

## THE ELOISE A. SKIMINGS FONDS

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

FONDS DESCRIPTION	2
SERIES DESCRIPTION and FILE LISTS	5
Series 1: Business Correspondence and File List	5
Series 2: Personal Correspondence and File List	7
Series 3: Business Invoices and Receipts and File List	8
Series 4: Personal Invoices and Receipts and File List	9
Series 5: Family Account Books and File List	9
Series 6: Insurance Records and File List	10
Series 7: Bank Records and File List	11
Series 8: Music Records and File List	12
Series 9: Poetry and File List	12
Series 10: Notes and File List	14
Series 11: Scrapbook	15
Series 12: Social Activities Records and File List	15
Series 13: Newspaper Articles and File List	16
Series 14: License	17
Series 15: Ephemera and File List	17
Series 16: Photographs and File List	18
Series 17: Poetess of Lake Huron Postcard	19
Series 18: Bird Drawing	19
Series 19: Golden Leaves Poetry Books and File List	20

## THE ELOISE A. SKIMINGS FONDS

### FONDS DESCRIPTION

**Title Proper:** The Eloise A. Skimings Fonds

**Dates of creation:** 1852 – 1936

**Physical Description:**

Extent: 26 cm of textual records and other materials

**Biographical Sketch:** Eloise A. Skimings was born on May 2, 1836 in Goderich, Ontario to Mary Rielly Mason Skimings (Born in Canada) and James Skimings (a tailor, born in New York). She died on April 7, 1921 in Clinton and is buried in the Maitland Cemetery in Goderich, Ontario. She resided her entire life in Goderich, Ontario with her brother William Henry Skimings at 44 Stanley St., Lot 173, Plan 7. She never married. Her brother William never married. She had a sister named Emma Jane who died at two years and seven months of age. Her other brother, Lieutenant Richard Skimings of the Goderich Garrison Artillery was born in 1846 in Goderich and died May 12, 1869 in Goderich, buried in the Maitland Cemetery in Goderich, Ontario. He was a lawyer and wrote poetry, receiving an award at age 15 from the Headmaster of Goderich High School for the best poem on the coming of the Prince to Canada in 1861. Eloise Skimings taught music lessons and was a principal at The Goderich Model School. She was a news correspondent/columnist in Goderich for the Clinton News-Record. She was a poetess and published a book of nearly 1000 poems entitled "Golden Leaves", published in 1904 by the Signal Press, Goderich, Ontario. The poems of Richard Skimings are included in the book. The *Kingston Whig* described it as "a massive work, full of the sympathies, appreciations and joys of one who feels the sensitive touch of real friendship as well as inspiration." She was known as the "The Poetess of Lake Huron", a musician, composer, artist, advocate and "one of Goderich's best-known citizens". She was described as "our distinguished townswoman" and on the occasion of her eightieth birthday it was "under consideration a proposal to mark" her eightieth birthday with either "a concert or a public entertainment of some sort...doing honor to one who has for many years helped to keep Goderich before the world" (Goderich Signal Star, Thursday, May 8, 1919). It was a common occurrence for Eloise Skimings to write a poem in honor of VIPs who visited Goderich to mark the occasion. She was known to attract attention wearing elaborate dresses, hats, hairstyles, long gloves and parasol. An oil painting of Eloise Skimings hangs above the mantle in an exhibit at the Huron County

Museum, depicting her standing on the banks of Goderich with the sunset and Lake Huron behind her. A photograph of her is also included in another exhibit in the same museum which features the timeline of Huron County<sup>1</sup>. She was photographed by Reuben R. Sallows in a Coronation Costume and the photograph is included in the R.R. Sallows Digital Library.

**Custodial History:** These fonds came from the University of Western Ontario and were transferred by Huron County Museum staff in 1989 to Goderich, Ontario to be stored in the archives stacks of the Huron County Museum. The fonds were relocated to Goderich as part of the repatriation of materials to the County of origin since Huron County now had the resources to safely hold Huron County records. No documentation exists in the Archives and Research Collection Center of the University of Western Ontario to indicate how or when or why these fonds came to the University of Western Ontario. A brown copy of the poetry book *Golden Leaves* and a letter from Richard Skimings to Eloise Skimings dated November 1, 1868 were donated by Goderich, Ontario and area residents to the museum and put in the fonds. The book was donated in 1979 and the letter was donated in 1981.

