

# THE LEEDER FAMILY FONDS

**Accession #: A991.047**

Prepared by:

David Sharron  
Archivist

January 30, 2004

Bruce County Archives  
Southampton, Ontario

**Title:** Leeder family fonds.

**Dates:** 1825 – 1949; predominant 1854 – 1919.

**Extent:** 86 cm of textual materials. -- 7 photographs.

**Biographical Sketch:** At the age of 16, Nathaniel Edward Leeder emigrated from England to Canada in 1851. After brief stops in Quebec City, Hamilton and Doone, Ontario, Nathaniel settled in Saugeen Township, Bruce County, Ontario in the spring of 1853. A year later, Nathaniel's parents, Robert and Hannah (formerly Parker, aka Jemima), and his three brothers, Robert Jr., Philip and Fred, joined him. The Leeders were one of the first families to settle in the area.

Nathaniel, Robert Jr., Philip and Fred were born, raised and educated in Norfolk, England where Robert Sr. operated a mill. During their initial years in Canada, the Leeders were primarily farmers who worked hard to clear their land and develop their farms. Once they had established themselves, they continued to farm but also branched off into other careers.

Robert Leeder Sr. (1805 – 1891) remained a farmer and often worked at the local mills. Hannah was born in 1806 and died in 1881.

Philip Leeder left Saugeen Township in 1862 to seek a fortune in gold in the Caribou Region of British Columbia. He drowned in the Fraser River late in the same year.

Robert Leeder Jr. (November 2, 1837 – August 14, 1916) married Mary Ann Greer (June 25, 1843 – April 18, 1926) and worked with a railroad company in Palmerston, Ontario.

Fred Leeder (1838 – 1901) remained a bachelor and lived in the family's original home until he died in 1901.

Nathaniel Edward Leeder (1835 – 1923) married Mary Caroline Schwendker (originally from Germany) in 1860. They had five children – Nathaniel Edward (aka Ed), Albert, Robert, Mary Elizabeth, and Hannah. On top of working his farm, Nathaniel served his community as tavern inspector, secretary treasurer of the school board, Inspector of Noxious Weeds (1912) and township treasurer (1892 - 1914). Nathaniel and his family moved to Missouri, U.S.A. in 1870 where Nathaniel acted as a postmaster and a schoolteacher. They returned to Saugeen Township in 1874.

Mary Elizabeth Leeder (b. 1863) married James Clazie in 1891. They had six children – Jack, Pearl, Martha, Edward, Margery, James and Grant. Jack served in World War I.

Robert Leeder (b. 1868) married Madge in 1891 when living in Chicago. They had a son Marsden. Robert moved his family to Cuba where he operated a sugar plantation.

Albert Leeder worked in various cities – Detroit as a ferry captain, British Columbia in a mine, Collingwood, Buffalo on the railways and finally settled in Toronto. He married Margaret and they had a daughter in 1915 (name unknown).

Hannah Leeder (1870 – 1960?) taught at School Sector (S.S.) No. 1 from 1890 to 1893. She married John H. Guyer.

Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder Jr. (1860 – 1937) married Elizabeth “Lizzie” Eidt (1861 – 1936) in 1886. They had seven children – Mary Elizabeth (aka May), John Edward (aka Jack), Arthur Iden, Walter Albert, Joseph Carl, Herbert Nicholos, and Jacob. Ed and his children shared the passion for farming with Nathaniel Sr. and they worked together regularly. In adulthood, all of Ed’s sons farmed in the Saugeen area. Ed also had a lively interest in municipal affairs. He served as a tax collector, a school board member, a director of the Star Cheese and Butter Company (1900), president of the Saugeen Farmers’ Club (1918) and a member of Co-Op and the United Farmers of Ontario (U.F.O.). Ed and his father were regular attendees at the meetings of the West Bruce Farming Institute and the Patrons of Industry. Ed also served with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Battalion in his younger days. Ed and his family were devout members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They even donated a corner of their farmland to build a church where Ed served as the presiding Elder for many years.

Mary “May” Leeder married William John Scott in 1915. They had four children – Margaret, Mabel, Edna and Gomer. William died in 1957.

Herbert Leeder worked on the family farm until he joined the Canadian Army – 31<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry - and went to Europe to serve in World War I. Herbert died in combat in France on October 11, 1918.

