

Finding Aid : **GA 265**
Bray family fonds.

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GA 265 : Bray Family

Bray family fonds. - 1842-1950. - 34 cm of textual records.

George Bray (1795-1846) was born December 11, 1795 in England. He married Ann Preston (b. 1796) and the pair had 10 children: Jemima (b.1816), Abraham (1818-1901), Isaac (1819-1837), Sarah (b. 1821), Rebecca (b. 1824), Rachel (b. 1827), Ruth (1832-1837), Hannah (b. 1834), Mary (b. 1839) and Jacob (1840-1920).

Eldest son Abraham immigrated to Canada in the early 1840's where he settled in Zorra Township and began to farm. By 1845 he married Sarah, also a British immigrant, and the couple had nine children: George (b. 1845), Elizabeth (b. 1847), Robert (b. 1849), James (b. 1853), Mary Jane (b. 1855), John (b. 1858), William (b. 1860), Marie (b. 1862), Joseph (b. 1867).

Abraham's youngest sibling, Jacob, settled in the Listowel area and there married Jane Brown (b.?). Jacob and Jane had son George (1873-1937) who later married Florence Murray (1874-1959).

(George) Murray Bray (1905-1974), lawyer, was born January 12 1905 to Florence Murray Bray (1874-1959) and George Bray (1873-1937) both of Canada. Born in Perth, Murray and his parents later moved to 70 Margaret Ave. in Kitchener. Murray studied law in Toronto and in 1929 he was called to the bar. He began working at his father's law office of Sims, Bray, McIntosh and Schofield in Kitchener. In 1928 Murray married Isabel Treacy (1906-1986) daughter of William (1878-1953) and Francis Crawford Treacy (1875-1929). Murray and Isabel had two children, William George, called Bill (b. 1929) and Judith (b. 1933). The family of Murray Bray lived in the Westmount region, at 145 Union Blvd. and later at 54 Rusholme Ave. Murray died in 1974 and Isabel in 1986.

Contents: fonds consists of materials from many generations of the Bray family. Includes 26 items of correspondence sent to Abraham Bray, the first Bray family settler to Canada as well as 19 diaries kept by later generations of the Bray family. Includes 18 diaries kept by (George) Murray Bray from the years 1929-1949 as well as one trip diary kept by his mother Florence Murray Bray detailing a variety of trips from 1892-1950.

Title from content of the fonds.

Extent is measured in linear metres of shelf space as occupied by the fonds.

Donated in 2014 & 2015 by Chris Bray.

Detailed finding aid available.

File 1

Trip diary. - 1892-1950.

Contents: file consists of one trip diary kept by Florence Bray. The diary details trips to Europe (1926), California (1938 & 1939), New York and Atlantic City (1932), Virginia (1950), Florida (1930 & 1938), Scotland (1892), Gaspe (1946), Muskoka (1946). Also included in the diary are addresses of people met while on trips, a list of hotels stayed in and a fold out map of the United States and Mexico. The 1926 trip to Europe is of particular interest, with descriptions of major European cities and First World War battlefields.

File 2

Diary. - 1929.

Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1929. Notable entries include the birth of his son Bill (William George), his being called to the bar, the death of his mother-in-law and events in the community including the wedding of Shannon Bowlby. The diary is a daily journal ledger style diary. Inscription in the front reads "G.M. Bray 145 Union Blvd. Kitchener Ontario."

File 3

Diary. - 1930.

Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1930. Notable entries include the christening of his son Bill (William George), numerous local weddings including those of his friends Harry Guy and Phyllis, as well as births and deaths in the community. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance and Investments. Inscription at beginning reads "GM Bray 145 Union Boulevard Kitchener Ontario."

File 4

Diary. - 1931-1932.

Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1931 and 1932. The pages are divided in half, the upper half being entries for 1931 and the lower for 1932. Notable entries include: local weddings, deaths and births, the opening of the Westmount Country Club, a trip to Atlantic City and Murray contracting Scarlet Fever. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance and Investments. Inscription at beginning reads "GM Bray."

