

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

Finding Aid

Records of Margaret Kennedy

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Catalogued by: Bob Anger, January 1999

Notes on using the Finding Aid

First consult the fonds description (fonds being an archival term used to denote the whole of the records created by a specific individual or family and held within an archives). The fonds description includes a biographical sketch of the individual or family that created the records, a scope and content note which briefly describes the records within the fonds (this generally starts with "Fonds consists of..."), and several notes at the bottom, which provide information on access restrictions and copyright restrictions.

Some finding aids also provide series descriptions on subsequent pages which further describe the records within the fonds.

After reading these descriptions consult the file list and notify an archivist of the individual files you wish to view.

Fonds Description

Margaret Kennedy fonds. – 1925-1986. – 52 cm of textual records. - 53 photographs. – 311 slides. - 7 filmstrips. - 9 audio cassettes.

Margaret Kennedy (1913-1986) served as a mission worker in India for the Women's Missionary Society (W.M.S.) and the Board of World Missions of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and was chair of the Vellore-Ludhiana committee of the Canadian Council of Churches. She was born in County Durham, England and received her early education at Gateshead School, Gateshead-on-Tyne, before the family moved to Montreal when she was 17. She studied at the Missionary and Deaconess Training School (later Ewart College) for two years, followed by a year of study at the Hartford Seminary Foundation. In June 1939, she was designated by the Presbytery of Montreal as a mission worker to the Bhil Field in India. She worked as an evangelist, teacher, counsellor and leader among the congregations in the Vindhya Saptura area of India until she retired in 1977. She was also active in guiding the development and activities of the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (W.F.C.S.) of the Church of North India (C.N.I.), which was established in 1970, and was appointed as the organisation's first Executive Secretary. Upon retiring from India, she returned to Mississauga, Ontario, and continued her work by speaking and teaching on Christian work in India, and by serving on various committees of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. She also served as chair of the Vellhore-Ludhiana committee of the Canadian Council of Churches. She wrote a book titled "Flame of the Forest" describing the story of Christianity in India, as well as a variety of articles for the church's periodicals and a series of meditations for "These Days", a devotional booklet. In 1978, she received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Presbyterian College, Montreal in recognition of her work in India and Canada. She passed away on October 12th, 1986.

Fonds consists of diaries, notes and writings, a few small files of correspondence, personal mementoes, photographs, slides, film strips and audio tapes. The material documents Margaret Kennedy's life and activities as a mission worker and evangelist in India, and as a member of the Women's Fellowship of Christian Service of the Church of North India. The graphic and audio material help depict the landscape, surroundings and conditions in which missionaries like Dr. Kennedy conducted their work. The pictures also provide insight into the customs and culture of the people living in the Vindhya Saptura area of India, as well as the educational, medical and spiritual work carried out by the mission workers. See the series descriptions for more detail about the records.

Title based on contents of the fonds.

Accession number: 1991-5001

No restrictions on access.

Some material in this fonds is protected by copyright until January 1st, 2049 (please ask the archivist on staff for clarification). A single copy of items in the fonds may be made for purposes of research and private study. Authorization must be obtained from the copyright holder if protected material is to be used for any other purpose. Protected material cannot be published without permission from the copyright holder.

A finding aid with series descriptions and file lists is available.

Series Descriptions

Diaries. – 1940-1985. – 19 cm of textual records (29 volumes).

Diaries exist for the years 1940-1945, 1957, and 1960 to 1985. The entries are fairly brief and difficult to read, but provide insight into her daily life and activities in India, and in Canada after her retirement. Several diaries also exist which document her travels later in life. These include trips to Israel in 1982, India in 1984, and across Canada in 1983 and 1985.

A file list for this series is available.

Notes, papers and writings. – [ca. 1936]-1985. – 19 cm of textual records.

Series consists of a file of papers regarding the Church of North India, 1965-1977; notes for speeches and talks given by Margaret Kennedy in India, and also for various churches and congregations across Canada; notes of Bible class talks and discussions in India (ca. 1960 and 1971-1973) and notes for talks in Canada (ca. 1975, 1978 and 1979); writings and correspondence regarding her articles for "These Days", a devotional booklet; and a variety of stories and notes, some of them India-related, for a creative writing class she took at Seneca College, Ont. in 1981. The series also consists of a file of poems, both written by Margaret Kennedy, and collected by her.

