

MJ-132

Fred Wilkes fonds. – [textual records]. – [ca. 1963]. – 6.50 cm of textual records.

Box V-183

### **Biographical history**

Frederick (Fred) Alfred Wilkes was born on a farm in Ridgedale, Saskatchewan in 1919. He studied agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan and theology at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon. He was ordained by the Saskatchewan Conference in 1953 and was a United Church minister in Saskatchewan and later in Ontario and Quebec. Wilkes published a history of the Canadian pioneers in the prairies, with a specific emphasis on southern Saskatchewan. The book, entitled *They Rose from the Dust*, was developed from the Golden Jubilee project of the Tugaske, Eyebrow, Brownlee, Bridgeford and Eskbank communities. He also wrote a serial called *Tuxford of the Plains* based on the letters of George Tuxford from 1888-1918. The series was published in the *Western Producer* in 1967-1968. Wilkes retired from ministering in 1984 and died in 1999 in Ontario.

George Stuart Tuxford was born on February 7, 1870 in Penmorfa, Caernarvonshire, North Wales. He immigrated to a farm in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan with his wife in the 1890s. During the height of the Klondike gold rush in 1898, Tuxford led a herd of cattle from Moose Jaw to Dawson City. His cattle drive is the longest in Canadian history. Tuxford also had a decorated military career, joining the militia in 1906. He was a member of the 16<sup>th</sup> Mounted Rifles, and when the squadron expanded and renamed the 27<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. In August 1914, he became the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion's first commanding officer. In 1915 he led his battalion in the Second Battle of Ypres and the Battle of Festubert. Tuxford was promoted to Brigadier-General in 1916 and lead troops in many important battles throughout WWII. In 1934 he received the Efficiency decoration and in 1937 the King George VI medal. He died in Victoria, B.C in 1943.

### **Scope and content**

This fonds contains one partial draft and one complete draft of *Tuxford of the Plains: Letters of George Stuart Tuxford (1888-1918)*. Note that one draft has the dates as 1888-1918, where the other has the dates as 1888-1913. Both drafts are typescripts and are heavily annotated with pen and pencil. This material is based on letters written by Tuxford with additional research conducted by Wilkes.

### **Conservation note**

This fonds was re-boxed and refoldered in 2012.

### **Note of immediate source of acquisition**

This material was donated by Fred Wilkes.

**Associated materials**

The archive has a George Tuxford biography file and a George Tuxford diary vertical file, including copies of *Tuxford of the Plains* in the Western Producer.

**Accruals**

No further accruals expected.

**Finding aids**

See file list.

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## File List

001 – Title Page, Dedication, Contents, and Foreword. - .5 cm

002 – Title Page, Dedication, Contents, Foreword and Chapters 1-5. – 2 cm

003 – Chapters 6-10. – 2 cm

004 – Chapters 11-15 and Epilogue. – 2 cm