

FONDS DESCRIPTION (MBMS-24)

Marie Best fonds

c. 1880-1959

793 photographs

(Viola) Marie Best, the daughter of Theresa Elvina Ernst (1880-1950) and John Arthur Best (1880-1969), was born at Blockhouse in 1915. As a young woman growing up on her family's farm, Marie became keenly interested in photography and eventually established a small studio on her parent's property, where she developed and printed photographs for the local community. Marie also took a great number of her own photographs and accumulated photographs that she received from several different sources, including her mother, other family members, and members of the community. In addition, during the course of her business-related processing, she apparently retained prints of photographs (often with minor printing imperfections) that caught her eye. Marie died at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax in 1959 and is buried in Blockhouse. Not long after, her father, by then a widower, sold the family home.

Fonds consists of photographs (mostly dating from 1920-1950) either taken or collected by Marie Best. More than one-tenth of the photographs document life on the Best family farm in Blockhouse. Among the other main subjects are Animals, Buildings and Street Views, Celebrations and Events, Churches, Farming, First World War, Lunenburg County (Outside of Mahone Bay Area), Other Locations (Outside of Lunenburg County), People, School Photos, Second World War, Shipbuilding, and Transportation.

The photographs were donated c. 2015 by Bonnie Scott-Hirtle on behalf of her mother, Viola (Veinot) Scott, whose parents purchased the Best family home in Blockhouse c. 1959. The photographs were found in the Best house. (Acc. Nos. 2018.1.1-2018.1.680).