

Fonds 814

Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society

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Accession no. 988.49

Inventory completed by Michael A. Avery  
December 13, 1991

The origins of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society could be said to go as far back as 1903 (ca.). Horatio Webb and his Chilliwack Pioneer Association were collecting archival material from about 1921. His association was responsible for collecting the group of 64 portraits of pioneers who had lived in Chilliwack before 1871. Copies of these photos were donated to the City of Chilliwack and the Township of Chilliwack. These same photos now hang in the Programming Room of the Chilliwack Museum. Horatio Webb died in 1936, taking the life of the Chilliwack Pioneer Association with him.

In the early 1940's Clarence Casey Wells attempted to organize The Chilliwack Historical and Pioneer Association. They held their first meeting in January 1940 and even had the minutes of the meeting broadcast on radio a little over a year later. Not enough interest was generated in starting a historical society so The Chilliwack Historical and Pioneer Association died in its infancy.

Years later in the 1950's interest was renewed in the idea of a historical society. The editor of The Chilliwack Progress wrote on the need for Chilliwack to save its heritage in 1956. The first general meeting of the Chilliwack Historical Society was Wednesday, April 10, 1957 in Chilliwack Senior High School. A constitution was drawn up and Oliver N. Wells (Casey Wells' brother) was elected the first president.

March 11, 1958 marked the opening of Chilliwack's first museum in a room in the Nowell Street police station. From this first secure location the museum was able to launch exhibits that included nature painting by Allan Brooks, photographs from the Dr. Jack Barber collection, exhibits from the Rock and Jade Club, and Canadian paintings loaned from the Vancouver Art Gallery. The museum later moved to the old library in 1962 (now the Chilliwack Community Services Building).

A major development in the forming of Chilliwack's Archives came in 1966 when Casey Wells received permission from the society to operate the Chilliwack Valley Archives from his own home. He was paid an honorarium and until his death in 1976 he ran the archives.

On January 21, 1971 the society changed its name to Chilliwack Valley Historical Society.

Thursday, December 2, 1971 marked the day a new wing of Evergreen Hall was completed. It would be the new home of the museum. It was named the Wells Centennial Museum in honor of the Wells family's contributions to the museum and community. The new museum provided more work and exhibit space and an area for the expanding archives.

In September 1981 the society changed its name again, this time to the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society. Also in 1981 the society received use of the old city hall on Spadina Avenue. The society struggled to get funding that would renovate the building, and after five years they finally succeeded. Six months later in 1987 the museum had its grand opening at the new location. The museum also changed its name to the Chilliwack Museum. The old location at Evergreen Hall was also renovated for use of the continually expanding archives as well as storage facilities for artifacts not on display at the museum.

This collection is made up primarily of correspondence, minutes and financial records of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society as well as a small file of newspaper clippings and various memorabilia.

## Subgroup 1

- Series 1            The Chilliwack Historical and Pioneer Association
- File 1.1            The Chilliwack Historical and Pioneer Association  
minutes broadcast February 17, 1941.
- Series 2            Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - constitution
- File 2.1            Constitution, rules and by-laws.
- Series 3            Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - correspondence
- File 3.1            Correspondence 1956 - 1957.
- File 3.2            Correspondence 1958.
- File 3.3            Correspondence 1959 - 1960.
- File 3.4            Correspondence 1961.
- File 3.5            Correspondence 1962 - 1963.
- File 3.6            Correspondence 1964 - 1967.
- File 3.7            Correspondence 1968 - 1969.
- File 3.8            Correspondence 1970.
- File 3.9            Correspondence 1971.
- File 3.10           Correspondence 1972.
- File 3.11           Correspondence 1973.
- File 3.12           Correspondence 1974.
- File 3.13           Correspondence 1975 - 1976.
- File 3.14           Correspondence 1977.
- File 3.15           Correspondence 1978.
- File 3.16           Correspondence 1979.
- File 3.17           Correspondence 1980.
- File 3.18           Correspondence 1981.
- File 3.19           Correspondence January - May 1982.
- File 3.20           Correspondence June - September 1982.
- File 3.21           Correspondence October - December 1982.
- File 3.22           Correspondence 1983.



Series 3 (cont'd)

File 3.23 Correspondence January - May 1984.  
File 3.24 Correspondence June - September 1984.  
File 3.25 Correspondence October - December 1984.  
File 3.26 Correspondence January - March 1985.  
File 3.27 Correspondence April - July 1985.  
File 3.28 Correspondence August - September 1985.  
File 3.29 Correspondence October - December 1985.  
File 3.30 Correspondence January - April 1986.  
File 3.31 Correspondence May - August 1986.  
File 3.32 Correspondence September - December 1986.

Series 4 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - membership

File 4.1 Membership lists.

Series 5 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - minutes

File 5.1 Minutes 1957 - 1969.  
File 5.2 Minutes 1970 - 1972.  
File 5.3 Minutes 1973 - 1976.  
File 5.4 Minutes 1977.  
File 5.5 Minutes 1978.  
File 5.6 Minutes 1979.  
File 5.7 Minutes 1980.  
File 5.8 Minutes 1981.  
File 5.9 Minutes 1982.  
File 5.10 Minutes 1983.  
File 5.11 Minutes 1984.  
File 5.12 Minutes 1985.  
File 5.13 Minutes 1986.  
File 5.14 Minutes 1987.