**Scope and Content:** The fonds consists of textual records and other material created and accumulated by Eloise A. Skimings during her career as a newspaper correspondent, teacher, poet, and composer in Goderich, Ontario. Some of the records relate to her brothers, Richard Skimings and William Skimings and others relate to A. M. Polley, Mrs. Flora A. Polley and S. B. Williams. The fonds includes business and personal correspondence, business and personal invoices and receipts relating to Eloise Skimings professional and personal activities, family account books of Eloise Skimings and her brothers, insurance records, bank records, music records including an original musical score, poetry in many forms, notebooks, scrapbook, tickets, invitations, announcements, cards of memorium, newspaper clippings and articles, ephemera, a license, photographs, a postcard, a drawing and published poetry books. The fonds is composed of the following series: Business Correspondence; Personal Correspondence; Business Invoices and Receipts; Personal Invoices and Receipts; Family Account Books; Insurance Records; Bank Records; Music Records; Poetry; Notes; Scrapbook; Social Activities Records; Newspaper Articles; License; Ephemera; Photographs; Poetess of Lake Huron Postcard; Bird Drawing; and Golden Leaves Poetry Books.

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<sup>1</sup> This exhibit was removed in 2012

**Note area:**

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on contents of fonds

**Physical description:** Fonds includes 26 cm of textual records. -- 3 photographs: b&w; 14 x 19 cm or smaller. -- 1 print: postcard; col.; 9 x 14 cm. --1 drawing: pen and black ink; 20 x 30 cm.

**Arrangement:**

No physical arrangement was undertaken.

These fonds, contained in two boxes, had an order imposed on them:

Box 1 contains the following folders, listed in order: Clinton News Record and Misc, Personal Correspondence (first of 3), Business Correspondence, Personal Correspondence (second of 3), Personal Correspondence (third of 3), Letter to sister from Eloise.

Box 2 contains the following folders listed in order: Scrapbook Notebook Poems, Articles and Clippings, Poetry, Family Account Books, Correspondence, Business and Accounts, Poetry Copybooks and Notebooks.

The folder entitled "Letter to sister from Eloise" located in Box 1 is mislabeled. The letter, in very fragile condition, hand written and difficult to read, is addressed to Eloise Skimings. It does not appear to be signed. On the top right hand corner of page one of the letter is written: "Hamilton – Bermuda". Although this one is not signed, another letter to Eloise Skimings with identical handwriting also with "Hamilton – Bermuda" written in the top right corner has a notation written on it that states "Written by Lieut. Richard Skimings. This letter is located in Box 2 in the Business and Accounts folder.

**THE ELOISE A. SKIMINGS FONDS**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTION AND FILE LISTS**

**Series 1: Business Correspondence**

**Dates:** 1880 – 1916

**Extent:** 3 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series contains correspondence of W. J. Mitchell, the editor and proprietor of the Clinton News-Record to Eloise Skimings. Some of the topics discussed are requests to submit work in the proper format for printing, to submit work with writing that is “wide and legible”, and to submit work that deal with “purely local happenings”. Other topics covered are account and payment interactions. Other correspondence includes rejection notices, correspondence dealing with her teaching, correspondent duties, letters of thanks and request for her poetry, music and poetess of Lake Huron photo from professional entities and correspondence dealing with her advocacy activities with the government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture Institutes Branch and Office of the Minister of Public Works. Some issues include making rest rooms available to the Women’s Institute at the Goderich library (1914) and choosing keepers for the Goderich lighthouse (1911). A House of Commons, Ottawa letter discusses “suggestions” that Eloise Skimings submitted but does not provide specifics. Several other letters also acknowledge receipt of her letters but do not discuss the contents of the letters received. Other government offices that Eloise Skimings dealt with were Controller of Customs, Militia and Defense, Government House, and Privy Council.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* The handwriting is illegible in many cases.