A file list for this series is available.

Correspondence. – 1954-1985. – 1 cm of textual records.

The correspondence includes general form letters sent to friends and family by Margaret Kennedy concerning her travels and activities between 1980 and 1985; correspondence with James Smart and Mary Whale concerning her possible appointment as Dean of the missionary and Deaconess Training School, 1954-1957; a thank-you letter from the Anniversaries Committee of the Women's Missionary Service, 1964; correspondence with travel offices concerning her trips to India in 1977, 1984, and 1985; and a letter from the Hartford Seminary Foundation confirming her grades, 1961.

A file list for this series is available.

Personal mementoes. - 1925-1986. - 13 cm of textual records.

The personal mementoes include a booklet of her student marks from Gateshead Secondary School, England; her passport; her certificate from the Hartford Seminary Foundation (1939) as well as her certificate from the Women's Missionary Service (1939); a Hindi Music Book; programs of the 1st and 2nd Synodical Conference of the Church of North India; and clippings of Margaret Kennedy at a celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Women's Missionary Society at First Presbyterian Church, Port Colborne, Ontario. The series also contains several booklets, including: "Mission Work in Malwa, 1877-1977", "Seventy-five Shining Years: Christ's Redeeming Love at work in the Bhil country of India (1973)", a W.F.C.S Handbook (1972), a W.F.C.S. Prayer Calendar, and a copy of the May 1974 issue of the "North Indian Churchman" with an article written by Margaret Kennedy.

A file list for this series is available.

Photographs, slides and film strips. - [ca. 1935]-[ca. 1985]. – 53 photographs. – 311 slides. – 7 film strips.

The slides and photographs were primarily taken between the 1950s and 1980s and largely document the people and landscape of India and the work of the missionaries in the Bhil region. Subjects in the pictures include various towns and villages, such as Jobat, Nagpur, Amkhut, Toranmal, and Alirajpur; pictures of bible classes, teachers, nurses and other mission workers; pictures of hospitals and medical work; pictures of daily life and customs of the Bhil people; and pictures of the 1st and 2nd Synodical Conferences of the W.F.C.S. There are also a number of pictures of friends and family in Canada. Other photographs include pictures of Margaret Kennedy receiving her honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Presbyterian College, Montreal, 1978. The film strips include four films from a series entitled "Saints of India". The titles include "Bishop Azariah of Dornakal", "Narayan Vaman Tilak", "Sadhu Sundar Singh", and "Pandita Ramabai". Titles of the other film strips include: "A Stranger in India", "The Fellowship of the Least Coin, 1958-1968", and W.F.C.S. 1977.

A file list for this series is available.

Audio cassettes. – [ca. 1973]–[ca. 1983]. – 9 audio cassettes.

Series consists of nine audio cassettes, each sixty minutes in length. One cassette is of the Jubilee celebrations in Amkhut, March 1973 and include Bhili singing, opening statements, and comments. It is assumed the tape was made by Margaret Kennedy, but this is not known for sure. Side two of this tape includes a speech by Dr. Mrs. K. Luther, President of the W.F.C.S, at a meeting of the W.F.C.S. in March 1973. Two cassettes (one being a duplicate copy) contain an interview with Ms. D. Morrison from Jobat Hospital, and a description of the hospital facilities and the work being done. A fourth cassette contains a speech by Margaret Kennedy entitled "Thy Kingdom Come to India" on one side and a speech by David Howard entitled "The Call of the Missionary" on the other. This tape was recorded by the Knox Presbyterian Church Tape Ministry. Two tapes are recordings of the Jubilee celebrations of the Jobat Presbyterian Church, March 1983, including singing and speeches. Two other cassettes are of music from the Taj Mahal, while the last one is of a service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto.

A file list for this series is available.

