



### Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds

<https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions36>

Part Of: Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds

Fonds Number: M36 / V683 / S37

Sous-Fonds: TBD

Accession Number: 3069 and various

Reference Code: M36 / S37 / V683

GMD: Drawing

Motion picture

Film

Photograph

Album

Ambrotype

Cased photograph

Daguerreotype

Negative

Photograph print

Postcard

Tintype

Transparency

Sound recording

Cassette

Reel to reel

Textual record

Plan

Poster

Private record

Published record

Other Title Info: Also known as the Whyte family fonds

Date Range: 1856-1980

Physical Description: 25 m of textual records. -- ca.46,000 photographs : prints, albums, postcards, cased photographs, transparencies, negatives. -- 178 sound recordings : audio tape reels, audio tape cassettes. -- 6 motion pictures (and film strips)

## History /

### Biographical:

Peter and Catharine Whyte were artists, photographers, outdoor enthusiasts, travelers, philanthropists and cultural workers at Banff, Alberta, Canada. Peter Whyte, 1905-1966, was born at Banff in 1905 to pioneer merchant Dave White and Annie (Curren) White. He was an accomplished skier and ski jumper and one of the region's first native-born painters with an intimate knowledge of the mountains and was an active photographer from ca.1920 until the 1950s. Peter Whyte studied art at the Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, 1923-1924, and at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, 1925, where he met Catharine Robb. Catharine Robb Whyte, 1906-1979, was born in 1906 at Concord, Massachusetts and grew up amongst the wealth and creativity of the Robb and Morse families. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, 1925-1929.

Following their marriage in 1930, the Whytes pursued a life of painting, photography, hiking, skiing and travelling. Their log home and studio in Banff became a focal point for their artist friends, Stoney Indians and local pioneers. Catharine shared Pete's involvement in skiing and hiking organizations and together they managed Skoki Lodge from 1932-1934. In following years, the Whytes travelled extensively. During the Second World War, Peter served in the reserve army, with the Royal Canadian Air Force as a photographer and, briefly, as an official war artist. Catharine continued to paint and maintain their home and, when possible, accompanied Pete to his military postings. In civilian life, Pete resumed his art career, explored new photographic techniques and sculpted.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Whytes formulated plans for a foundation to preserve the art and history of the Canadian Rockies. Plans for a building to house an archives, public library and gallery were in preparation when Pete died in 1966. The Peter Whyte Foundation was named in his honour. Catharine immersed herself in the development of what is now the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, in the cultural community, painting, outdoor activity, travel and work with the Stoney First Nations. She became a more active photographer, recording her travels and outdoor pursuits. She served in an official capacity with numerous cultural and charitable organizations, was a patron to individuals studying art and music, and supported numerous causes relating to the Stoney First Nations. Catharine also supported causes related to multiculturalism, regional culture and recreation, and cancer research. Despite her modesty and often anonymous patronage of causes, Catharine was recognized with numerous awards and honours, including the Order of Canada in 1978. She died in Banff in 1979.

### Scope & Content:

Fonds consists of papers, photographs and sound recordings of Peter and Catharine Whyte and the papers and photographs of their respective families. Consists of three sous-fonds: V683, S37 and M36. M36 and S37 consists of three series. Series I: Peter and Catharine Whyte, Series II: Robb and Morse families, Series III: White and Curren families. Within Series I, there are four Sub-series: Series: A. Catharine Robb Whyte papers; B. Peter Whyte papers; C. Peter and Catharine Whyte papers accessioned after 2017; D. Peter and Catharine Whyte sound recordings.

Name Access:	Whyte, Peter Whyte, Catharine
Subject Access:	Arts Communications Environment Exploration, discovery and travel Family and personal life First nations Sports, recreation and leisure

Access Restrictions:	Some restriction/s on access Copyright, privacy, commercial use and other restrictions may apply
Language:	Language is English
Finding Aid:	Finding aids and reference tools: arrangement outline sous-fonds, series and file description for textual sub-series and group description for photographs item description, subject/proper name index, and summaries for sound recordings reference copies for sound recordings
Creator:	Whyte, Peter Whyte, Catharine
Category:	Arts Communications Environment Exploration, discovery and travel Family and personal life First nations Sports, recreation and leisure
Title Source:	Title based on contents of fonds
Processing Status:	Processed

## Electronic Resources



m36\_s37\_finding\_aid.pdf

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## Robb and Morse families papers and photographs. -- 1856-1959.

