

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

Finding Aid - Lennox family fonds (F0549)

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Lennox family fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)
Title:	Lennox family fonds
ID:	F0549
Date:	1900-1997, 2018, predominant 1939-1946 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	0.58 m of textual records ca. 260 photographs : b&w and col. ; 43 x 30 cm or smaller

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Lennox family had traditional roots in Simcoe County. William James Wilfred Lennox (1883-1968) and his wife Fannie Jane Evangeline Watt (1895-1980) both shared a common ancestor : they were both descended from two brothers of Innisfil Township, John and William Lennox, who emigrated from Londonderry, Northern Ireland in the 1830s. William was William's grandson and Fannie was John's great-granddaughter. Wilfred "Wiff" Lennox grew up on his father's farm in Newton Robinson, Ontario and later obtained his Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture in 1905 from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Ontario. Fannie was the daughter of Arven Curickshank Watt, the local incumbent of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Bond Head. Fannie's family moved to Toronto in 1912 where she attended Oakwood Collegiate and the Toronto Normal School and taught for several years before her marriage in 1916 to Wilfred. Wilfred Lennox found employment with the Federal Department of Agriculture in the Plant Products Division. He would retire in 1948. During WWII, he was seconded to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in Ottawa. Wilfred and Fannie had three children, William ("Bill"), John Watt Lennox and Elizabeth Jane Lennox ("Bettie"). The family settled on Quebec Avenue in Toronto. The children attended Brown Public School and North Toronto Collegiate Institute. John Watt Lennox was employed during the summers of 1939 and 1940 as a bell boy and later a deck hand in the Great Lakes passenger steamship "Manitoba". In September 1939 he enrolled at the Ontario Agricultural College. His roommate there was Richard Palmer. During his second year at O.A.C., John met Muriel ("Mime") Young, who had enrolled at the college for women, the Macdonald Institute. He carried her picture with him overseas when he joined the air force during WWII. John was a member of the Canadian Officers Training Corps on campus and in early 1941, he applied to the Royal Canadian Air Force. His brother William joined the RCAF after his marriage in June 1942. Soon after completing his second year examinations, John was called up to the Manning Pool in Hamilton, where he enlisted. John kept a correspondence with Richard Palmer, who also enlisted in the RCAF (he was later killed in action in Burma) and family members throughout his training at the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan at bases in Sydney, Victoriaville, Cap-de-la-Madeleine and Moncton in the Maritimes. In Moncton he received his wings as sergeant pilot. By early 1942 he was posted at Debert, NS, and was shipped out to Scotland in February of 1942. John completed his training in October 1942, but was required to retrain in order to fly "heavies" - Halifax and

Wellington bombers. In January 1943 he received his letter of commission as a pilot officer in England, and was assigned to the 405 Pathfinder Squadron, which participated in bombing missions over Germany in May of 1943. In April he assumed control of his own craft and Commonwealth crew. On the night of May 4/5, 1943 during his seventh sortie in a Halifax bomber with other allied bombers targeting Dortmund in the Ruhr valley, Lennox and his crew were shot down along the German-Dutch border. John Lennox and his air gunner, Bernard Moody were killed, but the remaining crew survived. Lennox was one month short of his twenty-third birthday. He was initially buried in Lingen-am-Ems and later moved to the Reichswald Forest Military Cemetery near Kleve, Germany just over the border from Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of correspondence, photographs, diaries, a scrapbook, college yearbooks and transcriptions of oral interviews created and accumulated by members of the Lennox family including husband and wife Fannie Jane Evangeline Watt and William James Wilfred Lennox, and their children William, John Watt Lennox and Elizabeth Lennox Locke.

The majority of archival material relates to John Watt Lennox (1920-1943), who was killed in action in WWII. Correspondence is accompanied by detailed inventory and contextual information compiled by Elizabeth Lennox Locke and her nephew Dr. John Lennox.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Dr. John Lennox (nephew of John Watt Lennox) and Elizabeth Lennox Locke (sister of John Watt Lennox) in 2009.

Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

Accruals

The fonds comprises the following accessions: 2009-003, 2018-017. Further accruals may be expected.

Other notes

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

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Object (documentary form)
-

Collection holdings

File: 2009-003/001(01) - Biographical information, family history provided by Dr. John Lennox, Elizabeth Locke Lennox

Title: Biographical information, family history provided by Dr. John Lennox, Elizabeth Locke Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(01)

Date: 2009 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(02) - Miscellaneous letters re. John Watt Lennox

Title: Miscellaneous letters re. John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(02)

Date:

8 July 1935-25 Oct. 1963 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

3 photographs : b&w ; 9 x 9 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(03) - Letters to John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters to John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(03)

Date: 22 Apr.-20 July 1941 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(04) - Letters to John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters to John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(04)

Date: 23 July-20 Oct. 1941 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(05) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(05)

Date: 29 Oct. 1941-3 May 1943 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(06) - Letters from John Watt LennoxTitle: Letters from John Watt LennoxID: 2009-003/001(06)Date: 20 Aug. 1935-28 May 1941 (date of creation)Physical description: 1 folder of textual recordsPublication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(07) - Letters from John Watt LennoxTitle: Letters from John Watt LennoxID: 2009-003/001(07)Date: 2 June-7 July 1941 (date of creation)Physical description: 1 folder of textual recordsPublication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(08) - Letters from John Watt LennoxTitle: Letters from John Watt LennoxID: 2009-003/001(08)Date: 12 July-22 Sept. 1941 (date of creation)Physical description: 1 folder of textual records
2 photographs : sepia ; 9 x 7cmPublication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(09) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(09)

