

# University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Janice C. Hamilton fonds (MSS 323)

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# Janice C. Hamilton fonds

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

**Title:** Janice C. Hamilton fonds

**ID:** MSS 323

**Date:** [ca. 1978], 2016 (date of creation)

**Date:** 1771, 1902-1959 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** 0.19 m of textual records and 123 photographs

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Janice Hamilton is the daughter of James Drummond Hamilton and the granddaughter of Lillian May and Thomas Glendenning Hamilton. She was born in London, Ontario in 1948, and moved to Montreal with her family in 1957. After graduating from Carleton University in Ottawa, she lived in Whitehorse, Yukon for four years, where she held various jobs in government and the media. She edited the Yukon Indian News for a year and worked as a reporter for the Whitehorse Star. She returned to Montreal in 1977 and spent six years as a reporter/editor for The Canadian Press.

As a freelance writer from 1984 to 2012, she wrote numerous articles and several books, including non-fiction books for children and a biography of the St. Lawrence River. She has been researching and writing about her family in Canada, the United States and the U.K. since 2008, including her family history blog, <http://writinguptheancestors.blogspot.ca>, and is part of a collaborative blog, [www.genealogyensemble.com](http://www.genealogyensemble.com). Janice is married to Harold Rosenberg, a former freelance magazine photographer and civilian photographer for the Montreal police department. They have two sons.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Lillian May Forrester was born in 1880 to Samantha Rixon and John MacFarlane Forrester in Melrose, a tiny farming community in Tyendinaga Township, Hastings County, Ontario, near Belleville. The family moved to southern Manitoba in 1881, settling on a farm in the Aux Marais district, near the town of Emerson and the U.S. border. She served for a while as a school teacher, and in 1905 graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing (now the School of Nursing of the University of Manitoba). She was an active member of King Memorial United Church for many years and was a life

member and past president of the Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. Hamilton was also a past president of the Medical Faculty Women's Club, University of Manitoba, and was a member of the Women's Musical Club.

In 1906, she married Dr. Thomas Glendenning (T.G.) Hamilton in Elmwood. In 1909, their daughter Margaret Lillian was born; in 1911, their son Glen Forrester; and in 1915, their twin sons Arthur Lamont and James Drummond. The loss of Arthur in 1919 to the influenza epidemic encouraged the Hamiltons to engage with questions of life after death, and eventually establish the well-known Hamilton experiments in psychic phenomena, including the holding and recording of séances at their home, and other psychical research. Starting in the 1920s, Lillian not only helped organize and participated in the séances, but also carried out a large part of the secretarial work of researching, filing and analyzing the records; she also helped to prepare many of Dr. Hamilton's papers and articles. After T.G. Hamilton's death in 1935, she carried on the séances and psychical research. From 1939-1940, she conducted two series of experiments with Hugh Reed, including several previous members of the Hamilton group, notably the medium Mary Marshall (aka "Dawn"). Lillian Hamilton brought the Hamilton investigations to a close in 1944, by which time the group had largely dispersed.

With her youngest son James D. Hamilton, Lillian completed the manuscript about the T.G. Hamilton research which was published as *Intention and Survival* in 1942. Until Lillian's health began to fail in 1955, she continued study of psychic matters and undertook the indexing and care of the Hamilton records. In the early 1950s, she and her daughter Margaret Hamilton Bach began collaborating on the work that was eventually published by Margaret as *Is Survival A Fact?* in 1969. Lillian died on 18 September 1956 in Concordia Hospital in Winnipeg.

## **Custodial history**

This fonds was donated in three accessions in 2010, 2013 and 2016 to the University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections by Janice Catherine Hamilton, daughter of James Drummond Hamilton and granddaughter of Thomas Glendenning and Lillian May Hamilton.

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## **Scope and content**

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The fonds is comprised of three accessions. The first contains a photograph album with photos, newspaper clippings, programs from school events in the 1930s and other documents, as well as loose photographs and baby books for T.G. and Lillian Hamilton's twins, Arthur Lamont (1915-1918) and James Drummond (1915-1980). It also includes the Forrester family prayer book (printed in 1771). The second accession derives from Lillian Hamilton and James D. Hamilton's personal records, including psychical research publications, photographs and files pertaining to some of T.G. Hamilton's psychic experiments. The third accession consists of a final draft of an article meant to be published in the Winter 2016 issue of the *Paranormal Review*.

## Notes

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### Title notes

### Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on access to this material.

### Conditions governing use

There are no restrictions on use of this material.

### Finding aids

A finding aid can be generated from this description.

### Related material

This collection is closely related to and supplies complementary information for the Hamilton family fonds.

### Accruals

Past accruals include: A2010-01, A2013-43, and A2016-119  
No further accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Status description:** Revised

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## Access points

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

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## Series descriptions

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<b>A2010-01 (James Drummond Hamilton personal records)</b>
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<u>Date:</u> 1771, 1902-1959 (date of creation)
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Physical description: 102 photographs : 100 in album, mostly b&w -- 0.06m textual records : incl. 2 books

Note:

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Hamilton family photograph album belonging to James Drummond Hamilton - in Winnipeg & Victoria Beach + newspaper clippings, school programs, condolence cards, 1 letter, 1 drawing interfiled loose 1902-1959 predom.			1 1
	File - Photograph: James & Arthur Drummond, Victoria Beach 1918			1 2
	File - Photograph: Night nurses, Winnipeg General Hospital 1902			1 3
	File - Arthur Lamont & James Drummond's baby books (compiled by Lillian Hamilton) 1915			1 4
	File - Geley, Gustave. "From the Unconscious to the Conscious" [annotated by T.G. Hamilton] [1921]			
	File - Prayer book [correspondence and annotations: [18-]; 1905; 1935] 1771			

**A2013-43 (Hamilton psychical research) 1918-1950, [ca. 1978]**

Physical description: 21 photographs : b&w -- 0.1m textual records

**File / item list**

**Subseries MSS 323-PC 272: Photographs 1928-[195-]**

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Enlargements of T.G.Hamilton photographs (2) 1930, 1931			1 1
	File - "Some excellent prints secured in 1949 & 1950" - 17 photographs reprinted in 1940s-1950s from 1928-[194-] + list of photographs 1928-[195-]			1 2
	File - "Final teleplasm - Feb. 28, 1940" (2 photographs) 1940			1 3

**Typescripts and articles 1925-1938, [ca.1975]**

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
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	File - Typescripts by Lillian Hamilton for sittings, 1918-1927 [after 1927]	1 4		
	File - Chapter 20 of "The Margery Mediumship" (Psychic Science) + plates – annotated by Lillian Hamilton 1925-1926	1 5		
	File - "Quarterly Transactions of the British College of Psychic Science" (BCPS) - 10.3 (Oct. 1931), 14.4 (Jan. 1936), 16.2 (July 1937); single articles from Oct. 1928 and Jan. 1938 1928-1938	1 6		
	File - Lodge, Sir Oliver. "The Outline of Science" (Psychic Science XVI) 1922	1 7		
	File - Bond, Frederick Bligh. "The Pragmatist in Psychical Research." (Clarke University symposium) 1927	1 8		
	File - "Ectoplasmic Threads" (Mediumship of Fran Ideler) [incl. 1 plate] – C. Blacher, trans. from German Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie 1931	1 9		
	File - Reading list & book review of "Intention and Survival" [ca. 1978]	1 10		
<b>Miscellaneous nd</b>				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Janice Hamilton – miscellaneous (annotated envelope; partial gift/shipping tag) nd			1 11