

## **FONDS DESCRIPTION (MBMS-84)**

### **Margaret McLean MacKay fonds**

n.d., 1840-1983

2.5 cm of textual records  
957 photographs

Margaret Agnes Martell McLean, the daughter of William and Jennie (Smeltzer) McLean, was born at Mahone Bay on 14 July 1908. The granddaughter of the noted shipbuilder and photographer John McLean, Margaret grew up in Mahone Bay and later studied at Dalhousie University in Halifax, graduating with a B.A. in 1930. She then returned to Mahone Bay and served, for nine years, as the vice-principal of the Mahone Bay School. In 1939, she moved to Montreal, where she taught at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School, a private school for girls in Westmount. Two years later, she left the teaching profession to marry Harry Buckley MacKay (1904-1992) of Canso, who had previously taught school in Nova Scotia and was then teaching at Ridley College in St. Catherine's, Ontario. Their daughter, Judith Ann, was born at St. Catherine's in 1944. Not long after, Harry MacKay was obliged to leave the teaching profession for health reasons, so the couple returned to Nova Scotia, settling in Mahone Bay, where he opened an insurance agency, which he ran for twenty-five years. Margaret died at Mahone Bay in 2001.

Fonds consists of a binder-cum-scrapbook assembled c. 1982-83 containing Margaret McLean MacKay's genealogical research on the McLean and MacKay families, particularly their roots in Shelburne County. The binder also includes some original historical documents as well as numerous photographs. In addition, there are some loose photographs and four photo albums, two of which were assembled by Margaret's mother, Jennie, and two of which were kept by Margaret. The albums are largely captioned and document the social and recreational life of a prominent Mahone Bay family, including activities on various Mahone Bay islands and some travels within Nova Scotia and elsewhere in Canada. Margaret McLean MacKay's student days and early teaching career are also covered.

Records were donated by Margaret McLean MacKay's daughter, Judith Van Ryckervorsel, in 2022 and processed in 2025