File 5

Diary. - 1933.

Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1933. Notable entries include: local weddings, deaths and births, and the birth of Murray's daughter Judith. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance and Investments. Inscription at beginning reads "GM Bray 25-11-32."

- File 6 **Diary.** - 1934.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1934. Notable entries include: local weddings, deaths and births, the Christening of his daughter Judith, the Ontario Provincial elections and the marriage of Walter Bean. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance and Investments. Inscription at beginning reads "GM Bray."
- File 7 **Diary.** - 1935.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1935. Notable entries include: local weddings, deaths and births, milestones and illnesses in his children, the purchase of a new car, the silver jubilee of George V, and the federal election. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of Mac Lester. Inscription at beginning reads "GM Bray."
- File 8 **Diary.** - 1936.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1936. Notable entries include: local weddings, deaths and births, playing Monopoly, the death and national day of mourning for George V, and illnesses of his children. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of Mac Lester. Inscription at beginning reads "GM Bray."
- File 9 **Diary.** - 1937.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1937. The diary contains very few entries, but mentions the family moving to a new house and the death of Murray's father. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance.
- File 10 **Diary.** - 1938.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1938. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages as well as purchasing a new car, the inaugural meeting of the Waterloo Township Council, selling their house at 145 Union Blvd. a trip to Bermuda and getting a dog, Terry. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance.
- File 11 **Diary.** - 1939.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1939. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, the royal visit of Queen Elizabeth and King George VI, as well as the start of the Second World War. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance.
- File 12 **Diary.** - 1940.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1940. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, and the death of the family dog Terry. Diary is a page a day book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance.
- File 13 **Diary.** - 1941.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1941. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, as well as Bill's appendectomy. Diary is a two page a day spiral bound book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance.
- File 14 **Diary.** - 1942.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1942. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, the mobilization of his regiment and watching the Stanley Cup final game in Toronto. Diary is a two page a day spiral bound book courtesy of H.L. Staebler Co. Ltd. Insurance. Note that blank pages have been removed before donation.
- File 15 **Diary.** - 1943.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1943. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, and the worst snowfall since 1915. The back of the diary has a bird watching chart. Diary pages have been removed from their binding and blank pages have been removed before donation.
- File 16 **Diary.** - 1944.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1944. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, and Murray breaking an ankle. Diary pages have been removed from their binding and blank pages have been removed before donation.
- File 17 **Diary.** - 1947.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1947. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, and updates on the children, such as Bill now working at the law firm. Diary pages have been removed from their binding and blank pages have been removed before donation.

