

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

Finding Aid - Herbert Hunt fonds (F0683)

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Herbert Hunt fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	3
Arrangement	4
Notes	4
Access points	4
Collection holdings	5
F0683-2016-006/001(1), Farm records (1926-1930)	5
F0683-2016-006/001(2), Farm records (1931-1937)	5
F0683-2016-006/001(3), Correspondence and legal documents (1926-1944)	6
F0683-2016-006/001(4), Publications (1929)	6
F0683-2016-006/001(5), Drafts and rejected publications (1926-1937)	7
F0683-2016-006/001(6), Newspapers, clippings and printed materials (1929-1970)	7
F0683-2016-006/001(7), Photographs (1926-1936)	7
F0683-2016-006/001(8), Photocopy of farm sale poster, 1936 ([20--?])	8

Summary information

Repository: York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

Title: Herbert Hunt fonds

ID: F0683

Date: 1926-[20--?], predominant 1926-1938 (date of creation)

Physical description: 0.08 m of textual records and other material

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Herbert William Hunt served in the artillery for the British Army during the First World War while his wife, Jessica, served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Hunt and his wife tried to build an agrarian life for themselves in England for six years after the war, without success. Disappointed, Hunt applied to the 3,000 Family Settlement Scheme, a joint initiative by the governments of the United Kingdom and Canada to resettle British families on farmland in central and western Canada. Canada's Department of Immigration and Colonization accepted Hunt's application to participate in the Settlement Scheme in March 1926. By the end of May, Hunt and his wife began their migration to their settlement, which was located north of Spruce Lake and east of St. Walburg in Saskatchewan. After completing the probationary apprenticeship of one year, during which time new settlers were required to demonstrate their fitness by working as farm hands, Hunt purchased 160 acres of farmland from the Soldier Settlement Board. On this farm, Hedgerows, Hunt primarily cultivated wheat. Hunt and his wife struggled to acclimatize to Canada, the harsh prairie weather in particular. His crops also suffered under frost and drought. The family's financial hardship was compounded by the low market prices of grains during the depression. After spending a challenging decade in Saskatchewan, Hunt and his wife returned to England in 1936. Hunt died in Benfleet, Essex, England in 1985.

Custodial history

After Hunt's death the records were kept in the custody of his nephew, A. Godfrey Hunt, who reorganized the materials in a rough chronological order.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of diaries, account books, crop records, photographs, publications and drafts written by Hunt, correspondence, contracts, receipts, government documents and publications, newspaper and magazine articles, maps, and ephemera. Hunt's correspondence with various government officials and travel coordinators documents his enrollment in the Settlement Scheme, and the processes involved in

migrating from England to Canada. Hunt's participation in the scheme is further documented by his accumulation of government publications and legal documents, as well as the journals and receipts that pertained to his farming activities. Photographs and maps depict Hedgerows farm and its location. Newspaper and magazine clippings and other printed ephemera collected by Hunt, while in Saskatchewan and after his return to England, record his continued interest in the fates of his fellow settlers. Although Hunt published an essay recounting his experiences positively, his drafts speak of his ultimate discontent with the Settlement Scheme.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by A. Godfrey Hunt in 2015.

Arrangement

Contents of the fonds were arranged by a practicum student under the supervision of the University Archivist. Documents are grouped by media and activity, and are arranged chronologically within the files.

Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

Related material

Records relating to Herbert Hunt's service in the British army were donated by A. Godfrey Hunt to the Firepower Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich.

Accruals

The fond comprises the following accessions: 2016-006. Further accruals may be expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Full
 - **Status description:** Final
-

Access points

- Canada. Dept. of Immigration and Colonization (subject)

- World War, 1914-1918 (subject)
 - United Kingdom. Oversea Settlement Department (subject)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - Farming (subject)
 - Immigration (subject)
 - Settlers (subject)
 - Veterans (subject)
 - St. Walburg (place)
 - Spruce Lake (place)
-

Collection holdings

File: F0683-2016-006/001(1) - Farm records

Title: Farm records

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(1)

Date: 1926-1930 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of diaries and account books that document crop prices, farm outputs, livestock and other assets, weather, travel between neighbouring towns, town meetings, and daily life. The Weekly Farm Record and Journal of Receipts and Expenses 1926, used by Hunt for 1927, contains two hand-drawn maps of Hedgerows farm.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F0683-2016-006/001(2) - Farm records

Title: Farm records

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(2)

Date: 1931-1937 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of diaries, account books, receipts, and a hand-drawn map. The diaries and account books document crop prices, farm outputs, livestock and other assets, weather, travel between neighbouring towns, Spruce Lake council meetings, and daily life. The diary for 1936 contains an account of Hunt's return to England.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records and graphic material

Publication status:

Published

File: F0683-2016-006/001(3) - Correspondence and legal documents

Title: Correspondence and legal documents

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(3)

Date: 1926-1944 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of correspondence, certificates, deeds, contracts, a statement of account, and other legal documents. The contents delineate Hunt's acceptance to the 3,000 Family Settlement Scheme, the procedures involved in his immigration to Canada, and his interactions with the Soldier Settlement Board and Saskatchewan Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F0683-2016-006/001(4) - Publications

Title: Publications

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(4)

Date: 1929 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of an essay by Hunt detailing his experiences settling in Saskatchewan, published in both a newspaper and a government publication. The essay placed fourth in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix's 3,000 Family Competition, which was held by several newspapers across Canada. Hunt's work was later republished in a collection of these stories by the Department of Immigration and Colonization, *Winning through : Stories of life on Canadian farms told by British settlers*.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F0683-2016-006/001(5) - Drafts and rejected publications

Title: Drafts and rejected publications

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(5)

Date: 1926-1937 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of drafts of Hunt's writings in various stages of completion, and a rejection letter from the Morning Post to his submission, "Empire settlement - Canada," in which Hunt outlines his dissatisfaction with the 3,000 Family Settlement Scheme.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File: F0683-2016-006/001(6) - Newspapers, clippings and printed materials

Title: Newspapers, clippings and printed materials

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(6)

Date: 1929-1970 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of a copy of the St. Walburg Enterprise, a copy of Atlas of Canada, clippings from other newspapers and magazines, a pamphlet on British Family Settlement in New Brunswick, road maps of Saskatchewan and Canada, and other ephemera. The articles and publications document the experiences of settlers across Canada, including the challenges faced by farmers during nine years of drought.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records and graphic material

Publication status:

Published

File: F0683-2016-006/001(7) - Photographs

Title: Photographs

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(7)

Date: 1926-1936 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of two photographs of Hunt's farm.

Physical description: 2 photographs : b&w ; 15 x 24 cm and 16 x 21 cm

Physical condition:

Larger photograph missing top right corner

Publication status:

Published

File: F0683-2016-006/001(8) - Photocopy of farm sale poster, 1936

Title: Photocopy of farm sale poster, 1936

ID: F0683-2016-006/001(8)

Date: [20--?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of a photocopy of the announcement of Hunt's farm sale, where he sold his livestock, machinery and miscellaneous equipment before returning to England.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published
