

Health Sciences Centre Archives/Museum

Finding Aid - Alfreda Jean Attrill Collection (C2)

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Alfreda Jean Attrill Collection

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Summary information

Repository: Health Sciences Centre Archives/Museum

Title: Alfreda Jean Attrill Collection

ID: C2

Date: [1895-1999] (date of creation)

Physical description: 16.3 cm of textual records
337 Photographs
23 Postcards
33 Objects

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

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Alfreda Jean Attrill was born in Minden, Ontario on July 31, 1877, but grew up near Dauphin, Manitoba. She began teaching in Northern Manitoba in 1898, but decided to enter the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing programme in 1906. She graduated in 1909 and remained at the hospital until 1914. On August 5, 1914, she enlisted to serve overseas, the first Winnipeg nurse to do so, with the Nursing Sisters of Manitoba. At the conclusion of the war, she was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal. When she returned to Canada in 1919, she began her work with Winnipeg's Department of Public Health. Alfreda was also heavily involved in the St. John Ambulance Association beginning in 1911. In 1924 she became the Superintendent of the Fort Garry Division. She served as a Serving Sister of St. John from 1933 to 1936. She was proclaimed a Dame of Grace of the St. John Ambulance Association in 1966. One year later, the Association named her a Dame of Justice. Alfreda Attrill passed away on October 14, 1970.

Custodial history

The records of Alfreda J. Attrill came to the Archives/Museum of the Winnipeg General Hospital/Health Sciences Centre Nurses Alumnae Association as part of a transfer of records from Sandra Moulton on September 24, 2003; H. Enyd Forrest in November 1990; G. Chapman in 1970; from the Estate of Alfreda Attrill; and from Margaret Steele in 2010.

Scope and content

The collection reflects Alfreda Jean Attrill's education, nursing career, war service, her affiliation with the St. John's Ambulance Association, and her genealogy. The series is arranged into nine series and

covers events from her early life to her death through awards, certificates, memoirs, family histories, correspondence, articles, programs, diaries, invitations, publications and prayers.

Notes

Title notes

Related material

See also her biographical file and the Graduation Class of 1909 file for other information pertaining to Alfreda J. Attrill.

Artifacts are described separately from archival records and are accompanied by photographs.

An army foot locker belonging to Alfreda Attrill is housed in the Neepawa Museum.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Level of detail:** Partial
 - **Status description:** Draft
-

Access points

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

Series descriptions

Series C2-S1: Awards, Certificates, and Honours

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: 1895 - 1950 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of a certificate of service, photocopies of diplomas, and handwritten notes by Alfreda Jean Attrill on her certifications.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list

Series C2-S2: Correspondence

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: 1901 - 1970 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of letters to and from Alfreda Jean Attrill and related attachments such as articles and programs

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list

Series C2-S3: Enlistment Papers

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: 1914, 1986 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence, medical reports, and photocopies of a statement of service in the Canadian Armed Forces, attestation papers and a description of enlistment. The photocopies were obtained by a relative of Alfreda Attrill from Public Archives Canada (now Library and Archives Canada).

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list**Series C2-S4: Diaries**

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: 1914 - [195-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of three journals written by Alfreda Jean Attrill. Records include an account of events of the year 1914, a five-year journal which records important dates and milestones, as well as From Day to Day with Kipling, an edited collection of Rudyard Kipling's poetry. The book of poetry has been included in this series as it has been treated as a diary by Miss Attrill, who has noted important dates in the book.

Physical description: 6.5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further Accruals are anticipated.

File / item list**Series C2-S5: St. John's Ambulance Association**

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: 1931 - 1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of issues of The Whitehall Gazette and St. James's Review, and the St. John Ambulance Gazette, applications, invitations, and records relating to investiture.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list**Series C2-S6: Memoirs**

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: [19--] - 1966 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of handwritten accounts providing biographical information and anecdotes pertaining to Alfreda Attrill's life experiences, including her childhood, her education, professional experience, travels, her involvement with the Red Cross, and her wartime experience.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list**Series C2-S7: Attrill Family History**

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: [194-?]-[196-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents Alfreda Attrill's genealogy and family heraldry and includes birth dates and places or baptismal dates and places, dates of death, occupations, information on family crests, coats of arms and badges. The series consists of correspondence, notes on the Attrill family, a blue print of a family memorial plaque, as well as a family tree which traces five generations of Attrills from Alfreda's parents to their great-great grandchildren.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

1 blue print

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Technical drawing (documentary form)

Physical condition:

The family tree is in fragile condition. The paper on which the family tree has been outlined is delicate and has rips, folds and holes in some areas. For this reason, the record requires careful handling.

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list

Series C2-S8: Prayers

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: [n.d.] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of the Lord's Prayer, and two united prayers handwritten by Alfreda Attrill.

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list

Series C2-S9: Miscellaneous

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: [1971-1995] (date of creation)

Date: [1971-1995] (biography) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of two subseries of records. The first subseries consists of inventory lists compiled in a notebook which records dishes, furniture, decorative items and personal items. An undated menu for an ordinary diet table is also included. The second subseries consists of original records related to Alfreda Jean Attrill but not created by her and includes correspondence from the Nursing Sisters' Association of Canada and the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Attrill, Alfreda Jean
- Textual record (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list**Series C2-S10: Photographs**

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: [1914-1999] ; predominantly 1914-1918 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of postcards and photos documenting Alfreda Jean Attrill's wartime experience and travels in France, England, Egypt, Malta, and Macedonia. Also included in the series are photos of Manitoba and Ontario, as well as photos of Miss Attrill's gravestone. Believing that no one knew her life better than herself, Miss Attrill provided the information pertaining to herself and her family for the monument before her death.

Physical description: 337 photographs
23 postcards

Note:

Postcards have been included in this series instead of the correspondence series as they were not used to write letters but seem to have been collected by Miss Attrill for their images.

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list**Series C2-S11: Objects**

Creator: Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Date: 1914-1966 ; predominantly 1914-1918 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series documents Alfreda Attrill's wartime experience and honours as a nursing sister and consists of her decorated uniform, nursing and correspondence tools and artwork by Miss Attrill.

Physical description: 14 medals
4 medal ribbon bars
4 medical instruments
2 pins
2 brass link chains
2 buttons
1 uniform
1 nursing veil

1 nurses chatelaine

1 badge

1 handicraft

1 Copper Stencil

Access points:

- Object (documentary form)

Accruals:

No further accruals are anticipated.

File / item list