- File 18 **Diary.** - 1948.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1948. Notable entries include: local births, deaths and marriages, and updates on the children, such as Judith attending Havergal and Bill talking to Ridley. Diary pages have been removed from their binding and blank pages have been removed before donation.
- File 19 **Diary.** - 1949.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1949. The diary has very few pages and entries are commonplace. Diary pages have been removed from their binding and blank pages have been removed before donation.
- File 20 **Diary.** - 1950.
Contents: file consists of one diary for Murray Bray for the year 1950. The diary has very few pages and entries are commonplace. Diary pages have been removed from their binding and blank pages have been removed before donation.
- File 21 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : April 17, 1842.** - 1842.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray sent April 17, 1842 from Rathmines Mill, near Dublin, Ireland. The letter discusses family news, finances, and a proposed trip to visit Abraham.
- File 22 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : January 8, 1843.** - 1843.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray sent January 8, 1843 from Rathmines Mill, near Dublin, Ireland. The letter discusses family news and health, finances, the First Opium War, facts about Canada and Abraham's life in Canada.
- File 23 **Sarah Bray to Abraham Bray : May 7, 1843.** - 1843.
Contents: One letter from Sarah Bray to Abraham Bray sent May 7, 1843 from Leeds, Yorkshire. The letter discusses Sarah moving to Yorkshire, family news and health, and life in Leeds.
- File 24 **John Lazenby to Abraham Bray : July 5, 1843.** - 1843.
Contents: One letter from John Lazenby to Abraham Bray dated July 5, 1843 from Holbeck. The letter is written on behalf of Abraham's grandmother, who is unwell, and discusses sending Abraham 20 pounds, the health of the family, and news that friends are on their way to settle in Toronto.
- File 25 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : July 9, 1843.** - 1843.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated July 9, 1843 from Rathmines Mill, near Dublin. The letter discusses the price of land in Canada and if Abraham can clear it, money sent to Abraham, and news and health of the family.
- File 26 **John Lazenby to Abraham Bray : July 15, 1843.** - 1843.
Contents: One letter from John Lazenby to Abraham Bray dated July 15, 1843 from Holbeck. The letter is sent on behalf of Abraham's grandmother and discusses a bank draft sent to Abraham, friends who are moving to Upper Canada, and the health and news of the family.
- File 27 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : December 31, 1843.** - 1843.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated December 31, 1843 Rathmines Mill near Dublin. The letter discusses the health of the family and how they desire to hear from Abraham as they are not sure where he is living. Abraham's sister Hannah also sends a few lines at the end of the letter.
- File 28 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : March 31, 1844.** - 1844.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated March 31, 1844 from Rathmines Mill near Dublin. The letter discusses Abraham's land and how much he has cleared and the money he owes on it, as well as the health and news of the family.
- File 29 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : September 2, 1844.** - 1844.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated September 2, 1844 from Rathmines Mill near Dublin. The letter expresses concern for Abraham's well being as the family has not heard from him and offers to send money to help pay the mortgage on his land.
- File 30 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : October 1, 1844.** - 1844.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated October 1, 1844 from Rathmines Mill near Dublin. The letter discusses sending money to Abraham and how it should be used to pay his mortgage, as well as news on the family.

