

Walter George Cornwall White fonds. - 1675 - 1976. - 124 cm textual records

Biographical history

Walter George Cornwall White was born on October 27, 1901 at St. John's, he was the second son of William White of Trinity and Lavina Hopkins Taylor of Bay Roberts who were wed at Whitbourne on December 28, 1897. His elder brother was Raymond Mayers Taylor White (1899 - 1937) and his sister was Mary Manston White (1903 - 1995). When he was very young the family returned to Trinity from St. John's, and there he spent his early boyhood years except for several months each year which were spent at Bonne Bay.

His education was taken at St. Paul's High School, Trinity, (1909 - 1916), and completed at Bishop Field College, St. John's (1916 - 1919); where he took an active part in athletics. After graduation from Bishop Field College he was employed by the Royal Bank of Canada at Trinity and maintained an interest in athletics by participating in soccer and ice hockey, as well as being a member of the Trinity Tennis Club. He then moved to Grand Falls where he worked at the General Office of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company Limited. At Grand Falls, he continued to take part in soccer and ice hockey and was a member of Southcott's Novelty Orchestra where he played the violin. In 1935, Mr. White joined the Newfoundland Customs Office and worked in St. John's, Corner Brook, Port Union (1936 - 1945) and again in Corner Brook (1945 - 1947) before being appointed to the Appraisal Division in St. John's in 1947. He retired from the Appraisal Division, Customs and Excise, Department of National Revenue of Canada in 1962 and moved, in that year, back to Trinity with his family.

Mr. White was married on September 25, 1935 to Stella E. Lockyer of Trinity. They had three children - Eleanor Ruth (1936 - 1937), David Raymond Lockyer (1937 -) and Monica Myra Taylor (1941 - 1969).

Shortly after his return to Trinity he became a member of the Trinity Historical Sites Committee (1964), was a charter member of the Trinity Historical Society and was appointed its Corresponding Secretary upon its founding in 1966. Mr. White had a passion for tracing and recording the history of the town and its neighbouring communities and spent great amounts of time and effort studying and collecting historical documents, records and artifacts relating to Trinity and the Trinity area. Mrs. White was noted as having aided her husband untiringly in his work when she transcribed by hand, many historical documents including the baptism, marriage and burial records of the Parish of Trinity (1753 - 1867); the Slade letter books and journals (1809 - 1852) and a copy of Benjamin Lester's Diary (1762 - 1763).

Gradually Mr. White had gathered what was to become the nucleus of the Trinity Museum and Archives, which was opened in 1967 and was immediately acknowledged by mainland and provincial curators, as well as thousands of visitors as one of the finest of its kind.

In June 1971, Mr White was presented an award, by Minister Jean Chretien, on behalf of the Canadian people to record their thanks for a “generous contribution to the preservation and enrichment of Canada’s historical heritage.” This certificate recognized his depth of knowledge, thorough research and contribution to the Newfoundland and National Museums, concerning the early history of Trinity and its settlers.

On October 20, 1973, he was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree, honoris causa, from Memorial University of Newfoundland for his work “in preserving the history of Trinity and the establishment of the Trinity Museum.”

In 1975 Mr. White was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Newfoundland Historic Trust to commend a “lifetime commitment to Heritage Conservation and to record the Trust’s gratitude for the inspiration his untiring devotion has given to all those whose voluntary efforts to protect our heritage will hopefully ensure that the best of the past will survive for future generations.

Mr. White passed away on June 21, 1976 and his loving wife died shortly thereafter on November 17, 1976.

Source: Material supplied by David R. L. White.

Custodial history

The records in this fonds were collected by Mr. White throughout his life and were kept at the family home in Trinity. After his passing his son David R. L. White was given custodianship of the records and they remained at the family home until the spring of 2001 when he donated them to the archives. In the summer of 2001 the material was arranged according to the Rules for Archival Description (RAD) and all original magazine and newspaper clippings were photocopied and the originals destroyed according to archival policy.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of a collection of material that was collected by Mr. White on various topics and areas of interest. It consists mainly of magazine and newspaper clippings, as well as original documents and photographs that were either collected or donated

The material has been arranged into two series, the first series being the files that Mr. White collected, these files have remained in alphabetical order, the same as he had arranged them. The second series consists of lectures that were given by various speakers to the members of the Newfoundland Historical Society.

Notes

Photographs have been removed and placed with the Trinity Historical Society Photograph Collection.

Donated by David R. L. White, son of Walter G. C. White, 2001.