Like his brother Herbert, Arthur Iden Leeder (1891 – 1968), who went by the name Iden, also served in World War I. In 1923, Iden married Abbie Snell. They had one child, Alma James Vernon, who was nine years old when his mother died. Iden remarried in 1947 to Amy Fuller (1909 –1994) of Toronto. Amy bore two children, Mary and Betty. Iden spent many years in public service as a trustee of Saugeen School District #1, Saugeen High School trustee (1954) and as presiding Elder of his church. Iden and his family lived on the home farm until 1962 when they moved to the town of Port Elgin.

Walter Leeder (1893 – 1964) married Sadie McKillop (1899 – 1973) and they had one son, Leslie. Walter served his community as a Councilor, Reeve (1945 – 1946), Warden and Hospital Board member. Walter died in 1964 and Sadie in 1973.

Jack Leeder (1889 – 1969) spent a few years working on his Uncle Robert’s sugar plantation in Cuba. Later, Jack returned to take over his grandfather’s (Nathaniel Sr.) farm. In 1927, he married Nellie Jackman (1893 – 1973) who had a son named Ted. The two added two more boys – Allan and Bob. Along with his farming, Jack operated several threshing machines (steam, oil and gas) in the community for many years.

Jacob Leeder died as a young boy (1902 – 1912).

**Custodial History:** The records of the Leeder family have been passed down through the generations. As various individuals took over the family estates, they also inherited the collection of papers and added to it. Eventually, some of the records came to Isobelle Underwood, the granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth Clazie (formerly Leeder). Isobelle donated the family records to the Bruce County Museum & Archives on April 26, 1991. On the same day, Alma James Vernon Leeder and Betty Handspiker (formerly Leeder), the son and daughter of Iden Leeder, added to the collection with a donation of letters from Arthur Iden Leeder, Herbert Leeder, John Clazie and John Edward Leeder from World War I, a number of photographs and a school notebook of Philip Leeder.

**Scope and Content:** This fonds consists mainly of personal correspondence between the family members over five generations (1834 – 1937) from Saugeen Township in Bruce County, Ontario, to England, America, Cuba and wartime France; the personal journals of Nathaniel Leeder and Ed Leeder (1854 – 1904) detailing their experiences in Saugeen Township; and over one hundred years of Leeder family accounts and business transactions in England and Ontario (1830 – 1949). Also included in the fonds are photographs and some miscellaneous personal records pertaining to the family.

The fonds is broken down into five series:

- 1 – Business
- 2 – Personal Correspondence
- 3 – Journals
- 4 – Miscellaneous Family Records
- 5 – Photographs

**Source of the Supplied Title:** The title is based on the provenance of the fonds.

**Language:** Most of the material in the fonds is written in English. Some records in the Personal Correspondence Series are in German.

**Arrangement Note:** These series are based largely on the manner in which the Leeder family organized the records over the years.

**Access Points:**

Leeder (Family)  
Leeder, Nathaniel Edward Sr. (1835 – 1923)  
Leeder, Edward  
Leeder, Robert  
Leeder, Albert  
Leeder, Hannah  
Leeder, Arthur Iden  
Leeder, Herbert Nicholas  
Leeder, Jack

---

**Fonds:** Leeder Family Fonds.

**Series:** Business.

**Dates:** 1830 – 1949; predominantly 1880 to 1920.

**Extent:** 26 cm of textual records.

**Scope and Content:** The series consists of the account books detailing the transactions and inventories of the Leeder family farms, households and mills and business correspondence directed to the Leeders.

**Location:** Unit A (Right), Shelf 3

**File List:**

- 1-1 Account book – Port Elgin Masonic Lodge – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1856 – 1859)
- 1-2 Account book – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1868 – 1874)
- 1-3 Account book – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1881)
- 1-4 Indices to account books – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1882 – 1886; 1890; and 1892 – 1897)
- 1-5 Account book – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1886)
- 1-6 Account book – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1890 – 1891)
- 1-7 Account book – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1892 – 1893)
- 1-8 Account book – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1894 – 1897)
- 1-1 Account book – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1902 – 1920)
- 1-2 Account book – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1908 – 1920)
- 1-3 Account book on chickens – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1911 – 1920)
- 1-4 Account book – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1918 – 1925)
- 1-5 Account book – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1921 – 1936)
- 1-6 Account book and disposition of property – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (c. 1937)
- 1-7 Account book – Hannah Leeder (1886)
- 1-8 Account book and journal Notes – John H. Guyer (1927 – 1949)
- 1-9 Land transaction – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. and William Roach (1872)
- 2-1 Business Correspondence – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1872 – 1888)

