

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - Pauline Johnson collection (89-013)

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Language of description: English

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Pauline Johnson collection

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Summary information

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Repository: | Trent University Archives |
| Title: | Pauline Johnson collection |
| Reference code: | 89-013 |
| Date: | 1870-1937 (creation) |
| Physical description: | 30.5 cm of textual records |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Emily Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake--double wampum) was born in 1861 on the Six Nations Indian Reservation near Brantford, Canada West, to a Mohawk Chief, G.H.M. Johnson (Chief Owanonsyshon--the Man with the Big House) and Emily S. Howells. She had one sister, Evelyn Helen C. and two brothers; Henry B. and Allan W. The family belonged to the Church of England. Pauline contributed constantly to a number of periodicals such as Toronto's *Saturday Night*, *Harper's Weekly*, the *New York Independent* and other magazines. Pauline was a poet who wrote about Indians and their way of life as she knew it from her own background. (Taken from: 89-013, Box 1) She wrote about a number of Canadian themes and between 1892 and 1910 she gave a number of speaking tours across the country. She spoke at small communities where she read her poetry. Her first collection of poems was called *White Wampum* and it was published in 1895. She then published *Canadian Born* in 1903, *Flint and Feather* in 1912, a volume of tales called *Legends of Vancouver* in 1911 and a novel titled *The Shagganappi* in 1913. Emily Pauline Johnson died March 7, 1913 in Vancouver. (Taken from: *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1985.)

Custodial history

This fonds was in the custody of Professor Kenneth Kidd before it was donated to the Trent University Archives.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of numerous notes and correspondence of Evelyn Johnson pertaining to her sister Pauline, to family history and to the affairs of the Six Nations Indian Reserve. There are newspaper clippings dating from 1881 to 1936 on Pauline Johnson and on Indigenous concerns of the time. Poems written by and collected by Pauline Johnson, and correspondence of Pauline Johnson, G.M. Ferguson, Chief G.H.M. Johnson and Allan Johnson are also included.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of collection.

Immediate source of acquisition

This fonds was donated by Professor Kenneth Kidd.

Restrictions on access

None

Related material

Associated material located in the Archives of Ontario.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Kidd, Kenneth E.
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Indigenous Studies (subject)
- Literature and Publishing (subject)
- Women's Studies (subject)
- Six Nations of the Grand River (place)

Series descriptions

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|----------------|--|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 89-013/001(01) | File - Correspondence and notes of Evelyn Johnson [primarily relates to Pauline Johnson, the family history, and affairs of the Six Nations Indian Reserve] | n.d. | 1 folder of textual records |
| 89-013/001(02) | File - Correspondence and notes of Evelyn Johnson [primarily relates to Pauline Johnson, the family history, and affairs of the Six Nations Indian Reserve] | 1870-1914 | |
| 89-013/001(03) | File - Correspondence and notes of Evelyn Johnson [primarily relates to Pauline Johnson, the family history, and affairs of the Six Nations Indian Reserve] | 1915-1923 | |

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| 89-013/001(04) | File - Correspondence and notes of Evelyn Johnson [primarily relates to Pauline Johnson, the family history, and affairs of the Six Nations Indian Reserve] 1924-1937 |
| 89-013/001(05) | File - Correspondence of Pauline Johnson |
| 89-013/001(06) | File - Pauline Johnson's Poems 1 folder of textual records <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes several published and typewritten poems and prose by Pauline Johnson, including the following - Canadian Born, A Patriotic Poem - A Memorial Ode (draft, 1886) - The Archers (draft) - The Songster - The Cattle Country - The Foothill Country - An Unwelcome Visitor - The Chinook Wind - The Song my Paddle Sings - Coaching on the Cariboo Trail - Heroic Indian Mothers - The Train Dogs - When George Was King and Other Poems [signed] also included are clippings with information about Johnson |
| 89-013/001(07) | File - Poems collected by Pauline Johnson <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes poems by others, mostly clipped from the newspaper. Also includes a sheet of poems addressed to Pauline Johnson and signed by Duncan Campbell Scott (1891). |
| 89-013/001(08) | File - Correspondence of Chief G.M. Johnson |
| 89-013/001(09) | File - Correspondence of [.]M. Ferguson |
| 89-013/001(10) | File - Allan Johnson: Correspondence and 'trade' cards |
| 89-013/001(11) | File - Correspondence, general |
| 89-013/001(12) | File - Miscellaneous (envelopes, pictures of Pauline Johnson, postcards, poster) |
| 89-013/001(13)-(39) | File - Newspaper clippings relating to Pauline Johnson, Six Nations and other Indigenous affairs throughout Canada and the U.S.A. [1 folder per year] 1881-1936 |