File List

Diaries

1991-5001-1-1	1941-1945	Diary
1991-5001-1-2	1945	Diary
1991-5001-1-3	1957	Diary
1991-5001-1-4	1960	Diary
1991-5001-1-5	1961	Diary
1991-5001-1-6	1962	Diary
1991-5001-1-7	1963	Diary
1991-5001-1-8	1964	Diary
1991-5001-1-9	1965	Diary
1991-5001-1-10	1966	Diary
1991-5001-1-11	1967	Diary
1991-5001-1-12	1968	Diary
1991-5001-1-13	1969	Diary
1991-5001-1-14	1970	Diary
1991-5001-1-15	1971	Diary
1991-5001-1-16	1972	Diary
1991-5001-1-17	1973	Diary
1991-5001-1-18	1974	Diary
1991-5001-1-19	1975	Diary
1991-5001-1-20	1976	Diary
1991-5001-1-21	1977	Diary
1991-5001-1-22	1978	Diary
1991-5001-1-23	1979	Diary
1991-5001-2-1	1980, 1981	Diaries
1991-5001-2-2	1982, 1983	Diaries

1991-5001-2-3	1984-1985	Diaries
1991-5001-2-4	1982-1985	Travel Diaries
1991-5001-2-5	[ca. 1930]	Address Book

Notes, papers and writings

1991-5001-2-6	1960	Notebook – lecture notes
1991-5001-2-7	1971-1973, 1975, 1978-1979	Notebooks – lectures and talks for Bible classes, Sunday schools, etc.
1991-5001-3-1	[ca.1936] – 1961	Poems (both written and collected by M. Kennedy)
1991-5001-3-2	1965-1977	Papers regarding the Church of North India (C.N.I.)
1991-5001-3-3	1985	Address to the C.N.I. Synod Board of Social Services
1991-5001-3-4	1960-1982	Speeches and talks
1991-5001-3-5	1958-1985	Miscellaneous papers
1991-5001-3-6	1981	Writings for a Creative Writing course, Seneca College
1991-5001-3-7	1983-1985	Writings and correspondence – “These Days”

Correspondence

1991-5001-3-8	1977, 1984, 1985	Correspondence and mementoes re: trips to India
1991-5001-3-9	1960-1961	Letter from the Hartford Seminary Foundation (copy of grades)
1991-5001-3-10	1980-1985	Letters to friends
1991-5001-3-11	1954-1957	Correspondence re: possible appointment as Dean of the Missionary and Deaconess Training School
1991-5001-3-12	1964	Letter of thanks from the Anniversaries Committee of the Women’s Missionary Society

Personal mementoes

1991-5001-4-1	1971-1974	Programs – 1 st and 2 nd Synodical Conferences of the Women’s Fellowship for Christian Service (W.F.C.S.)
1991-5001-4-2	1939	Hartford Seminary Foundation, Kennedy School of Missions – Certificate of Graduation
1991-5001-4-3	1938	Canadian School of Missions – Certificate of Completion
1991-5001-4-4	1939	Programme of Graduation Service, Hartford Seminary

Foundation

1991-5001-4-5	1939	Certificate from the Women's Missionary Service of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
1991-5001-4-6	1953	Invitation to Buckingham Palace
1991-5001-4-7	1925-1930	Student Report Book from Gateshead School
1991-5001-4-8	1968	Hindi Music Book
1991-5001-4-9	1953	Music Book – "Songs in the Night"
1991-5001-4-10	1939	Passport
1991-5001-4-11	1936	Letter of Recommendation from W.P. Downey Ltd.
1991-5001-4-12	1937	Letter of Recommendation from Canada Steamship Lines
1991-5001-4-13	1986	Letter from Mary Nichol, April 24 th , 1986
1991-5001-4-14	1986	"Get Well" letters
1991-5001-4-15	1974	Magazine – "The North Indian Churchman" (May 1974)
1991-5001-4-16	[ca. 1977]	Booklet – "Mission Work in Malwa, 1877-1977"
1991-5001-4-17	1972	Booklet – W.F.C.S. Handbook
1991-5001-4-18	[196-?]	Booklet – W.F.C.S. Prayer Calendar
1991-5001-4-19	1973	Booklet – "75 Shining Years: Christ's Redeeming Love at work in the Bhil country of India"
1991-5001-4-20	1937-1939	Clippings – Inspirational articles
1991-5001-4-21	[ca. 1936]	Clippings – Material for sermons and addresses
1991-5001-4-22	[ca. 1937]	Clippings – biographical
1991-5001-4-23	1937-1940	Clippings – general interest
1991-5001-4-24	[ca. 1937]	Clippings – games and festivities
1991-5001-4-25	1937	Clippings – missions
1991-5001-4-26	1984	Newspaper clippings – Celebration of the 70 th Anniversary of the Women's Missionary Society at the First Presbyterian Church, Port Colborne, Ont.