- File 31 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : February 2, 1845.** - 1845.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated February 2, 1845 from Rathmines Mill near Dublin. The letter expresses concern for Abraham that his money situation has been resolved and gives updates on the family. Abraham's sisters Hannah and Rachel include short notes at the end of the letter.
- File 32 **Sarah Bray to Abraham Bray : May 20, 1845.** - 1845.
Contents: One letter from Sarah Bray to Abraham Bray dated May 20, 1845. The letter was sent to Abraham via their parents and discusses Sarah's life and work and her best wishes to Abraham on the news of his wedding. She also gives a recipe for sealing wax.
- File 33 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : June 1, 1845.** - 1845.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated June 1, 1845 from Rathmines. The letter sends Abraham best wishes on his wedding, gives news on family and friends including the death of Mr. Lazenby, and also lists the names and birth dates of Abraham's siblings and aunts and uncles.
- File 34 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : September 2, 1845.** - 1845.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated September 2, 1845 from Rathmines Mill, near Dublin. The letter entreats Abraham to write them more often and gives updates on the family as well as the cloth industry and crop yield in Dublin.
- File 35 **George Bray to Abraham Bray : January 1, 1846.** - 1846.
Contents: One letter from George Bray to Abraham Bray dated January 1, 1846 from Rathmines Mill, near Dublin. The letter starts off with a message from Sarah Bray giving details on her life and their grandmother's health as well as mentioning friends who have moved to Canada. George writes about the family in Ireland as well as commodity prices and scarcity and the Great Potato Famine.
- File 36 **Jemima Schofield (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray : June 17, 1846.** - 1846.
Contents: One letter from Jemima Schofield (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray dated June 17, 1846 from Leeds. The letter reports on updates about the family and gives the news of the death of George Bray on May 25, 1846.
- File 37 **Ann Bray to Abraham Bray : January 17, 1847.** - 1847.
Contents: One letter from Ann Bray to Abraham Bray dated January 17, 1847 from Leeds. The first part of the letter is from Ann Bray and gives an update on the family since the passing of George Bray, and congratulates Abraham on the birth of his child. At the end of the letter are notes from Samuel Fox and Sarah Bray regarding friends moving to Canada and inquiring about job prospects there.
- File 38 **Ann Bray to Abraham Bray : August 12, 1847.** - 1847.
Contents: One letter from Ann Bray to Abraham Bray dated August 12, 1847 from Leeds. This short letter gives news that Ann, as well as children Jacob, Mary, and Hannah are set to leave from Liverpool for New York on August 16th or 20th.
- File 39 **Hannah Hargreaves (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray : March 1, 1869.** - 1869.
Contents: One letter from Hannah Hargreaves (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray dated March 1, 1869 from Cayuga. This letter is written on the second half of a letter from Sarah Rawson (nee Bray) sent to her sister Hannah who is living in Canada. Hannah sends the letter on to Abraham in the hopes that he can help Sarah migrate to Canada as she is now widowed.
- File 40 **Hannah Hargreaves (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray : April 22, 1869.** - 1869.
Contents: One letter from Hannah Hargreaves (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray dated April 22, 1869. This letter was originally written by Sarah Rawson (nee Bray) and was forwarded, with notes, to Abraham by his sister Hannah. Sarah once again asks for help in migrating to Canada and asks after the health of the family. Hannah adds that their sister Mary has moved to Ingersoll.
- File 41 **James Bray to Abraham Bray : March 9, 1874.** - 1874.
Contents: One letter from James Bray to Abraham Bray dated March 9, 1874 from Springfield Missouri. James Bray is a cousin to Abraham Bray who has moved to Missouri. The letter discusses James' siblings, the farming conditions in Missouri and land prices and advises Abraham on whether he should sell his land in Canada and move to Missouri.
- File 42 **John Henry Rawson to Abraham Bray : May 20, 1876.** - 1876.
Contents: One letter from John Henry Rawson, dated May 20, 1876 from Holbeck. John Henry Rawson is the nephew of Abraham, son of his sister Sarah. John gives an update on himself and his family and also discusses the price of apples and the possibility of importing them to Leeds.

- File 43 **Ann Elizabeth Rawson to Abraham Bray : May 20, 1876.** - 1876.
Contents: One letter from Ann Elizabeth Rawson, dated May 20, 1876 from Holbeck. Ann Elizabeth Rawson is the niece of Abraham, daughter of his sister Sarah. Sarah gives an update on herself and her family and also discusses the price of apples and the possibility of importing them to Leeds.
- File 44 **Ann Elizabeth Rawson to Abraham Bray : November 12, 1876.** - 1876.
Contents: One letter from Ann Elizabeth Rawson, dated November 12, 1876 from Holbeck. The letter gives an update on the family and speaks of Sarah falling down the cellar stairs and hurting her back.
- File 45 **Ellis Bray to Abraham Bray : January 21, 1877.** - 1877.
Contents: One letter from Ellis Bray to Abraham Bray, dated January 21, 1877 from Cheshire, England. Ellis Bray is a cousin of Abraham Bray, son of Uncle James. Ellis gives a detailed account of his life over the last ten years traveling through America and back to England and then an account of members of the Bray family still living in England and of his father's death.
- File 46 **Sarah Rawson (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray : July 9, 1878.** - 1878.
Contents: One letter from Sarah Rawson (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray, dated July 9, 1878 from Holbeck. The letter gives an update on Sarah and her children and tells of Uncle William's death.
- File 47 **Sarah Rawson (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray.** - [18--].
Contents: One letter from Sarah Rawson (nee Bray) to Abraham Bray. The letter asks for information on their mother's life and death and requests that any last messages for Sarah be sent to her.