

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA  
MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES DU CANADA  
DIVISION DES MANUSCRITS

ROBSON-LANG LEATHERS LIMITED

MG 28, III 45

Finding aid # 945 / Instrument de recherche # 945

Prepared by the Economic  
and Scientific Archives  
Section

Préparé par la Section des  
archives économiques et  
scientifiques

MG 28  
III 45

ROBSON-LANG LEATHERS LIMITED (1865- ). Tannery.

Originals, 1873-1973. 2.2 m. Finding Aid No. 945.

Robson+Lang Leathers Limited, the oldest industry in Oshawa, Ontario, was founded by Jonathan Bartlett prior to 1830. Following his death in 1845, his brother and nephew took over the firm and expanded it considerably. In 1865 William Lauchland and James Robson purchased the business and ran it until 1893 when Lauchland retired and Robson was joined by his two sons. The firm was incorporated as the Robson Leather Company Limited in 1904. Almost sixty years later in 1963 Robson Leathers acquired the five tannery chain of John A. Lang and Sons and re-named itself Robson-Lang Leathers Limited.

Presented in 1973 by Charles Robson, per Ursula M. Robson, Oshawa.

The finding Aid No. 945 is a shelf list.

Administrative Records, 1879-1937. 60 cm (Volumes 1-6).  
Minute books, stock books, ledger books, Letter Press Copy Book.

Property Documents, 1893-1944. 10 cm (Volume 7).  
Appraisal books, insurance policies, blue prints, correspondence and legal documents.

Financial Accounts, 1873-1950. 60 cm (Volumes 8-13).  
Cash books, paid up accounts, bills payable and receivable and trial balance books.

Marketing Data, 1893-1923. 35 cm (Volumes 14-17).  
Purchase books, order books, consignment books, sales books and invoice books.

Production Records, 1880-1906. 40 cm (Volumes 17-21).  
Wage books, work books, journals and day books.

Subsidiaries, 1941-1948. 5 cm (Volume 21).  
Mercury Air Service Ltd. and Cluaran Farms.

Miscellaneous, 1905-1973. 10 cm (Volume 22).  
Newspaper clippings, American Sheam Conveyor Corporation and Transferred Items.

ROBSON-LANG LEATHERS LIMITED

INDEX

Administration: volumes 1 to 6

- Minute Books - volume 1
- Stock Books - volume 2.
- Ledger Books - volume 3.
- Letter Press Copy Books - volumes 4 to 6.

Property: volume 7

General:

- Appraisal Book - volume 7.
- Registration of Insurance Policies - volume 7.
- Blue Print Folder - volume 7.
- Correspondence Folder - volume 7.

Legal:

- Legal Documents - volume 7

Financial: volumes 8 to 13.

- Cash Books - volumes 8 to 10
- Paid-Up Accounts - volume 11
- Bank Pass Books - volumes 11 to 12
- Cheque Stub Books - volume 13.
- Bills Payable Books - volume 13.
- Bills Receivable Books - volume 13.
- Trial Balance Books - volume 13.

Marketing: volumes 14 to 17

- Purchase Book - volume 14.
- Order Book - volume 14.
- Consignment Book - volume 14.
- Sales Book - volume 15.
- Invoice Books - volumes 15 to 17.

Production: volumes 17 to 21.

- Wage Books - volumes 17 to 18.
- Work Books - volume 18
- Journals - volumes 18-19
- Day Books - volumes 20 to 21.

Subsidiaries: volume 21.

- Mercury Air Service Ltd. volume 21
- Cluaran Farms - volume 21.

Miscellaneous : volume 22

- Sundry items - volume 22
- Newspaper Clippings - volume 22
- American Steam Conveyor Corp. - volume 22
- Transferred items - \_\_\_\_\_

## ROBSON-LANG LEATHERS LIMITED

## - ADMINISTRATION -

- Vol. 1     Minute Books:
1. Directors and Share Holders Minute Book.  
Sept. 22, 1905 - Dec. 6, 1933.
  2. The Robson Leather Co. Minute Book.  
Oct. 13, 1905 - Nov. 13, 1911.
  3. The Robson Leather Co. Minute Book.  
Jan. 13, 1922 - Jan. 25, 1924.
- Vol. 2     Stock Books:
1. Stocks at Cedar Dale Tannery,  
Mar. 15, 1902 - July 31, 1908.  
and Robson Leather Co., Stocks.  
July 31, 1909 - July 31, 1910.
  2. Cancelled Stocks, Robson Leather Co.  
Oct. 2, 1905 - Dec. 22, 1908
  3. Shareholders' Book - Enactment of the Robson  
enterprise into a limited Company.  
Sept. 22, 1905 - Nov. 27, 1916.
  4. Robson Leather Co. Shares,  
Oct. 23, 1905 - Mar. 15, 1928.
  5. Stock Certificates - Robson Leather Co.,  
- W.P. Knight and Blanks.  
Jan. 6, 1912 - Sept. 1, 1921.
  6. Mercury Air Services Ltd. Stock Certificates.  
- Charles Campbell McGibbon  
- Frederick Allan Beck  
- Velma Harris  
- Charles Norman Robson  
- Allen Joseph Shelfoon  
- Edward William Robson  
- E.M. Derry.  
April 1, 1937 - May 13, 1937
- Vol. 3     Ledger Books:
1. Lauchland and Robson Ledger Book.  
Oct. 22, 1892 - July 27, 1899.
  2. James Robson & Sons Ledger Book -  
Assorted dates, 1899-1905.
  3. Index to Ledger  
Oct. 22, 1892.

Vol. 4 Letter Press Copy Books:

1. Letter Book  
Oct. 31, 1879 - Nov. 10, 1889.
2. Letter Book  
Aug. 24, 1899 - March 18, 1902.
3. Unidentified Index. Note from James Robson  
to Thomas G. Hawthorn.  
Aug. 20, 1892.

## Vol. 5

4. Letter Book.  
Mar. 19, 1902- Dec. 3, 1903
5. Letter Book  
Dec. 3, 1903 - Apr. 16, 1904

## Vol. 6

6. Letter Book  
Nov. 30, 1904 - Dec. 5, 1905  
"James Robson and Sons" changed to "The Robson  
Leather Co. Ltd."  
Oct. 10, 1905

- PROPERTY -

GENERAL:Vol. 7 Appraisal Book:

Appraisal and summaries of the Robson Leather Co.  
Ltd. by the American Appraisal Co.  
Feb. 20, 1908.

Registration of Insurance Policies:

Insurance of House (dwelling), stocks and materials,  
store house, sheds, barns, Tannery, machinery, stocks,  
in warehouse in Montreal and Quebec,  
Oct. 25, 1899- Mar. 10, 1932.

Blueprint Folder:

1. Plan of the subdivision - Part of lots 9 & 10  
in the village of Cedar Dale, Ont.  
July 20, 1911.
2. Blueprint of 1st floor plan of Tannery Bldg.
3. Blueprint of unidentified machinery.
4. Blueprint of heating layout.
5. Blueprint of home.
6. Blueprint of new office

Vol. 7 Blueprint Folder: (continued)

7. Blueprint of pump & heater pipe connections.
8. Blueprint of underground connections to bottom of tank drum.
9. Blueprint of 6" ash ejector and 4" soot system.
10. Blueprint detail of connections for bridge and down-shop wires on the "S" crane.

Correspondence Folder:

Correspondence between Robson Leather Co. Ltd. and the Registrar-General re: birth certificates of Charles Norman Robson and Edward William Robson. 1944.

LEGAL:

Vol. 7 Legal Documents:

Partnership agreement between J.P. Lauchland and F.W. Robson.  
Oct. 20, 1892.

Statement of Affairs from Freshfields, Leese and Munns, (London, Eng. Lawyers) re - Henry Boston & Sons Ltd.  
Aug. 19, 1926.

Correspondence from Freshfields, Leese and Munns re Henry Boston & Sons Ltd.,  
dated Nov. & Dec., 1926.

Map of the township of East Whitby, Plan showing area between base line and lake Ontario.

Blank sheet: Affidavit, Land Transfer Tax Act.  
1921-1922.

Robson leather Co. deed of land.  
Aug. 12, 1920.

Indenture between the Robson Leather Co. Ltd. and the Board of Water Commissioners of the town of Oshawa. Nov. 12, 1920.

Indenture between the A.S. Whiting Manufacturing Co. Ltd. and James Robson.  
Dec. 2, 1898.

Vol. 7      Legal Documents (continued)

Indenture between George William McLaughlin, Annie & Adelaide McLaughlin and Chales Robson.  
July 3, 1920

Identure between the Robson Leather Co. Ltd. and Charlotte A. Mothersill.  
Oct. 8, 1915.

Deed of land: J. Richardson to the Robson Leather Co. Ltd. July 21, 1920.

Deed of land: G.D. Conant et ux to the Robson Leather Co. Ltd.  
Dec. 7, 1932.

Deed of land: C.N. Robson et al to the Robson Leather Co. Ltd.  
Nov. 9, 1915.

Deed of land: C.N. Robson and Frank W. Robson to the Robson Leather Co. Ltd.  
Nov. 4, 1907

Deed of land: James Robson to C.N. Robson & F.W. Robson.  
Sept. 14, 1904.

Deed of land: James Robson et ux to "Robson & Sons".  
Feb. 14, 1901

Two abstracts of Titles from the Registry office.  
Dec. 15, 1932 and Jan. 11, 1933.

Two looseleaf sheets, with scribbling on them.

Plan of part of Lot C-16; sheet # 30 Municipal Plan of the City of Oshawa.

Receipt for \$99.45 from the "Equitable Life Assurance Society".  
Mar. 12, 1899.

- FINANCIAL -

Vol. 8      Cash Books:

Cash Book -1-  
Oct. 18, 1889- June 7, 1892

Cash Book -2-  
Oct. 22, 1892 - June 30, 1899

Vol. 8      Cash Books: (continued)

Cash Book -3-  
Sept. 1, 1899 - Oct. 27, 1905

Vol. 9      Cash Book -4-  
Aug. 1, 1905 - Oct. 31, 1907

Cash Book -5-  
Aug. 2, 1909 - July 30, 1912

Vol. 10     Cash Book -6-  
Aug. 1, 1912 - July 31, 1915.

Cash Book -7-  
Aug. 1, 1918 - Dec. 31, 1919

Vol. 11     Paid-Up Accounts:

Paid-up account Book.  
Jan. 14, 1918 - Dec. 10, 1925

Bank Pass Books:

The Dominion Bank in account with the Robson Leather Co. Ltd.

- Aug. 1, 1873 - June 29, 1878

- July 1, 1878 - Nov. 20, 1882

- Dec. 1, 1882 - June 29, 1887

- July 1, 1887 - Aug. 12, 1893

- Dec. 3, 1881 - June 1, 1887

- Aug. 1, 1887 - Apr. 1, 1895

- May 1, 1895 - June 24, 1903

- Feb. 1, 1907 - Dec. 1, 1908

- Sept. 2, 1912 - Apr. 30, 1919

- May 1, 1919 - Jan. 31, 1925

- Feb. 2, 1925 - Oct. 8, 1930

- Oct. 9, 1930 - Oct. 2, 1933

Vol. 12     - July 3, 1917 - July 17, 1920.

- July 17, 1920 - Feb. 17, 1923



Vol. 12 Bank Pass Books: (continued)

- Feb. 17, 1923 - June 24, 1925
- June 24, 1925 - Aug. 2, 1927
- Aug. 2, 1927 - Aug. 21, 1929
- Aug. 22, 1929 - July 28, 1931
- July 27, 1931 - Aug. 10, 1933
- Aug. 10, 1933 - Oct. 2, 1933

- Bank Books:
1. The Royal Bank of Canada. Bank Book, Green Cover.
  2. The Royal Bank of Canada, Bank Book, Red Cover.  
July 21, 1922 - May 7, 1926.

Vol. 13 Cheque Stub Books:

1. Cheque stub book # 1  
Aug. 7, 1918 - Apr. 15, 1919
2. Cheque stub book # 2  
May 23, 1919 - Dec. 13, 1919

Bills Payable Books:

The Robson Leather Co. Ltd.  
Bills Payable Books.

1. Aug. 5, 1915 - July 20, 1920
2. Aug. 2, 1920 - May 31, 1924
3. Mar. 2, 1928 - Nov. 13, 1950

Bills Receivable Books:

James Robson & Sons Bills Receivable Books.

1. June 30, 1903 - Dec. 31, 1903
2. Aug. 7, 1901 - June 29, 1903
3. Apr. 9, 1937 - Apr. 30, 1937

Trial Balance Books:

Trial Balance Books

1. Aug. 31, 1907 - July 31, 1909
2. Sept. 30, 1909 - Dec. 31, 1917.

## - MARKETING -

Vol. 14 Purchase Book: James Robson & Sons Purchase Book.  
Feb. 7, 1901 - Nov. 14, 1905

Order Book: Order Book.  
Feb. 15, 1901 - Jan. 4, 1904  
Aug. 1, 1911 - Nov. 30, 1911

Consignment Books:

Lauchland & Robson Consignment Book re: Mr. T. Ecroyd  
and W.C. Henderson & Co.  
July 5, 1893-July 10, 1899

James Robson & Sons Consignment Book re:

- M.M. Lynch  
July 3, 1905 - May 21, 1908
- Smith, Baggs & Heaven  
June 31, 1906 - Sept. 21, 1906
- Laniel & Co.  
Dec. 19, 1906 - Jan. 9, 1907
- Wallace & Henderson & Co.  
Mar. 5, 1903 - Aug. 28, 1904

Vol. 15 Sales Book: Sales Book  
Aug. 31, 1899 - Jan. 6, 1904

Invoice Books:

Invoice Book -1- ( Mostly business letters)  
Aug. 28, 1899 - Apr. 21, 1902

Invoice Book -2-  
Apr. 22, 1902 - May 2, 1903

Vol. 16 Invoice Book -3-  
May 4, 1903 - Feb. 24, 1904

Invoice Book -4-  
Feb. 25, 1904 - May 30, 1908

Vol. 17 Invoice Book -5-  
June 2, 1908 - Dec. 31, 1923



## - SUBSIDIARIES -

Vol. 21 Mercury Air Services Ltd.:

- Folder # 1 - Arrears for annual returns & filing fees.
- Correspondence with the Inspector of Income Tax.  
Feb. 28, 1941 - May 21, 1941
- Folder # 2 - Income Tax forms, 1942-1943
- Annual Summary, Oct. 17, 1944
- Correspondence re Mercury Air Services Ltd. being in default in submitting the summary, under section 121 of the Companies Act, 1934.
- Balance Sheet for Mercury Air Services Ltd.
- Correspondence with the Inspector of Income Tax, 1942-1944.
- Folder # 3 - Two bank statements (1943, 1944) from the Imperial Bank of Canada
- Two unused envelopes for the Mercury Air Services Ltd.
- Three cheques made out to "Muskoka Air Trails Co." for rent of hanger.
- Several bills from the "Muskoka Air Trails Co. re payment of rent for hanger. 1943-1945.
- Folder # 4 - Annual Summary, Aug. 23, 1948
- Balance Sheet, Mar. 31, 1948; Dec. 31, 1945; Dec. 31, 1944.
- Several sheets concerning Minutes of Meetings.
- Income Tax forms. Dec. 31, 1944; Mar. 31, 1948.
- Trial Balance Sheet.
- Correspondence with the Inspector of Income Tax and the Treasury Dept. 1944-48.
- Folder # 5 - Letter from the Toronto Harbour Commission, Feb. 4, 1947.
- Income Tax Form, Dec. 31, 1948.
- Correspondence with the Imperial Bank of Canada; the Inspector of Income Tax; and the Dept. of National Revenue.
- Companies Information Act. Oct. 4, 1944; May 31, 1945; July 10, 1946, Nov. 12, 1947; June 1948.

Vol. 21 Mercury Air Services Ltd; (continued)

- Folder # 5 - Corporations Tax Act. Dec. 31, 1947.  
 - Income and Excess Profits Tax -  
 Dec. 31, 1947; June 29, 1948; Apr. 23, 1942;  
 June 28, 1943; Aug. 30, 1944, Jan. 25, 1945;  
 June 28, 1946; Dec. 31, 1946.  
 - Annual Summary, June 16, 1941; June 10,  
 1943; July 10, 1946; Oct. 30, 1947.  
 - Notice of Assessment for the Fiscal  
 Year ending Dec. 31, 1940.  
 - Security Transfer Tax. Aug. 30, 1944;  
 May 30, 1945.  
 - Balance Sheet, Apr. 16, 1943

Cluaran Farms: Folder # 1 - Cluaran Farms stationary  
 - Pedigree and Family Detail blank form for  
 horses.

- Folder # 2 - Pedigree & Family Detail for a horse  
 called "Bullcold". Also a family des-  
 cription of the horse's blood line.  
 - Pedigree & Family Detail forms for a  
 horse called "Amber Glow". Also a family  
 description of the horses' blood line.  
 - Family Detail form for a horse called  
 "Bright Jewel"

## - MISCELLANEOUS -

- Vol. 22 Sundry Items: - The issue of the "Northern Advance"  
 dated Feb. 24, 1927 and the early days of  
 Clarke & Clarke, dated Mar. 21, 1967 are inside  
 an envelope.
- Pamphlets & Brochures 1) Leather (Two volumes,  
 Identical).  
 2) A Picture Book of leather.  
 3) Leather in our lives (1)  
 4) Leather in our lives (11)  
 5) The Romance of Leather (1)  
 6) The Romance of Leather (11)  
 7) Leather-Centenary Year.  
 8) Robson leathers - A sketch.  
 9) Judy Awards Contest, 1966.  
 10) Telegraphic Suggestions.  
 11) History of Business Firms  
 established in Oshawa Fifty  
 Years or longer.
- Card announcing the death of George Marshall Jacobs.  
 Jan. 6, 1961.

Vol. 22 Sundry Items: (continued)

- Letterhead "The Robson Leather Co. Ltd." dated, Sept. 13, 1913.
- Brochure showing the Time differences between Canada and other parts of the World.
- Correspondence between Robson-Lang Leather Ltd. and F.J. Mitchell, advertising rep. of the "Oshawa Times" re: congratulatory message to Col. R.S. McLaughlin.
- One sheet of stationary - Jas. Robson & Sons.
- Information concerning the legend of S.S. Crispin & Crispianus.
- Information regarding full-time course in Shoe Design at the Northampton College of Technology; England.
- Envelope & writing paper with "Robson leather Co. Ltd." 1962.
- Another envelope and writing paper with "Robson Leather Co. Ltd.", circa 1962.
- Three sheets of paper with information describing various finished leather weights.

## Vol. 22

- Partnership formed between C.N. Robson and W.N. Miller for the purpose of prospecting for minerals in Canada, 1942.

Newspaper Clippings:

- Full page layout of the Robson Leather Co. Ltd. in the "Courrier - Advocate", 1949.
- Full page covering The Robson Leather Co. Ltd. in the "Times - Gazette" Sat. Apr. 17, 1943.
- Newspaper stories and editorials:
  - 1) Firm Defends Pension Plan. Aug. 29, 1962.
  - 2) Robson Leather Started in 1865.
  - 3) Robson Leather Co. dates back to 1830.
  - 4) Largest Tannery Complex has Headquarters in City.
  - 5) Mr. Robson Meets Old Prize Fighter. Sept. 11, 1968.
  - 6) Local Firm Expands Interests. Jan. 31, 1964.
  - 7) Oshawa firm buys Murray-Selby, Lang Tanneries Jan. 31, 1964.
  - 8) Dr. D.S. Hoig Pays Tribute to Late C. Robson. Mar. 1934.
  - 9) Oshawa Mourns Death of Charles N. Robson.

Vol. 22 Newspaper Clippings (continued)

- 10) Death of Chas. Robson
  - 11) Robson-Lang Ends Effluent Switch. Apr. 30, 1973.
  - 12) Firms Join Forces to Cut Environmental Pollution, 1973.
  - 13) Tanneries Were Prominent as Early Oshawa Industries, 1956.
  - 14) Prestige Packs Punch of leather. May 11, 1968.
  - 15) Oshawa Rich in Industries, Feb. 10, 1966.
  - 16) Citizens Who Work without Thinking of Personal Gain, 1930.
  - 17) Once over lightly, Aug. 6, 1962.
  - 18) Ask Planners for Bridge across Creek, Jan. 14, 1952.
  - 19) One of the Oldest Industries in Canada. Apr. 14, 1973.
  - 20) Chief officers of Four Canadian Industry Associations. Oct. 8, 1954.
  - 21) Fashions "My Fair Lady" Makes Debut in Montreal. Sept. 5, 1956.
- Full page layout of the Robson Leather Co. in the "Oshawa Daily Reformer". June 30, 1927.
  - Advertisement in "The Financial Post " Oct. 31, 1964.
  - Xerox copies of several newspaper clippings.
    - 1) Four Year Disposal Program Finalized by Robson-Lang May 2, 1973.
    - 2) Leather Science and Technology.
    - 3) Tanneries were Prominent as Early Oshawa Industries June 2, 1956.
  - Advertisement in the "Oshawa-Times", Congratulating & sending out best wishes on Col. R.S. McLaughlin Centennial Anniversary, Sept. 8, 1971.
  - Two copies of an article on the Robson Leather Co. Ltd. appearing in the June 30, 1927 issue of the "Oshawa Daily Reformer".
  - Note from the "Oshawa Vindicator" on the death of James Robson. Sept. 1, 1905
- Print of Oshawa factory.

American Steam Conveyor Corp:

- Proposal with specifications for soot conveyor equipment, dated Nov. 7, 1917 (Plus one duplicate file).
- Proposal with specifications for ash conveyor equipment, dated Nov. 7, 1917, (Plus one duplicate file).

- Proposal with specifications for ash conveyor equipment, dated Sept. 27, 1918.
- One empty envelope from the American Steam Conveyor Corp.

TRANSFERRED ITEMS: MAP DIVISION

- 10 plans Robson Leather Company plant: F/450 Oshawa
- 1 plan of subdivision, Cedardale, Township of East Whitby, 19\_\_ . F/450 Cedardale
- 1 map of City of Oshawa, 1929. F/440 Oshawa.

: PICTURE DIVISION

- Several pictures of a display booth at an Exhibition showing leather products. Also photographs of the plant at Oshawa. Picture Division ref. no. 1974-277.