



MG 215 - Beamish / Kenderdine Family fonds

Dates: 1909-1990.

Extent: 52 cm of textual records; 56 photographs; 173 postcards; 1 videotape. See also oversize.

Biography: In 1908 A.F. "Gus" Kenderdine, his wife Jane (née Ormerod) and their children emigrated from England to Saskatchewan, where they homesteaded near Lashburn. Gus Kenderdine became the first 'artist-in-residence' at a Canadian university when president Walter Murray hired him in 1920; Kenderdine later became a lecturer in art at the University, and was largely responsible for the formation of the University's Art Camp at Emma Lake (now known as "Kenderdine Campus").

The Kenderdines had four children: Richard, Adelaide, May, and a third daughter, Rose, who died during the influenza epidemic of 1918. Richard eventually took over the family farm near Lashburn. Adelaide (BA '23) married John Kenderdine, a distant relative, and they lived for many years in Japan both before and following World War II. Florence May Kenderdine married Oswald Beamish; they, too, lived near Lashburn. Between 1985-1986 May Beamish donated approximately 130 of her father's paintings and sketches to the University of Saskatchewan, and provided over \$1 million to help fund the new College of Agriculture building on the condition that it include an art gallery.

Custodial History: May Beamish was predeceased by both her parents and her siblings. As the last living member of her immediate family, May was left with documents originally belonging to other family members. Oswald and May Beamish were childless, and when May died these documents became the property of her niece, Adelaide Retzlaff. Ms. Retzlaff donated them to the University of Saskatchewan Archives in 1999.

Arrangement: This fonds contains correspondence, cards, and published materials owned by various members of the Kenderdine / Beamish families. The fonds is organized into 5 series:

- I. Christmas Cards
- II Correspondence
- III. Family
- IV Photographs
- V Published Materials

No attempt has been made to divide the material further by separating documents originally belonging to one family member from another.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on this collection.

Associated materials can be found in the A.F.L. Kenderdine fonds (MG 87). Materials relating

to Emma Lake and the artists who studied there can be found in the department of Art and Art History fonds (RG 2034); the Ruth Pawson fonds (MG 204); the Beth and McGregor Hone fonds (MG 183); the Hans Dommasch fonds (MG 172); the Mina Forsyth fonds (MG 97); and the Jean Murray fonds (MG 61). Another useful collection regarding Emma Lake are the Ken Lochhead fonds (86-29) at the University of Regina Archives. See also Faculty Biographies, Alumni records, publications, and various administrative/president's papers.

Original finding aid by Patrick Hayes, 2011. Edited for formatting by Amy Putnam, September 2017.

I. CHRISTMAS CARDS. - 6 cm.

1. **Bayer, Jean.** - nd.
2. **Bullis, Hazel.** - nd.
Original artwork.
3. **Cowley, Reta Summers and Fred.** - nd.
Includes one signed print.
See also Correspondence.
4. **Darke, (Mrs.) FN.** - nd.
See also Correspondence.
5. **David, Celine and Jean.** - nd., 1934,1936.
Includes letter congratulating May on her wedding and announcing the birth of the David's son; and a postcard.
6. **Ellis, Miriam Green.** - nd, 1941-1945. - [textual records + photograph].
Includes one aquatint. Photo of "The Limberlost," a cabin.
7. **Flowers, Sir Archibald and Lady.** - nd.
8. **Haultain, Wilmot G.** - nd.
9. **Henderson, James.** - nd.
10. **Holms, Clara.** - nd, [ca. 1940s].
Includes one silkscreen; see also below, "Patton, [Randolph] and Myrtle" for another silkscreen by the same artist.
11. **James, Colonel Francis and Christine.** - nd.
Includes one original watercolour.
See also Correspondence.
12. **Mackenzie, Norman.** - nd.
13. **Maclean, Justice Donald and Mrs.** - nd.
14. **Miscellaneous.** - 2 folders.
15. **Murray Family.** - nd, 1938- [ca. 1947].