Further accruals are expected.

Series 1: Walter G. C. White subject files. - 1675 - 1976. - 110 cm

The files contain research notes, essays, copies of documents, extracts from published material, magazine and newspaper clippings created and collected by Walter. These files include information on a wide range of topics relating to the history of Trinity and the surrounding communities. The files are arranged in alphabetical order according to subject.

- 1.01 Accidents/Sudden Deaths
- 1.02 Acts and Regulations Relating to the Preservation of Historic Objects, Sites and Records, 1955 - 1973
- 1.03 Admiralty Reports, 1746 - 1776
- 1.04 Aeroplane Fund
- 1.05 Anatomy
- 1.06 Andrews, Henry
- 1.07 Anspach, Lewis Amadeus
- 1.08 Ash, Francis and Richard
- 1.09 August, John
- 1.10 Baptisms
- 1.11 Bar Point
- 1.12 Barrelman, Best of the
- 1.13 Barrett, Sandy
- 1.14 Battle Harbour
- 1.15 Beothuck
- 1.16 Billfish/Needlefish
- 1.17 Blacksmith, John Green
- 1.18 Boats
- 1.19 Bonavista
- 1.20 Bonfoy, Captain Hugh - Governor 1753 - 1755
- 1.21 Books, Reference
- 1.22 Bonaventura
- 1.23 Brewis
- 1.24 Bremner
- 1.25 Brine
- 1.26 Buchan, David
- 1.27 Buchanan, George and Mary
- 1.28 Bullock, Rev. William
- 1.29 Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings
- 1.30 Calendar
- 1.31 HMS Calypso
- 1.32 Cannon Inventory
- 1.33 S. S. Caribou
- 1.34 Carmichael, Annie Rosa
- 1.35 Cartwright, Capt. George
- 1.36 Cemetery, Old St. Paul's

- 1.37 Census, 1675 (copy)
- 1.38 Census, 1901
- 1.39 Cherrington, Violet M.
- 1.40 Cholera
- 1.41 CEWA Notes, 1876
- 1.42 Clergy, Anglican
- 1.43 Clinch, Rev. John
- 1.44 Clocks
- 1.45 Coaker, William Ford
- 1.46 Collingham
- 1.47 Come Home Year, 1966 - 1967
- 1.48 Cookesley
- 1.49 Cooperage
- 1.50 Commerce
- 1.51 Cormack, William E.
- 1.52 Corte Real
- 1.53 Courthouse
- 1.54 Courts of Justice
- 1.55 Court Records
- 1.56 Court Staffs
- 1.57 Cross, Captain William G.
- 1.58 Currier and Ives
- 1.59 Custom's Officers
- 1.60 Diary, Spithead to Trinity, 1823
- 1.61 Dictionary of Canadian Biography
- 1.62 Distress/Hard Times
- 1.63 Doctors
- 1.64 Drake, Francis William - Governor, 1750 - 1753
- 1.65 Duckworth, Sir J. J. - Governor, 1810 - 1813
- 1.66 Edwards, Capt. Richard - Governor, 1757 - 1760
- 1.67 Elector's List, 1865
- 1.68 Election, John Bingley Garland, 1832
- 1.69 Elections, 1823 - 1855
- 1.70 Falkland
- 1.71 Fences
- 1.72 Ferry, Trinity
- 1.73 Ferryland
- 1.74 Firearm/Ammunition Return, 1940
- 1.75 Fire Engines
- 1.76 Fireplaces
- 1.77 Fisheries
- 1.78 Fishing Admirals
- 1.79 Flags
- 1.80 Flat Irons
- 1.81 Fogo

- 1.82 Fortifications/Fort Point
- 1.83 Forts
- 1.84 French Occupation
- 1.85 Gander
- 1.86 Garland Fire Pumper
- 1.87 Garland Premises
- 1.88 Gawlor, Thomas
- 1.89 General Hospital, St. John's
- 1.90 Gent, Samuel Augustus
- 1.91 The Great Eastern
- 1.92 Greely Expedition
- 1.93 Green
- 1.94 Greenspond
- 1.95 Groves Ground
- 1.96 Gun Hill
- 1.97 Guns
- 1.98 Guy, Ray
- 1.99 Halifax
- 1.100 Hamburg Bread
- 1.101 Hart
- 1.102 Harvey's Cove
- 1.103 Heart's Content
- 1.104 Heritage Village
- 1.105 Hibb's Cove
- 1.106 Historic odds and ends
- 1.107 Hope, Brig.
- 1.108 Horwood, Harold
- 1.109 Hospital
- 1.110 Howley
- 1.111 Harbour Grace
- 1.112 Hurdle
- 1.113 Ice Report's, Catalina, 1887
- 1.114 Immigrants
- 1.115 Index Book
- 1.116 Interments
- 1.117 Inventions
- 1.118 Isobel
- 1.119 Jenkins
- 1.120 Jenner, Dr. Edward
- 1.121 "Joey" the column, 1972
- 1.122 Jurors, Petty, 1857
- 1.123 Keats, Sir R. G. - Governor, 1813 - 1816
- 1.124 Kelson, William
- 1.125 King, A. G.
- 1.126 Kinsmen Club

