

Kamloops Museum and Archives



## **Manson family fonds**

**2008.001**

Compiled by  
Robb Gilbert  
November, 2012

## KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

2008.001

Manson family fonds

Access: Open.

Textual. Graphic

1853-1951  
0.22 metres

**Title:** Manson family fonds

**Dates of creation:** 1853 – 1951, predominant 1870 – 1930

**Physical description:** 0.22 m of textual records and 49 photographs

### Biographical sketch:

**William Manson** was born circa 1829, at Fort George, Oregon, the son of Hudson Bay Company officer Donald Manson of Thurso, Scotland, and Félicité Lucier of Marion County, Oregon. He graduated from Edinburgh University in Scotland as a young man and entered into service with the New Caledonian Department of the Hudson Bay Company in 1848. After seven years as an apprentice clerk with the H.B.C., he was appointed to a full clerk position in 1855 and in the following years served at various posts throughout British Columbia, including New Caledonia (1855-1858), Thompson River (1858-1863), Fort Alexandria (1863-1865), and Fort Simpson (1866-1868). In 1856 he married Elizabeth McLean, the daughter of H.B.C. chief trader Donald McLean, and a year later they had a son, Donald Manson. Between 1858 and 1862, William worked as a clerk under his father-in-law Donald McLean and then Joseph McKay at Fort Kamloops. He was eventually promoted to chief trader with the H.B.C. and was assigned to the post at Fort Simpson (1866-1868). Following a furlough in 1869, he became the chief trader for exploring which he held from 1870 until his retirement from the H.B.C. in 1873. William later remarried Adelaide Ogden, the daughter of Peter Ogden Jr., on May 29, 1861. Together they had a number of children, including Lizzie, William, Martha, Peter Ogden, Sarah, and Margaret. After retiring as an H.B.C. officer, William moved to his ranch at 111 Mile House where he lived until the death of his wife Adelaide in 1880. He worked for a period during the 1880s as a teacher at William Lake and as an agent for the publishing house Law, King and Law. His final years were spent on his ranch near Lac La Hache and later at Louis Creek where he died in 1892.

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**Elizabeth McLean** was born circa 1838 the daughter of Hudson Bay Company officer Donald McLean and Ali. She was likely educated in Europe. In 1856 she married William Manson and had one son, Donald Manson, a year later. She died in 1857 from complications in childbirth.

**Donald Manson** was born September 12, 1857, at Fort St. James, B.C., the son of Hudson Bay Company officer William Manson and Elizabeth McLean. He was educated at Langley and as a young man worked as a farmhand in the Kamloops area. He married Annie McIvor and they had a number of children, including Donald, Lillian, Eva, Margaret, Mabel, Stanley, and Eleanor. He died on January 7, 1930, in Kamloops.

### Custodial history:

Fonds was donated by Lorraine Manson, great granddaughter of William Manson, to the Mary Balf Archives, Kamloops Museum and Archives, on October 15, 2008, in one accession. The records were previously in the possession of her father Stanley Manson.

### Scope and content:

The fonds consists of one accession that documents three generations of the Manson family of Kamloops. The majority of the records document Hudson Bay Company officer William Manson (c. 1829-1892) and his son Donald Manson (1857-1930), though there is also information about their descendents and related family members from the McLean and McAuley families. Records include correspondence, photographs, certificates, journals, notebooks, account statements, and military records. William Manson's records include his professional and personal correspondence, a pre-emption certificate for his property near Louis Creek, and copies of Donald McLean's marriage certificates. Also included are Elizabeth McLean's journal from 1853 to 1856 and correspondence relating to the Donald McLean Estate. The records were received in no discernible order, though some records were bundled according to their creators. This order has been retained by the archives but otherwise order has been imposed by the archivist. The fonds has been arranged into six series: 1. William Manson; 2. Elizabeth McLean; 3. Donald Manson; 4. Other family members; 5. Miscellaneous records, 6. Photographs.

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### Notes:

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of fonds.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Donated by Lorraine Manson, on October 15, 2008.

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access. The archivist reserves the right to restrict access to any fragile material for preservation purposes.

**Terms governing use and reproduction:** No reproduction permitted without consent of copyright holder. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission for the reproduction of materials for publication or dissemination.

**Finding aids:** File lists are available for this fonds. See series descriptions.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Related material:** Related material can be found in the Hudson Bay Company collection (vertical file), which includes two of William Manson's notebooks, copies of his H.B.C. journals, and a William Manson documentation file.

