

P219- James McNiece Austin Fonds

1892-2010

11.28cm of textual records, 80 photographs, 5 publications and 7 cartographic documents

Biographical sketch: James McNiece (Jim) Austin (1924-2012), the eldest of four (4) sons of Allan McNiece and Rita (Dickinson) Austin, was born in Chapleau, Ontario and was married to Rosamond Mills (1924-1948) who died shortly after giving birth to their twin daughters Rosamond (1947-1997) and Elisabeth (1947-).

In 1939, he went to Sudbury to learn to fly with the help of his uncles Chuck and Jack [Austin] who had started Austin Airways. In 1942 he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and served during WWII as Flight Engineer, RCAF Bomber Command, Squadron 429 (Bison). After his father's sudden passing in 1946, he joined the family's business, Austin Nicholson Lumber Company, and worked in the lumber industry until his retirement in 1988.

Founded by Jim Austin's grandfather (James McNiece Austin (1866-1922)) in 1901, the Austin Nicholson Lumber Company of Chapleau, ON became a major 'actor' in the forest industry and was, in the late 1910s, the largest supplier of ties in the British Commonwealth. The company had contracts with Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) and in 1916, as an example, it signed a three-year contract to provide the CPR with 200,000 ties per year.

From 1946 until the sale of the family firm in 1956, Austin was in charge of many of the bush operations. After the sale of the firm to 'W.B. Plaunt and Sons of Sudbury' Jim Austin stayed with the company until joining Eddy Forest Products in Espanola. He was Assistant Woodyard Superintendent, and after managing Eddy's Pineland operation in Nairn Centre, in 1976 he moved to Timmins for work and four years later, in 1980, returned to Nairn. When he retired in 1988 he was 'Special Assistant to the Manager of the Woods Operations Supervising Research and Development in Lumber Operations and Production and Control of Waste Products'. After his retirement Jim Austin moved to Sudbury and resided there until his death in November 2012.

Scope and content: James McNiece Austin fonds consists of records documenting the founding and subsequent history of Austin Nicholson Lumber Company and the various communities where it operated as well as Austin's own professional career. It also contains records of individuals that worked for the Company.

Legal documents regarding land titles, contracts and correspondence with the CPR and financial records provide insights on the company and many photographs illustrate the facilities and equipment of the company at its different locations. A 2010 research paper on the presence of the company in Alberta sheds light on Austin's western operations.

There are also newspaper clippings, articles, photographs and publications regarding the different communities where the Austin Nicholson Lumber Company had mills. As well, documentation on Sultan, Dalton Mill, Chapeau and the first settlers' families and on the history of Austin Nicholson logging company can be found in the fonds.

Some documents and articles relating to Eddy Forest products and its history are also included in the fonds. Personal documents and correspondence of George Natsuik, former employee, are also in the fonds.

This fonds has been divided into two series: Series I: Business Records & Series II: Personal Records.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: Fonds was donated by Ms. Elizabeth Austin, daughter of James Austin, in June 2018

Restrictions on access: Some documents are under restriction of access.

Terms governing use and reproduction/publication: Copyright regulations apply to the records. Some documents may not be reproduced due to the fragile state of preservation.

Accruals: Records were received in 1 accrual in June 2018. No more accruals expected.

Archivist Notes: there was no original order of the documents**

For more information on James McNiece Austin :

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/facts-and-arguments/lives-lived-james-mcniece-austin-88/article7036452/>

<http://www.thememoryproject.com/stories/2113:james-mcniece-austin/>

Austin Nicholson Lumber Company

:http://www.chapeauexpress.ca/January_19_2013.pdf

<http://www.trainweb.org/oldtimetrains/photos/logging/austin.htm>

<http://www.chapeaulibrary.com/wakami/wakami.htm>

Series I: BUSINESS RECORDS

1891-2010 (predominant dates 1901-1957)

