

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

Finding Aid - Read Stone Co. Ltd. (MC224)

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.5.4 Printed: March 06, 2021

Language of description: English

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Read Stone Co. Ltd.

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Summary information

Repository:	Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
Title:	Read Stone Co. Ltd.
ID:	MC224
Date:	1853-1946 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	22.95 m of textual records

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

In 1824, Joseph Read and his father opened a stone yard office in Boston, Mass., and in 1860 they purchased a grindstone property in Stonehaven, New Brunswick from Sprague Spoule & Company. The lack of stone available for making grindstones in New England meant that the stone had to come from the Maritimes or England. In New Brunswick, stones were produced at Lower Cove, Ragged Reef, Sand River, Apple River, Wood Point, Rockport, Grindstone Island, Mary's Point, Beaumont and Fox Creek. The Reads came into ownership of around 40 quarries throughout the Maritimes which remained open until the company's closure in 1930. At the time of its closure, the Read Company owned 51 schooners which took stones to ports in the northeastern United States, South America and the Caribbean, then on to England carrying rum.

Joseph Read first began quarrying grindstones in 1810 when he leased a section of shoreline at Minudie, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia from Amos Seaman, who was also in the business. Joseph Read's son, Joseph, Jr., expanded the business, opening a stoneyard for grading, distributing, and selling grindstones at Boston in 1824. Joseph Read, Sr. entered into partnership with John T. Seaman, and the company expanded its operations to Rockport, Dover, and Beaumont. The Reads' record the founding of their company as 1824, possibly the year that the partnership of Read and Seaman was formed. Minudie remained the company's base of operation throughout the 19th century.

In 1856 the enterprise expanded when another stone quarry was opened at Stonehaven, Gloucester County, New Brunswick. By 1900, the company had moved its base of operations to Sackville, N. B. and was now producing building stone and pulp stone along with grindstones. In 1908 the business was incorporated under the name Read Stone Co. Ltd., at which time the quarries and businesses of Joseph Read, of Stonehaven, and Henry C. Read, of Sackville, were consolidated. The company's business interests extended from New Brunswick to Montréal, West Virginia, and Ohio. H. W. Read closed the quarries at Stonehaven in 1930. Read Stone Co. Ltd. surrendered its letters patent on 10 February 1954.

Custodial history

The bulk of the records was retrieved from the stone lathe and storehouse in Stonehaven, N.B. H. W. Read had moved a number of the bound volumes to Sackville prior to 1978, when the first donation to the Archives was made.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of the business and financial records of the Read Stone Co. Ltd. as well as family correspondence and other personal records. It includes minutes of meetings, correspondence, letterbooks, general ledgers, day books, cash books, accounts receivable and accounts payable ledgers, order books, sales invoices, survey records, bills of lading and other shipping records, invoices, accounts, receipts, bank books, cancelled cheques, draft notes, and time books. Family records include correspondence, diaries, photographs, and material pertaining to the Independent Order of Foresters. There are also brochures, labels, advertising boards, catalogues of various suppliers, almanacs, grindstone and rock samples. Lastly the fonds includes several annual reports and statements of the Dominion Steel Corp. and British Empire Steel Corporation (1920s), issues of the journals, *The Maritime Merchant* (1920s) and the *Contract Record & Engineering Review* (1910s), and a copy of an unpublished thesis entitled, "The Cumberland Basin grindstone industry by James D. Snowden," (1972).

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of the fonds.

Physical condition

A general ledger, 1882-1882, (4/29) and a day book, 1926-1938, (5/28) were contaminated with mould. These items were reexamined in March 2001. Researchers are advised that they must view them in well-ventilated conditions (fume hood) and wear appropriate gloves and masks.

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick by Herbert Read, of Sackville, New Brunswick in 1978, 1994, and 1998.

Restrictions on access

No restrictions

Finding aids

An inventory is available.

Related material

A ledger of the Stonehaven operation of the company, 1913- 1936 is held by Mount Allison University Archives.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
-

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Business and commerce (subject)
 - Gloucester County (place)
 - Westmorland County (place)
-

Collection holdings

Item: MC224-MS21-34 - Read Family photograph

Creator: Read familyRead Stone Company

Title: Read Family photograph

ID: MC224-MS21-34

Date: Unknown (date of creation)

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Unknown individuals

Physical description: 1 photograph: b&w ; 8.5 x 10.5 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

Item: MC224-MS29-50 - Boy standing with grindstones ready for shipment by rail, dog in foreground.

Title: Boy standing with grindstones ready for shipment by rail, dog in foreground.

ID: MC224-MS29-50

Physical description: 1 photograph: b&w ; 7 x 11.5 cm + 1 negative

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

Item: MC224-MS29-37 - Red Saddle No. 444 Advertising Sample

Title: Red Saddle No. 444 Advertising Sample

ID: MC224-MS29-37

Date: ca. 1939 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Additional advertisement samples available in file MS29/37

Physical description: 1 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 16 x 21 cm

Related material:

Other Read Stone Co. advertising materials available in MS 22, 1 & 2.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Read Stone Company
 - Textual record (documentary form)
-

Item: MC224-MS1-3 - Read Stone Co. Letterhead

Creator: Read Stone Company

Title: Read Stone Co. Letterhead

ID: MC224-MS1-3

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 p. ; 5.5 x 21 cm

Related material:

Other letterhead samples available : MS22-2 ; MS29-11 ; MS29-38.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Item: MC224-MS10-11 - Beaudet, Lefaiivre & Garneau Stone Order

Title: Beaudet, Lefaiivre & Garneau Stone Order

ID: MC224-MS10-11

Date: July 25, 1888 (custody) (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 p. : holograph ; 21 x 13.5 cm

Related material:

MS10 is comprised of Stone Orders from 1875- 1946. See also MS9 - Stone Order Books covering 1865-1869 ; 1884- 1911; 1933-35.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Read Stone Company
 - Textual record (documentary form)
-

Item: MC224-MS22-2 - Natural Abrasives Advertising Sample

Creator: Read Stone Company

Title: Natural Abrasives Advertising Sample

ID: MC224-MS22-2

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 p. : ill., linen ; 24 x 24 cm

Related material:

Other Read Stone Co. advertising materials available in MS 22-2 and MS29-37.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Item: MC224-MS29-38 - Letter to Mrs. Anne Read from son Herbert Comeau Read

Creator: Read Stone Company

Title: Letter to Mrs. Anne Read from son Herbert Comeau Read

ID: MC224-MS29-38

Date: July 17, 1939 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Letter describes life in Stonehaven.

Physical description: 1 p.: typescript, linen ; 27.5 x 21.5 cm

Related material:

Business and Personal letters found throughout MC224; see also MS3, MS21.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Read, Anne Louise (Smith), 1886-1968 (subject)
 - Read family
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - Family and personal life (subject)
 - Sackville (place)
-

Item: MC224-MS22-1 - Counter Display Advertising Sample

Creator: Read Stone Company

Title: Counter Display Advertising Sample

ID: MC224-MS22-1

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 p. : ill. (some col.), mounted on cardboard ; 25.5 x 38 cm

Related material:

Other advertising samples available in MS22-2 & MS29-37.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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