

University of Manitoba & Special Collections

Finding Aid - Elizabeth (Poole) Shand fonds (A2016-024)

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Elizabeth (Poole) Shand fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Manitoba & Special Collections
Title:	Elizabeth (Poole) Shand fonds
ID:	A2016-024
Date:	[ca. 1904], predominant 1942-1958, 2019 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.01 m of textual records 1 memento box 49 photos; 1 negative
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created by M. Horodyski (August 2019).
Note [sourcesDescription]:	Draft notes by Walter Meyer zu Erpen and the Winnipeg Free Press.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Elizabeth Shand (née Poole) was the daughter of Elizabeth Poole who worked as nurse and medium with the Hamilton family. Elizabeth (commonly known as Bessie) was born October 3, 1895 in Rankinston, Scotland. She emigrated to Canada with her family in 1904. By February 1906, the family was settled in the Winnipeg neighbourhood of Elmwood. In 1910, the Hamiltons moved to their Elmwood house at 185 Kelvin Street (now 185 Henderson Highway), a 10-minute walk from where the Poole family was living at 270 Johnson Avenue West.

Bessie married Harold Shand on October 3, 1917 at the King Memorial Presbyterian Church on 127 Cobourg Avenue in Winnipeg. Harold Shand was an engineer with the Greater Winnipeg Water District. Bessie and Harold had three children: Ian (1919-1978), Elizabeth Jean (Betty) (1922-2011), and Neil (1931-2004). For many years, the family lived at 7 Neil Place in East Kildonan, a Colonial-style house designed by Harold Shand.

Bessie Shand volunteered for the St. John's College Guild (which later became the St. John's Ravenscourt School Guild) during the 1930s and 1940s. She also was the secretary of the women's auxiliary and the war work committee of the Red Cross in the late 1930s. Shand was a member of the Crafts Guild of Manitoba and a prize-winning weaver. In 1958, Shand was elected president of the Guild of Canadian Weavers, Manitoba Branch. Bessie Shand was frequently featured in the society pages of the Winnipeg Tribune and the Free Press.

In the 1920s, Bessie Shand attended séances at the Hamilton home. After T.G. Hamilton's death in 1935, both Bessie and Harold Shand participated in the séances organized by Lillian Hamilton in 1935 and 1936. Bessie even substituted as a medium in experiments conducted by Lillian Hamilton and Dr. Bruce Chown. It is possible that Bessie Shand could be the medium referred to as "Hope" in the 1938 letter from

Reverend W.R. Wood contained in this collection. According to archivist Walter Meyer zu Erpen, Bessie Shand's daughter Betty Jean confirmed that Bessie practiced automatic writing and occasionally acted as a medium. Betty Jean also said that the Shand family had a few sittings in their own home.

In 1921, Harold Shand was a witness to one of Elizabeth Poole's (Bessie's mother) table-tilting sessions at the Hamilton home. Betty Jean also said that her father sometimes attended the Hamilton séances to assist with loading the cameras. In the 1930s and 1940s, he also helped Lillian Hamilton when she needed photographic prints from the séances for lending. Harold was one of the honorary pallbearers at Lillian Hamilton's funeral in 1956.

Harold Shand died in Winnipeg in 1960. Bessie Shand died in 1963 in Vancouver.

Custodial history

These records were in the custody of Elizabeth (Poole) Shand's grandson Richard Shand who donated them to the archives in 2016. Walter Meyer zu Erpen, President of the Survival Research Institute of Canada, facilitated the donation of this collection.

Scope and content

This fonds contains photographs and documents related to seances, and to T.G. Hamilton and Elizabeth Poole (Elizabeth Shand's mother). These records were saved by Elizabeth (Poole) Shand in a cardboard memento box and this box has been included in the fonds.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions to access.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Draft
- **Accompanying material:** Draft notes by Walter Meyer zu Erpen about Elizabeth (Poole) Shand and her mother are located in folder 15.

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Scripts of "T.G. speaking" and "R.L.S. speaks"	1935		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0001
	File - Letter from Reverend W.R. Wood	1938-02-03		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0002
	File - Newspaper clippings re: Death of Elizabeth Poole	1935		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0003
	File - Photographs - Table-tilting	[c. 1926]		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0004
	File - Photographs - Wax molds	[19--]		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0005
	File - Correspondence - "Spirit" photographs	1944-03-15		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0006
	File - Photographs - Hamilton seances and other	[192-?]		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0007
	File - Notes from Hamilton sittings (seances)	1928-12-23		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0008
	File - Newspaper clippings re: Death of T.G. Hamilton	1935		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0009
	File - Clippings from magazines	[ca. 1925 and 1926], 1937		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0010
	File - Dictated poems	1929		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0011
	File - "Is Survival a Fact?" and "Intention and Survival" order form	[ca. 1942], 1958		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0012
	File - Photographs - Katie King	1930		A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0013

	File - Memento Box	n.d.	A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0014
	File - Notes by Walter Meyer zu Erpen on Elizabeth (Poole) Shand and Elizabethe Poole	2016	A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0015
	File - Mrs. Elizabeth Poole - negative	[ca. 1904]	A2016-024, Box 0001 File 0016
	File - T.G. Hamilton obituary	1935-04-11	A2016-024, Box 0002 File 0001