



MG 590: Ronald Finch fonds

Dates: 1901-1946 (inclusive); 1933-1946 (predominant).

Extent: 10 cm textual materials; 40 black and white photographs ; 51 negatives; 1 watercolour.

Biography: Ronald Finch was born in 1913 in Sussex, England, the same year his uncle and aunt, Frederick and Mabel Finch, immigrated to Canada. They settled in Lanigan, Saskatchewan, and eventually became poultry farmers (owners of the Hyemal Poultry Farm). As a child in 1921, Ronald came to Canada with his parents, but they all returned to England in 1929, where Ronald remained for the rest of his life despite some entreaties on the part of his aunt to consider immigrating. Henry Unger, a school friend of Ronald's, had moved to Canada where he worked for Ronald's uncle and [later] joined the Canadian Pacific Railway. Ronald died in Horsham, Sussex, in 2004. Ronald's aunt and uncle retired to Vancouver in 1940, where Frederick died in 1967.

Scope and Content: This fonds contains correspondence to Ronald Finch from Frederick and Mabel Finch, Henry Unger, and others, describing their lives in Canada, particularly agriculture in Saskatchewan, local news about the community in Lanigan, and concern over the war.

Custodial History: These materials were purchased from Benjamin Katz of Toronto in 2016.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Guide prepared by Stevie Horn, 2016; minor revisions by Cheryl Avery with notes from Bonnie Dahl and David Bindle, 2021.

1. Henry (Hank) Unger Correspondence – 1936-1942
Correspondence about agricultural affairs and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Sketch of a cowboy. The war and Hitler referenced. Saskatchewan winters discussed, and the dating scene. Offensive Christmas card referencing Chinese stereotypes.
2. Correspondence from Aunts – 1933-1937
A good luck card, clippings, talk of immigration,
3. Blanche Thomson Correspondence – 1940-1946
Drawings from young Blanche of pretty women and Adolf Hitler. Talks of beauty practices, music, school, censorship, newspaper cartoons mocking Adolph Hitler, collecting war ephemera, Robert getting called to the front , rationing, Sadie Hawkins dances and others, work at a canteen, gardening and farming. At the time of writing, Blanche is aged 14-20.
4. Photographs – 1901-1940 - 40 black and white photos ; 51 negatives
Envelope 1: largely agricultural photos, some from Henry Unger. *Envelope 2:* Images of young men, one frequently seen with accordion or trombone may be Robert Finch. Youths playing hockey. *Envelope 3:* Image of Blanche. Also 2 large photographs of young girls circa 1901. 2 envelopes of negatives, one marked “Finch Haven.”
5. Clippings – ca.1940's
“Canadian Sergeant is Heir to Peer” ; clipping regarding Fred and Mabel’s 60th anniversary; clipping about women in the army.
6. Miscellaneous – n.d.
Business card for a sheet metal worker in Worcester; poem “The Ship I Love” ; lyrics to “The Volunteer Organist” ; badge from Macleod’s Ltd. Winnipeg; tag from Saskatoon furrier’s business ; ordnance map highlighting Duncan’s Farm in Billingshurst