

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

## Cape Split Development Company fonds

Accession 1989.001-CSD



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**Cape Split Development Company fonds. – [textual records, graphic images, technical drawings]. – 1915-1957. – 8 cm of textual material. – 8 photographs : b&w ; 25 x 30 cm or smaller. – 8 pictures : b&w ; 13 x 14 cm or smaller. – 2 technical drawings : blueprints : 58 x 75 cm**

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**1989.001-CSD/1**

**Correspondence and shareholder lists. – 1917–1957. – 0.05 cm of textual records**

Series contains correspondence and lists of shareholders. The correspondence is related to report results, a report to shareholders, and a number of letters between former company Secretary W. L. Archibald and Morley Taylor of the Nova Scotia Power Commission at the time that Archibald was turning over the Cape Split Development Company records to NSPC.

**File List**

**1989.001-CSD/1/1 [Correspondence.](#) – 1917 and 1929. – 7 pp. of textual records**

File contains two letters. One is a copy of a letter sent to Archibald from Clarkson, with a copy of the Charles Allen report, outlining the essential results of that report. The other is a letter to the former shareholders of the Cape Split Development Company, written by Archibald, that outlines the reasons behind the company's failure, gives details about the sale of the Cape Split property to the Minas Basin Pulp and Paper Company, and provides a statement of the disposal of the proceeds from that sale.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file.

**1989.001-CSD/1/2 [Correspondence.](#) – 1955-1957. – 26 pp. of textual records**

File contains correspondence between W. L. Archibald, former Secretary of the Cape Split Development Co., and Morley Taylor, Manager of the Nova Scotia Power Commission. The letters all relate to the transfer of Cape Split Development Company documentation to the Nova Scotia Power Commission that occurred at a time when the NSPC was interested in reviving the power project at Cape Split.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file.

**1989.001-CSD/1/3 [List of shareholders.](#) – [191-]. – 4 pp. of textual records**

File contains two lists that name the preferred shareholders and the ordinary shareholders, and the number of shares owned by each.

**1989.001-CSD/2**

**Reports. – 1915-1917. – 4 cm of textual records**

Series contains reports written by or for the Cape Split Development Company that comment on the feasibility of the power station development project.

**File List**

**1989.001-CSD/2/1 [A Report on a 10,000 Horsepower Tidal Power Station and Hydroelectric Development at Cape Split, Nova Scotia with maps and photos in back.](#) – 1915. – 1 volume of textual records**

Item is a bound notebook that outlines general considerations, the proposed scheme for tidal development, cost estimates, and an estimated return on investment. Included in the appendix are data pertaining to the cost of development, operating costs, transmission lines, rates for power, and submarine transmissions. The last section, entitled miscellaneous data includes correspondence between Professor Clarkson and the Holyoke Machine Co., as well as the Worchester Polytechnic Institute, a blueprint of the proposed transmission lines, a special report on ice conditions, a list of prominent

stockholders, a blueprint of rock elevations at Cape Split, three photographs of Cape Split, and other material.

Note: Title taken from item

**1989.001-CSD/2/2 A Report on a 10,000 Horsepower Tidal Power Station and Hydroelectric Development at Cape Split, Nova Scotia. – 1915. – 1 volume of textual records**

Item is a bound notebook that outlines general considerations, the proposed scheme for tidal development, cost estimates, and an estimated return on investment. Included in the appendix is data pertaining to the cost of development, operating costs, transmission lines, rates for power, and submarine transmissions. The last section, entitled miscellaneous data includes correspondence between Professor Clarkson and the Holyoke Machine Co., as well as the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, blueprints of the proposed plant layout and rock elevations at Cape Split, pictures of the forebay and penstocks of an unspecified power plant, a picture of the desired transmission lines, a blank share subscription agreement, and the charter of Bay of Fundy Tide Power, Ltd.

Note: Title taken from item

**1989.001-CSD/2/3 Bogart and Pohl reports. – 1917. – 16 pp. of textual records**

File contains the original report of consulting engineers Bogart and Pohl, as well as two typed copies. This report assesses the possibility of developing power and electric current at Cape Split by studying market conditions in the area, the physical conditions at Cape Split, and the effectiveness of the Clarkson Current Motor.

Note: Supplied title based on content of file.

**1989.001-CSD/2/4 Charles M. Allen reports. – 1917. – 12 pp. of textual records**

File contains the original report of Charles Allen, consulting engineer, on the Clarkson Current Motor, which contains a description of the apparatus used, the test results, Allen's conclusion, and the test result blueprints. File also contains two typed copies of this report.

