

Stephen Rupert Morris fonds. - 1898 - 1999. - 167 cm textual records

Biographical note

Stephen Rupert Morris was born in Carbonear on August 3, 1917, to Fred J. Morris and Winifred (Hollands) Morris. He was the eldest of three children, Barbara Jean born in 1920 and Eric Roy in 1922. His Newfoundland roots go back to a great grandfather who arrived at Trinity in 1765 from Carnarvon in Wales. He completed his high school education and went on to St. John's where he attended Memorial University College for two years before returning home in 1936 to enter the family business. On April 17, 1941 Rupert joined the Canadian Army and served in the Royal Canadian Engineers in Canada and Overseas until the end of 1945 when he was discharged. He then completed a year of business school at the Maritime Business College at Halifax and returned home in 1946 to rejoin the family business, and oversaw the change over to Morris & Co. In 1947 he married Jean Barbour and they had one child, Ian Roy. In 1948 Rupert and his father opened Trinity Cabins, the first tourist cabins in Newfoundland, which were operated by Rupert until 1995 when due to poor health he was forced to retire. The Cabins were subsequently sold and purchased by Glenn and Corrine Johnson of Trouty and are still in operation. Rupert's father died in 1961 and Rupert carried on the company (Morris & Co.) until 1970, when changing times, coupled with a decline in the trading area population, made the continued operation of the company on a much smaller scale unwarranted. In 1964 the Trinity Historic Sites Committee was formed at Trinity and Rupert became its first president. Following a successful archival display which was put on by the committee for "Come Home Year" in 1966, the Trinity Historical Society was formed in November of that year. Rupert was elected to the position of president and held this office until 1995. On January 8, 2000, at the age of 82, he passed away at the Health Sciences Centre, St. John's.

Source: Rupert Morris family and business history.

Custodial history

The scrapbooks were assembled by Mr. Morris between the years 1967 and 1999 and were created for display at the Trinity Museum, to provide information on the history of Trinity to visitors. The scrapbooks were transferred to the archives in 1999. In 2001 the contents of each scrapbook was photocopied and all original clippings, programs and photographs were removed and placed with already existing fonds.

Two scrapbooks have been removed from the collection: one containing original correspondence and documents from the Trinity Court, and the other a compilation by Mrs. Florence Murrin on her father the Rev. Edmund Hunt, the contents of both of these scrapbooks have been placed within their own separate fonds.

Dr. Ian Morris, son of Rupert, placed on permanent loan with the archives the material relating to the Morris family business and the Trinity Cabins on August 8, 2001.

January 10, 2004, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Johnson donated the following records that belonged to the Morris family business when it was named Joseph Morris and Sons. These records were stored in the basement of Trinity Cabins: Daily Credit Pink Sales Sheets, 1904 - 1911; Transfer Ledger Sheets 1904 - 1922, 1909 - 1948 and 1908 - 1937 and Daily Receipts 1911 - 1915, 1914 - 1922 and 1923 - 1929.

Scope and content

The Stephen Rupert Morris fonds consists of ledgers, 1898 - 1904; daily credit pink sales sheets, 1904 - 1911; transfer ledger sheets, 1904 - 1948; journals, 1904 - 1923; cash books, 1906 - 1923; and daily receipts, 1911 - 1929 for the Morris family companies of Joseph Morris; Joseph Morris and Sons; Fred J. Morris; and Morris and Company; cash books 1948 - 1970, expenditure book, 1948 - 1970 and a journal, 1948 - 1970 for the Trinity Cabins; a photocopy of the Morris Family and Morris Business History; a collection of Christmas cards and 15 scrapbooks which contain photocopies of clippings, extracts, photographs, programs and other information relating to Trinity and the Trinity area.

Series 1: Joseph Morris. - 1898 - 1923. - 8 cm

The Morris family business began with James Morris in 1840 at the age of 20, which was also the year that his eldest son, Joseph was born. The business in 1860 became James Morris and Sons. In 1873 the business moved from Cockles Cove (a back cove of Trinity) to Trinity. In 1889 the business was owned solely by James Morris and his eldest son Joseph as the other two brothers, Henry Charles and Jacob had sold out their shares, the business became known as J & J Morris. When James Morris died he left the business to Joseph who changed the name of the business to Joseph Morris.

The series contains the ledgers of the business Joseph Morris and a journal.

1.01 Ledger, 1898 - 1903

The ledgers contain individual accounts of persons doing business with the firm. The accounts record debit and credit to each account and provide insight into the value of goods.

- 1.01.001 Ledger, 1898 - 1899
- 1.01.002 Ledger, 1900 - 1902
- 1.01.003 Ledger, 1902 - 1903

1.02 Journal, 1906 - 1923

Records the daily accounts of the firm which are posted from the day books. Journals are cross-referenced to ledgers.

Location: Shelf

Series 2: Joseph Morris and Sons. - 1903 - 1948. - 90 cm

In 1903 the trade name was changed to Joseph Morris and Sons, when Joseph's eldest son, Orlando began to work as a book keeper. Stephen and Fred, his other sons, joined the family business later.

