvertons celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October, 1943. Dr. Solon Woolverton died December 9, 1943; Elizabeth died almost 4 years later. The Woolvertons are buried in St. Andrew's Anglican Cemetery in Grimsby, Ontario.

### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of the personal records of Dr. Solon Woolverton and his family. Historical accounts, scrapbooks, photographs, reports and minutes of various societies of which Dr. Woolverton was a member, legal documents, correspondence, and scrapbooks are included.

### **Arrangement**

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Solon Woolverton personal papers and correspondence
- Series 2: Woolverton family photographs
- Series 3: Bessie and Laura Woolverton documents
- Series 4: Solon Woolverton historical accounts
- Series 5: Solon Woolverton society documents
- Series 6: Solon Woolverton poetic documents
- Series 7: Solon Woolverton scrapbooks
- Series 8: Solon and Elizabeth Woolverton 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary books

### **Finding Aids**

File and item lists are available.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Most of the material was donated by Dr. Edwin Seaborn in 1947. Laura Woolverton donated 19 photographs and 2 of the scrapbooks in the early 1980s.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

For preservation reasons, restrictions on photocopying apply to some scrapbooks in this fonds. Please see additional information under series 7.

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**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 1      Solon Woolverton personal papers and correspondence**

**Dates**

1805, 1822-1832, 1872-1937

**Extent**

4 folders of textual records  
 1 volume

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of the personal papers of Solon Woolverton. Correspondence, legal documents and land grants, teaching papers, and other documents are included.

**File List**

Title	Dates	Box/File
Personal papers – correspondence – Public Archives of Canada [re: Joseph Willcocks]	1923-1924, 1937	B4314-1
Personal papers – correspondence – general	1904, 1933	B4314-2
Personal papers - legal documents	1805, 1822-1832, 1920-1925	B4314-3
Personal papers – miscellaneous file	1872-1936	B4314-6
Papers on geology and mineralogy of Solon Woolverton, D.D.S. [vol.]	1898-1920	B4315

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**Series 2      Woolverton family photographs**

**Dates**

[ca. 1860]-1912

**Extent**

13 photographs : b&w ; 17 x 21 cm or smaller

6 photographs : tintypes ; 9 x 6 cm or smaller

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of photographs and tintypes relating to the life of Solon Woolverton and his family. Portraits, landscapes, and group scenes at the Trafalgar School are included.

**Note**

Five photographs from this series have been transferred to the regional photograph collection. Please consult the Archives' reference desk for more information.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Personal papers – photographs	[ca. 1860]-1912	B4314-5

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**Series 3      Bessie and Laura Woolverton documents**

**Dates**

1908, 1937-1982

**Extent**

1 folder of textual records  
1 volume

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of documents relating to the personal lives of Laura and Bessie Woolverton. A minute book from London's Suburban Tennis Club (of which Bessie Woolverton was a member) and miscellaneous personal papers are included.

**File and Item List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Personal papers – Woolverton, Laura, Bessie (daughters of Solon and Elizabeth Woolverton)	1937-1982	B4314-4
Societies – Suburban Tennis Club, London Ont. Minute book (B. Woolverton) [vol.]	1908	B4314-20



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**Series 4      Solon Woolverton historical accounts**

**Dates**

[ca. 1890]-1933

**Extent**

25 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of historical accounts, many of them typed transcriptions, of people, places, and events in the history of Ontario. Genealogical information about the family of Solon Woolverton is included.

**File List**

Title	Dates	Box/File
Historical accounts – events – War of 1812 – Battle of Stoney Creek	1933	B4314-7
Historical accounts – events – War of 1812 – War of 1813 in Kent	[ca. 1910]	B4314-8
Historical accounts – family history – Nelles family	[ca. 1910]	B4314-9
Historical accounts – family history – Woolverton family	[between 1914 and 1918]	B4314-10
Historical accounts – family history – Nelles murder, suspect Townsend	[ca. 1890]	B4314-11
Historical accounts – people – Simcoe, John Graves	[ca. 1910]	B4314-12
Historical accounts – places – London, Ont.	[ca. 1910]	B4314-13
Historical accounts – places – Elgin Co. – S.S. no 2 Dunwich, Talbot Settlement	[ca. 1910]	B4314-14

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Historical accounts – general – history of the Bar at Middlesex	[ca. 1910]	B4314-15
Historical accounts – general – history of the Church of England at Grimsby, Ont. 1794-1914	1914	B4314-16
Journal accounts – Joseph Willcock’s diary – extracts from his journal and letter book (typed transcript)	[ca. 1910]	B4314-21
Journal accounts – Elijah Woodman’s diaries – typed transcriptions	[ca. 1910]	B4314-29
General papers – obituary notices – O’Brien Dennis J.P.	[ca. 1910]	B4314-22
General papers – obituary notices – Nelles, Mungo ; Rutherford, Adam ; Mitchell, James	1917	B4314-23
General papers – specification and agreement re construction in Woodland Cemetery of mausoleum for Pixley Fulford family	1894	B4314-26
General papers – newsclippings	1902-1939	B4314-27

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**Series 5      Solon Woolverton society documents**

**Dates**

[ca. 1895]-1926

**Extent**

3 folders of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of the reports of several societies with which Solon Woolverton was associated. Reports from the Geological section of the Entomological Society of Ontario, the London and Middlesex Historical Society, and the Ontario Historical Society are included.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Societies – Entomological Society of Ontario – Geological Section (report)	[ca. 1895]	B4314-17
Societies – London & Middlesex Historical Society	1903	B4314-18
Societies – Ontario Historical Society annual report 1926	1926	B4314-19

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**Series 6      Solon Woolverton poetic documents**

**Dates**

1896-[ca. 1915]

**Extent**

2 folders of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of poems compiled by Solon Woolverton. The poems of W.W. Revington and Henry Taylor are included.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
General papers – poetry – Revington, W.W. (Adare)	[ca. 1915]	B4314-24
General papers – poetry – Taylor, Henry (poems & bio)	1896-[ca 1910]	B4314-25

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**Series 7      Solon Woolverton scrapbooks**

**Dates**

[ca. 1880], 1896-1934

**Extent**

7 volumes

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of scrapbooks compiled by Solon Woolverton. Newspaper clippings and some correspondence are included.

**Note**

For preservation reasons, restrictions on photocopying apply to the scrapbooks in box B4315.

**Volume List**

Title	Dates	Box
Woolverton, Solon scrapbook (Sir Andrew Pattulo) [vol.]	1901	B4315
Woolverton, Solon scrapbook including a small proportion of correspondence [vol.]	1896-1917, 1931	B4315
Wolverton, Solon 2 scrapbooks (literary) [vols.]	[ca. 1880]	B4315
Scrap book (orange) [vol.]	1922-1934	X1502
Scrap book (pink) [vol.]	1925-1934	X1502
Scraps (green) [vol.]	1924-1931	X1502

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**Series 8      Solon and Elizabeth Woolverton 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary books**

**Dates**

1933-1959

**Extent**

1 folder of textual material  
2 volumes

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of three books to commemorate Solon and Elizabeth Woolverton's sixtieth wedding anniversary in 1933. A visitors register, an autograph book, and a scrap book with correspondence and greeting cards are included. The visitors book was maintained by Laura Woolverton after her parents' death; clippings from Solon and Elizabeth Woolverton's obituaries are also included.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
General papers – guest lists – visitors book [vol.]	1933-1959	B4314-28
General papers – guest lists – autograph book	1933	B4314-30
General papers – guest lists – scrap book (60 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) [vol.]	1933	B4314-31