16. **Patton, [Randolph] and Myrtle.** - nd.
Original silkscreen. See also above, "Holms, Clara" for another silkscreen by the same artist.
See also below, "Correspondence - Murray, Lucy," "Family - Address - Randolph Patton" and "Publications - Obituaries."
17. **Shepley, Earle and Effie.** - nd.
18. **Sifton, Flora and Steele.** - nd.
All three cards were made in China [pre-1940?].
19. **Stapleford, E.W.** - nd.
20. **Thomson, JS and Margaret.** - 1937-1941.
See also Correspondence.
21. **University of Saskatchewan.** - nd, 1944
Includes Christmas edition of the Regina Conservatory of Music students' bulletin.
22. **University of Saskatchewan - Faculty.** - nd, 1937.
Includes cards from CJ Mackenzie, Arthur Collingwood, Frank Quance, EL Harrington.

II. CORRESPONDENCE. - 3 cm.

1. **Banfill, Bessie.** - 1936.
Written from the Indian Residential School in Ahousaht, BC.
2. **[Brady], Thelma.** - 1942-1955.
Includes an 'Emma Lake' Christmas card from Thelma and Ruth [Pawson].
3. **Byers, Bertha.** - nd.
4. **Cowley, Reta.** - 1947-1948, 1971-1991. - [textual records + photographs].
Includes 6 polaroid snapshots of Reta's artwork.
See also Published Materials - Catalogues.
5. **Darke, (Mrs.) FN.** - 1948.
6. **England.** - nd, 1947, 1949.
7. **James, Francis and Christine.** - 1948-[1959].

8. **Matheson, M.** - 1964.
9. **Metcalfe, WH.** - 1967-1973.
10. **Miscellaneous.** - nd, 1918, 1947-1979.
11. **Murray, (Mrs.) Christina.** - [ca. 1945].
12. **Murray, Jean.** - nd, 1954-1982.
Primarily concerning the health of Lucy Murray; includes a 1954 letter from Lucy.
13. **Murray, Lucy.** - 1948-1967.
Includes a letter from Lucy to Mrs. Patton on the death of her husband, the order of service for Lucy's funeral, and obituaries. See also below, "Publications - Obituaries."
14. **Murray, Walter.** - 1940.
15. **Thomson, Mabel E.** - nd, 1944.
[The woman who cared for Janie Kenderdine during her final illness].
16. **Thomson, Margaret S.** - 1948, 1973.
17. **Wheeler, Seager.** - 1955.

III. FAMILY. - 14 cm.

1. **Adelaide.**
Adelaide Kenderdine and her family spent a number of years in Japan, leaving at the outbreak of the war. In her letters and the writings of others, Adelaide is referred to sometimes as either "sis" or "Diane," at times in fact referring to herself by this latter name. This file includes postcards, some of which have been annotated, Christmas cards, and artworks.
2. **Addresses - Randolph Patton.**
Address given at Emma Lake, 1954.
3. **Biographical - May Beamish.** - 1991.
Article in *Western People*.
4. **Chronologies.**

Notes, presumably written by May Beamish, documenting various events in the life of the family and the [sales? gifts?] and exhibits of her father's paintings.

5. **Donations.** - 1985-1987, 1991.

Financial records relating to May and Oswald Beamish's donations to various art galleries, as well as correspondence concerning Kenderdine paintings.

Box 2

6. **Miscellaneous.** - textual records + 5 photographs.

Includes an Edmonton Exhibition and Stampede pamphlet, 1925; a promotional brochure for "Igloo," nd; "How to Treat a Horse;" a CBC radio script; etc. *The Life of Our Lord* was published serially in the Star Phoenix; Jane Kenderdine compiled the set.

7. **Postcards.** - [ca. 1920s-1930s?]. -20 b&w, 3 sepia, 4 colour postcards.

Primarily from England and Wales, these were not with the postcards acquired by Gus Kenderdine during his world tour (see below), nor were they annotated in any way.

8. **Reminiscences.** - nd, 1954-1987.

Primarily by May Beamish, these include brief articles on her teaching experience, Emma Lake and environs, a trip she and Oswald took to Cuba and Jamaica in 1957, their travels north and to California, etc. It also includes "The Beamish Story" by Ethel Chivers.

