

MS-2767

Constance Grey Swartz

Originals 1923-1981 2.2 m

Constance Grey was born 16 January 1902 at Victoria, the daughter of Ralph Geoffrey Grey and Winifred Grace Spalding Higgs Grey. Both parents were English immigrants: her father, who was a cousin of Earl Grey, the Governor-General, settled on Samuel Island; while her mother's family, the Higgses, settled on Pender Island. Through her mother Constance was related to the Spalding family also of South Pender Island.

Constance ("Contie" or "Connie") and her sister Evelyn ("Evie" or "Eve") were educated at St. Margaret's School in Victoria. Later, Constance was sent to finishing school in England and to France to complete her education. Both sisters spent the summer of 1925 at the Church family ranch in the Chilcotin. On 27 May 1926 Constance married Englishman Barnard Box (born 1900). Their son, Rollo Grey Barnard Box, was born in 1928. Constance and Barnard Box were divorced in June 1933, at which time Constance changed her name back to Constance Grey, and her son's name to Rollo Grey. In July 1934, Constance married an American born musician, Ira Wesley Swartz (born 1902); they were divorced in 1946. Constance retained the name Constance Grey Swartz and never remarried; Rollo Grey subsequently changed his name to Richard (Rick) Johnson.

Between the 1930s and 1950s Constance lived in Vancouver, first with Ira Swartz and later with her aunt and uncle, Mabel (Higgs) and Martin Grainger. She worked as a stenographer at a number of Vancouver law firms, hotels, advertising agencies, and cultural organizations. She was also involved in the arts community in Vancouver. During the late 1940s she worked in Kelowna as women's editor, reporter, music, drama, dance and art critic for the *Kelowna Courier*.

In the 1950s she returned to Higgs family land on South Pender Island where she built a house called "Clakili". During the 1960s and 1970s she wrote a social and news column for the *Gulf Islands Driftwood* under the Chinook name "Cultus Coulee". On Pender Island she assisted her cousin Beatrice J.S.I.M. Freeman complete her book *A Gulf Islands Patchwork*. She died in 1981.

Most notably, the records include musical programmes and correspondence relating to Vancouver's cultural life in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, and files relative to the Gulf Islands in the 1960s and 1970s. Letters, journals, photographs, books, poetry, and songs make up the rest of the records.

152 photographs and negatives, including one photograph album, transferred to Visual Records accession 199009-009. File list available at the end of this finding aid.

Related records include: MS-0588, Martin Allerdale Grainger, MS-0604, Grey Family and MS-2698, John Granville Orton.

The records were received by Richard Mackie and Jonathan Spalding from Mrs. Jean Connors of North Pender Island in the summer of 1988. Spalding and Mackie at the time were collecting garbage for Spalding Sanitary Services. Part of the collection had already been destroyed. Permission to deposit the collection in the Provincial Archives was subsequently obtained from Constance Swartz's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Jean Johnson of Regina, Saskatchewan, who was executor of Mrs. Swartz's will.

Box	File	Contents	Dates
Journals			
1	1	Journal, and physiology notebook	1923
1	2	Daily journal	1925
1	3	Daily journal	1930
1	4	Journal	1947
1	5	Journal	1956
1	6	Journals [2 volumes]	1956-1957
1	7	Journal	1961
2	1	Journals [2 volumes]	1970
2	2	Journals [3 volumes]	1971
2	3	Journals [2 volumes]	1971-1972
2	4	Journal/calendar	1974
2	5	Notebook	1973-1974
2	6	Journals [7 volumes]	1974
2	7	Journal	1974
2	8	Journal	1975
3	1	Journals [3 volumes]	1976
3	2	Journals [3 volumes]	1978
3	3	Journals [2 volumes]	1978-1979
3	4	Journals [9 volumes]	1979
3	5	Journals [3 volumes]	1980
3	6	Journal	1980-1981
Miscellaneous notebooks			
4	1	French notebooks and lessons	

4	2	French notebooks [2 volumes]	
4	3	Le Camp Francais	1939
4	4	French Lessons, Middlebury College	1944
4	5	German notebooks [2 volumes]	
4	6	German lessons	
4	7	Russian notebooks	
4	8	History of Art notebook	
4	9	Book lists	
4	10	Notebook containing jokes	1923
4	11	Notebook containing jokes and anecdotes	1958-1961
5	1	Address books [7 volumes]	
5	2	Book of death and birth dates	
5	3	Notepaper, Christmas cards, book marks, etc.	