Oversized: Account book of Robert Leeder Sr. (1830 – 1837) and Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1860 – 1869) – located among the Leeder Fond boxes

**Source of the Supplied Title:** The title is based on the contents of the series.

---

**Fonds:** Leeder Family Fonds.

---

**Series:** Personal Correspondence.

**Dates:** 1834 – 1937; predominantly 1854 to 1918.

**Extent:** 20 cm of textual records.

**Scope and Content:** The series consists of the personal correspondence of the various members of the Leeder family. Much of the correspondence was received from other family members from all over North America, the Caribbean and Europe. Subjects covered in these letters include: immigration to Canada, family matters, Sir Francis Drake, living in Cuba, and news from Iden Leeder, Jack Leeder and Herbert Leeder while serving in World War I. The Leeder family organized the correspondence by writer or recipient through the years.

**Location:** Unit A (Right), Shelf 3

**File List:**

- 2-2 To Robert and Hannah Leeder in England (1834 – 1852)
- 2-3 Regarding immigration to Canada – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. and others (1851 – 1859)
- 2-4 From Louisa Parker to the Leeders (1854 – 1864)
- 2-5 Regarding Robert Leeder Sr. and the Sir Francis Drake estate (1859 – 1860)
- 2-6 To Robert and Hannah Leeder (1854 – 1889)
- 2-7 From Fred Parker to the Leeders (1853 – 1868)
- 2-8 From Henry Parker to the Leeders (1862 – 1882)
- 2-9 From Albert Leeder and family to family in Bruce County (1884 – 1917)
- 2-10 From Robert Leeder and Family to family in Bruce County (1891 – 1911)
- 2-11 To Hannah Guyer (Leeder) (1887 – 1937)
- 2-12 To Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1864 – 1917)
- 2-13 To Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1899 – 1908)
- 2-14 From Iden Leeder to family in Bruce County – incl. letters during WWI (1914 – 1919)
- 2-15 Post cards of England from Iden Leeder to family (1918)
- 3-1 From Jack Leeder in Cuba to family in Bruce County (1918)
- 3-2 From Leeder family to Herbert Leeder during WWI (1918)
- 3-3 From Herbert Leeder to family during WWI (1918)
- 3-4 Letters and items sent to Elizabeth Leeder upon the death of Herbert in WWI (1919)
- 3-5 Miscellaneous letters to the Leeder family

**Source of the Supplied Title:** The title is based on the contents of the series.

---

**Fonds:** Leeder Family Fonds.

**Series:** Journals.

---

**Dates:** 1854 – 1919.

**Extent:** 22 cm of textual records.

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of the journals written by Nathaniel Leeder and Ed Leeder over a fifty-year period. The journals are primarily those of Nathaniel, but he and his son Ed shared the same journals at times. Subjects covered in these letters include: family matters, daily life, business transactions, farming, and a detailed trip to the Muskoka area looking for land in the 1870's. The filing of the journals remains as the Leeder family established.

**Location:** Unit A (Right), Shelf 3

**File List:**

- 3-6 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1854 – 1858)
- 3-7 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1859 – 1861)
- 3-8 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1861 – 1862)
- 3-9 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1862 – 1867)
- 3-10 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1867 – 1870)
- 3-11 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1872 – 1873; 1877 – 1879)
- 4-1 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1881 – 1884)
- 4-2 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1885 – 1889)
- 4-3 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1890 – 1893)
- 4-4 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1893; 1898; and more unidentified)
- 4-5 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1894 – 1895)
- 4-6 Nathaniel Leeder Sr. – loose journal pages (1905; and unidentified)
- 4-7 Iden Leeder – recounts experiences in WWI (1918 – 1919)
- 5-1 Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1886 – 1890)
- 5-2 Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1891 – 1900)
- 5-3 Philip Leeder (1862)

**Source of the Supplied Title:** The title is based on the contents of the series.

---

**Fonds:** Leeder Family Fonds.

**Series:** Miscellaneous Family Records.

**Dates:** 1825 – 1913.

**Extent:** 18 cm of textual records.

---

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of the miscellaneous family materials that further relate the history and interests of the Leeder family. Subjects covered in these records include: a genealogy of the Parker family (Hannah Leeder's family) via a memorial booklet, education in England, recipes, emigration to Canada, military service in England, advertisements, religious paraphernalia, real estate, personal records and World War I memorabilia. The filing of these records remains as the Leeder family established.