5.02cm textual records, 23 photographs, 7 cartographic documents and 1 publication

Scope and Content: This series is relating to the business and operations of the Austin and Nicholson Lumber Company. It documents the legal and financial side of the business through deeds, agreements and financial statements. Correspondence highlights business operations between Austin and Nicholson and other companies such as conversations with the CPR. Maps and photos visually depicts where the company resided and what its work was comprised of. This series is divided in 7 sub-series: **I/A:** Legal; **I/B:** Finance; **I/C:** Correspondence **I/D:** Insurance **I/E:** Photographs **I/F:** History **I/G:** Documentation **I/H:** Maps.

Sub-Series I/A: Legal

1891-1955 (predominant dates 1951-1955)

0.01cm textual records

I/A,1: Land Titles and Deed of Land

1891-1953 (predominant dates 1951-1952)

7 sheets of textual documents

File contains an original 1891 Deed of Land for the village of Chapleau and two land titles acts (1951,1952) for the district of Sudbury.

I/A,2: Memorandum of Agreement

1901-1955

0.01cm textual records

The file consists of five original business documents. This includes two Memorandum of Agreements between Mcnaught Lumber Company and Austin and Nicholson; one original Declaration of Partnership between J.M. Austin Sr. and G.B. Nicholson; one original agreement regarding their partnership as well as one Memorandum of Agreement between Austin and Nicholson Co. and Germaine Turcotte.

Sub- Series I/B: Finance

1921-1924

0.01cm textual records

I/B, 1: Dues and Financial Statement

1921-1924

0.01 cm textual records

Original statement of dues, receipts and financial information relating to Austin and Nicholson Co.

Sub-Series I/C: Correspondence

1954-1957 (predominant dates 1955)

1cm textual documents

I/C, 1: Correspondence/ Business

1954-1957 (predominant date 1955)

1cm of textual documents

Correspondence in regards to business affairs of Austin Lumber written to and from various company employees, including J.M. Austin Jr. File also contains financial reports, shares and company operations.

I/C, 2: Correspondence/CPR

1954-1957

11 sheets of textual documents

File contains original correspondence between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and Austin Lumber Ltd. Letters highlight business interactions between the two companies.

Sub- Series I/D: Insurance

1927-1956 (predominant dates 1955-1956)

6 sheets of textual documents

I/D, 1: [Insurance and Payment Information]

1927-1956 (predominant dates 1955-1956)

6 sheets of textual documents

Correspondence concerning company insurance policies for machinery, requests for employee payments and claims for the Workman's Compensation Board for the Austin Lumber (Dalton) Ltd.

* Restriction applies to some of the documents.

Sub-Series I/E: Photographs

1901-1968

23 photographs – black & white and colour photos

I/E, 1: Photographs

1901-1968

23 photographs – black & white and colour photos

Company photos shows the work and operations of Austin Lumber Company and that of Dalton Mills.

Sub-Series I/F: History

1920-1934, 2010

1.5cm textual documents

I/F,1: MacNeice Austin in Alberta
2010, (originals (1920-1934)
1.5cm

This file contains photocopied archival documents from the Archives in Jasper and Edmonton and the National Archives concerning Austin Nicholson Co. correspondence. It also contains a 2010 Whirlpool River Tie Logging Timeline illustrating the 1901-1935 business operations of Austin and Nicholson Lumber Company and Jasper Whirlpool Timber Berths and operations.

Sub-Series I/G: Documentation

1910-1989 (predominant dates 1987-1989)

2.5cm

I/G, 1: [Documentation on Logging]
1910-1989 (predominant dates 1987-1989)
5 sheets of textual documents, 1 photograph

Original letterhead of Austin Lumber, LTD. Photocopy of photo of Dalton Mills. Camp poem or son relating to lumber. File also includes newspaper clippings about logging from the Muskokan and the Chapleau Sentinel.

