

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Humbird family fonds (RBSC-ARC-1263)

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Humbird family fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Humbird family fonds
Reference code:	RBSC-ARC-1263
Date:	1819-1963 (date of creation)
Physical description:	4.1 m of textual records, ca. 820 photographs
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid produced by Melanie Hardbatt, October 2002. Finding aid revised by Jacky Lai, October 2023. Finding aid revised by Malcolm Fish, December 2023.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Humbird family was prominent in the lumber business from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, first in the mid-western United States, and then in the western United States and British Columbia. The son of Jacob Humbird, a builder of railroads in South America, John A. Humbird was a shareholder in the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company of Chemainus, British Columbia. The company was incorporated in 1889 and dissolved in 1950.

Humbird, who had interests in several companies, formed various partnerships with Frederick Weyerhaeuser; this included partnerships involving the White River Lumber Company in Mason, Wisconsin, and the Sand Point Lumber Company in Sandpoint, Idaho, and the creation of the Clearwater Timber Company, also in Idaho, in 1900. The Sand Point Lumber Company was combined with the lumber holdings of Edward Rutledge in December 1900 to form the core of a new business, the Humbird Lumber Company.

Humbird's son Thomas J. Humbird became manager of the company in 1902 and was involved in the operations of several mills, including the Sand Point mill. His son, John A. Humbird (grandson of the original John A.), continued the family tradition and was one of the key figures in the development of the Seaboard Lumber Sales Company, Limited of British Columbia in 1935.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of financial records of the Humbird family and records of various companies in which they had interests, including: Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Limited; Clearwater Timber Company; Humbird Lumber Company, Limited; Jacob Humbird Holding Company; White River Lumber Company; and Seaboard Shipping Company Limited.

Fonds also includes photographs, family financial records (distinct from company financial records), legal records, maps, correspondence, and press clippings. Photographs include photograph albums of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company Limited, an album of photographs pertaining to the family's interests in Mason and Clayton, Wisconsin, and Sandpoint, Idaho, and photographs of family members and employees of the companies. Family financial records include records pertaining to the estates of Jacob Humbird and the elder John A. Humbird, as well as financial record books of John A. Humbird and Thomas J. Humbird. Legal records include contracts, tie notices and permits, wills, and various land use records. Some maps show various company holdings, others are road maps. Correspondence is divided between company business and historical research about the companies (by family members). Press clippings are predominantly about the Chemainus and Mason operations.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

The fonds was donated to UBC Library RBSC by Virginia Humbird Dickey, daughter of John A. Humbird and granddaughter of Thomas J. Humbird, in 1978. At least one accrual was added, received by UBC Library RBSC in 2005.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Alpha-numeric designations:** Please note unique identifiers were updated for this material in October 2023. Where it existed, the previous reference number is recorded at the file level.
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Access points

- Humbird, Jacob (subject)
- Humbird, John A. (subject)
- Jacob Humbird Holding Company
- Humbird Lumber Company
- Seaboard Shipping Company
- Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)
- Business and commerce (subject)
- Forestry (subject)
- Forests (subject)

Series descriptions

Humbird family financial records

Date: 1878-1962 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of financial records of Jacob Humbird, John A. Humbird, and Thomas J. Humbird. Includes records concerning the estates of Jacob and John A. Humbird. Series is arranged into the following sub-series: Jacob Humbird estate records, John A. Humbird financial and estate records, and Thomas J. Humbird financial records.

Physical description: 14 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Jacob Humbird estate records

Date: 1884-1939 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of journals, an account book, and a cash book concerning the estate of Jacob Humbird.

Physical description: 6 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 27	File - Ledger: Jacob Humbird Trust Fund (John A. Humbird trustee)	1884-1905		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 26	File - Ledger: Jacob Humbird Trust Fund (John A. Humbird trustee)	1884-1905, 1911		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 48	File - Estate of Jacob Humbird - Journal [with enclosure]	1885, 1893-1912		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 28	File - Trust fund account books (St. Paul, Minnesota - John A. Humbird and David Humbird, trustees)	1893-1904		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 49	File - Estate of Jacob Humbird - Journal [with index]	1893-1911		

RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 50	File - Estate of Jacob Humbird - Cash book	1912-1939		
John A. Humbird financial and estate records				
<u>Date</u> : 1878-1962 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content</u> :				
Sub-series consists of a land purchase ledger, as well as correspondence, annual reports, court depositions, transcripts, and orders pertaining to the estate of John A. Humbird.				
<u>Physical description</u> : 6 volumes				
<u>Publication status</u> :				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 29	File - Land purchase ledger, J. A. Humbird, Minnesota [with enclosures]	1878-1900		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 54	File - J.A. Humbird estate - Miscellaneous correspondence	1910-1950		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 56	File - J.A. Humbird estate - File no. 1 : Annual reports 1912-1945 ; special report 1934	1913-1945		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 57	File - J.A. Humbird estate - File no. 3 : Court depositions, transcripts and orders	1931-1962		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 43	File - John A. Humbird Estate File No. 2 Annual Reports	1946-1962		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 55	File - J.A. Humbird estate - Miscellaneous correspondence	1951-1962		
Thomas J. Humbird financial records				
<u>Date</u> : 1913-1954 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content</u> :				
Sub-series consists of personal ledgers of Thomas J. Humbird.				
<u>Physical description</u> : 3 volumes				
<u>Publication status</u> :				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 30	File - Thomas J. Humbird personal journal	1913-1921		

RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 44	File - T.J Humbird personal closed account	1934-1946
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 31	File - Thomas J. Humbird personal ledger	1935-1954

Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Limited records

Date: 1889-1950 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of minute books, financial records, and albums of photographs of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Limited, and has been arranged into subseries according to these record types.

Physical description: 22 volumes

4 cm textual records

5 albums: ca. 380 photographs

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Minute books

Date: 1889-1950 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of two minute books of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Limited.

Physical description: 2 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 08	File - Minute book	1889-1910		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 09	File - Minute book	1910-1950		

Financial records

Date: 1889-1946 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of various financial ledgers and journals, voucher records, a stock ledger and stock certificates, as well as a few volumes pertaining to the Company's plant operations .

Physical description: 19 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 01	File - Ledger	1889-1896		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 02	File - Ledger	1889-1919		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 11	File - Journal	1889-1919		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 10	File - Ledger	1896-1900		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 04	File - Stock ledger	1898-1946		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 13	File - Stock certificates volume one :	1898-1946		
	1-250			
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 14	File - Stock certificates volume two :	1898-1946		
	251-500			
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 40	File - General ledger transfer #1	[ca. 1900-1943]		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 41	File - General ledger transfer #2	[ca. 1900-1943]		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 42	File - General ledger transfer #3	[ca. 1900-1943]		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 03	File - Cash record accounts, Chemainus Office	1919-1923		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 07	File - Plant depreciation	1923-1943		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 06	File - Plant ledger transfer	1924-1929		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 05	File - Plant ledger	1926-1940		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 12	File - Journal	1933-1943		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 17	File - Cash journal	1938-1940		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 19	File - Voucher records	1938-1940		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 18	File - Cash journal	1940-1942		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 20	File - Voucher records	1940-1943		

Photograph albums

Date: 1923-1945 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of five albums containing photographs of and related to the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Limited. Includes many photographs of its construction, equipment, employees, a photograph of a parade float used in its fiftieth jubilee celebrations in 1939, one album of photographs of the Chemainus, British Columbia plant, and one album of active logging camps near the Chemainus plant.

Series also contains a history of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Limited, which includes photographs of its founders, important executive board members, and maps of areas where the Company was active.

Physical description: 4 cm textual records

5 albums : ca. 380 photographs

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 23	File - [Photograph snapshots relating mainly to Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co.]	[192-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 21	File - [Photograph album by Harold Evans]	1923-1925, 1939		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 22	File - [Photograph album of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company Limited under construction]	1925		
RBSC-ARC-1263-01-03	File - [VL & M Co. Pictures - Chemainus, Plant]	1926		
RBSC-ARC-1263-02-02	File - [VL & M Co. Pictures - Chemainus, Woods]	1931-1945		

Clearwater Timber Company records

Date: 1819-1963 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of a volume of land statistics, correspondence, photographs, press clippings financial summaries, maps, and promotional materials (internal and external to the company) for both Clearwater Timber Company and its successor, Potlatch Forests Incorporated (PFI).