This series contains a ledger belonging to the business, three volumes of cash books, an account book, daily receipts, credit pink sales sheets and transfer ledger sheets.

2.01 Ledger, 1903 - 1904

2.02 Cash Books, 1906 - 1923

2.02.001 Cash book, 1906 - 1908

2.02.002 Cash book, 1910 - 1912

2.02.003 Cash book, 1916 - 1923

2.03 Account book, 1917 - 1939

Location: Shelf

2.04 Daily Receipts, 1911 - 1929

These are carbon copy of receipts from 1911-1929 that would be written for customer and contains a list of what was purchased and the amount of each item. This information is then transferred to the Daily Credit Pink Sales Sheets and then the Ledger Sheets.

Location: Stephen Rupert Morris Box 2

2.05 Daily Credit Pink Sales Sheets, 1904 - 1911

Records the daily purchases made at the store during this time. This information would then be transferred to the Ledger Sheets, the page of the ledger is written in the left side margin for each person.

2.05.001 1904

2.05.002 1905

2.05.003 1906

2.05.004 1907

2.05.005 1908

2.05.006 1909

2.05.007 1910

2.05.008 1911

Location: Stephen Rupert Morris Box 1.

2.06 Transfer Ledger Sheets, 1904 - 1948

Records the name and account activity for people who made purchases at the business. Includes the person's name, amount paid on the account and what was

purchased. These sheets were taken out of the books when the person died or moved away.

2.06.001	Transfer Ledger Sheets, 1904 - 1922
2.06.002	Transfer Ledger Sheets, 1908 - 1937
2.06.003	Transfer Ledger Sheets, 1909 - 1948

Location: Stephen Rupert Morris Box 3.

**Series 3: Fred J. Morris/Morris and Company Limited. -1898,1916, 1944 - 1951.
- 2 cm**

Stephen left the business in 1912 and immigrated to Western Canada and worked as a salesman out of Calgary, Alberta. In 1914 he joined the Canadian Army and was killed in action in Ypres, Belgium in July 1916. In September of that same year Orlando left Trinity on a Schooner loaded with fish for St. John's, and it was lost en-route with all hands. In 1923, Joseph Morris died at the age of 83 and left the business to his only living son Fred, who then changed the business name to his own until 1947 when the company changed to Morris and Company Limited.

The series contains a photocopy of a Journal that was kept by the business. The original is with Mrs. Jean Morris. The series also contains a Certificate of Higher Education and a Burial Report for Stephen C. Morris.

Journal, 1944 - 1951

Location: Stephen Rupert Morris Box 1.

Series 4: Trinity Cabins. - 1948 - 1970. - 10 cm

Stephen Rupert Morris the eldest child of Fred and Winifred, after being discharged from the Canadian Army, completed a year of business school in Halifax and returned home in 1946 to re-enter the family business with his father. In 1947 when visitors started to make their way to the Bonavista Peninsula they soon discovered that there were no accommodations and food services were scarce. During the fall several residents of Trinity gathered together to discuss the problem and the idea of a hotel came up, but at that time the residents did not have the finances or the initiative to get involved in such a project. However, Fred J. Morris and his son Rupert decided to go ahead on their own, but on a smaller scale. This would be the beginning of Trinity Cabins. Construction began in April of 1948 and was officially opened on July 1 with six cabins. The business expanded throughout the years and was operated by Rupert until 1995 when he retired.

The series contains a journal, cash books and an income and expenditure book.

4.01 Journal, 1948 - 1970

4.02 Cash Books, 1948 - 1970

4.02.001 Cash book, 1948 - 1956

4.02.002 Cash book, 1956 - 1963

4.02.003 Cash book, 1963 - 1970

4.03 Income and Expenditures book, 1948 - 1970

Location: Shelf

Series 5: Morris Family and Morris Business History. - 1948 - 1999. - 3 cm

This series consists of a compilation of information that Rupert gathered on his family and family business history. It includes an account of the business property that was owned by the Morris family between 1840 - 1894, a history of the Morris family business, a year by year account of the Trinity Cabins from its opening in 1948 to 1987 and various photographs and articles.

Location: Stephen Rupert Morris Box 1.

Series 6: Greeting Cards. - 1895 - 1900. - 4 cm

A collection of various greeting cards, it is unknown who collected them.

A letter to Mrs. E. H Hollands from the Governor of Newfoundland congratulating her on being named a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1919.

Location: Stephen Rupert Morris Box 1.

Series 7: Rupert Morris Scrapbooks. - 1967 - 1999. - 50 cm

These fifteen scrapbooks contain photocopies of various magazine and newspaper clippings, photographs and other information relating to Trinity and the Trinity area. They were assembled by Morris between the years 1967 and 1999 and were created for display at the Trinity Museum, to provide information on the history of Trinity.

Location: Shelf