



ARCHIVES

TRINITY COLLEGE

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Description and Finding Aid
RICHARD H. STEACY FONDS
F2333

Prepared by
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RICHARD H. STEACY FONDS

Dates of creation

1884-1950

Extent

95 cm of textual and other records

Biographical sketch

Richard Henry Steacy, son of John E. Steacy and Eliza Alexander, was born on 30 December, 1869 in Lansdowne, Leeds County, Ontario. He attended Brantford Collegiate Institute and Trinity College, completing the Divinity course in 1899. He was deaconed on 28 May, 1899 at St. John's, Smiths Falls, and priested on 10 June 1900 at St. John's Ottawa, where he remained until 1903. From 1903 to 1909 he served in Bells Corners and then moved to All Saints', Westboro in 1909, remaining there until his retirement in 1946. He was Rural Dean of Ottawa from 1939 to 1942.

In 1914, Steacy was named the first Director General of Canadian Chaplain Services, Canadian Expeditionary Forces, by General Sam Hughes. He served in this capacity until 1917. Mentioned in despatches several times, he achieved the rank of colonel in 1916. In 1917 he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Steacy married Elsie Mary Denham, daughter of the Hon. Digby Denham, former premier of Queensland, Australia, in 1914. The couple had six children: John Digby Graham, Richard Henry, Harold Robert, Charles Walter, Elsie Mary (Mrs. Jack Kibble), and Winifred Muriel.

Colonel the Rev. Steacy died in Ottawa on 11 April 1950.

Scope and content:

Fonds consist of personal documents, notebooks, correspondence, and official documents from Richard H. Steacy's student days at Trinity College, his time as Chaplain during the First World War, and his role in the church community following the war. Files also include newspaper clippings, poems written by Steacy and others, bibles, photographs and several artefacts from the war.

Contains series

1. *Personal and official documents*
2. *Artefacts*

Notes

Acquisition history: The records remained in the Steacy family until 2013 when they were given to Trinity College by Anne Steacy, granddaughter of Richard H. Steacy.

Restrictions on access: None.

Terms governing use and reproduction / publication: Various copyright holders, it is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds.

Provenance access points:

Steacy, Richard H., 1869-1950

SERIES 1: PERSONAL and OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS
Dates of creation:

1884-1950

Extent:

26 cm of textual records

8 photographs : b+w ; 24 x 20 cm or smaller

Scope and content:

Series consists of personal notebooks from Steacy's time at Trinity College, letters and telegrams to Steacy and from him, newspaper clippings, and official documents. Files also include poems and notebooks written by Steacy after the war, his personal bible, and photographs of Steacy and others.

Location / File Listing:

| FOLDER/UNIT TITLE | START DATE | END DATE | CONTENTS | BOX/FILE # |
|---|------------|----------|--|------------|
| Student notebooks | 1899 | 1899 | Five student notebooks from Trinity College Divinity classes. | 1-1 |
| Letters to Mrs. Steacy | 1915 | 1915 | 21 letters to Mrs. Steacy in London from Steacy while on active service, in original envelopes. | 1-2 |
| Poems for Children | [192-?] | 1936 | Five poems written by Steacy for his children, Charles, Harold, and Mary, with a photograph of Mary on board a ship to visit relatives in Australia. | 1-3 |
| Miscellaneous documents | 1915 | 1915 | Newspaper clippings, notice of Divine Service, Field Service Post Card. | 1-4 |
| Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George | 1917 | 1917 | Two documents, letter and certificate with the signature and seal of George V, that accompanied the medals (see Series 2). | 1-5 |
| Letters to father and sister | 1895 | 1895 | Two letters from Trinity college to his father and sister. | 1-6 |
| All Saints' Church, Westboro | [1940] | [1940] | Information booklet including a poem by Harold Steacy and printed photographs of the church and Richard H. Steacy. | 1-7 |
| Invitations | 1939 | 1939 | Two invitations associated with George VI's visit to Ottawa. | 1-8 |
| War Service Gratuity | 1919 | 1919 | Statements of accounts for Steacy and Mrs. | 1-9 |