I/G, 2: Nicholson: A Study of Lumbering in North Central Ontario 1885-1930 With A Special Reference to the Austin-Nicholson Company.
1976

Wayne Crossen, T. "Nicholson: A Study of Lumbering in North Central Ontario 1885-1930 With A Special Reference to the Austin-Nicholson Company." *Ministry of Culture and Recreation, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Northern Regional Office*. Cochrane, ON, 1976. 216.

Sub-Series I/H: Maps

1927-1960 (predominant dates 1927-1937)

7 Maps

I/H, 1: Austin & Nicholson LTD: Nicholson District of Sudbury, Ontario
1927
1 map

Photocopied version of original physical maps of the District of Sudbury. Scale: 100ft. = 1in

I/H, 2: Austin & Nicholson LTD: Nicholson District of Sudbury, Ontario
1927
1 map

Photocopied version of original physical maps of the District of Sudbury. Scale: 100ft. = 1in

I/H, 3: The District of Thunder Bay
1934
1 map

Original printed physical map of Northern Ontario. Scale: 7.89 miles = 1 inch or 1/500 000.

I/H, 4: Westerly Portion of Cochrane District
1937
1 map

Original printed political map of Northern Ontario. Scale: 6 miles = 1 inch or 1/ 380 160

I/H, 5: Map No. 32A Parts of the Districts of Algoma and Sudbury
1960
1 map

Original printed political map of the Sudbury area. Map has been hand coloured with colour coded outlines of specific areas corresponding to the legend. Legend lists lumber companies. Scale: 4 mi. = 1inch.

I/H, 6: District of Algoma and Sudbury
1932
1 map

Original printed physical/political map of Northern, Ontario. Scale 4m = 1 inch or 1/235 440.

I/H, 7: Dalton Mills, Ontario
1984
1 map

Photocopied version of political map of the Dalton Mills area. Includes additional handwritten notes throughout.

Series II: PERSONAL RECORDS

1909-2008 (predominantly 1942-1984)

6.26cm of textual documents, 58 photographs and 5 publications

Scope and Content: This series is comprised of records of three individuals: James McNiece Austin Sr., James McNeice Austin Jr. and George Natsuik. Legal, financial and personal documentation such as shares, receipts, wills and books highlight the personal lives of the three individuals. More over, the documentation not only informs us of their personal interest but also depicts Northern Ontario life and the history of several communities around Ontario. This series is divided in the following subseries and sub-sub-series:**II/A:** James McNeice Austin Sr; **II/A/1:**Legal; **II/A/2:** Correspondence; **II/A/3:** Life in Northern Ontario; **II/B:** James McNeice Austin Jr.; **II/B/1:** Financial; **II/B/2:** Documentation; **II/B/3:** History of Community; **II/B/4:** Photographs; **II/C:** George Natsuik; **II/C/1:** Financial; **II/C/2:** Correspondence.

Sub-Series II/A: James McNeice Austin Sr.

1909-1986

0.01cm of textual records and 2 photographs

Sub-Sub-Series II/A,1: Legal

1915-1935

7 pages of textual documents

II/A/1,1: [James McNeice Austin, will and related documents]

1915-1935

7 sheets of textual documents

File contains original documents of an Assignment of Book of Debts to Austin Sr. J.M. Austin Sr.'s will as well as correspondence concerning his estate.

Sub-Sub-Series II/A/2: Correspondence

1909-1986

6 sheets of textual documents and 2 black & white photographs

II/A/2/1: [Correspondence/ Personal]

1909-1986

6 sheets of textual records and 2 black & white photographs

File contains original correspondence from J.M. Austin Sr. discussing lumbering and

logging. As well, as letters relating to personal matters of J.M. Austin and the Austin family.