**File List:**

Clinton News-Record Correspondence – 1900-1905; 1 cm - Box 1- Clinton News Record and Misc folder

Rejection notices – 1899 - 1901; 2 leaves - Box 1-Business Correspondence folder; 1 leaf - Box 2-Correspondence folder

Advocacy Correspondence - 1896 – 1915; 12 leaves - Box 1-Business Correspondence folder; Box 1-Personal Correspondence folder (second of 3)

Professional letters of thanks for poetry, music or photo received - 1883 – 1914; 20 leaves - Box 1-Business Correspondence folder; one leaf - Box 2-Correspondence folder

Music Teacher Correspondence - 1892 – 1905; 7 leaves - Box 1-Business Correspondence folder; one leaf - Box 2-Correspondence folder

News Columnist correspondence - 1898 – 1914; 13 leaves - Box 1-Business Correspondence folder

Professional letters of request for poetry, music or photo – 1880 – 1916; 3 leaves - Box 1-Business Correspondence folder; one leaf - Box 2 – Correspondence folder

## **Series 2: Personal Correspondence**

**Dates:** 1852 – 1917

**Extent:** 8 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of personal letters to and from Eloise Skimings, letters of her brothers Richard and William and other letters accumulated by Eloise Skimings that are not addressed to her or her brothers. The letters to her are from cousins, friends, her Godchild, and admirers of her poetry. Letters from Cousin Mae Hyde, Cousin Francis Brechin, Alice and Edith McGillivray, Lizzie Forrest, Annie Skimmer, Matthew J. Leonard, Alice Mason are included among others. There is a letter discussing an injury E. Skimings sustained which kept her from walking, dated December 10, 1911. Many letters thank her for the kind words, flowers and poetry she sent or apologize for their delay in writing. Three letters from Richard are written from Bermuda, where he went to live due to ill health. The letters of others include Lottie A Polley, F A Polley, Mr Polley, Stewart Donald, W R Bartlett, Trina Tom Mall, Reo Mark Turnbull, Arthur Schultz, L. Lindsay John Miller among others. "Lindsay letters about colt" and remedies for Mr. Williams are included. Empty, opened addressed envelopes are included. Letters to Richard Skimings are from his cousin Lizzie, from John Weatherald, and from his cousin L. Forrest and letters from Richard Skimings are addressed to P. F. Walker or to Eloise Skimings.

### **Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* All the correspondence is handwritten and difficult to read in many cases.

*Conservation:* The letter from Richard Skimings to Eloise Skimings dated November 1, 1868 consists of two sheets and each sheet is encapsulated in a plastic sleeve.

### **File List:**

Correspondence to Eloise Skimings from relatives, friends and admirers - 1861 – 1917; 7.5 cm - Box 1 in the 3 Personal Correspondence folders; Box 2- Correspondence folder

Correspondence to Eloise Skimings from Richard Skimings - 1866 – 1869; 4 leaves - Box 1- first Personal Correspondence folder; Box 1- "Letter to sister from Eloise" folder; Box 2-Business and Accounts folder; Box 2-Correspondence folder.

Correspondence from Eloise Skimings to Richard Skimings - 1868; 1 leaf - Box 2-Correspondence folder

Other Correspondence of Richard Skimmings - 1852 – 1869; 7 leaves – Box 2-Correspondence folder

Correspondence from Eloise Skimings to “Madame” – 1857; 1 leaf – Box 2-Poetry folder

Correspondence to Eloise Skimings from William Skimings - 1880 – 1881; 4 leaves - Box 2-Correspondence folder

Correspondence by other than Eloise, Richard and William Skimings - 1859 – 1910; 19 leaves - Box 2- Business and Accounts folder, Correspondence folder, Articles and Clippings folder and Poetry folder

Envelopes - 1860 – 1902; 6 leaves - Box 2-Correspondence folder

### **Series 3: Business Invoices and Receipts**

**Dates:** 1873 – 1911

**Extent:** 20 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of invoices for items purchased by Eloise Skimings in her dealings as a music teacher, such as sheet music and an organ music book, and as a newspaper columnist.

**Note:** *Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

#### **File List:**

Music Store Invoices: 1895 – 1902; 13 leaves - Box 1- Business Correspondence folder

Clinton News Records Invoices – 1903 - 1911; 2 leaves in Box 1- Business Correspondence, 1 leaf in Box 2-Correspondence



Music Expense Receipts - 1873 – 1895; 5 leaves – Box 2- Business and Accounts folder

#### **Series 4: Personal Invoices and Receipts**

**Dates:** 1860 – 1900

**Extent:** 37 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of invoices and receipts for items purchased by Eloise Skimings. She bought many pairs of gloves and a significant amount of dressmaking materials including fabric, buttons and braid.

