

FONDS DESCRIPTION (MBMS-22)

Thomas G. Nicol fonds

c. 1895-c.1926

13 photographs

Thomas G. Nicol was born in Scotland in 1852. In 1878 he married Emma C. Schnare (1855-1940) in Bridgewater. The couple had five children. Nicol worked initially as a millwright, first arriving in Mahone Bay to build a mill for the Kedy brothers. He then established his own box factory and planing mill. In 1886 he was appointed as one of the trustees responsible for the construction of a Mahone Bay Exhibition Building. In 1893 he became a partner in the Gold River Lumber Co. He was also very active as a pioneer in electric-power generation and distribution, establishing a plant on the Mush-a-Mush River at Clearland, which he sold to the Lunenburg Gas Co. Ltd. in 1898. In 1902, he built a generating station in Oakland designed to provide power for electric lighting in Mahone Bay, selling the plant to the town several years later. As well, Nicol developed power-generating operations in Shelburne County. In 1926 he funded the construction of the Knox Presbyterian Church (later the Calvary Temple) in Mahone Bay. Nicol died at Mahone Bay in 1931.

Fonds comprises 8 copy prints (plus 4 duplicates) of photographs and one original photograph. The copy prints depict Nicol's power-generating operations and construction projects, Nicol family homes, and the Knox Presbyterian church. The original photo is a portrait of Thomas and Emma (Schnare) Nicol.

The photographs were donated to the Mahone Bay Museum in 2006 by Alexander M. McDonald (accessions 2006.1: 06.01.01--06.01.09). Additional copy prints were found in the Mahone Bay Museum archival backlog.