Sub-Sub-Series II/A/3: Life in Northern Ontario

1946-1986 (predominant date 1946)

8 sheets of textual documents

II/A/3,1: A Northern Newsletter

1946-1986 (predominant date 1946)

8 sheets of textual records

Copy of "A Northern Newsletter" which illustrates Northern Ontario life in the winter. A Sudbury Night feature titled "Lighter Side." As Well as a copy of a photograph with a caption relating to Gravenhurst High School published by the Gravenhurst Banner.

Sub-Series II/B: James McNeice Austin Jr.

1927-2008

6.2cm textual documents, 56 photographs and 5 publications

Sub-Sub-Series II/B/1: Financial

1953-1970

6 sheets of textual documents

II/B/1,1: "Certificates of Shares"

1953-1970

6 sheets of textual documents

6 certificates of shares owned by J.M Austin Jr. This includes shares for Jess-Mac Gold Mines Ltd, Worthington Mines Ltd., The Sudbury Curling Club and Sudbury Yacht Club Ltd.

Sub-Sub-Series II/B/2: Documentation

1909 - 2008 (predominant date 1972-1988)

6.2cm textual documents and 4 publications, 1 black and white photograph

II/B/2,1: Thoughts of Yesterday
2008

Roffey, Robert. *Thoughts of Yesterday*.
Thunder Bay, ON: Lehto Rainbow Print,
2008. 234.

II/B/2,2: This is Blind River
n.d. (circa 1985)

Alexander, Dennis J. *This is Blind River*.
Sudbury, ON: Alexwood Advertising, n.d.
34.

II/B/2,3: [Chapleau]
1953-1988 (predominant date 1987-1988)
2.3cm of textual documents

File contains 1 publication (*Chapleau's
100th Birthday Pictorial History*. 65.) and
3 folders consisting of newspapers, articles
and pamphlets documenting Chapleau's
community, culture and Chapleau
Highschools Diamond Jubilee. It also
outlines the history of some of the first
settlers in the area.

II/B/2,4: McConkey Corners
1983
1.8cm of textual documents

Argyle Community Library. *McConkey
Corners*. North Bay, ON: Canadore
College, 1983. n.p.

II/B/2,5: The Story of Renfrew: Heritage Renfrew
1984

Bennett, Carol. *The Story of Renfrew*.
Renfrew, ON: Juniper Books, 1984. 325.

II/B/2,6: [Company History, History of Logging
and Railways]
1909-2000 (predominant date 1972-1988)
2.1cm of textual documents, 1 black and
white photograph

File of 4 folders consisting of letters, newspapers, articles and pamphlets documenting the histories of Austin & Nicholson Co., J.M. Austin Sr., as well as histories of Northern Ontario railways and logging companies. 1 folder contains information about Rusty Blakey, a former Austin Airways employee.

** File 1/5 and 3/5 of II/B/2,6 have material which relates to one another.

Sub-Sub-Series II/B/3: Photographs
1927-1960
55 photographs

II/B/3,1: [Personal Photographs]
1927-1960
55 photographs

Black and white and colour photographs of J.M. Austin Jr. and his family and friends.

Sub Series II/C: George Natsuik
1942-1971
0.05cm of textual documents

George Natsuik was an acquaintance of James McNeice Austin Jr.

Sub-Sub-Series II/C/1: Financial
1942-1971
23 sheets of textual records

II/C/1,1: [George Natsuik – Personal Papers]
1942-1971
23 sheets of textual documents

File contains original documents belonging to George Natsuik. Documents include Natsuik's health benefits, shares for Legardo Gold Mines, financial receipts and multiple identification cards.

Sub-Sub-Series II/C/2: Correspondence

1956-1971

47 sheets of textual records

II/C/2,1: [George Natsuik – Correspondence]

1956-1964

9 sheets of textual records and
photographs

File contains personal letters from Stella Rogers addressed to George Natsuik. One colour and one black and white photo of Stella and relatives are included.

II/C/2,2: [George Natsuik - Memorial Records]

1971

36 sheets of textual records

Cards, letters and a memorial record book illustrating the death and funeral of George Natsuik in 1971.