

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - Scrapbook of black and white photos of orchids in memory of Frank Morris (IMC-154)

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Scrapbook of black and white photos of orchids in memory of Frank Morris

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Summary information

Repository:	Trent University Archives
Title:	Scrapbook of black and white photos of orchids in memory of Frank Morris
Reference code:	IMC-154
Date:	1976 (creation)
Date:	c. 1915-1928 (creation)
Physical description:	1 scrapbook (4 cm) containing 3 pages of textual records and 63 photographs

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Gordon S. Berry was a photographer and teacher in Peterborough, ON. He was born in Surrey County, England in 1930. In 1976, Berry mounted a collection of photographs taken by Edward A. Eames, Frank Morris, and Charles Macnamara between ca. 1915 and 1928 in a scrapbook for the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Francis (Frank) J. A. Morris was a teacher, naturalist, and photographer. He taught at Trinity School, Port Hope, Ontario and Peterborough Collegiate Institute. He wrote "Our Wild Orchids – Trails and Portraits" (New York: Scribner and Sons, 1929) with Edward Eames.

Morris was born in 1869 in a parsonage near the town of Crieff, in Perthshire, Scotland. Living in the country, he developed a passion for nature early in life, and, with his brother, Charles, he investigated the various forms of flora and fauna in the countryside. Morris' father died when he was thirteen, and the family moved to a suburb of London. He studied classics and English literature at Dalwich College in London and continued to make excursions into the country to collect insects with his brother and a friend. Morris developed an interest in Darwin and the theory of evolution through his studies. He continued to study classics and English literature at Balliol College, Oxford. His encounters with Wordsworth's poetry added to his own emotional feelings towards nature.

In 1895, Morris moved to Canada and attended the School of Pedagogy in Toronto. He came under the influence of Dr. William Brodie who introduced him to Canadian natural history. In 1896, Morris joined the staff of Smith's Falls High School. There, the science teacher taught Morris some basic scientific botany and the use of identification keys. In 1899, he returned to Toronto to carry on more pedagogic study. By 1900, he had become the Classics Master at Trinity College School in Port Hope. He spent

thirteen years there, during which time he married Miss Elma Walker. In 1911, he attended the University of Toronto to take a Master of Arts Degree and a Specialists Certificate in classics. In 1913, he was appointed to the staff of the Peterborough Collegiate Institute, where he first taught classics and later became head of the English Department. He remained in this position until ill health forced him to retire in 1936.

Morris was a founding member of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (Peterborough Nature Club) from c. 1939. The club named their periodic newsletter "The Orchid" in 1956 in his honour. An article titled "Honouring Frank Morris: A Legacy of Nature and Literature" was published in The Orchid in 2025 (vol. 71, no. 1). Morris died 31 December 1949.

Custodial history

The photographs in this scrapbook were collected for the publication of "Our Wild Orchids - Trails and Portraits" (Morris and Eames, 1929) and donated to the Peterborough Field Naturalists by Elma Graham (Morris) after 1949. Gordon S. Berry compiled the photographs into this scrapbook in 1976. The scrapbook was donated to the Trent University Archives by the Peterborough Field Naturalists in June 2025.

Scope and content

File consists of one scrapbook created by Gordon S. Berry in 1976. The original photographs were taken c. 1918-1928 primarily by Edward A. Eames, with a few by Frank Morris and Charles Mcnamara. They were used in the publication of the book "Our Wild Orchids – Trails and Portraits" (Morris and Eames, New York: Scribner and Sons, 1929). The volume is dedicated to Morris. The sequence of the photographs follows the listing in "Our Wild Orchids."

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by the Peterborough Field Naturalists in June 2025.

Alternative form available

Trent University Archives has the negatives for the photographs included in this volume in the Francis J.A. Morris fonds.

Restrictions on access

None

Note [General]

The "orchid album" was displayed at PFN's 85th anniversary celebration at The Canadian Canoe Museum on January 11, 2025.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

- **Conservation:** Work to reattach the photos and labels to album pages was undertaken by Dorothy McCord Conservation Services in 2023.

Access points

- Eames, Edward A. (subject)
- Mcnamara, Charles (subject)
- Morris, Francis J.A. (subject)
- Peterborough Field Naturalists
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Scrapbooks (documentary form)
- Isolated manuscripts (documentary form)
- Environment, Ecology, and Conservation (subject)