

**Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherald fonds**  
1786, 1872, 1880, 1885-1905, 1907-1909, 1911,  
1913-1916, 1918, c. 1920s, 1922-1925, 1927,  
1931-1933, 1937-1940, 1956, 1958, 1962-1963, 1965,  
1981, 1990, 1999-2000, 2003-2004, 2007, n.d.

RG 84-b

Brock University Archives

**Creator:** Ethelwyn Wetherald

**Extent:** 0.50m textual records (1 ½ boxes)

**Abstract:** This archives contains letters written by Agnes Wetherald, clippings about her life and publications.

**Materials:** Typed and handwritten correspondence, clippings, and publications.

**Repository:** Brock University Archives

**Processed by:** Jen Goul

**Last updated:** November, 2008

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**Preferred Citation:** RG 84-b Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherald Collection, 1786, 1872, 1880, 1885-1905, 1907-1909, 1911, 1913-1916, 1918, c. 1920s, 1922-1925, 1927, 1931-1933, 1937-1940, 1956, 1958, 1962-1963, 1965, 1981, 1990, 1999-2000, 2003-2004, 2007, n.d. Brock University Archives, Brock University.

**Acquisition Info.:** This collection was acquired by David Sharron, University Archivist, in 2008 from Mrs. Dorothy Rungeling, Ethelwyn's daughter Niagara Falls, Ontario.

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**Biography:**

Unto my friends I give my thoughts,  
Unto my God my soul.  
Unto my foe I leave my love-  
These are of life the whole.

Nay, there is something – a trifle – left  
Who shall receive this dower?  
See, Earth Mother, a handful of dust –  
Turn it into a flower.

An accomplished poet, writer and journalist, Ethelwyn Wetherald's works were present in all Ontario readers for school children. Among her most notable works are; *The Indigo Bird*, *The Red-Winged Blackbird*, and *The Pasture Field*. The above poem *Legacies* is one of her most famous works and appears on her gravestone.

Wetherald was born in 1857 as the sixth child out of an eventual eleven. Although born in Rockwood, Ontario, she spent most of her life in Fenwick (Pelham Township), Ontario, where she died in 1940. Wetherald used her surroundings as her inspiration and focused on nature. She has been coined a nature poet and journalist.

Wetherald received her education at both the Friends boarding school in Union Springs, N.Y. and at Pickering College in Pickering, Ontario. After her schooling she wrote numerous articles for the Toronto Globe under the pen name Bel Thistelwaite, derived from her Grandmother's name. These articles lead to a position as Women's editor of the Globe and later she was part of the Advertiser's editorial staff in London, Ontario.

Wetherald continued writing after she was finished with the papers and published six volumes of poetry between 1895 and 1931. Her work was not only known amongst school children, but also attracted the attention of Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada in 1907 and Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada in 1911.

In 1921 she published a book entitled *Tree Top Morning*, which she dedicated to her daughter Dorothy Rungeling who also became an author. Recently Rungeling published *Life and works of Ethelwyn Wetherald 1857-1940 : with a selection of her poems and articles* about her mother.

**Scope and Content:**

Fonds contains materials related to the writings and life of poet Ethelwyn Wetherald. The collection covers most of Wetherald's life, but concentrates on her writings from 1885-1940. Some clippings about Wetherald and articles published by her are included. Published and bound volumes of poetry are included, some with marginalia. Short stories and manuscript copies of published volumes are present in the collection. Photographs relate to Wetherald's family, life and her daughter Dorothy Wetherald Rungeling. Correspondence dates from 1900-2007 and includes letters to and from; Patty Perkins, Bliss Carman, Louis Blake Duff, Joseph Wetherald, Dorothy Rungeling, Duncan Campbell Scott among others.

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**Organization:**

The records were arranged into two series:

Series I, Writing, 1894-1895, 1899, 1902-1903, 1907, 1925, 1931, 1939, 1958, 1981, 2004, n.d.

Sub-series A, Manuscripts, 1894-1895, 1903, 1939, 2004, n.d.

Sub-series B, Publications, 1895, 1899, 1902, 1907, 1925, 1931, 1958, 1981, n.d.

