

SAFA 360

**A Guide to the Records of the
W.J. James fonds
(F 452)**

**Saskatchewan Archives Board
2007**

**PRIVATE RECORDS
AUTHORITY DESCRIPTION**

**Saskatchewan Archives Board
Authority Record**

**Individual (PA 414)
James, William John, 1870-1944**

About this records creator:

Authorized Heading James, William John, 1870-1944

**Biographical Sketch /
Administrative History** William John (W.J.) James was born on December 23, 1870 to William, Sr. and Maria James of the Fordwich area, Howick Township, Huron County, Ontario. His father was a blacksmith and carriage maker in Ontario, and first traveled west with the Wolseley Red River Expedition in 1870.

W.J. James came to Prince Albert, Northwest Territories ca.1890. His family followed around 1893. Both James and his father were employed by the James Sanderson sawmill as labourers. W.J. James became a barber while also establishing a photograph business briefly with W.J. Jackson in 1894. James continued in barbering while also working as an itinerant photographer in the 1890s. He hired Theodore Charmbury as a photographer in his studio between 1901 and 1903, and operated a branch studio at Indian Head in 1904-1906. James operated the City Art Studio (1909-1919) and W.J. James & Co. (est.1927) in Prince Albert until his retirement in the mid-1930s.

James' professional career as an itinerant, commercial and portrait photographer spanned over forty years during which he traveled extensively in the Prince Albert district and northern parkland regions of Saskatchewan documenting settlement, local industry and everyday life. William John James died on September 9, 1944 in Prince Albert and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Prince Albert.

W.J. James married Maude Rebecca Courtney on April 27, 1904 in Prince Albert. They had four children: Mossie; "Eva" Eunice; Norma; and Murl.

Variant Name W.J. James

Sources *AMICUS Authorities* – no entry found

William James – Selected Photographs 1900-1936 [Catalogue of a 1986 exhibition at the Mendel Art Gallery, with essays by Brock Silversides and Grant Arnold.]

"Through the Eyes of William James." Brock Silversides in *Liaison* (Journal of the Saskatchewan Museums Association), Spring 1988.

Obituaries - *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, September 11, 1944 and
December 8, 1956.

SAB Photographs accession file – William J. James

**Archival records linked to this records creator:
F 452 W.J. James fonds**

FONDS DESCRIPTION

Saskatchewan Archives Board Records Description

F 452 W.J. James fonds

About these records:

Title of Records: Fonds	W.J. James fonds
Dates of Creation	ca.1890-1930s
Physical Description	ca. 3,600 photographs
Link to Authority	<p>William John James (1870-1944), itinerant, commercial and portrait photographer from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan came to the region from Ontario ca.1890. Operating out of Prince Albert, he traveled extensively in the northern parkland regions of the province documenting settlement, local industry, and everyday life.</p> <p>See:</p> <p><u>James, William John, 1870-1944</u></p>
Custodial History	<p>The majority of photographs were purchased from William John James' daughter in September 1958 (accession number 483 (Photo R)) and from the Prince Albert Historical Society in 1962 (accession number 696 (Photo R)).</p> <p>The Provincial Archives of Manitoba donated one photograph to the Regina office in 1989: R89-005 (January 4, 1989).</p>
Scope and Content	<p>This fonds consists of approximately 3,200 to 3,600 prints, glass plate negatives, nitrate negatives and negatives including panoramic views and commercial images of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and district taken by William James, photographer. The black and white images, which date from ca.1890 to the 1930s, include 550 panoramic views taken by Cirkut camera.</p> <p>No series has been applied to the photographs.</p>
Access Restrictions	Records are open for research use.
Conservation Restrictions	Glass plate negatives and nitrate negatives are not available for research use.
Terms Governing Use	Use, publication, and/or reproduction of records are subject to terms and conditions of the <i>Copyright Act</i> .
Reference Tools	SAFA 360 consists of a fonds description. Item descriptions of photographs are available in Historical Photographs (Regina) card catalogue. The records are identified by subject access points.

Associated Material (records held by other archives)	The Prince Albert Historical Society has photographic records of the W.J. James fonds in its permanent collection.
Related Records (records held by SAB)	The William John James family fonds (F 500) contains 33 photographs of William James, his family and City Art Studio at Prince Albert. R-E2303: Catalogue and other material relating to a 1986 exhibition of James' photographs at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon
Physical Condition note	Photographs are in good physical condition.
Conservation note	Photographs were placed in Mylar sleeves. Reference prints of glass plate negatives and nitrate negatives were made for research use.
Accruals	No further accruals are expected.
Source of Description	Content of fonds.
Notes	Location for retrieval: Regina-Hillsdale.
Former Codes	Photographs: R-A1952; R-A4330 to R-A4347; R-A4364 to R-A4631; R-A4666 to R-A4680; R-A4912; R-A6662 to R-A6663; R-A6666 to R-A6670; R-A10981; R-A12535 to R-A12536; R-A12800; R-A14498; R-A16462 to R-A16570; R-B378; R-B1198; R-B1564 to R-B1725; R-B1729 to R-B1766; R-B3285 to R-B3325; R-B3328 to R-B3343; R-B3642; R-B3859 to R-B3861; R-B3912; R-B3913; R-B10112; R-B14465; R-D464 to R-D633; R-D950 to R-D1280; R-D1811.
Consulting the Records	To consult the records, visit or contact the Regina office.
Arrangement Note(s)	No arrangement applied to the photographs.

**PHOTOGRAPHS BELONGING
TO THIS FONDS ARE
DESCRIBED IN THE
HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS
(REGINA) CARD CATALOGUE
UNDER SUBJECT
ACCESS POINTS**

**USE THE FORMER CODES
FIELD OF THE FONDS
DESCRIPTION TO IDENTIFY
THE PHOTOGRAPHS
BY CREATOR**

LOCATIONS:

F 452

W.J. James fonds
(SAFA 360)

Photographs R-A4330 to R-A4347:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-A4364 to R-A4631:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-A6662 to R-A6663:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-A6666 to R-A6670:	H-Reference Room
Photograph R-B378:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-B1564 to R-B1725:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-B1729 to R-B1766:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-B3285 to R-B3325:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-B3328 to R-B3343:	H-Reference Room
Photograph R-B3642:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-B3859 to R-B3861:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-B3912 to R-B3913:	H-Reference Room
Photograph R-B14465:	H-Reference Room
Photographs R-D464 to R-D499:	H-DC2.2
Photographs R-D500 to R-D599:	H-DC2.3
Photographs R-D600 to R-D633:	H-DC2.4
Photographs R-D950 to R-D999:	H-DC2.5
Photographs R-D1000 to R-D1099:	H-DC2.6
Photographs R-D1100 to R-D1114:	H-DC2.7
Photograph R-D1115:	Unknown
Photographs R-D1116 to R-D1199:	H-DC2.7
Photographs R-D1200 to R-D1280:	H-DC2.8