

University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

Finding Aid - Springdale Park Spiritual Association fonds ()

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Springdale Park Spiritual Association fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
Title:	Springdale Park Spiritual Association fonds
Accession [alternative]:	A2015-070
Date:	1998-2005 (date of creation)
Date:	1938-2000 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.39m of textual records 17 photographs : colour
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [sourcesDescription]:	Walter Meyer zu Erpen, research documents

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Survival Research Institute of Canada was founded in 1991. The institute aimed to pursue and promote studies in the field of survival research, which is investigation into whether some part of the human consciousness or personality, commonly referred to as spirit, survives physical death and whether that spirit is able to communicate with the living. Based in Victoria, BC, its representatives carry out the following activities: undertaking research into the history of Spiritualism and psychical research in Canada (including study of the work of Canadian psychical researcher, Dr. Thomas Glendenning Hamilton, and the relationship of Spiritualist table-tilting phenomena documented by Hamilton and others to theories about psychokinesis); taking part in experiments connected to evidence of spirit survival brought through mediumship; sponsoring public education on subjects relevant to survival research through workshops, lectures, and demonstrations of mediumship; participating in media interviews; presenting academic lectures in Canada, the United States and Europe; and directing relevant records of Canadian organizations and individuals to appropriate archival repositories. On May 24, 2000, the institute was federally incorporated and became a registered charity. The founding members were: Walter Meyer zu Erpen and Debra Barr, two noted Canadian archivists, Walter Keoki Quan, Claus Michael Thomsen, Janice Irene Stromgren, Paul Dennis Biscop, and Lolita Nevon Wilson.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Springdale Park Spiritual Association of Ontario (SPSA) in Bracebridge, Ontario, was founded in 1938 by William Charles (Bill) Partridge (1893-1984) and incorporated by letters patent in the Province of Ontario dated 21 July 1938. W.C. Partridge had located and purchased property (160 acres) on the banks of the Muskoka River near Bracebridge to establish a Canadian Spiritualist Camp with a church and accommodation similar to the one in Lily Dale, New York, which he had visited prior to purchase of the property. The members of the SPSA cleared land, built a road, cottages, auditoriums, and a church (est. 1940), and sold and leased lots to members and others who wished to attend the camp in the summer, which offered courses in the history and science of Spiritualism. There was also a medium's cottage which was available free to mediums who worked in the park for a full week during the July to September summer period. In 1939, Bill Partridge also founded the Springdale Church in Toronto, as an operating base from which to sell the lots as well as offering Spiritualist church services. In 1942 W.C. Partridge was ordained as pastor of the SPSA in a ceremony conducted by the SPSA lawyer. Springdale Church acquired its own charter in 1946, but maintained close ties with "the Park" and promoted it among its members. Throughout this time, the SPSA lots continued to be surveyed and sold to Spiritualists. In the 1970s, new laws allowed non-Spiritualists to purchase lots, diminishing the camp aspect of the SPSA; attendance at the park church was also very low. Rev. W.C. Partridge and his wife moved to British Columbia in 1976, and ultimately care of the SPSA and the park church passed to Reverends Joseph C. Bain (1916-2009) and Lillian C. Bain (1916-2003) (as the medium) in 1978. The Bains were friends of the Partridges. Services at the park church stopped in the mid- to late-1980s due to the condition of the church building and the health of Reverend Lillian Bain. About 1988, the SPSA sold land holdings to fund the renovation of the Springdale Park church which was undertaken during 1988-1990. The SPSA board of directors held its last meeting on 16 September 2000. The remaining SPSA funds were donated to the Survival Research Institute of Canada (SRIC) to support its work in protecting the archives and history of Spiritualism, including online publication of the Directory of Spiritualist Organizations in Canada. In 2001, the SPSA's status as a registered charity was revoked.

Custodial history

This fonds was donated by the Board of the Springdale Park Spiritual Association, Bracebridge, Ontario, to the Survival Research Institute of Canada (SRIC) in October, 1999. These records were combined with the records produced by SRIC related to the SPSA, and deposited with the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections in 2015 by Walter Meyer zu Erpen (President, SRIC).

Scope and content

This fonds consists of the surviving known corporate records of the only Spiritualist camp in Ontario, including six ledgers, financial, legal, and property documents, minutes, correspondence, historical documentation, as well as photographs. The fonds is divided into six series: administrative records;

financial records; legal records; property records; history; and miscellaneous, containing a notebook and an undated, anonymous paper.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Walter Meyer zu Erpen (Survival Research Institute of Canada, President)

Arrangement

The fonds was arranged in part with the transferring agent in accordance with specifications he provided.

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on access to this material.

Conditions governing use

Users must abide by relevant copyright legislation.

Related material

This fonds is one of a series of fonds and collections transferred to the Archives by Walter Meyer zu Erpen, President of the Survival Research Institute of Canada. It is related to the various other Psychical Research and Spiritualist Collections that the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections has attracted since it acquired the Hamilton Family fonds. It is closely related to the Joe and Lillian Bain fonds, as the Bains were integral members of the SPSA; the Noreen Hodgson fonds, which also contains some of the corporate records of the SPSA as well as records from W.C. Partridge (founder) and Ruth Anne Dyke (minister); the various Survival Research Institute of Canada fonds; and the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church fonds, as a similar institution.

