

**Fonds:** Gladys Birkland fonds

**Reference code:** F 21

**Dates of creation:** 1936-[Photocopied 2024] ; predominant 1936-1940

**Physical description:**

1 centimetre of textual records  
3 postcards (2 color, 1 sepia)  
2 photographs : black and white prints  
1 artifact : bookmark

**Scope and content:**

Fonds consists of records accumulated by Gladys (Jensen) Birkland.

Textual records include letters and postcards to Gladys (Jensen) Birkland from L.M. Montgomery.

Photographs consist of copies of images of Gladys (Jensen) Birkland.

Artifact consists of a souvenir bookmark made of leather, in the shape of a maple leaf with "Green Gables, PEI, Canada" written on it.

**Access restrictions:**

No restrictions on access.

**Terms Governing Use:**

To find out more about the copyright status of the particular material you wish to use, consult the University Archivist.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:**

The records were inherited and were in the possession of Gladys (Jensen) Birkland's daughter Carol Birkland prior to donation to Robertson Library in 2025.

**Associated Material:**

- Penzie Macneill fonds, F 4
- L.M. Montgomery, F 6
- Ryrie-Campbell collection, C 11

**Related Material:**

*The University of Guelph Archives and Special Collections:*

- [L.M. Montgomery fonds](#), CA F605
- [L.M. Montgomery Collection](#), CA F608

*Library and Archives Canada:*

- [Lucy Maud Montgomery collection \[textual record\]](#)
- [\[Ronald I. Cohen collection of works by L.M. Montgomery\]](#)

**Accruals:**

Further accruals are not expected.

**Former codes:**

UASC2024-007

**How to:**

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.

**Finding Aid:**

File list available.

**Authority Record:**

*Person:*

Birkland, Gladys

*Biography:*

Gladys Evelyn (Jensen) Birkland was born in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota on November 15, 1918, to James Gould Jensen and Randina (Rockne) Jensen. She attended Central High School in St. Paul, Minnesota, where one of her underclassmen was American cartoonist Charles Schultz. While in high school she took art training. Birkland was 17 years old and taking a leave of absence for illness from high school in 1935 when she started writing to L.M. Montgomery, who was encouraging of her artwork.

Gladys worked as a fashion illustrator for Dayton's Department Store and designed greeting cards for the Buzza Company, both located in Minneapolis. On November 14, 1942, Gladys married John Arden Birkland. They had one child, Carol.

She was also employed by Archeologist, Dr. Erich F. Schmidt of the University of Chicago in the mid-1940s, to illustrate potsherds he brought back from the ruins of Persepolis in Persia. She worked here until her husband John returned from the war

The Birkland family lived in St. Paul, Twin Cities, Montevideo, and Lakefield, Minnesota, Gladys died on January 20, 2007, in Lakefield, and is buried in Lakefield Cemetery, Minnesota.