| Steacy. | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---|------|
| Matriculation Certificate | 1884 | 1884 | Matriculation certificate from Trinity College University. | 1-10 |
| Teaching certificates and examination papers | 1871 | 1889 | Two certificates of qualification for public school teaching and examination papers. | 1-11 |
| Ottawa Journal clipping | 25 March 1946 | 25 March 1946 | Clipping announcing the retirement of Steacy including photograph. | 1-12 |
| Newspaper clippings | [19--?] | [19--?] | Four letters to the editor clipped from a newspaper. | 1-13 |
| Westminster Abbey Programs | 1916 | 1916 | Westminster Abbey programs, 5 March 1916, sermon by Steacy. | 1-14 |
| "On the Rue de Bois" | 1915 | 1915 | Typed copy of "On the Rue de Bois" by Frederick George Scott. | 1-15 |
| Despatch, Chamberlain telegram, Quinquagesima service | 5 March 1916 | 1 July 1919 | Despatch with the printed signature of Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for War from the War Office, 1 July 1919; telegram sent by Lord Chamberlain, 21 January 1918 requesting Steacy's attendance, on 5 February at his investiture service; Westminster Abbey Quinquagesima service 5 March 1916. | 1-16 |
| Rhyming couplets | 1935 | 1935 | Several pages of rhyming couplets from Synod 1935. On the fourth page: "Steacy! Gentle soul of love/ works on earth, but lives above." | 1-17 |
| Letters from the Rev. Robert Jefferson | 18 January 1940 | 1 April 1946 | Letter from Jefferson, Bishop of Ottawa, appointing Steacy as Rural Dean of Ottawa, 18 January 1940; letter from the Rev. Robert Jefferson 1 April 1946. | 1-18 |
| Invitation | 1910 | 1910 | An invitation from Steacy and two wardens to the dedication of a set of communion vessels in memory of Eleanor Henry on 1 May 1910 at All Saints' Church, Westboro. | 1-19 |
| Photographs | | | Sepia photograph of Steacy in clerical collar, photo of Steacy in white tie and clerical collar in a group of similarly attired students, Photo of younger Steacy in white tie taken by W.W. Black, Gananoque. | 1-20 |
| Wedding photograph | 1914 | 1914 | Black and white photograph showing two couples in fancy dress. | 1-21 |
| Booklet | 1911 | 1915 | Blue and orange booklet containing the statutes of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. | 2 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|-----|
| Holy Bible | [189-?] | [1909] | Holy Bible with title page showing the chronology of six of Steacy's parish appointments until 1909. | 2 |
| Notebook | 1903 | 1909 | Book of personal and church accounts, diary notes, meeting minutes, and appointments. | 2 |
| Notebook | [1921] | [1921] | Book containing manuscript sermons of Henry G. White (1769-1846, Curate of All Hallows, Barking), inscribed to Steacy from E.M. White. | 2 |
| <i>Nave's Topical Bible</i> | [189-?] | [1909] | <i>Nave's Topical Bible</i> containing a title page with a partial chronology of parish appointments to 1909. | 2 |
| <i>Evening Citizen</i> | 11 April 1950 | 11 April 1950 | The <i>Evening Citizen</i> (Ottawa), 11 April 1950 with photo and obituary on pages 1 and 7. | 4-1 |
| <i>Ottawa Journal</i> | 11 April 1950 | 11 April 1950 | <i>Ottawa Journal</i> , 5:00 edition (Ottawa), 11 April 1950, with photo and obituary on pages 1 and 7. | 4-2 |
| Framed photograph | 1918 | 1918 | Oak-framed black-and-white photo of Steacy. On the back: "Colonel Rev. R.H. Steacy / Commander Order of St. Michael and St. George / Founder and first Commanding Officer of the first Canadian Chaplain Service". | 4-3 |
| Double-framed photographs | [1918?] | [1918?] | Double-framed photos of Steacy and his wife, Elsie Mary Steacy | 4-4 |

SERIES 2: ARTEFACTS

Dates of creation: [1914 – 1918]

Extent:

6 artefacts

Scope and content:

Series consists of artefacts belonging to Steacy from the First World War.

Location / item listing: Box 3

Birks leather box, "RHS" gilt-stamped on the lid, lined with purple velvet containing field communion set.

Pewter flask.

Brass compass.

Bar of four dress medals on ribbons in blue box: medal of the most distinguished order of St. George and St. Michael, 1914-1915 Star, British War medal, Victory medal.

Burgundy wool beret with gold felt appliqué.

Medal, CMG Order of St. Michael and St. George, in original box, c.1917.