Physical description: 1 volume

5 cm textual records

80 photographs

Note:

Records are mostly from between 1900 and 1963.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 24	File - Land statistics	1900-1924		
RBSC-ARC-1263-02-01	File - Clearwater Timber Co.	1940-1960		
RBSC-ARC-1263-03-01	File - [Clearwater Timber Co. and Potlatch Forests Inc.]	1819-1963, predominately 1920-1963		

Humbird Lumber Company Limited records

Date: 1900-1947 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of minutes and financial records of Humbird Lumber Company Limited, and has been arranged into two sub-series according to these records types.

Physical description: 6 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Minutes

Date: 1900-1947 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of two minute books.

Physical description: 2 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
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RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 36	File - Minute book, volume 1	1900-1919
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 37	File - Minute book, volume 2	1919-1947

Financial records

Date: 1900-1947 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of a cash book, a treasurer's ledger, and stock certificates.

Physical description: 4 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 32	File - Cash book -journal	1900-1912		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 33	File - Ledger - treasurer [with enclosures]	1900-1912		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 34	File - Stock certificates, 1-150	1902-1947		
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 35	File - Stock certificates, 151-300	1902-1947		

First National Bank, Sandpoint, Idaho records

Date: 1925-1932 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of a book containing minutes and a notice of liquidation for the First National Bank of Sandpoint, Idaho. Thomas J. Humbird had interests in the bank and was also on its Board of Directors.

Physical description: 1 volume

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263- Ledger 25	File - Minute book, including notice of liquidation	1925-1932		

Financial records of unidentified company

Date: 1896-1945 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records of an unidentified provenance, including trial balance books and a volume containing information pertaining to land purchases, 1900-1936.

Physical description: 4 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 15	File - Ledger	1896-1900		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 16	File - Land purchases	1900-1936		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 46	File - Trial balance book	1925-1945		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 47	File - Trial balance book	1938-1944		

Jacob Humbird Holding Company records

Date: 1932-1943 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of minutes and stock-related records of the Jacob Humbird Holding Company, and has been arranged into two sub-series according to these record types .

Physical description: 2 volumes

Publication status:

published

File / item list**Minutes**

Date: 1933-1943 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of one minute book.

Physical description: 1 volume

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 51	File - Minute book	1933-1943		

Stock-related recordsDate: 1932-1940 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of a book containing stock certificates.

Physical description: 1 volumePublication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 38	File - Stock certificates	1932-1940		

Seaboard Shipping Company Limited recordsDate: 1945-[ca. 1950] (date of creation)Scope and content:

Series consists of a scrapbook created by John A. Humbird containing documents pertaining to the Seaboard Shipping Company Limited, such as notes to shareholders, and photographs of ships used by the Company. Series also includes a brochure published by the Company pertaining to logging in British Columbia.

Physical description: 1 scrapbook : 14 photographs
1 pamphlet

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 52	File - Seaboard Owners [scrapbook by J.A. Humbird]	1945-1947		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 53	File - Seaboard Canada brochure re: lumbering in British Columbia	[ca. 1950]		

Photographs

Date: [190--ca. 1902]-[ca. 1940] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of a photograph album containing miscellaneous photographs of Mason and Clayton, Wisconsin; Sandpoint, Idaho; and Chemainus, British Columbia.

Physical description: 45 photographs

2 albums : ca. 245 photographs

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 45	File - [Photograph album of miscellaneous photographs of Chemainus Plant & Woods, BC]	[190--ca. 1902]		
RBSC-ARC-1263-Ledger 39	File - [Photograph album of miscellaneous photographs of Mason and Clayton, Wisconsin, Sandpoint, Idaho, and Chemainus, BC]	[190--ca.1920?]		
RBSC-ARC-1263-01-02	File - Victoria Lbr & Mfg. Co.	n.d.		
RBSC-ARC-1263-02-03	File - Humbird Photos	[ca. 1940s]		
RBSC-ARC-1263-TBD	File - [Panorama Photos, Humbird Lumber various locations]	1923-1939		

White River Lumber Company records

Date: 1888-1956 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of legal records and miscellanea related to the White River Lumber Co. Legal records include permits, memoranda of agreement, tie notices, and land contracts pertaining to the company's logging rights. Miscellanea include maps (mostly road maps of Wisconsin and Minnesota), press clippings regarding the company, and photographs.

Physical description: 2 cm textual records

70 photographs

Publication status:

published

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC- ARC-1263-01-01	File - [White River Lumber Co.]	1888-1956		
RBSC- ARC-1263-01-04	File - Mason	1944-1951		