**Location:** Unit A (Right), Shelves 3 and 4

**File List:**

- 5-4 Military discharge for Robert Leeder Sr. (1825)
  - 5-5 List of purchased supplies for immigration to Canada – Robert Leeder Sr. (1853)
  - 5-6 “Peril in Security: Memorial to Nathaniel Parker” – Parker genealogy (1844)
  - 5-7 School notebook – Robert Leeder Jr. (1845)
  - 5-8 School notebooks – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. (1847 – 1848)
  - 5-9 School notebooks – Philip Leeder (1851 – 1853)
  - 6-1 School textbooks (1840 and 1913)
  - 6-2 Tax receipt – Robert Leeder Sr. (1867)
  - 6-3 Mortgage agreement between Iden Gobles and Robert Leeder (1891)
  - 6-4 Copy of John Zant's will – Nathaniel Leeder Sr. executor (1904)
  - 6-5 Tax collection notices – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1892 and 1895)
  - 6-6 Bills and receipts – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1888 – 1930)
  - 6-7 Church Quarterly Reports (Latter Day Saints) – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1904 – 1908)
  - 6-8 Insurance documents – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1913 – 1936)
  - 6-9 Fuego Oil Company documents – Nathaniel “Ed” Leeder (1930)
  - 6-10 Creamery documents – J. H. Leeder
  - 6-11 Iden Leeder WWI memorabilia (concentration camp cards and camp souvenir booklet)
  - 6-12 Poetry
  - 6-13 Flower list with interpretations
  - 6-14 Recipes
  - 6-15 Advertisements
  - 6-16 Religious Paraphernalia
  - 6-17 Blank post card from Cuba
  - 6-18 Receipts – unidentified persons
  - 6-19 Newspaper clippings on WWI
  - 6-20 Blank forms
  - 6-21 Land and home transaction – Mrs. Hyman Parks and John Zant (1913)
  - 6-22 Calling cards
- End Document tube that contained Herbert Leeder's war tribute materials (in Box 4, Folder 4)
-

**Source of the Supplied Title:** The title is based on the contents of the series.

---

**Fonds:** Leeder Family Fonds.

**Series:** Photographs.

**Dates:** predominantly [191-].

**Extent:** 7 photographs.

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of some photographs collected by the Leeder family. Subjects covered in these records include: Iden and Herbert Leeder's service in the armed services of Canada and children.

**Location:** Photo Shelf 2

**Item List:**

- 1 View of Herbert and Iden Leeder in their military uniforms
- 2 View of Herbert and Iden Leeder in their military uniforms
- 3 View of Iden Leeder in his military uniform
- 4 View of Herbert Leeder in his military uniform
- 5 View of Iden Leeder's battalion – names are provided on the back
- 6 View of young children dressed up in costumes for a MacBeth play in Port Elgin
- 7 View of Herbert Leeder's military gravesite in France

**Source of the Supplied Title:** The title is based on the contents of the series.

---

**Other Materials:**

Among the archival material donated by the Leeder family, there are also some related objects within the Bruce County Museum & Archives museum collection including:

Iden Leeder's army helmet  
Two WWI medals of Herbert Leeder (991.016.001 and 002)  
Straw hat of Herbert Leeder  
Mirror  
Black leather change purse  
Leather "dog tag" for Leeder, A.I.  
Leather "dog tag" for Leeder, H.N.  
Military chevrons – Private rank  
CANADA shoulder pin for military uniform

---

CANADA cap badge for military uniform

CANADA buttons (5) for military uniform

GENERAL SERVICE lapel pin

Mother-of-pearl cufflinks – one complete set; two incomplete

Pendant – possibly of a Greek or Roman figure ?

Arrowhead

Button – collar button with pearl face

---