

Finding Aid to the Norman Witham Photograph Collection

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Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre
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The Norman Witham Photograph Collection

NWC

1895-1989, predominant 1895-1969. -- 252 photographs : b&w and col. - 1 photographic portfolio : b&w.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of photographs collected by Norman Witham, a longtime resident of Canmore and former employee in the Accounting Department of The Canmore Mines, Ltd. It includes prints, negatives and postcard images either taken by Witham himself or collected from other members of the community, including a significant portion of photos that originated with The Canmore Mines, Ltd.

The photos in the Norman Witham Photograph Collection document various aspects of Canmore's development from the 1890s to the 1960s. Images related to the operations of The Canmore Mines, Ltd. and mining in general are particularly well represented. Significant numbers of images also relate to the 1923 Canmore Flood, CPR rail operations and local landmarks such as Memorial Hall, the Oskaloosa Hotel and the mine office building. Some early photographs related to mining operations in the nearby community of Anthracite are also included.

Biographical Sketch: Norman Douglas Witham was born in Lethbridge, Alberta on October 15, 1920. His parentage, education and date of arrival in Canmore are not currently known. On January 30, 1947 at the age of 26, he began working for The Canmore Mines Ltd. Early career details are not known, but by the 1970s he was employed in the Accounting Department, where he served as Purchasing Agent until the mine's closure in 1979. He died in Canmore on November 6, 2003.

Custodial History: Photographs in this collection were created and/or collected by Norman Witham from approximately the 1940s to the 1980s. A significant portion of the photographs seem to have originated with The Canmore Mines, Ltd. and were likely taken from the mine office and stored by him following the closure of the mine in 1979. The records were transferred to the Canmore Museum at various times throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In 2015, the photographs belonging to the collection were identified and reassembled into the Norman Witham Photograph Collection.

Mine Director and Management Portraits

NWC01

[ca.1900-ca. 1970]. -- 30 photographs : b&w and col.

Scope and Content: The series contains photographic portraits of former directors and management staff at The Canmore Mines, Ltd. and its predecessor companies, The Canmore Coal Company, Ltd. and Canadian Anthracite Coal Company. The bulk of the materials consist of formal, individual portraits, many of which show evidence of having been matted and framed for display.

Custodial History: Records in this series are of unknown provenance, although the nature of the records suggest that they originated with The Canmore Mines, Ltd. The Canmore Museum received the materials included in this series from an unspecified donor sometime between 1983 and 1994, at which time some of the materials appear to have been removed from their original mounting. Norman Witham was identified as the presumed donor in 2015 based on internal evidence.

B. Frank Crane [193-?]	NWC01.001
Harry Evans [193-?]	NWC01.002
Dr. E. S. Hayes [192-?]	NWC01.003
Edmund Hayes, Sr. [193-?]-1948	NWC01.004
Edmund Hayes, Jr. [194-?]-[195-?]	NWC01.005
Louis Headley [195-?]	NWC01.006
O. H. Ingram [191-?]	NWC01.007
Robert Knowles [192-?]	NWC01.008
Arthur Latimer [193-?]	NWC01.009
Andrew MacMillan, Sr. [194-?]	NWC01.010
Andrew MacMillan, Jr. [195-?]	NWC01.011

Richardson Morris [192-?]	NWC01.012
William Musgrove [193-?]	NWC01.013
James Neale [192-?]	NWC01.014
A.C. Smith 1939	NWC01.015
Archibald Stewart [191-?]	NWC01.016
William Stewart [191-?]	NWC01.017
L.S. Taintor [192-?]	NWC01.018
Samuel Brinkerhoff Thorne [192-?]	NWC01.019
Joseph Thorpe 1917	NWC01.020
Albert Walter [193-?]	NWC01.021
F.E. Weyerhaeuser [190-?]	NWC01.022
F.K. Weyerhaeuser [193-?]	NWC01.023
R.M. Young [193-?]	NWC01.024
Group/Other 1938-[196-?]	NWC01.025

George Hunter Photographs

NWC02

[195-]. – 12 photographs : b&w. – 1 photographic portfolio : b&w.

Scope and Content: The series consists of photographs taken by Winnipeg photographer George Hunter documenting daily activities related to the operations of The Canmore Mines, Ltd. The bulk of the photographs document the operations of The Canmore Mines, Ltd. directly, showcasing company facilities and staff engaged in their duties. Some additional materials relate to affiliated activities, including home construction and the operation of the local hospital.

Custodial History: Norman Witham obtained the records in this series from the photographer or from an intermediate source at an unknown date. They were donated to the Canmore Museum at various times between 1983 and 2004 and were arranged in 2015.

Canmore Mines Ltd. Portfolio
[195-]

NWC02.001

Original prints
[195-]

NWC02.002

Print reproductions
[195-]

NWC02.003

Other Photographs

NWC03

1895-[198-?], predominant 1895-1965. – 151 photographs : b&w and col.

Scope and Content: The series consists of miscellaneous photographs taken or collected by Norman Witham. The photographs cover a variety of subjects, including mining activities in Canmore and Anthracite, the floods of 1923 and 1950, local landmarks such as Memorial Hall and the Canmore Opera House, First Aid training and competitions, Canadian Pacific Railway operations and local community members. Materials are arranged by general subject matter.

Custodial History: Photographs in this series were collected by Norman Witham at unknown dates from a variety of sources. The records were donated to the Canmore Museum at various times between 1983 and 2004.

Buildings and Landmarks : Memorial Hall 1924-[1965]	NWC03.001
Buildings and Landmarks : Mine Directors' Cabin Reprinted 19- (originally created 1914)	NWC03.002
Buildings and Landmarks : Mine Office [195-?]-[196-]	NWC03.003
Buildings and Landmarks : Opera House [ca. 1920]-1965	NWC03.004
Buildings and Landmarks : Miscellaneous 1913-1952	NWC03.005
First Aid 1924-1936	NWC03.006
Floods 1923-1950	NWC03.007
Mining before 1940 [ca. 1895]-[ca.1938-1939]	NWC03.008
Mining since 1940 1940-[195-?]	NWC03.009
People [ca. 1900]-[ca. 1928]	NWC03.010
Trains and Railways [191-?]-[198-?]	NWC03.011

Negatives

NWC04

[19-?]. -- 59 photographs : b&w negatives.

Scope and Content: The series consists of reproduction negatives for select photographs in the Norman Witham Photograph Collection. The negatives were created from the prints.

Custodial History: The negatives in this series were discovered in the Canmore Museum's storage during an inventory assessment in 2011. They were in a container labelled with Norman Witham's name. It remains unclear whether the negatives were donated by Norman Witham or were created by the Canmore Museum subsequent to the donation of the original prints.

See Accessions 1000.633, 1000.634 and 1000.639 for more information.