Series 5 (cont'd)

File 5.15 Minutes 1988.

File 5.16 Minutes 1989.

Series 6 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - newsletters

File 6.1 Newsletters 1977 - 1991

Series 7 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - photographs

File 7.1 History Bonanza 1979

Chilliwack City Hall - book of photographs used in the application to National Museums of Canada for the upgrade of the old city hall, November 1984.

Series 8 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - miscellaneous papers

File 8.1 Miscellaneous papers.

Series 9 British Columbia Historical Association

File 9.1 Minutes and correspondence 1958 - 1973.

Series 10 Canadian Forces Base. Chilliwack

File 10.1 The Mountaineer Newspaper August - December 1980.

Series 11 City Hall project

File 11.1 City Hall diary 1983 - 1984.

File 11.2 *Information regarding proposed Museum renovations*

Series 12 Community - History Research - Library

File 12.1 Community - History Research - Library Plan by Casey Wells, 1966.

Series 13 District of Chilliwack

File 13.1 Correspondence 1984.

File 13.2 Financial statement and newsletters 1984.

File 13.3 Museum budget 1981 - 1984.

Series 14      Vancouver Historical Society - newsletters

File 14.1      Newsletter, February 1963.

Series 15      Wells Centennial Museum

File 15.1      Specifications for the construction of the Wells Centennial Museum, May 1971.

Series 16      Government funded projects

File 16.1      Chilliwack Historic Community Photograph Project (1983).

File 16.2      Developing Chilliwack's Museum as a Tourist Attraction (1980).

File 16.3      Developing Community Interest in Chilliwack History (1981).

File 16.4      "First Alarm" Exhibition in City Hall (1982).

File 16.5      Heritage Trust - Student Employment Program (1982).

File 16.6      New Ethnographic Exhibit For Visiting Public (1982).

File 16.7      Provincial Youth Employment Program (1981).

File 16.8      Researching Chilliwack's Early Industry (1980).

File 16.9      Winter Employment Stimulation Program (1982 - 1983).

Series 17      Newspaper clippings

File 17.1      Agriculture.

File 17.2      Arts.

File 17.3      Bowman, Jim.

File 17.4      Christmas.

File 17.5      Cherry Carnival.

File 17.6      Chilliwack.

File 17.7      Chilliwack City Hall.

File 17.8      Chilliwack General Hospital.

File 17.9      Chilliwack Library.

File 17.10      Chilliwack military.

Series 17 (cont'd)

File 17.11	Chilliwack Museum.
File 17.12	Chilliwack Progress.
File 17.13	Chilliwack residents.
File 17.14	Churches.
File 17.15	Chinese.
File 17.16	Cultus Lake.
File 17.17	Denman, Ron.
File 17.18	Floods.
File 17.19	Fraser River.
File 17.20	Fraser, Simon.
File 17.21	Grainger, Neil.
File 17.21a	Grainger, Diane.
File 17.22	Harrison Hot Springs.
File 17.23	Heritage homes.
File 17.24	History Carnival.
File 17.25	Hope Slide.
File 17.26	Hop picking.
File 17.27	Layard, Nora.
File 17.28	Lickman property.
File 17.29	Logging.
File 17.30	Miner, Bill.
File 17.31	Minter, Brian.
File 17.32	Miscellaneous.
File 17.33	Mountains.
File 17.34	Museums.
File 17.35	Music.
File 17.36	Native indians.
File 17.37	Obituaries.



Series 17 (cont'd)

File 17.38 Other days in the valley (column in the Chilliwack Progress 1952 - 1984).

File 17.39 Pauls, Naomi.

File 17.40 Police history.

File 17.41 Popkum.

File 17.42 Post offices.

File 17.43 Salish art.

File 17.44 Schools.

File 17.45 Shaw, Louise.

File 17.46 Sports.

File 17.47 Snow storms.

File 17.48 Transportation.

File 17.49 Unidentifiable photos run in the Chilliwack Progress.

File 17.50 Weeden, Marie.

File 17.51 Wells, Oliver.

File 17.52 Yarrow.

Series 18 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - guest books

File 18.1 Guest books 1958 - 1988.

Series 19 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - scrap books

File 19.1 Scrap books 1958 - 1983.

File 19.2 Scrap books 1984 - 1991.

Series 20 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - memorabilia

File 20.1 Posters, plaques, and miscellaneous memorabilia.

Series 21

Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society - financial  
records

File 21.1	Financial records 1970 - 1982.
File 21.2	Financial records 1984.
File 21.3	Financial records 1984.
File 21.4	Financial records 1985.
File 21.5	Financial records 1986.
File 21.6	Financial records 1987.
File 21.7	Financial records 1988.
File 21.8	Financial records 1989.
File 21.9	Financial records 1989.