Xerox of title pages from Constance Grey Swartz's book collection

6	1	Art and painting - general	
6	2	Ballet - general	
6	3	Biography and autobiography	
6	4	Children's books	
6	5	Dictionaries, etc.	
6	6	Drama - general	
6	7	Fiction - general	
6	8	History and anthropology	
6	9	Humour	
6	10	Miscellaneous	
6	11	Music - general	
6	12	Natural history	
6	13	Opera - general	
6	14	Poetry - general	
6	15	Records	
6	16	Travel	
6	17	Arnold, Ralph, <i>A Very Quiet War</i>	1962
6	18	Bosanquet, Mary, <i>Saddlebags for Suitcases</i> [photographs transferred to Visual Records 199009-009]	
6	19	Davis, H.L., <i>Honey in the Horn</i>	1935
6	20	de Saint-Exupery, Antoine, <i>Terre des hommes</i>	1939
6	21	Downs, Art, <i>Wagon Road North</i>	1967
6	22	Kujundzic, Zeljko, <i>Torn Canvas - an Autobiography</i>	
6	23	Sheldon-Williams, Ralf, <i>The Canadian Front in France and Flanders</i>	1920
6	24	Sheldon-Williams, Ralf, <i>Names like Trumpets and</i>	

		<i>other poems</i>	
6	25	<i>Tennyson's Lyric, Patriotic, and Narrative Poems</i> [with drawing]	
6	26	Views of Norway	
		Poetry and songs	
7	1-3	Poetry	
7	4	Songs and poems	1927
7	5	Songs	
7	6	"Menuhin"	
7	7	Published music	[ca.1920-1929]
7	8	Spanish songs	
		Published ballet and dance programmes	
7	9	Canadian (mainly Vancouver) ballet and dance programmes	[ca. 1930-1939]
7	10	Canadian (mainly Vancouver) ballet and dance programmes	[ca. 1940-1949]
8	1-2	Canadian (mainly Vancouver) ballet and dance programmes	[ca. 1950-1959]
8	3	Canadian (mainly Vancouver) ballet and dance programmes	[ca. 1960-1969]
8	4	Canadian (mainly Vancouver) ballet and dance programmes	[ca. 1970-1979]
8	5	Seattle ballet and dance programmes	
8	6	Other United States ballet and dance programmes	
8	7	Overseas ballet and dance programmes	
8	8	Dance at Kelowna, Contie Swartz articles	1947-1948
8	9	Ballet - general	
8	10	Ballet and dance	
9	1	Ballet, dance and opera clippings	
9	2	Opera notes	
9	3	Theatre notes	
9	4	Vancouver - B.C. Ballet	
		Letters and drawings from Rollo Grey (mostly to his mother)	
10	1	Rollo	
10	2	Rollo, bills and report cards from the Vernon Preparatory School	

10	3	Rollo	1932-1933
10	4	Rollo	1934
10	5	Rollo	1935
10	6	Rollo	1936
10	6	Rollo	1937
10	7	Rollo	1938
10	8	Rollo	1939
10	9	Rollo	1940
10	10	Rollo	1941
10	11	Rollo	1942
10	12	Rollo	1943
10	13	Rollo	1945-1946
10	14	Drawings	

Books of family or genealogical interest written by  
or about members of the Grey family

11		<i>Memoir of John Grey</i>	
11		M. Allerdale Grainger, <i>Woodsmen of the West</i>	
11		<i>In Memoriam - Harriet Meuricoffre</i> - by her sister Josephine Butler	
11		<i>Fallodon Papers</i> by Viscount Grey of Fallodon K.G.	
11		Ralph Arnold, <i>Northern Lights, the story of Lord Derwentwater</i>	
11		<i>A Register of Admissions to King's College Cambridge, 1797-1925</i>	

Correspondence files

12	1	Constance Grey, carte d'identite	1923
12	2	Constance Grey Swartz, resume	1958
12	3	Perritot Nursery School and Kindergarten (Vancouver) brochure	
12	4	Miscellaneous cards and notes	
12	5	Correspondence inward	[ca. 1920-1929]
12	6	Correspondence inward	[ca. 1930-1939]
12	7	Correspondence inward	[ca. 1940-1949]
12	8	Correspondence inward	[ca. 1950-1959]
12	9	Correspondence outward	[ca. 1950-1959]
12	10	Correspondence inward	[ca. 1960-1969]
12	11	Correspondence outward	[ca. 1960-1969]
12	12	Correspondence inward	[ca. 1970-1979]
12	13	Correspondence outward	[ca. 1970-1979]