### Access points:

150 Mile House, British Columbia

Hudson Bay Company

Kamloops, British Columbia

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Louis Creek, British Columbia

Manson family

Manson, Donald, 1857-1930

Manson, Stanley, b. 1903

Manson, William, ca. 1829-1892

McLean, Donald, 1805-1864

McLean, Elizabeth, 1838-1857

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### **Series 1: William Manson (1829-1892)**

Textual, 1857-1951, 0.06 m

This series consists of correspondence, certificates, notes, and a family Bible documenting William Manson's personal and professional life as a Hudson Bay Company officer, teacher, and publishing house agent from approximately 1857 to 1891. The records mainly consist of Manson's personal and professional correspondence with family members and others such as John Freemont Smith, J.A. Mara, and G.C. Tunstall. The letters are arranged chronologically in two general files of professional correspondence and by recipient or subject in six subsequent files. Also included in the series are records relating to Donald McLean, including copies of his marriage certificates, two letters he wrote to William and Stephen Manson in 1871, and a file of correspondence from William and Donald Manson and their attorneys Davie and Pooley concerning the Donald McLean estate.

<b>/Box</b>	<b>(file)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
/001	(01)	Family Bible inscribed with names of Manson children	1857-1936
	(02)	Certificate of Pre-emption record and death certificate	1891, 1928
	(03)	Donald McLean marriage certificates (copies), with William Manson and Alex Caulfield Anderson's notes	1866
	(04)	Account statements	1874-1891
	(05)	Poetry and notes	[188-?]- [189-?]
	(06)	Notebook used by William Manson and an unidentified person who used the notebook to record rental payments between 1937 and 1951	1891-1892, 1937-1951
	(07)	Professional correspondence with among others Donald A. McLean, H. Ross of Barkerville, Walter Budd, Alex Munro, George Adolphus Vieth and Robert Borland	1871-1888
	(08)	Professional correspondence with among others John Freemont Smith, Alex McLean, J.A. Mara, George Adolphus Vieth and Robert Borland, G.C. Tunstall	1889-1891
	(09)	Professional correspondence with his son Donald Manson and Attorneys A.E.B. Davie and Charles Edward Pooley relating to the Donald McLean estate	1883-1886
	(10)	Professional correspondence with the Union Credit and Protective Association	1884-1890

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<b>/Box</b>	<b>(file)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
/001	(11)	Professional correspondence with Law, King and Law Publishing House relating to William becoming a sales agent for their publications	1886-1888
	(12)	Professional correspondence with S.D. Pope, BC Superintendent of Education	1887-1888
	(13)	Correspondence with his son Donald Manson	1889-1891
	(14)	Correspondence with his other children – Lizzie, Margaret, Martha, Sarah, & William	1889-1891

### Series 2: Elizabeth McLean (1838-1857)

Textual, 1853-1856, 0.02 m

This series consists of a journal used by Elizabeth McLean from 1853 to 1856 to record poetry, letters, and thoughts. The journal was written largely while she was living at Fort Alexandria.

<b>/Box</b>	<b>(file)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
/001	(15)	Journal	1853-1856

### Series 3: Donald Manson (1857-1930)

Textual, 1879-1929, 0.07 m

This series consists of correspondence, certificates, notes, and account statements that document Donald Manson's family life and career as a farmhand and rancher in the Kamloops region. The records principally consist of his personal correspondence with family members from approximately 1900-1930. Other records include his certificate of pre-emption for land at Louis Creek and a file of records related to his son Donald A.R. Manson's military service and death during WWI.

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/Box	(file)	Description	Dates
/001	(16)	Official records: Certificate of pre-emption record, Agreement of dissolution	1881-1918
	(17)	Account statements and notice of assessment	[190-]-1923
	(18)	Poetry journal	[188-?]
	(19)	Notes on his children	[191-?]
	(20)	Professional correspondence with among others J. W. Moxley, Jean-Marie Le Jacq, H.A. Fowler, James Stewart	1879-1926
	(21)	Correspondence with his brother William Manson and Attorney Willis S. Moore relating to the Oregon property title suit	1918-1919
	(22)- (23)	Correspondence with his sister Lizzie Manson	1906-1923
/002	(01)	Correspondence with his son Donald A.R. Manson	1911-1915
	(02)	“Army papers” of Donald A.R. Manson. Correspondence with the Department of Militia and Defense and the Board of Pension Commissioners of Canada. Includes certificate of death and telegram from Adjutant General	1915-1926
	(03)	Correspondence with his daughter Lillian Manson	1911-1929
	(04)	Correspondence with his son-in-law William Brown	1913- [1923?]
	(05)	Correspondence with his daughter Eleanor	1914-1926
	(06)	Correspondence with his daughter Mabel	1923-1928
	(07)	Correspondence with his daughter Margaret	1914-1927
	(08)	Correspondence with his son Stanley	1922-1929
	(09)	Correspondence with Chrissie [?]	1923-1925
	(10)	Correspondence with other family members	1890- [1921?]