9. **Short Stories - Edith Butler Tyre.**

World Tour - Postcards. - 1935. - 145 postcards; 6 photographs. - 19 folders. From May-August 1935, Gus Kenderdine went on a world tour, visiting Europe, Asia and the Middle East. He collected postcards from these countries, most of which were not annotated and none of which were used for communications home. These cards include photographic depictions of the countries he visited as well as illustrations and/or works of art. See also below, "Publications - The Pacific Empress."

10. **World Tour - Postcards - NYK Line "Tatsuta Maru."** - 3 colour postcards.

Cards depicting the liner Kenderdine sailed on.

11. **World Tour - Postcards - Egypt.** - 6 b&w postcards; 1 colour tinted postcard.

Images of Cairo; a statue; the pyramids at Ghiza; a woman in typical dress.

12. **World Tour - Postcards - Hong Kong and Singapore.** - 5 b&w postcards.

Images of the city; harbour; "chair" transportation.

13. **World Tour - Postcards - Italy - Capri.** - 12 colour postcards.
From watercolour paintings.
14. **World Tour - Postcards - Italy - Florence.** - 4 b&w postcards; 1 colour postcard.
Details of artwork or interiors; the Ponte Vecchio.
15. **World Tour - Postcards - Italy - Naples.** - 2 colour postcards.
16. **World Tour - Postcards - Italy - Rome.** - 20 b&w postcards.
Various landmark buildings, plazas, monuments.
17. **World Tour - Postcards - Italy - Venice.** - 12 colour postcards; 2 b&w postcards.
The colour postcards are from a set; reproducing watercolour paintings; 1 b&w card is advertising a restaurant off San Marco square; the other is of the canal.
18. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Art - Hiroshige.** - 10 colour postcards.
19. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Enoshima.** - 6 b&w postcards.
20. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Hokkaido.** - 11 b&w postcards.
Images of dry-lacquer statues; some annotated on back.
21. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Kamakura.** - 8 b&w postcards.
22. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Miscellaneous.** - 3 b&w postcards; 9 colour postcards.
Includes covers from two (now unidentified) sets, and the cover from a set of Kodak prints
23. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Nara.** - 10 b&w postcards.
8 postcards are from a set.
24. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - People.** - 5 b&w postcards
25. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Photographs.** - 6 b&w prints.
26. **World Tour - Postcards - Japan - Statues.** - 8 b&w postcards.
Set of images of statues and artwork, identified only in Japanese.
27. **World Tour - Postcards - Miscellaneous.** - 3 colour postcards; 1 sepia postcard.
28. **World Tour - Postcards - Siam (Thailand).** - 3 b&w postcards.

IV. PHOTOGRAPHS. - 3 cm. - 38 photographs.

1. **Adelaide.** - [between 1920-1923]-[ca. 1930s]. - 4 b&w photos.
Adelaide Kenderdine at the U of S, by herself and with friends (identified on back of photo); at Little Red River; and in Japan, feeding deer. See also below, "University of Saskatchewan."
2. **Dry Gully.** - 1919, 1981. - 2 b&w photos; 1 colour photo.
Two images of the school, one with children and teacher out front, the second with children in a horse-drawn cart; and one image of the Gully in fall, 1981.
3. **[Family] - Unidentified.** - 1913-1949. - 7 b&w photos.
Various individuals, some of whom are identified only by their first names; possibly relatives or friends of the Kenderdine / Beamish families.
4. **Murray, Jean.** - 1922. - 1 b&w photo.
Jean Murray's graduation photo; signed.
5. **Saskatoon.** - [ca. 1922]. - 2 b&w photos.
Nutana collegiate, and the skyline viewed from across the river; group photo at the Normal School opening, 1922.
6. **Scenic.** - nd, 1930. - 4 b&w photos.
Identified as Meadow Lake railway crossing; Buffalo Narrows ferry; India; and one unidentified mountain scene (possibly Banff).
7. **University of Saskatchewan.** - 7 b&w photos, 1 colour photo. - 1925, [ca. 1980s].
Interior and exterior images of the Diefenbaker Centre, probably given to May Beamish prior to the creation of a temporary "Kenderdine Gallery" in the Centre; 1 colour photo of Grant Devine turning the sod for the new Agriculture building, where the permanent Kenderdine Gallery was eventually located; an image of the College building ca. 1925 and a photo of [George Ling]. See also "Adelaide," above.
8. **[World War I].** - [between 1914-1918?]. - 9 b&w prints.
A series of images, most of which were annotated in the same handwriting; showing a camp, people golfing or boating, and some scenery [in England]. Some individuals in these photos appear to be in uniforms ca. WWI.