<https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions829>

Part Of: Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds

Description Level: 2 / Sous-fonds  
 Fonds Number: M36 / V683 / S37  
 Sous-Fonds: II. Robb and Morse families  
 Accession Number: 3069  
 Reference Code: M36 / S37 / V683 / II  
 Physical Description: ca.2 m of textual records (and 7 oversize items). -- ca.3560 photographs (2700 negatives, ca.850 prints, 14 albums of ca.2465 prints).  
 History /  
 Biographical:  
 The Robb and Morse families of Iowa and Massachusetts, U.S.A. were the maternal and fraternal relatives of Catharine Robb Whyte.  
 Scope & Content:  
 Sous-fonds consists of personal papers, correspondence, financial, legal and other papers of members of the Robb and Morse families, including those of Catherine Sedgwick Newbury Robb, Patrick Robb, Marion Robb, Robb / Newbury / Bagley family, Russell Robb Sr., Edith Morse Robb, Russell Robb Jr., Edward Sylvester Morse, John Gavit and Julie Morse; and photographs pertaining to Robb and Morse family members, homes, activities and travels. Mainly includes negatives, prints and albums produced by Russell Robb Sr. and Russell Robb Jr., father and brother of Catharine Robb Whyte; also, collected family photographs concerning Robb and Morse family members and travels.  
 Subject Access: MORSE FAMILY  
 ROBB FAMILY  
 Access Restrictions: Access to photographs requires permission in advance from the Head Archivist.  
 Finding Aid: Series-level outline is available. Inventory is available in computer database form; select M36INV.  
 Related Material: Consitutes Sous-fonds II of the Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds.  
 Title Source: Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

Content Details: Forms part of Sous-fonds II of the Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds.

This section of the collection is primarily composed of the photographs of Catharine Robb Whyte's parents Russell and Edith Morse Robb and her paternal grandfather Edward Sylvester Morse. The photographs focus on the Morse-Robb family homes in Concord, Massachusetts, and activities in the New England region. E.S. Morse was a scholar and active traveller who began taking photographs well before the turn of the century. Catharine's father, who was befriended by Morse, also took up photography around 1900, and with the birth of his child, Russell Jr. in 1902, he became a very prolific and competent family photographer. The earliest photographs of Russell Jr. were taken on a 1 1/2 x 2 inch negative format, but by 1904, he had graduated to a much larger 3 1/2 x 6 inch sheet film camera. Individual albums of each of the Robb children were produced, carefully utilizing the large format photographs taken between ca.1904 and 1912. Since she appears in many photographs and Russell is seldom depicted, Edith Morse Robb is not believed to have taken an active part in the early family photography.

Photographs attributable to Russell Robb Jr. begin to appear ca.1916 and continue on through his college years at Harvard University. Subject matter centres on his sister Catharine and her friends, his own friends, activities at Harvard, and sailing trips with friends along the New England coast. Most of these photographs were produced by a roll film camera which exposed a 3 x 4 inch negative. Since he lived at the Robb home following graduation from Harvard, Russell Robb Jr. photographs continue on through the late 1920s.

Processing Status: Processed.

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## White and Curren families papers and photographs

<https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions830>

Part Of: Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds  
Description Level: 2 / Sous-fonds  
Fonds Number: M36 / V683 / S37  
Series: III. White and Curren families  
Sous-Fonds: V683  
Accession Number: 3069  
Reference Code: M36 / S37 / V683 / III  
Date Range: 1869 - 1958  
Physical Description: ca. 2 m of textual records (and 36 oversize items). -- ca.3100 photographs (ca.1800 negatives, ca.1300 prints, 5 albums of ca.400 prints).

## History /

### Biographical:

The White and Curren families of Banff, Alberta were the maternal and fraternal relatives of Peter Whyte. Dave McIntosh White, 1864- 1940, Peter Whyte's father, came to the Canadian Rockies in 1885 with the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1894 he opened a general merchandise business, the Park Store, in Banff. The success of this business resulted in expansions in 1908-1909 and in 1912-1913. For a short time, Whyte operated a similar business in Bankhead. White was a long-time friend of the Stoney Nakoda, Annie (Curren) White, 1879-1955, emigrated to Canada from Scotland with her father, John Donaldson Curren, and a brother in 1886. They settled in Anthracite, east of Banff, where J. D. Curren operated a small coal mining business. Annie Curren married Dave White in 1901. Their children, all born in Banff, were Clifford, 1902-1964, Lila, 1903-1961, Peter, 1905-1966, and Dave Jr. (Jackie), 1908-1961. Clifford and Jack worked for the family business, Dave White and Sons.