Date: 26 Sept. 1941-23 Jan. 1942 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(10) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(10)

Date: 11 Feb.-27 Apr. 1942 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/001(11) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/001(11)

Date: 5 May-26 July 1942 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(01) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/002(01)

Date: 3 July -3 Sept. 1942 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(02) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/002(02)

Date: 11 Sept.-15 Nov. 1942 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(03) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/002(03)

Date: 20 Nov. 1942-11 Feb. 1943 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Includes a sprig of cedar with letter dated 11 January 1943.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

1 object : sprig of cedar

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Object (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(04) - Letters from John Watt Lennox

Title: Letters from John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/002(04)

Date: 14 Feb-26 Apr. 1943 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

For letter dated 5 April 1943.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

2 photographs : sepia ; 6.8 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(05) - Photoalbum of photographs taken by John Watt Lennox and members of the Lennox family

Title: Photoalbum of photographs taken by John Watt Lennox and members of the Lennox family

ID: 2009-003/002(05)

Date: 1920-1993 (date of creation)

Physical description: 115 photographs : b&w and col ; 10 x 15 or smaller

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(06) - Portraits of John Watt Lennox and Canadian R.103024 RCAF officers

Title: Portraits of John Watt Lennox and Canadian R.103024 RCAF officers

ID: 2009-003/002(06)

Date: 1942 (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 photographs : sepia ; 18 x 24 or 15 x 20 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(07) - Lennox Family album

Title: Lennox Family album

ID: 2009-003/002(07)

Date: 1920-1950 (date of creation)

Physical description: 110 photographs : b&w and sepia ; 9 x 7 cm or smaller

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/002(08) - Photograph and obituary for Muriel Frances Wallace (nee Young)

Title: Photograph and obituary for Muriel Frances Wallace (nee Young)

ID: 2009-003/002(08)

Date: 1941-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Includes blue leather carrying case ; 11.5 x 17.

Physical description: 1 photograph : sepia ; 10 x 15 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(01) - Libranni 1940 : published by the graduating classes of the Ontario Agricultural College and Macdonald Institute

Title: Libranni 1940 : published by the graduating classes of the Ontario Agricultural College and Macdonald Institute

ID: 2009-003/003(01)

Date: 1940 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(02) - John Watt Lennox : personal material and correspondence

Title: John Watt Lennox : personal material and correspondence

ID: 2009-003/003(02)

Date: 1938-1940 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(03) - Ontario Agricultural College Guelph, Canada : promotional booklet

Title: Ontario Agricultural College Guelph, Canada : promotional booklet

ID: 2009-003/003(03)

Date: [ca. 194?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(04) - Libranni 1941 : The Annual Publication of the Students of the Ontario Agricultural College

Title: Libranni 1941 : The Annual Publication of the Students of the Ontario Agricultural College

ID: 2009-003/003(04)

Date: 1941 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(05) - Royal Canadian Air Force Pilot's Flying Log Book : J.W. Lennox J16481

Title: Royal Canadian Air Force Pilot's Flying Log Book : J.W. Lennox J16481

ID: 2009-003/003(05)

Date: 1941-1943 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(06) - Diary : Fannie Watt Lennox

Title: Diary : Fannie Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/003(06)

Date: 1941 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(07) - Diary : Fannie Jane Watt Lennox

Title: Diary : Fannie Jane Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/003(07)

Date: 1943-1944 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(08) - Obituaries, letters of condolences, correspondence from military re. John Watt Lennox

Title: Obituaries, letters of condolences, correspondence from military re. John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/003(08)

Date: 1942-1952 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(09) - Correspondence and photocopies re. John Watt Lennox

Title: Correspondence and photocopies re. John Watt Lennox

ID: 2009-003/003(09)

Date: 1992-2000 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(10) - Photocopies of Christ Church Deer Park Roll of Honour and Service of Remembrance

Title: Photocopies of Christ Church Deer Park Roll of Honour and Service of Remembrance

ID: 2009-003/003(10)

Date: 1944 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/003(11) - Photocopied photographs, school records, correspondence and documents from Elizabeth Lennox Locke

Title: Photocopied photographs, school records, correspondence and documents from Elizabeth Lennox Locke

ID: 2009-003/003(11)

Date: 2008 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/004(01) - Military commission and high school diploma

Title: Military commission and high school diploma

ID: 2009-003/004(01)

Date: 1938, 1942 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: 2009-003/004(02) - Framed photograph of John Watt Lennox's medals and portrait

Title: Framed photograph of John Watt Lennox's medals and portrait

ID: 2009-003/004(02)

Date: [ca. 199-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

24 x 28 frame

Physical description: 1 photograph : col. ; 18 x 22 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

Item: 2018-017/001(01) - Accession notes

Title: Accession notes

ID: 2018-017/001(01)

Date: 1 June 2018 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of detailed notes about the contents of the John Watt Lennox memorial scrapbook, provided by the donor, John W. Lennox (his nephew). A PDF of this item is attached to this description.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Item: 2018-017/001(02) - John Watt Lennox memorial scrapbook

Title: John Watt Lennox memorial scrapbook

ID: 2018-017/001(02)

Date: 1943-1997 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a scrapbook maintained by the Lennox family pertaining to the military service, death and remembrance of John Watt Lennox (1920-1943). It consists of newspaper clippings, photographs, notes, programs, letters, and ephemera. A thorough description of its contents is provided by the donor in 2018-017/001(01).

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records and graphic material (includes 42 photographs : b&w and col. ; 10 x 15 cm or smaller)

Physical condition:

Some items in this scrapbook are in fragile condition.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
-