**Note:** *Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

#### **File List:**

Boots and Shoes Invoice - 1900; 1 leaf – Box 1- Business Correspondence folder

Chemist Invoice - 1889; 1 leaf - Box 1- Business Correspondence folder

Receipt for flowers - 1894 – 1896; 1 leaf - Box 2 -Business and Accounts folder

Receipts for food - 1869 – 1888; 6 leaves - Box 2 -Business and Accounts folder

Receipts for clothing - 1870 – 1889; 5 leaves - Box 2 -Business and Accounts folder

Receipts for dressmaking materials - 1860 – 1895; 20 leaves - Box 2 -Business and Accounts folder

Receipts for assorted stationary - 1873 – 1880; 3 leaves - Box 2 -Business and Accounts folder

#### **Series 5: Family Account Books**

**Dates:** 1860 – 1909

**Extent:** 3 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of account books of Eloise, Richard and William Skimings wherein names or items and amounts have been entered. Eloise Skimings' account books include dealings with W M Savage, the Brechin Beach Galop, Lottery tickets for St.Peter's Church plaque, and personal clothing and grocery purchases. One account book deals specifically with "Monies Collected for Presentation of Volume of "Golden Leaves", Monies

subscribed for 'Golden Leaves' with which to present the Y.M.C.A." "Monies subscribed for presentation of 'Golden Leaves' to The Marine Social Club" "Monies collected from Knox Church F.M.S for Gift of 'Golden Leaves' to Rev.James Hamilton""Monies subscribed by North Street Metrolist Ladies Aid to present Rev.D.Dryall with copy of 'Golden Leaves". One Eloise Skimngs account book contains no indication of its purpose and consists of names and amounts.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Condition:* The account books covers are in poor condition or missing altogether as is the case with the Eloise Skimings Names and Account Book.

**File List:**

Eloise Skimings Galop and Lottery Ticket Account Book - 1890-1889; 17 leaves - Box 2-Family Account Books folder

Eloise Skimings Clothing and Grocery Account Book - 1868 - 1880; 30 leaves - Box 2-Family Account Books folder

Eloise Skimings Names and Amounts Account Book - 1863; 5 leaves - Box 2 - Business and Accounts folder

Eloise Skimings Golden Leaves Account Book - 1909; 27 leaves - Box 2-Family Account Books folder

Eloise Skimings in Account with W M Savage Book - 1860-1869; 11 leaves - Box 2-Family Account Books folder

Richard Skimings Account Book - 1887- 1903; 27 leaves - Box 2-Family Account Books folder

William Skimings Account book - 1880-1884; 27 leaves - Box 2-Family Account Books folder

**Series 6: Insurance Records**

**Dates:** 1863 – 1910

**Extent:** 15 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of insurance premium payment receipts for Eloise Skimings, A. M. Polley and Mrs. Flora Polley.

**Note:** *Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

**File List:**

Western Assurance Company premiums payment receipt for Eloise Skimings - 1863; 1 leaf - Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

Perth Mutual Fire Insurance Company premium payment receipts for A. M Polley - 1898 – 1904; 4 leaves - Box 2- Business and Accounts folder

Perth Mutual Fire Insurance Company premium payment receipts for Mrs. Flora A. Polley - 1898 – 1910; 9 leaves - Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

Royal Insurance Company Insurance premium payment receipt for fire insurance for A. M. Polley: 1877; 1 leaf - Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

**Series 7: Bank Records**

**Dates:** 1898 – 1923

**Extent:** 9 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of promissory notes to the order of S. B. Williams, and Eloise Skimings consolidated debt debentures, both from the Bank of Montreal in Goderich.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Condition:* The promissory notes are pinned together with a rusty pin. The debt debentures are in poor to fair condition as sections of them are torn and stained.