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### Series 4: Other family members

Textual, 1867-1949, 0.05 m

This series consists of correspondence from approximately 1910 to 1940 documenting the lives of Donald Manson's children: Donald A.R., Eva, Eleanor, Lillian, Margaret, and Stanley. Also included is correspondence exchanged between Stanley Manson and his wife Alice (née MacIvor). Other records include genealogical records, certificates, and licenses.

<b>/Box</b>	<b>(file)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
/002	(11)	Manson family baptismal certificates – Charles Ogden, Peter Ogden, Martha	1867-1871
	(12)	Minnie Manson death certificate	1896
	(13)	Donald A.R. Manson correspondence and records	1910-1915
	(14)	Eleanor Manson correspondence	1924-1936
	(15)	Eva Manson correspondence	1914-1926
	(16)	Lillian Manson correspondence	1911-1936
	(17)	Margaret Manson correspondence	1915-1936
	(18)	Stanley Manson official records	1930-1948
	(19)	Stanley Manson correspondence with B.B. [?]	1928-1929
	(20)	Stanley Manson correspondence with his wife Alice	1934-1947
	(21)	Stanley Manson correspondence with family members	1914-1949
	(22)	Stanley Manson miscellaneous correspondence	1924-1939
	(23)	Alice Manson correspondence	1939-1947
	(24)	“Mrs. Manson” correspondence	1936

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### Series 5: Miscellaneous records

Textual, 1893-[193-?], 0.02 m

This series consists of miscellaneous records that belonged to members of the Manson family. Records include correspondence from Emily Irene Frank, baptismal and death certificates, a certificate of pre-emption record, an indenture, and two wanted posters. Also included at the end of the series is a file of unidentified letters and notes.

<b>/Box</b>	<b>(file)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
/002	(25)	Emily Irene Frank correspondence	1913
	(26)	Thomas Clarke death certificate	1915
	(27)	Certificate of Pre-emption record for Sidney E. Cameron	1905
	(28)	Indenture between William Johnson and Peter Herod	1908
	(29)	Baptismal certificates – William and John Sharp	1893-1895
	(30)	Wanted posters	1888-1908
	(31)	Miscellaneous – unidentified family correspondence, notes, and clippings	[191-?]- [193-?]

### Series 6: Photographs

Graphic, [18-]-[19-], 49 b&w photographs

This series consists of photographs taken of various members of the Manson family and their family friends, as well as other photographs that were collected or received by members of the Manson family. The series contains 49 photographs, including portraits of Donald Manson (1798-1880), William Manson, and Donald McLean, among others; 3 group photographs, including one of Lord Strathcona's Horse Scouts; and 1 photograph taken of a ranch. Many of the photographs are unidentified and undated. A partial identification key was included by the donor and has been preserved as the last file in the series.

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/Box	(file)	Description	Dates
/003	(01)	Donald Manson	[185-?]
	(02)	William Manson	[1855?]
	(03)	Donald Manson and Ogden [?]	[18-]
	(04)	Donald McLean	[185-?]
	(05)	Tod children	[18-]
	(06)	“Willie Manson”	[18-]
	(07)	Lizzie Manson	[190-?]
	(08)	Sarah Manson, photograph by Mrs. R. Maynard	[19-?]
	(09)	Mabel Manson	[19-?]
	(10)	Donald A.R. Manson photograph with letter from Lillian Manson to her mother Annie Manson on the back	1914
	(11)	Lillian Manson	[192-?]
	(12)	Manson family photographs [?]	[18-?]
	(13)	Alfred Hector McLean in Boer War uniform	[ca. 1902]
	(14)	Mary Ogden	[18-?]
	(15)	Archie McKinley	[18-?]
	(16)	Portraits of among others George Simpson, Joseph Hardesty, Robert Forsyth, Sir James Douglas	[188-?]- [19-?]
	(17)	Lord Strathcona’s Horse. Scouts	[19-]
	(18)- (22)	Unidentified portraits : includes 1 photograph by Mary Spencer, and 3 by Mrs. R. Maynard	[18-]-[19-]
	(23)	Unidentified group photographs	[18-]-[19-]
	(24)	Unidentified photograph of ranch [?]	[19-?]
	(25)	Copies of photographs with identification key for some of the images	n.d.