- 1.127 L'Anse aux Meadows
- 1.128 Leigh, Rev. John
- 1.129 Lesters
- 1.130 Library
- 1.131 Lighthouses
- 1.132 S. S. Lion
- 1.133 Liverpool Manuscript
- 1.134 Lockston
- 1.135 Losses at Sea
- 1.136 Loyal Orange Association # 12
- 1.137 Maps
- 1.138 Marine Archaeology
- 1.139 Maine Borer
- 1.140 Markers, Historic
- 1.141 Marriages
- 1.142 Masonic Lodge
- 1.143 Merchants

Location: Walter G. C. White fonds, Drawer 1.

- 1.144 Micmac Indians
- 1.145 Moody
- 1.146 Morris, I. C.
- 1.147 Morris
- 1.148 Mosdell, Corrections to *When was that?*
- 1.149 Mowat, Farley
- 1.150 Museums
- 1.151 Museum, Trinity
- 1.152 Newfoundlandia
- 1.153 Newhook
- 1.154 Nomenclature
- 1.155 The O'Dea Report
- 1.156 Oil Paintings
- 1.157 Old Houses
- 1.158 Parsonage
- 1.159 Penguin Cove
- 1.160 Perlin
- 1.161 Petition, 1875
- 1.162 Pirates
- 1.163 Place Names
- 1.164 Placentia
- 1.165 Pole. Admiral Charles M.
- 1.166 Police
- 1.167 Poole
- 1.168 Powell

- 1.169 Prices, 1907
- 1.170 Pulling, Capt. G. C.
- 1.171 Purchases
- 1.172 Quarantine
- 1.173 Quidi Vidi
- 1.174 Rattling Brook/Lockston Power House
- 1.175 Reeves
- 1.176 Re-enactments
- 1.177 Rennie
- 1.178 Reproductions
- 1.179 Resettlement
- 1.180 Restorations
- 1.181 Rider's Harbour
- 1.182 Roads
- 1.183 Road Commission Record book, 1835 - 1843
- 1.184 Rodney, George Bridge - Governor, 1749
- 1.185 Roman Catholic Church
- 1.186 Rope
- 1.187 Royal Engineers Reports, 1812
- 1.188 Rowe
- 1.189 Sack Ships
- 1.190 Saunders and Sweetman
- 1.191 Sampler
- 1.192 School, Purchase of Trinity
- 1.193 Schools and Schoolmasters
- 1.194 Sealing
- 1.195 Sealing - newspaper clippings
- 1.196 Sealing Ships - the Bear
- 1.197 Sealing agreements
- 1.198 Settlers
- 1.199 Shanawdithit
- 1.200 Ship building
- 1.201 Shipping
- 1.202 Signal Hill
- 1.203 Slades
- 1.204 Slade and Kelson Diary, April 10, 1803 - September 12, 1806, transcript
- 1.205 Slate Roof
- 1.206 Sleat and Read
- 1.207 Smallwood, Joseph Robert
- 1.208 Smith, Canon Benjamin
- 1.209 Smith, Canon Walter
- 1.210 Social events
- 1.211 Society for the Propagation of the Gospel
- 1.212 Society of Untied Fishermen
- 1.213 Sons of Temperance