**File List:**

Bank Promisory Notes - 1898 – 1899; 7 leaves - Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

Consolidated Debt Debentures - 1922 – 1923; 2 leaves - Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

## **Series 8: Music Records**

**Dates:** 1859 – 1903

**Extent:** 57 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of handwritten records of tuition for music lessons, sheet music and musical instruments catalogues, published sheet music of various composers and a handwritten original musical score composed by Eloise Skimings for the queen's birthday.

**Note:** *Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

### **File List:**

Music Lesson Tuition Records - 1859 – 1869; 12 leaves - Box 2- Business and Accounts folder

Music catalogues - 1897 – 1903; 42 leaves - Box 2- Business and Accounts folder

Sheet music by various composers – [ca.1900]; 2 leaves - Box 2- Business and Accounts folder

Original musical score composed by Eloise Skimings - [ca. 1900]; 1 leaf - Box 2- Business and Accounts folder

## **Series 9: Poetry**

**Dates:** 1861 – 1913

**Extent:** 92 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of poetry written by Eloise Skimings, Richard Skimings, E.L. Williams, Edythe H.Cross, Sir Walter Scott, John Milton, and Clementina Adam. Some of Eloise Skimings' poems are hand written on loose sheets, one is printed in a newspaper, others are printed on card and some of the latter are inscribed. One of her hand written poems is written on

an envelope. A notebook containing her handwritten poems is included. Two poems written on blue paper written by an unidentified poet and newspaper clippings of poems in an envelope labeled "Goderich poems" by unknown poets are included.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* The poems of Sir Walter Scott, John Milton and Clementina Adam are printed on card. The poems of Edythe H. Cross are printed in a gift card booklet and contains a handwritten inscription on the third page which states "With love and best wishes, 1890, Fannie". The inscriptions on the back of some of Eloise Skimings poetry cards state: "Vicomte De Mandite/avec les Compliments de La Poetess de Lac Huron"; "Presented/ to/ Mr. Mason Bell/ Wishing Him/A most Successful/Season/By/The Authoress of 'Golden Leaves'"; "Presented/To/Mr and Mrs Robert Hemf/With Best Wishes/for/'A Happy New Year'/From/ The Authoress of 'Golden Leaves'"; "Presented/To/Mrs. Williams Smith/of Chicago with the/Sincerest regards/Of/The Authoress/Of/'Golden Leaves'/Good Wishes/May thy life, be fill'd/With joy, not tears;/And may good works be/Thine aim for years./EAS/Goderich Ontario Canada". The Eloise Skimings poem "An Easter Carol" is contained on one entire page from the Ottawa Daily Free Press: Tuesday, April 12, 1898. The poems from Goderich are in an envelope with handwriting on it which says "Goderich poetry". There is a second set of handwriting on the envelope as well, addressing the envelope to Captain [?]caman, Exeter Rifle Corp, 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Exeter, Ontario.

**File List:**

Eloise Skimings sheet poems – 1883 – 1902; 10 leaves – Box 2-Poetry folder; 2 leaves - Box 2-Correspondence folder; 1 leaf (envelope) - Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

Eloise Skimings printed card poems – 1902- 1913; 13 leaves – Box 2-Poetry folder

Eloise Skimings Poetry Notebook – [ca. 1890]; 40 leaves – Box 2- Poetry, Copybooks and Notebooks folder

Eloise Skimings Poem in newspaper - 1898; 1 leaf - Box 2-Articles and Clippings folder

Richard Skimings poems - 1861; 8 leaves; 1 leaf - Box 1-first Personal Correspondence folder; Box 2-Poetry folder

E. L. Williams poems – 1903; 2 leaves – Box 2-Poetry folder

Unknown poet poems – [ca. 1900]; 2 leaves – Box 2-Poetry folder

Other poets card poems – 1890; 9 leaves - Box 2-Poetry folder

Poems from Goderich – [ca. 1900]; 4 leaves - Box 2-Correspondence folder

### **Series 10: Notes**

**Dates:** 1853 – [ca. 1900]

**Extent:** 3 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of handwritten notes contained in notebooks. Topics include Pythagoras, Platonists, Aristotle, Europe, Asia, Africa, America, History, education and learning.

### **Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* The Multiple Topic Notes notebook has a rainbow swirled hard cover, is bound, and lined. The Education and Learning Notes and Poetry notebook has a multi-colored hard cover, is bound, lined and contains ten poems.