Series II, Correspondence and clippings, 1892, 1896, 1900, 1902, 1905, 1909, 1911, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1933, 1937-1940, 1956, 2007, n.d.

Series III, Personal, 1786, 1872, 1880, 1885-1901, 1903-1904, 1908, 1913-1916, 1918, c. 1920s, 1922-1924, 1927, 1932, 1933, 1938-1940, 1962-1963, 1965, 1990, 1999-2000, 2003-2004, 2007, n.d.

Sub-series A, Biographical and family, 1786, 1895, 1900, 1903-1904, 1914-1915, 1918, 1922-1924, 1933, 1938-1940, 1962-1963, 1965, 1990, 1999-2000, 2003-2004, 2007, n.d.

Sub-series B, Photographs, 1872, 1880, 1885-1901, 1908, 1913-1914, 1916, c. 1920, 1923, 1927, 1932, n.d.

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**Inventory:** **Series I, Writing, 1894-1895, 1899, 1902-1903, 1907, 1925, 1931, 1939, 1958, 1981, 2004, n.d.**

**Sub-series A, Manuscripts, 1894-1895, 1903, 1939, 2004, n.d.**

- 1.1 "Life and works of Ethelwyn Wetherald" by: D. Rungeling, n.d.; includes working copy and a selection of poems.

- 1.2 Manuscripts, n.d.
- 1.3 Poems and Publications, 1894, 1939, 2004, n.d.; includes list of publications, typed copies of poems, “Just Browsing” article from Pelham Public Library
- 1.4 Poetry Notebook, 1894-1895, 1903; includes poems, notes, book publishers, dried flowers, clipping
- 1.5 “When a Middle Aged Woman learns to Drive” by: A.E. Wetherald, n.d.; includes manuscript approximately 1,800 words [n.b.: Wetherald was 73 when she attempted driving lessons]

**Sub-series B, Publications, 1895, 1899, 1902, 1907, 1925, 1931, 1958, 1981**

- 1.6 Canadian Singers and Their Songs: An Album of portraits and autograph poems, published by William Briggs, 1902 [n.b.: Ethelwyn Wetherald p. 44-45]. Inscribed “Sam from sister Agnes”
- 1.7 The House of the trees and other poems by: A.E. Wetherald, 1895
- 1.8 The Last Robin by: A.E. Wetherald, 1907; includes inscription “To May: Godsend a happiness serene(?). To all the hearts that love me. Ethelwyn Wetherald”
- 1.9 Lyrical Echoes by: Katherine A. Clarke, 1899 [n.b.: the majority of the book has been turned into a scrap book for Wetherald’s articles 1899-1901]
- 1.10 Lyrics and Sonnets by: Ethelwyn Wetherald, 1931; inscribed “one of the first six copies received from the bindery J.W.G Nov. 3/’31”, signed by Wetherald; includes notes on each poem regarding if it was published or not and if so where and how much money was paid for each poem; includes Royalty statement.
- 1.11 The Ontario Readers Third Book; The Minister of Education for Ontario, 1925; includes note “Miss W see page 290” [n.b.: page 290 contains Wetherald’s poem ‘The Red Winged Blackbird”]
- 1.12 Poems, 1958, 1981, n.d.; include E. Wetherald poems set to music
- 1.13 Tangled in Stars by: A.E. Wetherald, 1902

**Series II. Correspondence and clippings, 1892, 1896, 1900, 1902, 1905, 1909, 1911, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1933, 1937-1940, 1956, 2007, n.d.**