- 1.214 St. John's
- 1.215 Stamps
- 1.216 Statistics Canada
- 1.217 Stoneman, William
- 1.218 Scully's Cove
- 1.219 Sydney, Nova Scotia
- 1.220 Taverner
- 1.221 Tilting Harbour
- 1.222 Tocque. Phillip
- 1.223 Toponymy
- 1.224 Toronto Marine Museum
- 1.225 Tradesmen
- 1.226 Trawl line
- 1.227 Trident
- 1.228 Trinity Bay Disaster, 1892
- 1.229 Trinity, Charts
- 1.230 Trinity, Documentary
- 1.231 Trinity Historic Sites
- 1.232 Trinity Historical Society
- 1.233 Trinity, Loan Library
- 1.234 Trinity, Name
- 1.235 Trinity, North Side/Trinity East
- 1.236 Trinity, North West Arm/Lockston
- 1.237 Trinity, Prowse
- 1.238 Trinity, South Side
- 1.239 Trinity, South West Arm
- 1.240 Trinity
- 1.241 Trouty
- 1.242 Turre
- 1.243 Twillingate
- 1.244 United Church
- 1.245 Visitor's Addresses
- 1.246 Voter's Lists, 1836 - 1838
- 1.247 Walters
- 1.248 Waterhouse
- 1.249 Weather
- 1.250 Webber, David
- 1.251 Wedding Ceremony
- 1.252 Weekly Record
- 1.253 Wesleyville
- 1.254 Whitbourne, Sir Richard
- 1.255 Whitby, Mrs. B.
- 1.256 Whipping Post
- 1.257 Whiteley
- 1.258 Williamsburg

- 1.259 Wilson, Rev. William
- 1.260 Winterton
- 1.261 Wix, Archdeacon
- 1.262 World War I
- 1.263 Wright
- 1.264 Youngsters

Location: Walter G. C. White fonds, Drawer 2.

Series 2: Newfoundland Historical Society Lectures. - 1967 - 1976. - 14 cm

The Society holds a monthly lecture where they invite different speakers to come and give a presentation on a topic they have an interest in and that they have carried out research on. Walter as corresponding secretary for the Trinity Historical Society held a great relationship with the Newfoundland Historical Society and collected copies of their lecture series.

- 2.01 "The Harbour Grace Affray" by Arthur Fox, December 15, 1967
- 2.02 "Sir William Coaker and the Political Activities of the F. P. U." by John Feltham, February 7, 1968
- 2.03 "Captain James Cook, Surveyor and Discoverer" by R. A. Skelton, May 30, 1968
- 2.04 "Jens Haven and the Moravian Mission to Labrador" by James K. Hiller, October 23, 1968
- 2.05 "The West Country Merchants of Newfoundland" by Dr. Keith Matthews, December 10, 1968
- 2.06 "James Cook, Hugh Palliser and the Newfoundland Fishery" by Dr. William H. Whiteley, October 21, 1969
- 2.07 "Judge Prowse, 1834 - 1914" by G. M. Story, February 17, 1970
- 2.08 "Old Time Politics in Newfoundland" by Addison Brown, June 3, 1970
- 2.09 "An Outline of History of Western Newfoundland with emphasis on Bay of Islands" by Dr. Noel F. Murphy, October 21, 1970
- 2.10 "Early Newfoundland Currency" by C. Francis Rowe, February 24, 1971
- 2.11 "The Papers of Admiral Sir John Thomas Duckworth: Newfoundland and Newfoundland Government, 1810 - 1813, April 21, 1971
- 2.12 "Cormacks Trail Retraced" by Nelson R. Williams and George Hutchings, May 28, 1971
- 2.13 "Cabots Landfall - Yet Again" by Fabian A. O'Dea, October 20, 1971
- 2.14 "R. G. Reid and the Newfoundland Railway" by J. W. McGrath, December 8, 1971
- 2.15 "John Guy, Newfoundland First Legal Settler and Governor" by Raymond W. Guy, February 22, 1972
- 2.16 "The Early Church History of St. John's" by Paul O'Neill, March 21, 1972
- 2.17 "History in Medals - Local and Foreign" by Dr. W. David Parsons, April 25, 1972
- 2.18 "New look at Bob Bartlett" by F. Burnham Gill, November 23, 1972
- 2.19 "History of Public Libraries in Newfoundland" by Jessie B. Mifflin,

- December 12, 1972
- 2.20 “History of the Moravian Church from 1860 onward” by Rev. Dr. F. W. Peacock, January 23, 1973
 - 2.21 “St. John’s - Development of the City and its Architecture” by Shane O’ Dea, February 20, 1973
 - 2.22 “The 1898 Railway contract” by J. W. McGrath, March 20, 1973
 - 2.23 “Women in Newfoundland History” by Edith M. Manuel, February 24, 1976
 - 2.24 “The Commercial Elite and Development in Newfoundland” by Gordon F. N. Fearn, March 30, 1976

Location: Walter G. C. White fonds, Drawer 3.