



**BRUCE COUNTY
ARCHIVES**

"Celebrating Bruce County History"

Finding Aid



Thomas Vance Family fonds

A2004.002

Fonds title: Vance family fonds

Dates

1865 - 1930

Extent

0.5 cm of textual materials
1 album
95 post cards

Biographical Sketch

Thomas Vance of Ireland served in the 31st Regiment of Foot in the British army from 1851 to 1866. He served in the Ionian Islands, Crimea, East Indies, and China.

Leona McLean-St. Clair (nee: Vance) grew up by Arkwright, Arran Township, with her parents, William and Mary Vance, and brothers, Jack and Irwin Vance. Thomas Vance was Leona's maternal grandfather.

Custodial History

The military records of Thomas Vance were passed down through the Vance family until they arrived in the hands of Leona McLean-St. Clair (nee: Vance). The post card album was created by Mrs. McLean-St. Clair as a combination of assembled post cards and post cards received in the mail directed to individual members of the Vance family. Mrs. McLean-St. Clair gave these records to her niece, Cecille Lockrey, to donate to the Bruce County Museum and Archives.

Scope and Content

This fonds consists of records of Thomas Vance which provide some details of his fifteen year military career in the 31st Regiment of Foot in the British Army (1851 to 1866). These records include an account book (handbook), pension certificate, discharge certificate, and a monthly settlements, clothing account and savings bank account book.

33 VICTORIA STREET NORTH, SOUTHAMPTON, ONTARIO
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Vance family fonds

Also included in the fonds is a post card album containing 95 post cards (1908-1930) that were addressed to the various members of the Vance family in Arkwright, including William, Mary, Irwin, Jack (John) and Leona Vance, that were specifically collected by Leona McLean-St. Clair. Subjects areas covered in the correspondence include family news, vacation greetings, and well-wishes for the major holidays (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day).

In its present form, this fonds has two series – Military and Correspondence / Post Cards.

Vance family fonds

Series 1: *Military*

Dates

1865 - 1866

Extent

0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

The series consists of four military records that partially chronicles the career of Thomas Vance in the 31st Regiment of Foot in the British Army.

File List

- 1-3 Account Book of Thomas Vance (1865)
- 1-4 Monthly Settlements, Clothing Account and Saving's Bank Account of Thomas Vance (1865)
- 1-5 Military Discharge of Thomas Vance (1866)
- 1-6 Military Pension of Thomas Vance (1866)

Vance family fonds

Series 2: Correspondence / Post Cards

Dates

1908 – 1930; predominant 1908 - 1911

Extent

3.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

The series consists of one postcard album and 95 post cards addressed to the Vance family and collected by Leona McLean-St. Clair (Vance).

Notes

Two post cards have specific images that relate to Bruce County that warrant mentioning:

- A2004.002.001 – Street scene of Arkwright (b&w) – includes two homes and a church
- A2004.002.002 – Methodist Church, Arkwright