- 1.14 A. E. Wetherald to Louis Blake Duff, 1940
- 1.15 A.E. Wetherald to Joseph R. Weatherald, 1933; includes only photocopies of letters [3 letters, 14 pages]
- 1.16 A.E. Wetherald to Patty Perkins, 1937-1938, n.d.; includes clipping, original and photocopied letters [n.b.: letters to Mrs. S. McInnes Welland who ran a children's column in The Tribune under the pen name of Patty Perkins] [19 original letters, 32 pages]
- 1.17 Bernard Thistlethwaite (cousin) to A. E. Wetherald, 1911 [2 letters, 16 pages]
- 1.18 Bliss Carman to A.E. Wetherald, 1902; includes 1 photograph inscribed "Bliss Carman and Miss B. Stevenson, New Canaan, Conn. Sept. 1927" [1 letter, 2 pages]
- 1.19 Clippings, 1892, 1920, 1937, 1956, n.d.
- 1.20 Duncan Campbell Scott to A.E. Wetherald, 1905, 1925 [4 letters, 9 pages]
- 1.21 General, 1909, 1918, 1925, 1939-1940, n.d.; includes Minnie Hallowell Bowen, Garry (?), Earl Grey (Governor General of Canada), Broden (?), Basil King.
- 1.22 Kim Bullock to Dorothy Wetherald Rungeling, 2007
- 1.23 Moyer to A.E. Wetherald, 1896, 1900; includes letter written by A.N. Moyer to his brother Samuel about Pelham referred to in S.J. Moyers letter to Wetherald [2 letters, 6pp.]
- 1.24 Wilson MacDonald to A.E. Wetherald, 1925, 1939 [4 letters, 4 pages]
- 1.25 W. Wilfred Campbell to A.E. Wetherald, 1902 [1 letter, 2 pages]

**Series III. Personal, 1786, 1872, 1880, 1885-1901, 1903-1904, 1908, 1913-1916, 1918, c. 1920s, 1922-1924, 1927, 1932, 1933, 1938-1940, 1962-1963, 1965, 1990, 1999-2000, 2003-2004, 2007, n.d.**

**Sub-series A, Biographical and family, 1786, 1895, 1900, 1903-1904, 1914-1915, 1918, 1922-1924, 1933, 1938-1940, 1962-1963, 1965, 1990, 1999-2000, 2003-2004, 2007, n.d.**

- 1.26 Biographical information for the Wetherald Family, 1990, 1999, 2003-2004, n.d.
- 1.27 “Cooneen Cross” Party, Pelham, Ontario- Guest book, 1938; includes signatures and addresses of attendees of the July 16<sup>th</sup> 1938 party held in honour of Ethelwyn Wetherald.
- 1.28 “Cooneen Cross” Party, Pelham, Ontario – Photograph Album, 1938, 2000. Party was in honour of Ethelwyn Wetherald. Cooneen Cross was owned by Louis Blake Duff. Photographs of: Bliss Carman, Duncan Armbrust – a neighbour (often referred to as “my boy” by Ethelwyn Wetherald), Clipping “View of St. John Centre – then and now” April 2000 re: party on July 16, 1938, copy of invitation to the party.
- 1.29 Diary of Ethelwyn Wetherald 1938-1939; includes notes, appointments, clippings
- 1.30-1.31 Memorabilia, 1900, 1903-1904, 1914-1915, 1918, 1922, 1933, 1962, 1965, n.d.; includes autograph book “drawing a pig while blindfolded”, Polish money “marek Poliskich 50,000”, lock of braided hair, small framed colour painting “San Diego Mission by: E. Smeaton”, address book of Bernard Thistlethwaite, “Punch” comic book “The Peep Show” inscription Charles Ringman, Dorothy Wetherald materials: scrapbook (see photocopy), poems, handmade birthday card (1922), clipping.
- 1.32 Memorials for Wetherald, 1940, 2007; includes clippings, obituaries
- 1.33 Pocket Book “Memorandum” of S.J. Wetherald, Wayzata, Minn. Winter 1923-1924; includes nutritional notes (vitamins/vitamin content in foods/bodily functions/diseases), addresses, gardening notes (plants/fertilizers), business notes (how to sell), travel arrangements, notes from reading Finding Youth by: Nelson Andrews, Throw Physic to the dogs by: George and Alice Hayden, A Man from Maine by: Edward Box.
- 2.1 Purse – Ethelwyn Wetherald, n.d.; includes mirror, needle/pin keeper, notebook (blank pages), leather change purse, piece of turquoise string.
- 2.2 Red Cedar poem on wood. Inscribed: Mobile, Ala., April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1895. Created by S.J. Wetherald

