



MG 591: Clarence White Rife fonds.

Dates: 1872, 1910, [ca. 1940s].

Extent: 3 cm of textual records, 1 photograph.

Biographical Note:

Clarence White Rife was born on 17 May 1888 in Hespler, Ontario. Following his graduation from the Galt Collegiate Institute in 1906, he moved to Saskatchewan to homestead near Foam Lake. In 1910 he leased his homestead and moved to Saskatoon, where he attended the Saskatoon Business College, worked part-time, and began his studies at the University of Saskatchewan. He graduated with a BA in history and political science (1914), and spent 1915-1917 as a teacher in Swift Current, Saskatchewan before pursuing his MA from the University of Toronto (1918). He spent 1918-1919 as a sessional lecturer at Queen's University prior to enrolling at Yale, from which he earned his PhD in 1922. He then began his career as professor of history at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. By 1927 he became chair of the department, a role he continued for nearly thirty years. He retired in 1956 and was named professor emeritus. Rife co-founded the Hamline University Institute of World Affairs, served as financial director for the Minnesota Student Project for Amity Among Nations (SPAN), was an active member of the Ramsey County Historical Society, and was active in the Hamline Methodist Church, serving as chair of its Historical Committee.

He met Margaret Strang (BA 1913) while at the University of Saskatchewan; they married in 1919 and she earned her MA at Yale (1921). They had two daughters.

Rife died on 21 November 1970 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Scope and Content: This fonds contains Rife's diary for 1910, the year he decided to lease his homestead and pursue a degree at the University of Saskatchewan. A book owned by his father, George Rife, documents the area of Pennsylvania where Rife family were before they emigrated to Canada. Notes by Rife's daughter provide context and additional information.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Custodial History: Donated to the University Archives & Special Collections by Agnes Hall, 2016.

Further accruals are possible.

Guide prepared by Cheryl Avery, 2016

Formatted by Stevie Horn, 2017.

1. Diary & Note Book. – 1910.

1910 proved to be a pivotal year in Clarence Rife's life: he leased his homestead and began his academic career at the University of Saskatchewan. The diary begins with a family reunion: Clarence's mother, his father George and sister Isobel; and briefly discusses events and activities at Foam Lake and Sheho, where Clarence's brother Will owned a pharmacy. In February, Clarence moved to Saskatoon. The diary notes various aspects of Clarence's life in the city: the Drinkle building, where the first University classes were held (while the campus was under construction); Cairns department store; 3rd Avenue Methodist Church; skating and carnivals in Nutana rink; the Lyric Theatre; attending the YMCA Glee Club; the Barnes Circus; the Fair; etc. In addition to University classes, Clarence took a course at the Business School and worked part-time. An explanatory note provided by Agnes Hall provides details on some of the individuals named in the diary.

2. *Annals of Phoenixville and its Vicinity: From the Settlement to the year 1871.* – 1872.

Book by Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker. An explanatory note provided by Agnes Hall provides details on the family connection to this area, and subsequent immigration to Canada.

3. Photograph. – [ca. 1940s].

One b&w photo of Rife.