

## REVEREND E.S. FLEMING

### Biographical Sketch

Everitt S. Fleming was born in 1895 in Saskatchewan and in 1908 moved with his family to Rutland, B.C. to settle at the Mt. View Ranch. After attending normal school in Vancouver, and briefly teaching in Similkameen and the Kootenays, he enrolled at the University of British Columbia and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1923. He commenced his theological training in Vancouver (he was the first student to enrol at the new Ryerson College), but after completing his first year's work he transferred to the Knox-Victoria (Emmanuel) College in Toronto, where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree in 1926. On August 15th, 1926 he was ordained in the Queen's Avenue United Church in New Westminster, earning the distinction of becoming one of the first graduates to be ordained in the United Church of Canada in B.C. After serving briefly in the Yakk-Moyie-Lumberton region in the Kootenays, he commenced post-graduate work at the Union Theological Seminary in New York, and received a Master of Systematic Theology (S.T.M.) degree in 1928.

Upon his return to British Columbia he was convinced by Dr. A.M. Sanford to accept a post in Dawson City (St. Andrew's U.C.O.C.) where he served until 1930. During this year he married Gladys MacKeen, the only daughter of Yukon pioneers, A.D. and Mrs. MacKeen. Subsequent posts were obtained at St. Paul's U.C.O.C. in Burns Lake (1930), Salmon Arm United Church (1934), and Ocean Falls United Church (1938). While at Burns Lake he was selected to represent the Cariboo Presbytery at the 1932 General Council of the United Church (held at Hamilton). During each of his appointments he became actively involved in community affairs, not only in his capacity as a minister, but also by serving on various boards of trade and by joining fraternal societies. During the depression and the war years he directed his energies towards providing food and clothing for those in need. In 1933 he joined the C.C.F., and held the positions of Chairman of the District Council for Omineca, and Secretary of the Burns Lake Local.

He continued to serve the United Church of Canada until his retirement in the 1960s.

## REVEREND E.S. FLEMING

### Scope and Contents Note

The E.S. Fleming papers have been divided into four major sections: correspondence, literary productions, student papers and printed material. A fifth "miscellaneous" category has been created for isolated documents that do not fit into any of these major categories.

Although these papers were produced between 1917 and 1976, only a few documents either pre-date or post-date the 1919-1942 period. Because the documents produced after 1942 are poetry booklets and reminiscences about Fleming's early life, the papers contain no information about his activities after 1942. Some information concerning these later years may be gleaned from the papers of John C. Goodfellow, with whom E.S. Fleming corresponded both before and after his retirement.

The vast majority of the Fleming papers consists of correspondence, which falls into three categories: general correspondence, family correspondence, and correspondence generated as a result of Fleming's participation in the C.C.F. The "general" category contains correspondence pertaining to church, community, business and literary activities. Because most of Fleming's friends were actively involved (either officially or unofficially) in church affairs, his communications with such individuals almost always include discussion of official church business or church activities, and have therefore been included with the general correspondence rather than in a "personal" category. Family correspondence has been separated because it is fairly extensive and because it deals almost exclusively with personal matters. Because Fleming appears to have maintained C.C.F. materials in a separate file, no attempt has been made to integrate it with the general correspondence.

The bulk of the "general" correspondence was produced between 1928 and mid 1934, and between 1937 and 1942. Very little material exists for the mid 1934 to 1937 period (perhaps because of the long illness suffered at this time by Mrs. Fleming). The material in this category deals with a wide variety of topics, although the provision of food and clothing for the needy during the depression and the war years receives considerable attention. The files for 1928 to 1930 contain, among other things, accounts of Fleming's travels in the Yukon and document the problems associated with ministerial work in such a region. The 1942 file contains correspondence with Rev. J. Kabayama of Ocean Falls, who had been removed to an internment camp. No attempt has been made to separate incoming and outgoing correspondence, as Fleming frequently typed copies of replies on the reverse sides of incoming letters.

The literary productions series contains poetry (in manuscript and printed form), reminiscences, essays, several sermon outlines and a few dialogues. It should be noted that not all the poetry written by E.S. Fleming during this period is contained within the poetry file--many poems in manuscript form are attached to letters in the correspondence files of John C. Goodfellow.

The student papers series consists largely of essays, although several notebooks and a number of debate cards are also included. One of these notebooks contains notes for his S.T.M. thesis, entitled The Minister-Educator. (Both the B.C. and S.T.M. theses are in the Library of Emmanuel College, Toronto.)

The printed material category consists mainly of brochures, pamphlets and clippings collected by E.S. Fleming, as well as a few newsletters and journals. Some of the clippings and newsletters contain material written by or about Fleming.

The miscellaneous category includes a small number of letters to and from Mrs. Fleming, as well as a small amount of correspondence between other members of the Fleming family. It also includes documents that were not sufficiently numerous or significant to warrant the establishment of separate series, such as church announcements and notices, programmes (typewritten), speech outlines, songsheets and contracts.