Photographs, slides and filmstrips

1991-5001-5-1	1974	Photograph – 2 nd Synodical Conference W.F.C.S.
1991-5001-5-2	[ca. 1978-1983]	Photographs – various family and friends (26 photos)

1991-5001-5-3	1978	Photographs – Margaret Kennedy receiving her honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Presbyterian College, Montreal (5 Photos)
1991-5001-5-4	[193-?] – [196-?]	Photographs – 2 photos of individuals (not identified)
1991-5001-5-5	[197-?]	Photographs – people and places in India (12 photos)
1991-5001-5-6	[197-]	Photographs – pictures of a Bible class and a Christmas play (9 photos)
1991-5001-5-7	[197-?]	Photographs – pictures of friends (4 photos)
1991-5001-5-8	1946	Photograph – Presbyterian Young People's Summer Camp
1991-5001-5-9	[ca.1935]- [ca.1970]	Photographs – various friends and colleagues in India (10 photos)
1991-5001-5-10	[ca. 1970]	Photographs – 6 photos of a procession of the Church of North India, and one photo of a group in front of a Presbyterian Residence (Presbyterian College, Montreal ?)
1991-5001-5-11	1960	Photograph – Kasota CGIT Camp, Sylvan Lake, Alberta
1991-5001-5-12	[195-?]	Photographs – various people in India (7 photos)
1991-5001-5-13	[195-?]	Photograph – operating room at Jobat Hospital and Dr. Quinn
1991-5001-5-14	[ca. 1970]	Photographs – Unity Witness Service of the Church of North India (4 photos)
1991-5001-5-15	[197-?]	Photographs – various negatives
1991-5001-5-16	[196-?]	Slides - item consists of a box of 311 slides of various people, villages and activities in India
1991-5001-5-16	[196-?]	Filmstrip – Saints of India Series “Bishop Azariah of Dornakal”
1991-5001-5-17	[196-?]	Filmstrip – Saints of India Series “Pandita Ramabai”
1991-5001-5-18	[196-?]	Filmstrip – Saints of India Series “Sadhu Sundar Singh
1991-5001-5-19	[196-?]	Filmstrip - Saints of India Series “Narayan Vaman Tilak”
1991-5001-5-20	[196-?]	Filmstrip – “A Stranger in India”
1991-5001-5-21	[ca. 1968]	Filmstrip - “The Fellowship of the Least Coin, 1958-1968”
1991-5001-5-22	1977	Filmstrip – “W.F.C.S. 1977”

Audio cassettes

1991-5001-5-23	1973	Side 1- Jubilee celebrations in Amkhut, March 1973 Side 2 – Includes a speech by Dr. Mrs. K. Luther, President of the W.F.C.S, at a meeting of the W.F.C.S. in March 1973
1991-5001-5-24	[197-?]	Interview with Ms. D. Morrison from Jobat Hospital, and a description of the hospital facilities and the work being done.
1991-5001-5-25	[197-?]	(duplicate copy of the above Item 10)
1991-5001-5-26	[197-?]	Side 1 - A speech by Margaret Kennedy entitled “Thy Kingdom Come to India”. Side 2 – A speech by David Howard entitled “The Call of the Missionary” on the other. Two other cassettes are of music from the Taj Mahal, while the last one is of a service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto.
1991-5001-5-27	1983	Recordings of the Jubilee celebrations of the Jobat Presbyterian Church, March 1983, including singing and speeches.
1991-5001-5-28	1983	Recordings of the Jubilee celebrations of the Jobat Presbyterian Church, March 1983, including singing and speeches.
1991-5001-5-29	[197-?]	Music from the Taj Mahal
1991-5001-5-30	[197-?]	Music from the Taj Mahal
1991-5001-5-31	[197-?]	A service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto