



## MG 584 – Reverend Joseph Holmes fonds

**Dates:** 1875- 1967

**Extent:** 10 cm textual material

**Biography:** Reverend Joseph Holmes a Methodist minister in Exeter, Ontario. He was married to Lucretia (Cretia) Burke. He and his family travelled between churches in Ontario, and ultimately retired in Saskatoon around 1918. Two of his sons worked as dentists in Saskatoon, and his daughter worked for the Star Phoenix.

**Scope and Content:** This substantive family archive of Canadiana consists of multi-page correspondence for southern and south-central Ontario beginning in 1875 through 1929, but mostly pre-20th century, and comprises of several different threads of personal/familial writings with letters received between Saskatoon Saskatchewan, and many other locations across Canada. Along with the over 85 letters are some loose covers, an account book, one check book with stubs and perhaps another 20 pieces of ephemera.

**Custodial History:** This collection was purchased by the University Library in 2016 from M. Benjamin Katz of Toronto.

**Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on access.

1. Envelopes – 1875 – 1942
2. [Cretia's Correspondence] – 1875-1903 – 3 folders  
Early letters sent from Joseph to Lucretia both pre- and post- marriage, as well as correspondence from other family members. Joseph's first son from his first marriage is mentioned. Illness in the family. Joseph's attendance at conferences and ministerial work . Death of a son. Letters written in curious crosshatch pattern to conserve paper. Hair is included although its origins are unclear.
3. [Saskatoon Correspondence] – 1912-1927  
Letter of introduction for Rev. Holmes at the Methodist Parsonage in Saskatoon. Correspondence between daughter Clara and Percy Menzies who served with Clara's fiancé Dudley Acheson. Dudley was killed during WWI. A letter about Rev. Holmes' retirement.
4. [Correspondence with Mr. and Mrs Holmes] – 1883-1894  
Letters from children and friends of the family. Clara's calling cards are included.
5. [Miscellaneous Correspondence] – 1876- 1918  
Correspondence from the children. Letter from son Ernest mentions some early medical procedures, lake Katepwa, and sanatorium for returned tubercular soldiers. Some partial letters. From daughter Clara, a lengthy description of life in Saskatoon, correspondence with Percy, and discussion of fashions and clothing. Correspondence with Cretia's relations. Joseph worries about the boys swimming. Joseph's travel and committee work. Love letters, birthday note to Joseph, death in the family.
6. [Ephemera] – 1918- 1967  
Clippings, address book, receipts, wedding invitation, Clara's business cards, pharmacy envelope, Centenary envelope, stock shares, empty checkbook. Topics: water purification, evangelism, materials to do with the selling and buying of a house. Childrens' hair (above) is believed to have come from here.
7. Additional – 1875-1826  
These eight letters were acquired later than the rest of the materials. Includes correspondence from Holmes to Cretia, both before and after marriage, a hank of J. W. Holmes' hair . Watching the steamer "The Athabasca". Clara's hair. Correspondence between Clara and Percy with reference being made to the bad growing situation. Henry Willoughby in elections in Regina. Farm animals described. Tamarac swamp.