

# Queen's University Archives

## Finding Aid - William Melville Paterson fonds (F2994)

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# William Melville Paterson fonds

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** Queen's University Archives  
**Title:** William Melville Paterson fonds  
**ID:** F2994  
**Date:** 1897-1983 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** ca. 1000 photographs and .35 m of textual records.

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

William (Willie) Melville Paterson was born in England, August 1, 1891. He attended a number of public schools including Colet Court and St. Paul's. He worked for a stock brokerage in London for two years post graduation (Morton Bros.) and then decided he would prefer a country lifestyle and went to work on a number of farms in Essex and Berwickshire. Having learned a variety of farming methods he immigrated to Canada in 1913 coming directly to the village of Portsmouth (Kingston) where he had a distant cousin residing. He soon found work at Henry Wartman's farm on King Street. Despite going to Western Canada for a brief stint through the Harvester's Excursions program, Paterson soon returned to settle in Kingston.

By 1922 the remaining members of Paterson's family had joined him in Canada. His mother Edith Paterson, and two sisters Helen and Rowan. Helen and Rowan were not in Kingston long but pursued careers in New Brunswick and Toronto, respectively. Edith lived with Willie until she passed away in 1959. While working on Wartman's farm, Willie asked to rent a small piece of land right on the shore of Lake Ontario and there he built a cottage (out of a shipping container) and cultivated a garden and nursery which were to become his business: Sunny Acres Nursery. Paterson specialized in alpine plants and rock gardens. He grew to be recognized in the field receiving honours from both the Kingston and Ontario Horticultural Societies as well as being a member of the Royal Horticultural Society of Britain, the American Rock Garden Society and Scottish Rock Garden society and the Alpine Garden Society. Paterson relocated to another house on Sunny Acres Road in the early 1960s when the Wartman farm was purchased by Dupont Industries. The purchase agreement allowed for the garden to remain in the original location until Paterson passed away, which occurred in 1983. Many of the plants were then relocated to the City of Kingston greenhouses and garden on Norman Rogers Drive.

### Custodial history

This material was donated to the archives by John Nanton Clark, surviving spouse of Margaret Ann Wartman who had been executor of William Paterson's estate.

## Scope and content

The fonds is predominantly comprised of photographs of Sunny Acres Nursery and members of the Paterson family. There is material and photographs from or about each immediate family member: James (father), Edith (mother), Helen (sister), Rowan (sister), and William. As the longest living member of the family William Paterson was the holder of the family archives. There is a small amount of material relating to horticulture and the business of the Nursery.

## Notes

### Title notes

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

## Access points

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

## Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F2994-f1	File - [Autobiography]	[197-?]		2094.3, Box 1, File 1
F2994-f2	File - Testimonials (re: immigration) W.M.P.	1911-1913		2094.3, Box 1, File 2
F2994-f3	File - [Correspondence]	1897-1924		2094.3, Box 1, File 3
F2994-f4	File - [Correspondence]	1930-1948		2094.3, Box 1, File 4
F2994-f5	File - [Correspondence]	[195-]		2094.3, Box 1, File 5
F2994-f6	File - [Correspondence]	1960-1983		2094.3, Box 1, File 6
F2994-f7	File - [Correspondence - undated]	[ca. 1950]-[1980]		2094.3, Box 1, File 7
F2994-f8	File - [Dog Eulogies]	[196-?]		2094.3, Box 1, File 8

F2994-f9	File - Drawings by W.M.P.	[190-?]	2094.3, Box 1, File 9
F2994-f10	File - Dupont Leases/Land Agreements	1962-1964	2094.3, Box 1, File 10
F2994-f11	File - [Financials]	1922, 1954, 1976	2094.3, Box 1, File 11
F2994-f12	File - [Memorabilia & collectibles]		2094.3, Box 1, File 12
F2994-f13	File - 90th Birthday	1981	2094.3, Box 1, File 13
F2994-f14	File - Notes & clippings	[195-?]-1983	2094.3, Box 1, File 14
F2994-f15	File - [Official records]	1913-[195-?]	2094.3, Box 1, File 15
F2994-f16	File - Old Pauline Club	1933-1980	2094.3, Box 1, File 16
F2994-f17	File - [School work]	1906-1911	2094.3, Box 2, File 1
F2994-f18	File - Edith Paterson	[ca. 1890]- [1940]	2094.3, Box 2, File 2
F2994-f19	File - Edith - photographs	[ca. 1890]- [1940]	2094.3, Box 2, File 3
F2994-f20	File - Dad - James Paterson	[ca. 1880]	2094.3, Box 2, File 4
F2994-f21	File - Drawings by James Paterson	[ca. 1880]	2094.3, Box 2, File 5
F2994-f22	File - James Paterson - photographs	[ca. 1870]- [1899]	2094.3, Box 2, File 6
F2994-f23	File - Willie Paterson - photographs	[ca. 1890-1980]	2094.3, Box 2, File 7
F2994-f24	File - Rowan Paterson	1920-1956	2094.3, Box 2, File 8
F2994-f25	File - Condolences re: Helen	1961	2094.3, Box 2, File 9
F2994-f26	File - Helen - photographs	[191-?]-[195-?]	2094.3, Box 2, File 10
F2994-f27	File - Mildred Paterson - photographs	[192-?]	2094.3, Box 2, File 11
F2994-f28	File - [Memorial books for Edith, Helen & William Paterson]	1959-1983	2094.3, Box 2, File 12
F2994-f29	File - [Photo album likely belonging to James and/or Edith Paterson]	1877-1891	2094.3, Box 2, File 13
F2994-f30	File - Ealing (Whittle family) & Dover	1906-1941	2094.3, Box 2, File 14
F2994-f31	File - [Holiday photos - England & some Scotland]	[190-?]-1912	2094.3, Box 2, File 15
F2994-f32	File - [Photos - Golspie, Scotland & Dunkeld]	1907-1908	2094.3, Box 2, File 16
F2994-f33	File - Donald family photographs	[ca. 188-?]- [190-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 1
F2994-f34	File - [France 1911-1912]	1911-1925	2094.3, Box 3, File 2
F2994-f35	File - [Sunny Acres 1910's & 1920's]	[191-?]-[192-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 3

F2994-f36	File - Late 30's, 40's - Local garden scenes (2 of 2)	[193-?]-[194-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 4
F2994-f37	File - Lake Ontario's Waterfront	[192-?]-[195-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 5
F2994-f38	File - [Sunny Acres 1950-1970?]	[195-?]-[197-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 6
F2994-f39	File - Sunny Acres in the 1970's	[197-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 7
F2994-f40	File - Gardens in the 1980's	[198-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 8
F2994-f41	File - Sunny Acres Christmas cards	[193-?]-[196-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 9
F2994-f42	File - [Sunny Acres catalogues, lists, etc.]	1934-1977	2094.3, Box 3, File 10
F2994-f43	File - Family (group) photographs	[193-?]-[195-?]	2094.3, Box 3, File 11
F2994-f44	File - [Holiday pictures - local]	[192-]-1940	2094.3, Box 3, File 12
F2994-f45	File - Dogs (portraits) - Robin, Tammys, Jock		2094.3, Box 3, File 13
F2994-f46	File - [Wartman]		2094.3, Box 3, File 14
F2994-f47	File - [Glass plate negatives]		2094.3, Box 3, File 15
F2994-f48	File - [Negatives - mostly local]		2094.3, Box 3, File 16
F2994-f49	File - [Photographs & clippings - non-family]	[ca. 1920]-1960	2094.3, Box 3, File 17