Box 3

V. PUBLISHED MATERIALS. - 26 cm.

1. **Art - Canada.** - 1957-1985.

Includes *The Arts in Canada*.

2. **Art - *Canadian Art***. - 1944-1947.

Six issues.

3. **Art - Cowley, Reta**. - 1976, 1985, 1986.

Catalogues, notices, etc.

4. **Art - Other Countries**.

Various catalogues; one on Scottish painters includes an annotation from [Dr. Gareau] to Jane Kenderdine. (See below, Obituaries).

5. **Battleford Historical Society Publications**. - 1926-1930.

Includes *The Cree Rebellion of '84*; *Reminiscences of Louis Cochin, OMI*; *Rev. Canon EK Matheson, DD*; *The Story of the Press*; *Fifty Years on the Saskatchewan*; and *The Dominion Telegraph*.

6. **Canadian Geographical Journal**. - 1933, 1941.

7. **Geology**.

Various publications relating to May and Oswald Beamish's interest in gems, rocks and minerals.

8. **Glenbow Foundation Occasional Papers**.

A Blackfoot Winter Count and *The Blackfoot Ghost Dance*.

9. **Historic Sites**.

Pamphlets on All Saints Church, Lashburn; Fort Pitt; Batoche; the memorial chamber, Parliament, etc.

Box 4

10. **Literature**. - [published ca. 1915-1923].

Texts used by Adelaide and May; some annotations. Includes *Selections from Coleridge and Tennyson*; *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*; *A Christmas Carol*; and the libretto to *Carmen*.

11. **National Parks**. - [ca. 1923]-1968.

Includes *The Call of Untrodden Ways* and other early accounts of Banff, Jasper, and Prince Albert national parks, as well as Frank Anderson's guide to the Fraser Canyon.

12. **Natural History**.

13. Obituaries.

Includes correspondence from Irene Gareau and Myrtle Patton (see also above, "Christmas Cards - Patton, Randolph and Myrtle;" "Correspondence - Murray, Lucy," and "Family - Addresses - Randolph Patton.")

14. *The Pacific Empress*. - 7-13 May 1935.

Onboard daily newspaper. See also above, "Family - World Tour."

15. Royal Family. - 1911-1938. - [newsprint + one b&w photograph].

Daily Mail, 23 June 1911 (Coronation of George V); and several concerning the death of George V: *Star Phoenix*, 21 January 1936; *Manchester Evening News*, 21 January 1936; *Manchester City News*, 24 January 1936; *Sunday Pictorial*, 26 January 1936; *Daily Mirror*, 28 January 1936; *Daily Mirror*, 29 January 1936; *Star Phoenix*, 29 January 1936; *Manchester Guardian*, 29 January 1936; *Daily Mirror*, 30 January 1936. Other papers include the *Regina Leader Post*, 10 December 1936; *Daily Mirror*, 12 May 1937, and *Manchester Evening News*, 21 May 1938. Other materials include single clippings.

Please see oversize drawer D-10.

16. Travel and Transportation. - 1909-1936.

Pamphlets on Alberta and Victoria; >snap shots at the aerodrome,' 1909; Canadian National Railways magazine; pictorial supplements to *The Times of India* and *Osaka Mainichi*. See also oversize drawer D-10.

17. University of Saskatchewan. - 1941-1958, 1990. - [textual records + video].

Walter Murray's article on the university; Lucy Murray's article on St. John's College; remembrances of Walter Murray and Arthur Morton; a videotape of the construction of the new College of Agriculture building.

18. Yearbooks. - 1920-1925.

Hermes, Light and the *Greystone*. Copies of *Greystone* have been autographed by classmates.