

SAFA 39

A Guide to the Records of the Frank Crean fonds (BF 26)

Saskatchewan Archives Board
2002

PRIVATE RECORDS AUTHORITY DESCRIPTION

Saskatchewan Archives Board
Authority Record

Individual Authority (PA 26)

Crean, Frank J.P. (Joseph Patrick) 1875-1932

About this record creator

Biographical Sketch

Frank Joseph Patrick Crean was born in Dublin, Ireland to Michael and Emma Crean on March 6, 1875, the seventh of eight children. He is thought to have attended Belvedere College [in Dublin?], and in 1899 he served with the 1st Royal Dragoons, Robert's Horse in South Africa. It appears that Frank Crean first came to Canada in 1903 where he took a job with Bell Brothers Lumber Company of Prince Albert "cruising" timber. In February, 1908, he accepted a post with the Railway Lands Branch, Department of the Interior. In August, 1908, he was chosen to head a small party to travel into north-eastern Alberta and north-western Saskatchewan to evaluate the land, climate, vegetation, and animal life to determine the area's agricultural potential, and to see if it would be satisfactory for settlement. This expedition, referred to as the New Northwest Exploration Expedition, was initially planned to last the one summer, but was extended to two after Crean submitted the first of two formal reports in April, 1909. The final formal report was submitted by Crean to the Department of the Interior on May 2, 1910.

In January 1909, Frank Crean married Josephine Mary Gigot in Nelson BC. The couple had no children. His employment with the Department of the Interior ended in 1913 when he resigned his position. In January 1915, Crean enlisted in the Canadian Army, but by March 1916, he was discharged without seeing action. Frank Crean died December 18, 1932.

Archival records linked to this creator

BF 26 Frank Crean fonds

FONDS DESCRIPTION

Saskatchewan Archives Board
Records Description

BF 26

Frank Crean fonds

About these records

Title	Frank Crean fonds
Dates of Creation	1908-ca.1931 (some copies)
Physical Description	329 photographs, b & w prints 8 cm of textual records
Biographical Sketch	Frank J.P. Crean was the leader of New Northwest Exploration Expedition, 1908-1909. For more information about the creator, see <u>Authority Record – PA 26 Crean, Frank J.P. (Joseph Patrick) 1875-1932.</u>
Immediate Source of Acquisition	These records were purchased from The Photographic Antiquarian (Canada) Ltd. in 1978.
Custodial History	The antiquarian dealer's source for the records is unknown.
Scope and Content	<p>The fonds consists of two photograph albums with a total of 329 b&w prints, and 8 cm of textual records. The photographs, most taken by Crean, document the travels of the New Northwest Exploration expedition, under the leadership of Frank Crean, and instructed by the Department of the Interior to evaluate and report back on the land in the area to determine its agricultural potential. The expedition made two, and possibly three trips from 1908-1910, and covered portions of north-eastern Alberta and north-western Saskatchewan.</p> <p>The textual records consist of a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings dealing with exploration in the Canadian north-west ca. 1905-1910, copies of correspondence between Crean and his superiors at the Department of the Interior pertaining to his expedition and various issues that arose during that time, as well as a</p>

copy of a ca. 1931 report by Frank Crean entitled, "The Winnipeg and English Rivers Prior to Power Development."

Available Format

Copy negatives and prints are available for some of the photographs.

Access Restrictions

These records are open for research.

Terms Governing Use

These records are in the public domain. However, Saskatchewan Archives Board must be cited as a source.

Reference Tools

Consult SAFA #39 for authority and fonds level descriptions.

Item level descriptions for the photographs are accessible electronically on the Saskatoon photographs database. See reference archivist for assistance.

Associated Material

Further records of Frank Crean and the New Northwest Exploration Expedition are located at the National Archives of Canada (NAC) in Ottawa.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Notes

Some of the photographs appear in published Federal Government reports regarding the expedition, as well as in "The New Northwest: The Photographs of the Frank Crean Expeditions, 1908-1909" by Bill Waiser (Saskatoon: Fifth House 1993).

Former Codes

Collection S-X147

Guide PG 9

Consulting the Records

To view the records, visit the Saskatoon office.

Arrangement Note(s)

The photographs are in original order; duplicate images have been assigned the same photo number.

Item level descriptions for the images were created by SAB archivists from information in the expedition's reports.

**RECORDS LISTINGS ARE
AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC
FORMAT ONLY**

**CONSULT THE SASKATOON
OFFICE PHOTO DATABASE
FOR ITEM DESCRIPTIONS
OF IMAGES**

**FOR TEXTUAL RECORDS
IN THIS FONDS
PLEASE CONSULT S-X147**

LOCATIONS OF FONDS: BF 26
Frank Crean fonds (SAFA 39)

Photograph Collection