DATE RANGE: 1917-73

NUMBER OF BOXES: 3

TOTAL EXTENT: 40 CM

LOCATION OF BOXES: Bay 4~~1~~ / Shelf 1

SERIES DESCRIPTION

| Box/File No. | Series Title and Description   | Date      |
|--------------|--|-----------|
|              | CORRESPONDENCE   | 1917-42   |
| 1/1-2/5      | <p><u>General Correspondence, 20.5 CM</u><br/>           Arranged chronologically.<br/>           Consists largely of correspondence with church officials, members, and organizations (especially the Board of Home Missions); friends; and publishers. This subseries also contains much correspondence dealing with church, community and personal business matters. A significant amount of this business-related material is the result of Fleming's roles as Secretary/Treasurer of the Burns Lake Board of Trade and as a member of the Board of Management of the Burns Lake Hospital.</p>   | 1921-42 ✓ |
| 2/6-2/7      | <p><u>Family Correspondence, 6 CM</u><br/>           Arranged chronologically.<br/>           Includes correspondence (letters and postcards) between Fleming and family members. The bulk of this subseries consists of incoming letters. A few letters of a highly personal nature from non-family members are also included.</p>  | 1917-42 ✓ |
| 2/8          | <p><u>C.C.F. Correspondence, 3.5 CM</u><br/>           Unarranged.<br/>           Consists mainly of correspondence produced while Fleming was Chairman of the District Council for Omineca and Secretary of the Burns Lake Local. A significant portion of this correspondence is with Dr. J. Lyle Telford (who in 1933 was the C.C.F. candidate in the provincial election for the Nanaimo Alberni riding), and Eric Faure, Secretary of the Farmer Labor Party, Telkwa Local. In addition to correspondence, this subseries also contains a small number of local membership rosters, handwritten certificates of membership, C.C.F. notices, newsletters, clippings and pamphlets.</p> | 1933-34 ✓ |
|              | LITERARY PRODUCTIONS   | 1927-76   |
| 2/9          | <p><u>Literary Productions, Poetry, 1.25 CM</u><br/>           Dated manuscripts arranged chronologically.<br/>           Undated manuscripts arranged alphabetically by title.<br/>           In addition to manuscripts contains three booklets entitled "Whither and Why", "Logs for the Fire" and "Stardust and Moonshine". A few of the manuscripts are of dubious authorship.</p>  | 1927-73 ✓ |

| Box/File No. | Series Title and Description  | Date      |
|--------------|---|-----------|
|              | <u>Literary Productions, Essays, Reminiscences<br/>&amp; Sermons, 1 CM</u><br>Arranged by document type, then alphabetically<br>by title.<br>Includes two incomplete reminiscences (produced<br>in 1957 and 1974-76), essays on assorted topics,<br>two sermon outlines (1928 and 1936) and a few<br>dialogues. A few items of dubious authorship<br>have been included in this file.   | 1928-76   |
| 3/1          | STUDENT PAPERS, 5.5 CM.<br><br>Arranged chronologically.<br>Includes student essays, one term paper (on<br>religious education), notebooks and debate cards.  | 1919-28 ✓ |
| 3/2          | PRINTED MATERIAL, 3.5 CM<br><br>Unarranged.<br>Includes brochures, pamphlets, posters, clippings,<br>newsletters and printed programs. Many newsletters<br>and clippings contain material written by or about<br>E.S. Fleming.  |           |
| 3/3          | MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1.25 CM<br><br>Arranged by document type. Correspondence arranged<br>chronologically.<br>Includes Gladys Fleming's correspondence (eight items),<br>correspondence between other members of the Fleming<br>family, and several of each of the following types<br>of documents: church announcements and notices,<br>church annual reports (for Ocean Falls), sketchy<br>speech outlines, typewritten programs for church<br>concerts and community events, songsheets, and<br>contracts. A copy of a resolution made by the<br>Cariboo Presbytery concerning the Marriage Act<br>is also included. ✓ |           |

## CONTAINER LISTING

Box/File No.

Contents

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### General Correspondence

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 1/1  | 1921-1926 |
| 1/2  | 1927-1928 |
| 1/3  | 1929      |
| 1/4  | 1930      |
| 1/5  | 1931      |
| 1/6  | 1932      |
| 1/7  | 1933      |
| 1/8  | 1934      |
| 1/9  | 1935-1936 |
| 1/10 | 1937      |
| 1/11 | 1938      |
| 2/1  | 1939      |
| 2/2  | 1940      |
| 2/3  | 1941      |
| 2/4  | 1942      |
| 2/5  | Undated   |

#### Family Correspondence

|     |                                       |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 2/6 | 1917-1930                             |
| 2/7 | 1931-1942                             |
| 2/8 | <u>C.C.F. Correspondence, 1933-34</u> |

### LITERARY PRODUCTIONS

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2/9  | <u>Literary Productions, Poetry. 1927-1973</u>                         |
| 2/10 | <u>Literary Productions, Essays, Reminiscences, Sermons, 1928-1976</u> |
| 3/1  | STUDENT PAPERS, 1919-1928  |
| 3/2  | PRINTED MATERIAL   |
| 3/3  | MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS  |