*Physical Condition:* The Europe, Asia, Africa, America Notes notebook and the History Notes notebooks do not have covers.

### **File List:**

Multiple Topic Notes – 1861; 1 cm - Box 2-Scrapbook, Notebook, Poems folder

Europe, Asia, Africa, America Notes – [ca. 1890]; 22 leaves - Box 2-Poetry, Copybooks and Notebooks folder

Education and Learning Notes and Poetry - 1853; 0.6 cm - Box 2-Poetry, Copybooks and Notebooks folder

History Notes - [ca.1900]; 21 leaves - Box 2-Poetry folder

### **Series 11: Scrapbook**

**Date:** 1877 - 1901

**Extent:** one volume of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of a bound volume, spotted cover with lined paper and contains assorted newspaper clippings of poetry and recipes among other topics, students' names and their grades in Reading, Spelling, and Arithmetic, 10 handwritten poems and a handwritten recipe for buns.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Arrangement;* It is contained in Box 2-Scrapbook, Notebook, Poems folder

### **Series 12: Social Activities Records**

**Dates:** 1881 - 1918

**Extent:** 22 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of invitations to social gatherings and weddings, tickets from social activities attended, a wedding announcement and cards of memorium. The social invitations are from The Goderich Model Students, the Bachelors of Goderich, the Blackstone Orchestra, The Harmony Club and the Marine Social Club. The wedding invitations are from Margaret A. McDonald and Donald Martin; Clara Jean Bissett and Albert Johnston; Mabel Louis Henning and James Johnston. The tickets are from the Great North-Western Exhibition, the Grand Closing Concert, and the Catholic Army Huts Euchre and Dance. The wedding announcement is from Thomas McGillicuddy and Sarah Cambridge Dutton. The cards of memorium are for Emily Marlton, Alex Nasmyth, Mrs. Andrew Beck, Ira Lewis and William Daniel Tye.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* The memorium card for Mrs. Andrew Beck contains a printed Eloise Skimings poem entitled "Respectfully Dedicated to the Friends" and is in an envelope addressed to Eloise Skimings. The wedding invitations are in envelopes.

**File List:**

Social Invitations - 1902 – 1910; 9 leaves - Box 1- First Personal Correspondence folder; Box 1- Business Correspondence

Tickets - 1894 – 1918; 4 leaves - Box 1-Clinton News Record and Misc folder; Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

Wedding Invitations - 1905 – 1912; 3 leaves – Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

Wedding Announcement – 1881 – 1 leaf - Box 2-Correspondence folder

Cards of Memorium - 1884 – 1911; 5 leaves - Box 1-Clinton News Record and Misc folder; Box 2- Correspondence folder

**Series 13: Newspaper Articles**

**Dates:** [ca. 1900] – 1910

**Extent:** 6 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This series contains a newspaper clipping from the Clinton News-Record of an article written by Eloise Skimings, and a hand written article for submission to the Clinton News-Record.

**Note:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

**File List:**

Handwritten article for submission to Clinton News-Record - 1910; 5 leaves - Box 2- Correspondence folder



Eloise Skimings Article – [ca.1900]; 1 leaf - Box 2-Articles and Clippings folder

**Series 14: License**

**Date:** [ca. 1900]

**Extent:** 1 leaf

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of a license to use a steam threshing machine, granted to Mrs. Flora A. Polley by the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company.

**Note:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Arrangement:* It is contained in Box 2-Business and Accounts folder

**Series 15: Ephemera**

**Dates:** 1897 – 1936

**Extent:** 38 leaves of textual records

**Scope and Content:** This Series consists of stamps, two black and white magazine clippings of women, recipes, and assorted unrelated clippings.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* The magazine clippings are mounted on card. There are three hand written recipes, one for bread cheesecake, one for cucumber relish and one is illegible. Some of the assorted unrelated news clippings are entitled: For the good of Canada, Oldest inhabitant of the city, An important discovery- uniting aluminum with glass, Hints, Battle of Stony Creek, Farm and Garden, and Need of an empire policy.

*Physical Condition:* Five stamps are adhered to one another.