- 2.3 Rockwood Academy, 1786, 1962-1963, n.d.; includes “The Story of Rockwood Academy”, clippings, copy of birth records (Sarah Harris), Unveiling ceremony program (1962) [5 photographs b&w]

**Sub-series B, Photographs, 1872, 1880, 1885-1901, 1908, 1913-1914, 1916, c. 1920s, 1923, 1927, 1932, n.d.**

- 2.4 Photographs: Dorothy Wetherald Rungeling, 1916, 1923, n.d.; includes handmade card made by Dorothy Wetherald (1923), Rene Wetherald [11 photographs, b&w]
- 2.5 Photographs: Ethelwyn Wetherald, 1872, 1900, 1913-1914, c. 1920s, ca. 1930s, 1938, n.d. [46 photographs, b&w, 2 negatives]
- 2.6 Photographs: from Ethelwyn Wetherald’s life 1913, 1927, 1932, n.d.; Robert Ball, Photo of Natives, “E.W. Thompson – Ethelwyn worked for him” [4 photographs, b&w]
- 2.7 Photographs: Wetherald family, ca. 1880, 1899, 1908, n.d.; includes Rockwood Academy (birthplace of Ethelwyn Wetherald), Herbert Wetherald, Wetherald family: James, William Jr., Rachael, Jemima (Mother), William (Father), Jane, Samuel, Ethelwyn [7 photographs b&w, 1 negative, 2 photographs col.]
- 2.8-2.9 Scrapbook, 1885-1901, n.d.; working copy; includes “The Canadian Bookman” October 1931, “The Challenge” March 1933, “The Canadian” April 1933, articles written by Wetherald on various subjects for “the Globe”, “Women’s world” etc.
- 2.10 Scrapbook, 1885-1901, n.d.; includes “The Canadian Bookman” October 1931, “The Challenge” March 1933, “The Canadian” April 1933, articles written by Wetherald on various subjects for “the Globe”, “Women’s world” etc.

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**Added Entries:**

- 600 Rungeling, Dorothy W.  
600 Wetherald, Ethelwyn

**Subject Access:**

- 650 Niagara (Ont. : Regional municipality) -- Biography  
650 Pelham (Ont.) -- Biography  
650 Women -- Ontario -- St. Catharines -- History

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**Related Materials:**

RG84-a Ethelwyn Wetherald Letters, 1918, 1920-1922, 1927-1940, 2003, n.d.

Bell, Lily and Bray, Kathleen. *Women of Action St. Catharines and Area 1876-1976* (St. Catharines: 1976).  
Spcl FC 3155.45 W6 W65

Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District. *Lives and Legacies: A Tribute to the Women of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet*. (Welland: 2000).  
Spcl FC 3164.25 A1 L58 2000

Crawford, Isabella Valancy, 1850-1887. *The collected poems of Isabella Valancy Crawford*. edited by J. W. Garvin ; with introd. by Ethelwyn Wetherald. Toronto : W. Briggs, 1905.  
PS 8455 R38 A17 1905

*A Memorial concerning William Wetherald, an esteemed minister of Pelham Monthly Meeting of Friends*. [s.l. : s.n., 1898].  
BX 7795 W47 M45 1898

Mercer, Adam, G. (Graeme Mercer), 1830-1912, and Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherald. *An Algonquin maiden : a romance of the early days of Upper Canada*. Montreal : Lovell ; Toronto : Williamson, 1887. PS 8451 D3 A7

Rungeling, Dorothy W. *Life and works of Ethelwyn Wetherald 1857-1940: with a selection of her poems and articles*. [Ridgeville, Ont.] : D. Rungeling, c2004.  
SPCL PS 8495 E79 Z85 2004

Wetherald, A. Ethelwyn. *Poems, lyrics and sonnets*. Toronto : Musson Book Co., [19--] PS 8495 E79 A17 1900

Wetherald, A. Ethelwyn. *The radiant road*. Boston, [Mass.] : Richard G. Badger, The Gorham Press, 1904,c1903.  
PS 8495 E79 R3 1904

Wetherald, A. Ethelwyn. *Tree-top mornings*. Boston : The Cornhill Publishing, 1921. PS 8495 E79 T7 1921