"Survival Research Institute of Canada fonds":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/atom/index.php/survival-research-institute-of-canada-fonds%3brad>

"Winnipeg Spiritualist Church fonds":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/atom/index.php/winnipeg-spiritualist-church-3>

"Psychical Research and Spiritualism Collections":<http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/collections/subject/spiritualism/index.html>

Noreen Hodgson fonds

Joe and Lillian Bain fonds

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final
- **Description identifier:** MSS 452 (A15-70)
- **Institution identifier:** UMASC

Access points

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

Series descriptions

Administrative Records

Date: 1938-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains bylaws, correspondence, and minutes of the board meetings of the SPSA and associations of which it was a member of (Spiritualists)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Bylaws

Date: 1938, 1980-1997 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

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<u>Publication status:</u> <p>published</p>				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - SPSA bylaws (missing amendment from 1943)	1938		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0001
	File - Notes and bylaws	1980-1997		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0002
Affiliations <u>Date:</u> 1940 (date of creation) <u>Access points:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textual record (documentary form) <u>Publication status:</u> <p>published</p>				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Lists of ordinations and accredited workers [mediums]	1940		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0003
	File - Affiliated churches	1940		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0004
Correspondence <u>Date:</u> 1969-2005 (date of creation) <u>Access points:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textual record (documentary form) <u>Publication status:</u> <p>published</p>				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Correspondence between W.C. Partridge & W.O. Perry	1969-1978		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0005

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	File - Correspondence between W.C. Partridge & W.O. Perry	1970-1975	A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0006
	File - Correspondence re: snow ploughing	1973-1987	A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0007
	File - SRIC correspondence with John L. Baron re: SPSA	1997-1998	A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0008
	File - SRIC correspondence with Gary Denniss and Joseph C. Bain re: SPSA history	1998-1999, 2005	A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0009
	File - SRIC correspondence with Joseph C. Bain and James R. Partridge re: dissolution of the SPSA	1998-2001	A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0010

Minutes

Date: 1938-1998 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - SPSA Roll book	1938-1942		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0011
	File - SPSA minutes, notices, correspondence	1938-1990		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0012
	File - SPSA minutes	1980-1990		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0013
	File - SPSA minutes	1980-1998		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0014
	File - SNUC AGM minutes and notices of semi-yearly meetings	1972-1977		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0015
	File - SCC semi-annual meeting minutes; notice of Board of Governors	1979-1980		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0016

Financial Records

Date: 1937-1990 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Springdale Park Spiritual Association fonds

<u>Publication status:</u> <p>published</p>				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Financial ledger	1937-1970		A2015-070, Box 0001 File 0017
	File - Financial journal	1939-1943, 1954, 1974-1975		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0001
	File - Treasurer's book	1950-1966		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0002
	File - Financial ledger	1968-1988		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0003
	File - Financial records	1969-1977		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0004
	File - Ontario Consumer & Commercial Relations	1966-1986		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0005
	File - Church renovation costs	1990		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0006
Property Records <u>Date:</u> 1938-1996 (date of creation) <u>Access points:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textual record (documentary form) <u>Publication status:</u> <p>published</p>				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Property sale ledger	1938-[ca.1967?]		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0007
	File - List of lots sold	1938-1940		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0008
	File - Miscellaneous purchase of lots	1939-1973		A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0009

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	File - Lease to James Oates	1943	A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0010
	File - Ledger of sale of lots	1969-1976	A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0011
	File - Development plans relevant to SPSA (Bracebridge, Ontario)	1943-1978	A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0012
	File - Correspondence, mortgages, wills re: land	[ca.1970?]-1980	A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0013
	File - SPSA land title issues	1973-1988	A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0014
	File - Church renovation from land sales	1988-1990	A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0015
	File - Sale of church & property	1995-1996	A2015-070, Box 0002 File 0016

Legal Records

Date: 1967-1990 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - MacNaughton & MacNaughton	1967-1981		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0001
	File - Sugg & Reid; Sugg, Reid & Fitton; Sugg & Fitton	1970-1979		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0002
	File - Sugg & Fitton	1980-1990		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0003

History

Date: 1938-1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains historical documents of the SPSA, including research materials for the Story of Springdale Park. It also contains other documents and artifacts pertaining to the SPSA throughout its history, like stationary, hymnals, and photographs.

Springdale Park Spiritual Association fonds

Access points:

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

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - SPSA historical documents [photocopies], including one photograph (Doreen Bauld to Gary Denniss)	1998		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0004
	File - Denniss, Gary. "Story of Springdale Park"	1998		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0005
	File - Stationary samples	1938-[198?]		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0006
	File - Church Bible inscription [photocopied 1999]	1940		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0007
	File - W.C. Partridge research notes			A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0008
	File - W.C. Partridge 25th anniversary notes	1964		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0009
	File - Hymnals, including newspaper advertisement for church services	1937, 1978		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0010
	File - Photographs [taken by Walter Meyer zu Erpen & Joe Bain]	1998-2006		A2015-070, Box 0003 File 0011