**File Lists:**

Stamps – 1897; 5 stamps – Box 1-Clinton News Record + Misc folder

Magazine clippings – [ca. 1900]; 2 leaves - Box 1-Clinton News Record + Misc folder

Recipes - [ca. 1900]; 3 leaves - Box 2-Business and Accounts folder; Box 2-Poetry folder

Assorted Newspaper Clippings – [ca. 1900] - 1936; 28 leaves - Box 1-Clinton News Record and Misc folder; Box 2-Articles and Clippings folder

**Series 16: Photographs.**

**Dates:** 1902 - 1935

**Extent:** 3 photographs: b&w; 14 x 19 cm or smaller

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of two black and white photographs of Eloise Skimings dressed in a coronation costume, seated in a chair, and a photograph of a man and woman standing outdoors.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* The two 14 x 19 cm photos are identical and both are mounted on gray-coloured card. There is Eloise Skimings' handwriting on both photographs. The identical words are written on each photo. Under the photo is written, "Poetess of Lake Huron" (first line), "Mid Music, Song and Flowers I live;" (second line), "With God to me rich blessing doth give" (third line). In the bottom right hand corner is stamped "R R Sallows—Goderich, Ont.". On the back of the photo is written "Eloise A. Skimings" (first line), "Coronation Costume" (second line), "Coronation Day" (third line), "Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1902" (fourth line), "Goderich, Ontario, Canada" (fifth line). On the back of the 6 x 9 cm photograph is handwriting that states: "Flagstaff MN" (first line), "Boulder Colo" (second line), "Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1935" (third line).

**File List:**

Eloise Skimings Studio Portraits [graphic material] / photographer R. R. Sallows, Goderich, Ont – 1902; 2 photographs: b&w; 14 x 19 cm - One is located loosely in front of the file folders in Box 1. The other is located in Box 2-Scrapbook, Notebook, Poems folder

Flagstaff, Minnesota Couple [graphic material] / photographer unknown – 1935; 1 photograph: b&w: 6 x 9 cm - Box 1-Clinton News Record Correspondence and Misc folder

**Series 17: Poetess of Lake Huron Postcard** [graphic material]

**Date:** Goderich, Ont.: Smith's Art Studio, 1888

**Extent:** 1 print: postcard; col.; 9 x 14 cm

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of a postcard print depicting Eloise Skimings standing on the banks of Goderich, Ontario with Lake Huron in the background.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* At the base of the postcard, in Eloise Skimings' handwriting, is written "The Poetess of Lake Huron A15/88".

*Arrangement:* It has been placed in a clear plastic sleeve and is located loosely in front of the file folders in Box 1.

**Series 18: Bird Drawing** [graphic material] / drawn by William A. Yerex

**Date:** [ca. 1900]

**Extent:** 1 drawing: pen and black ink; 20 x 30 cm

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of a drawing of an elaborate bird, with calligraphy that states "Why not learn to write" underneath it.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Arrangement:* It is located in Box 2-Poetry folder

**Series 19: Golden Leaves Poetry Books**

**Date:** Goderich, Ont: The Signal Press, 1904

**Extent:** 3 volumes

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of three volumes of the book of poetry written by Eloise Skimings. Pages 1- 326 contains her poetry and pages 326-346 contain poetry by “Lieut. Richard Skimings” and includes a black and white photograph of him with a white tissue overlay.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

*Physical Description:* Each volume contains 346 pages. The green covered volume is inscribed by Eloise Skimings and states “Mrs. A. L. Rex” (first line), “X-mas 1906” (second line). On the following page is a page of handwriting, written by Eloise Skimings and is signed by her as follows: “Eloise A. Skimings, Goderich, Ontario, Canada on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1905, in honor of their son Master Lionel Rex”.

*Physical Condition* A brown volume is bound with cotton binding and is in very fragile condition

*Arrangement:* A brick-coloured volume was placed in Box 2 by the Huron County Museum. According to the museum it was put there because it was a rare book and was to be kept with the fonds “for reference”.

**File List:**

Green copy of *Golden Leaves* Poetry Book – 1904 – Box 1- in front of folders

Brown copy of *Golden Leaves* Poetry Book– 1904 – Box 1- in front of folders

Brick-colored copy of *Golden Leaves* Poetry Book – 1904 – Box 2- in front of folders