### Scope & Content:

Series consists of the following series: A. Dave White Sr. papers, 1887- 1942; B. Annie White papers, 1875-1955; C. Dave (Jack) White papers, 1911- 1955; D. Clifford White notebook, ca.1915; E. John D. Curren papers, 1886- 1940; F. White-Curren family photographs, 1885-1953. Papers consist of personal, legal and financial papers; and records of Dave White, General Merchant, Dave White and Sons and White and Bayne Store. Pertains to Stoney Nakoda First Nations, Banff Indian Days, Highland gatherings, buildings, churches, skiing, coal and coal mines and Lake Minnewanka. Photographs consist largely of negatives and prints produced by various members of the White family, including Dave, Annie, Clifford and Jack White, pertaining to the White family members, travels, activities; the Banff-Lake Louise area; Banff events, places and people; winter sports; social events and friends, 1910- 1953, and glass negatives by J. D. Curren pertaining to Curren and White families and activities, Mount Assiniboine pack trip and Bow Valley scenes; ca.1885-1905. Also includes collected prints of family and friends, family businesses and buildings and winter sports, and albums pertaining to White and Curren families, 1885-1919 and Clifford White photographs, 1917-1921.

### Subject Access:

Banff V  
Banff - Events V  
Banff National Park  
CURREN FAMILY  
Stoney Nakoda First Nations  
White, Annie M  
White, Clifford Sr.  
WHITE, DAVE SR.  
White, Jack (Dave White Jr.)  
WHITE FAMILY

### Access Restrictions:

Access to photographs requires permission in advance from the Head Archivist.

### Finding Aid:

Series-level outline available. Electronic database available.  
Photographs are described at the sub-series level only (printed inventory provides more detail than the computer inventory).

### Related Material:

Consitutes Sous-fonds III of the Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds.

### Title Source:

Title based on contents of file

### Content Details:

Forms part of Sous-fonds III of the Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds.

Photographs in this section begin with the early family portraits of David McIntosh White taken in New Brunswick and those of Annie Curren White taken in Scotland. The earliest negatives attributable to David and Annie White date ca.1908, or approximately the time they moved to their new

home between Lynx Street and Bow Avenue. Most of the negatives from the first two decades of family photography are sized 8.3 x 11 cms., with the exception of what appears to be occasional experimentation with other formats, such as vest pocket and 4 x 5 Graflex, and images generated by other family members, such as J.D. Curren and the White children. This body of photography was undoubtedly initiated through the acquisition of a roll film camera on or about 1908.

Judging from subject arrangement and other evidence, including shadow images of the photographer, most White family photography is attributable to Annie Curren White. There are several photographs from the collection showing her holding a camera or photographing family members, while no such photographs exist of Dave White. There can be little doubt, however, that Dave White participated in the photographic process, particularly in the period from 1910 to 1917, when there are numerous photographs of Annie and the children.

On family motor trips, which began around 1917 and lasted until ca.1923, Dave and Annie's son Clifford appears to have shared photographic responsibilities. From this period on, Clifford and Annie, either one or the other, are the only family members who do not appear in group photographs. From this it is assumed that Dave White played a very minor role as family photographer after 1918.

Photographs attributable to Peter Whyte begin to appear around 1920, but most of his photography appears to be more personal than of a family record variety. None of the photographs in the early part of the collection have been attributed to Lila or Jack (Dave Jr.) White.

After 1923, the point when the White children were grown and beginning to move away from home, Annie White becomes the primary family photographer. In the late 1920s she appears to have experimented with a Graflex camera for a time, but by 1930 had returned to a smaller format roll film camera. She continued to take numerous family photographs, usually group poses of her children and grandchildren, after Dave White's death in 1940 until shortly before her own passing in 1955.

Also included in this section of the collection are a number of personal photographs generated by Clifford and Jackie (Dave Jr.) White. Around 1918, Clifford appears to have acquired his own camera which produced a 3 x 5 inch negative, and from that period until ca.1923, he produced many images of activities shared with friends and brothers, including a number of photographs of early ski tours and ski jumping in the Banff area. One album bears Clifford's initials on nearly all photographs, and these images match with many of the 3 x 5 inch negatives found elsewhere in the collection. Photographs attributed to Jackie (Dave Jr.) date from the late 1940s and early 1950s and may have entered the collection prior to the death of Annie White.

Much of the dating of this collection from 1908 to 1920 was done by estimating the ages of various White children. Beyond that, the usual techniques were utilized, i.e. identification and dates noted on prints by family members, the depiction of specific historical events, changes in physical and cultural features, model dating of automobiles, reading of license plates, etc.

Processing Status:    Processed

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