12	14	Correspondence inward	1980-1981
		Correspondence from friends and family	
13	1	"Frederika"	
13	2	"Insect"	
13	3	"Janet" [more than one?]	
13	4	"Lorna"	
13	5	"Squa"	
13	6	Aberbach, Alan	
13	7	Adaskin, Harry	
13	8	Bambrick, Arthur [?]	
13	9	Bambrick, Emma [?]	
13	10	Barton, Mary	
13	11	Bennet, George and Constance	
13	12	Birney, Earle	
13	13	Bures, Charles and David Schofield	
13	14	Butler, Hetha	
13	15	Davis, Esme and Howard	
13	16	Girdler, Ted and Caren	
13	17	Grainger, Mabel ("Dart") ("Hui")	
13	18	Grainger, M.A., book reviews of his <i>Woodsmen of the West</i>	
13	19	Grey, Charles Grey and Peggy Grey	
13	20	Hance, Ellen [?]	
13	21	Harris, Mrs. F.C. - Molly	
13	22	Herwig, Elsa K.	
13	23	Houblon, Alice [Archer-Houblon]	
13	24	Hutchinson, Raymond Patrick	
13	25	Hutchinson, W.A. (Bill)	
13	26	Inglis, Arthur	
13	27	Ireland, Willard	
13	28	Jackson, Di (Mrs.)	
13	29	Laidlaw, Don [?]	
13	30	Laird, Brian Nichols Hunter and Leila	
14	1	Layton, Elizabeth and Ann	
14	2	Lazenby, Peter and Ken Winship	
14	3	Livesay, Dorothy	
14	4	Loosmore, Margery	
14	5	Longlead, Frank	
14	6	Mackay, Constance (Mrs. L.A.)	
14	7	MacInnis, Grace	
14	8	Mackie, Grace Elizabeth and George Owen Mackie	

14	9	McKinnon, Eleanor
14	10	MacMillan, H.R.
14	11	Marston, Anna and Peggy
14	12	Mathews, Brenda
14	13	Matthews, Ken and Michelle
14	14	Money, Jim and A.W. Wolfe-Milner
14	15	Muirhead, Pauline
14	16	Pearson, George and Edith
14	17	Powell, Myrtle May (Marta)
14	18	Prior, Frank
14	19	Ramsay, Allan
14	20	Renaud, Henri and Clarice
14	21	Rider, Ruth
14	22	Robertson, Walt
14	23	Robinson, Minnie (mother of Hutchison boys)
14	24	Roe, Myrtle and George
14	25	Shaw, Martita and Roger
14	26	Sheldon-Williams, Ralf ("Shelly")
14	27	"Slim" (Phil Farmer)
14	28	Souter, Mary
14	29	Stevens, Margaret
14	30	Studd, Esther New
15	1	Taylor, A.C.
15	2	Turnbull, Bob
15	3	Upton, Major Terrence (Ted) and Primrose
15	4	Walker, Willie G. Mrs. (Dorothea Thompson)
15	5	Wales, Harold [?]
15	6	Webb, Phyllis

#### Correspondence relating to Gulf Islands

15	7	Bits and pieces
15	8	Baptisms and marriages - Gulf Islands
15	9	Miscellaneous "Old Timers"
15	10	Islands
15	11	"Oddments re Islands"
15	12	Galiano and Mayne
15	13	Pender Island - general
15	14	Pender and Saturna
15	15	Salt Spring Island and others
15	16	Saturna
15	17	Aitken, Jack
15	18	Aldridge
15	19	Auchterlonie

