

The Milnor Roberts fonds

U.B.C. Special Collections

2002

The Milnor Roberts fonds. –1905-1915.

13 cm of textual records. – 147 photographs. – 13 maps.

Biographical Sketch: Milnor Roberts was born in New York in 1877. A professor of Mining and Metallurgy, he was appointed Dean of the College of Mining at the University of Washington from 1901 to 1947. The College was known as Mines Hall until 1947 when it was renamed Roberts Hall in his honour. During the summer terms he was engaged in mine field work. In the first decades of the twentieth century there were several reconnaissance trips to the coal fields on Graham Island, British Columbia, the largest of the Queen Charlotte group. Dr. C.H. Clapp from the Geological Survey of Canada made a seventeen-day tour of the island in 1912. The following year John D. MacKenzie, also from the Geological Survey, conducted a geological examination of the island from June 22nd to September 20th “to determine the extent, structure and value of the coal deposits.”¹ He continued his examination in 1914 from June 15th to August 18th, studying in detail portions of townships 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 14. Among the many companies prospecting on the island at the time were Graham Island Collieries Co., Graham Island Coal and Timber Syndicate, B.C. Oilfields Ltd. and Western Coal and Iron Corp. Ltd. Milnor Roberts was in charge of development work for Western Coal and Iron, James M. McDonald serving as his assistant. Much of their work was carried out near Camp Robertson and Camp Wilson. Roberts’ reports to Herbert Parsons at Metropolitan Trust Co., New York concerning lands acquired by the company from Western Steel Corporation in the spring of 1913 are contained in the fonds. The focus of the fonds is on the years 1913 and 1914.

Scope and Content: The fonds consists of letters, reports, notes, accounts, drawings and maps, photographs and printed materials. Title based on contents of fonds. Arranged in the following series: correspondence, notes, reports, financial records, printed material, maps and photographs.

The records were held in the Timberlands and Properties Division of MacMillan and Blodel, consulted by H.R. MacMillan in 1964 and subsequently returned to the Division. They were transferred to U.B.C. Special Collections on April 19, 2000 by the Assistant Secretary of Weyhaueser Co. Ltd.

No further accruals expected.

¹ MacKenzie, J.D. : Geology of Graham Island, British Columbia. Ottawa: Geological Survey of Canada, 1916, p. 1. Box 1-13

Series Descriptions

Correspondence. – 1913-1915.

4 cm of textual records. – 4 photographs.

Series consists chiefly of letters between Milnor Roberts and interested parties concerning the development of Graham Island coal fields. Title based on contents of series.

Box 1-1 to 1-4

Notes. –[191-]-1914.

4 cm of textual records. –1 photograph.

Series consists of notes made by Milnor Roberts on timber, tracts, survey calculations, equipment and drills in 1913. Title based on contents of series.

Box 1-5 to 109

Reports. –[191-]-1916.

3 cm of textual records.

Series consists of reports on washing tests, land transfer and the geology of Graham Island. Title based on contents of series.

Box 1-10 to 1-13

Financial Records. –1913.

1.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of a bank statement, invoices and a receipt book for supplies and expenses. Title based on contents of series.

Box 1-14- to 1-16

Printed materials. –1914.

.5 cm of textual records..

Series consists of three issues of the Queen Charlotte Islander. Title based on contents of series.

Box 2-1

Maps. –1905-1914.
13 maps.

Series consists of blue prints, drawings and maps of Graham Island indicating property ownership, location of coal openings, drill hole sites and geological structure. Title based on contents of series.

Box 2-2; map cabinet 5

Photographs. –1913-1914.
142 photographs.

Series consists of photographs of Graham Island including Camp Robertson and Camp Wilson made by Milnor Roberts while engaged in field work.

Box 2-3 to 2-8

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Correspondence

Box 1

- 1-1 Correspondence between Milnor Roberts and Robert C. Goodale concerning Camp Robertson and work on the Graham Island coal field, 1913
- 1-2 Letter prepared by Bausman, Kelleher Oldham and Goodale for Herbert Parsons of New York with instructions for staking a claim to prospect for coal and petroleum on Graham Island, June 1914
- 1-3 Correspondence between Bausman and Goodale and Goodale and Roberts, 1913. Includes notes about Camp Wilson and the move of two diamond drills to the camp by Milnor Roberts [1913].
- Aerial survey photos (4)
- Act to regulate the working of coal mines, 1911
Act to encourage Coal and Petroleum Mining, 1911
(Two consolidations: May 31, 1912, May 31, 1913)
- Correspondence Barton/Roberts; Moi Chung/Bausman concerning labour contracting; E.M. Sandilands/Milnor Roberts; Barton/Goodale; Barton/Metropolitan Trust Co. concerning lease of diamond drill; Goodale/Roberts, 1913-1914
- British Columbia legislation concerning Crown Lands, n.d.
- 1-4 Correspondence between James M. McDonald, John D. MacKenzie and Milnor Roberts concerning development of the Graham Island coal field. Includes a list of expenditures, 1913-1915.