15	20	Baker, Hugh
15	21	Lord Beauclerk
15	22	Captain E.G. Beaumont
15	23	"Beech (W.J.R.) and Pender Players"
15	24	Bell, Tony
15	25	Bellhouse, Thorneycroft
16	1	Bishop, Hubert
16	2	Bittancourt
16	3	Bjornsfelt, Ossian
16	4	Blantern, Jack
16	5	Borradaile, Florence
16	6	Bowerman
16	7	Brackett
16	8	Bradley
16	9	Bridge, Jack
16	10	Brooks, Allan (1869-1946), postcards
16	11	Brooks, Allan Cecil
16	12	Buckley
16	13	Burke
16	14	Burkmar, George
16	15	Carrothers
16	16	James Reginald Clark
16	17	Collinson, W.T.
16	18	Conery
16	19	Percy Corbett
16	20	Deacon
16	21	Hubert de Burgh
16	22	Craddock/de Burgh
16	23	Drummond
16	24	Enid Lemon
16	25	Colonel Fawkes
16	26	Foster
16	27	Freeman
16	28	Bea Spalding Freeman
16	29	Georgeson
16	30	Gillespie
16	31	Williams Gills
16	32	Extracts from Winifred Grey's Diary
16	33	Grey family journal extracts etc.
16	34	Grey family - general
16	35	Bob Grieve - Lorry Davis
16	36	Grimmer
16	37	Hamilton
16	38	Douglas and Betty Harker



16	39	Harris
16	40	Gwen Hayball
16	41	Henshaw
16	42	Ann Henshaw (nee Pender)
16	43	Helen Hickson (Mrs. Garth M. Harper)
16	44	"Higgs-Spalding Bits"
16	45	William and Ida Higgs
16	46	Hooson
16	47	Heskins
16	48	Jackson
16	49	Jaeger
16	50	Ketcham
17	1	Lawrie and Porter
17	2	Malcolm MacDonald
17	3	John Mackinnon
17	4	Captain John MacPhail
17	5	Mace
17	6	Menzies
17	7	Nobles
17	8	Imbert Orchard
17	9	Paddon
17	10	Payne
17	11	Perkins
17	12	Phelps
17	13	Phillips
17	14	Pollard
17	15	Mrs. Pope
17	16	Ralph
17	17	Robson
17	18	Audrey St. John Mildmay
17	19	Scoones
17	20	"Sketch"
17	21	Evelyn Smith (nee Grey)
17	22	Spalding Pender
17	23	Spalding Penders Walker Wilfrid T.
17	24	Spalding family - England
17	25	David Spalding
17	26	Jon Spalding
17	27	Stanford
17	28	Steward
17	29	Ora and Frank Symes
17	30	George Taylor
17	31	Teece
17	32	Vanni

17	33	Walker
17	34	Michael Walsh
17	35	Bill and Sybil Willson
17	36	Woods
17	37	Glen Whorple

Subject files relating to Gulf Islands

18	1	BCHA	
18	2	CBC/Indians	
18	3	<i>Driftwood</i> quotes	
18	4	Ducks on Pender Island	
18	5	"Golden" anniversaries 1973	
18	6	Gulf Islands <i>Driftwood</i> , articles by Cultus Coulee (Constance Swartz)	
18	7	Iroquois - Interviews	
18	8	Iroquois	
18	9	Memorial Society of B.C.	
18	10	Clippings	
18	11	Politics	
18	12	Post office - Bedwell Harbour	
18	13	Power	
18	14	Progress ?	
18	15	Pronto	
19	1	Quotes for articles	
19	2	Rock	
19	3	St. Margaret's School, Victoria	
19	4	Ships and shipping	
19	5	South Pender Island Property Owners Association	
19	6	Tax notices	
19	7	Tilikum	
20	1	Rollo Grey	1947-1961
20	2	Mrs. Jeannie Johnson and family	
20	3	Jack (John Granville) Orton to Constance Grey	
20	4	"Roger" to Constance Swartz	1945-1980
20	5	Legal documents	1920-1949
20	6	Legal documents	[ca. 1950-1959]
20	7	Legal documents	[ca. 1960-1969]
20	8	Legal documents	[ca. 1970-1979]

Visual Records accession 199009-009

File	Extent	Subject
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1	16 black and white photographs	Early life
2	11 black and white photographs	Early life
3	80 black and white photographs	Chilcotin, 1925-1926
4	1 black and white photograph	Constance Grey at Middlebury College, Vermont, 1944
5	2 black and white photographs	Constance Grey at Middlebury College
6	27 black and white negatives	Family photographs [camping trip?]
7	1 black and white photograph	Passport photograph, 1960
8	1 black and white photograph	Charles Grey [uncle of Constance Grey]
9	1 coloured print	Henry S. Moss, 1967
10	1 colour photograph	Jeannie Johnson
11	11 colour photographs	Saturna Island
	1 album	Photographs taken by friends, 1979