Notes

- 1-5 Engineers' Field Book: contains accounts [?], n.d., and survey calculations [?], July-August 1913. Includes one photograph.
- 1-6 The comparative durability of Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock and

Western Red Cedar by B.L. Gröndal, Bull. of the Univ. of Washington, May 1913

Handwritten description of characteristics of different woods on Graham Island, n.d.

Letter from Graham Island Development Co. Ltd. (Vancouver) containing statistics about timber on the company's property by type of tree, Dec. 8, 1913

Notes concerning timber limits on tracts and sections in the Queen Charlotte Islands, n.d.

Description of timber, n.d.

List of equipment/tools at Camps Robertson and Wilson, 1913

- 1-7 Notes and report on drill hole of the Graham Island Coal and Timber Co., 1914
- 1-8 Notes made by Milnor Roberts [and J. M. McDonald?] at Camp Robertson, August 19, 1913 based on those of John D. MacKenzie, Chief of Party, Geological Survey of Canada. from Book 16. IV., 1913
- 1-9 Notes made [by Milnor Roberts?] on Graham Island from a report by A.E. Lehman. "Historical notes for a report", 1913
- Notes on Barton's diamond drill, January 1914

Reports

- 1-10 Report (tables) on washing tests on Graham Island, 1913
- 1-11 Report by Milnor Roberts on Camps Wilson and Robertson for Herbert Parsons at Metropolitan Trust Co., New York, 1913
- 1-12 Report on the history of transfers of Graham Island coal properties and transfer of stock options of Western Steel Corporation to Western Coal and Iron Corp. in June 1910, [191-]
- 1-13 Geology of Graham Island, British Columbia by J.D. MacKenzie. Geological Survey. Dept. of Mines. Ottawa, 1916

Financial Records

- 1-14 Bank statement for J.M. McDonald, September-October, 1913
Receipt book, September-November, 1913
Cancelled cheques, September-October, 1913
- 1-15 Protest of a cheque for the Bank of Montreal, October, 1913
- 1-16 Invoices/receipt book for supplies purchased, September-November, 1913

Printed Materials

Box 2

- 2-1 Queen Charlotte Islander: Vol. 3 No. 39 (July 18, 1914),
No. 42 (August 8, 1914), No. 43 (August 15, 1914)

Maps

- 2-2 Graham Island coal field: Southern end of tract showing Camp Robertson, "Milnor Roberts, Aug. 17, 1913"

Map Cabinet 5

1. Camp Wilson, Graham Island, B.C. "Milton Roberts' examination 1913"
2. Camp Wilson opening No. 3. Graham Island, B.C. "Milton Roberts' examination 1913"
3. Sketch plan of township 7, Queen Charlotte Islands, 1912
4. Map showing property ownership, camps and boreholes
5. Map showing company ownership of land on Graham Island. Washington Map & Blue Print Co. Seattle, WA
6. Map showing property divisions from Skidegate Inlet to North Shore of Graham Island. Washington Map & Blue Print Co. Seattle, WA
7. Geological Map of Graham Island Coal Field, BC.

- To illustrate summary report of R.W. Ells, LL.D., 1905
(3 copies)
8. Plan of Yakoun Coal Lands – Graham Island. H.E. Parrish, “ownership map”, n.d.
 9. Geological map of Graham Island Coal Fields prepared by Geological Survey of Canada, 1906
To illustrate summary report of R.W. Ells, LL.D. 1905
 10. Map: section “A-A” looking N. 35° W. Wilson Mine and drill holes. “C” and “C-EX” projected, September 20, 1914
 11. Sketch map showing locations of coal openings along Wilson Creek, Graham Island. “Milnor Roberts’ examination, 1913”

Photographs

- 2-3 Camp Wilson (5), 1913
- 2-4 Yakoun River (4), 1914
- 2-5 Camp Wilson/Yakoun River (3), 1914
- 2-6 Graham Island (33), [1913-1914]
- 2-7 Graham Island [several around Camp Wilson] (31), 1914.
Includes list of captions identifying numbered photos.
- 2-8 Graham Island (Camp Robertson) (3), 1913
- Graham Island (5), 1913 [no references]
- List of captions identifying numbered photographs.
Yakoun Lake (14)
Spruce, Hemlock and Cedar trees (6)
Etheline Creek, Yakoun Valley and Trail (9)
Skidegate Inlet (5)
Panorama views (24)