Note: Supplied title based on content of file.

**1989.001-CSD/2/5 Report of the Managing Director. – 1917. – 16 pp. of textual records**

File contains two copies of a progress report, written by R. P. Clarkson, giving an account of the Cape Split Development Company's progress in fulfilling its purposes and goals.

**1989.001-CSD/2/6 The Cape Split Power Project. – [191-]. – 5 pp. of textual records**

File contains a report to the shareholders in the Cape Split Development Company on the state of company affairs.

Note: No date or signature is attached to this record.

**1989.001-CSD/3**

**Legal Documents. – 1916 - 1957. – 2 cm of textual records**

Series contains legal documents (e.g. indentures, deeds) created by the Cape Split Development Company and/or the International Stream Flow Turbine Company.

- 1989.001-CSD/3/1** [Articles of Association.](#) – 1916. – 1 volume of textual records  
Item is a booklet that outlines the legal limitations and business transactions for a shareholding company. Included are the signatures of three shareholders in the International Stream Flow Turbine Company, of whom each owned one common share.
- 1989.001-CSD/3/2** [George B. Cutten and Cape Split Development Company Limited agreement.](#) – 1916. – 3 pp. of textual records  
Item is a signed agreement giving the Cape Split Development Company the right to use the Clarkson Current Motor.
- 1989.001-CSD/3/3** [Cape Split Development Company Limited and International Stream Flow Turbine Company Limited agreement.](#) – 1917. – 5 pp. of textual records  
Item is a signed agreement giving the Cape Split Development Company the right to use the Clarkson Current Motor in the Maritimes.
- 1989.001-CSD/3/4** [Patent Assignments – Canada.](#) – 1917. – 1 cm. of textual records  
File contains two copies of the assignment of the patent for Clarkson's Current Motor to the International Stream Flow Turbine Company, and two receipts from the Patent Office.
- 1989.001-CSD/3/5** [Cape Split Development Company Limited to William L. Archibald, deed.](#) – 1928. – 5 pp. of textual records  
Item is a signed document transferring the right to produce power on the Cape Split property from the Cape Split Development Company to William L. Archibald.
- 1989.001-CSD/3/6** [William L. Archibald to Nova Scotia Power Commission, deed.](#) – 1957. – 5 pp. of textual records  
Item is a signed deed stating that the right retained by Archibald to pursue all hydropower projects on the Cape Split property had been transferred to the Nova Scotia Power Commission.

**1989.001-CSD/4**  
**Graphic material and technical drawings.** – [191-] – 1955. – 8 photographs : b&w ; 25 x 30 cm or smaller. – 8 pictures : b&w ; 13 x 14 cm or smaller. – 2 technical drawings : blueprints ; 58 x 75 cm  
Series contains photographs and visual images used by the Cape Split Development Company in its promotional material. In a letter dated 3 October 1942, from Archibald to Professor W. Abell of Acadia University, Archibald states that the photographs were "taken by Hardy of Kentville", although it is not certain to which of the photos he was referring (see accession file for this letter). Series also contains technical drawings.

#### File List

- 1989.001-CSD/4/1** [Promotional pictures.](#) – 1955. – 8 pictures : b&w ; 13 x 14 cm or smaller  
File contains reproductions of the pictures used in a printed prospectus, stating the page numbers and directions for the use of each picture. These pictures include: two of the Cape Split cliffs, two of the Vancouver Power Company's Lake Buntzen No.2 Plant, one of the proposed pumping station, one of the proposed transmission towers, a map of Nova Scotia and a map of the Bay of Fundy

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file.

**1989.001-CSD/4/2**    [Cape Split proposed pumping station.](#) – [191-]. – 3 photographs :  
b&w ; 16 x 20 cm

File contains three identical photographs of an artist's conception of the proposed pumping stations to be built at Cape Split. One is annotated, recto, "proposed changes in first unit". A second is annotated, verso, in pencil and ink, with instructions for the engravers.

**Note:** The first photograph is torn almost completely in two, horizontally.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file

**1989.001-CSD/4/3**    [Cape Split – double cliff.](#) – [191-]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 15 x 20 cm  
on mount 25 x 30 cm

Item is a photograph of Cape Split.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file

**1989.001-CSD/4/4**    [Cape Split – single cliff.](#) – [191-]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 16 x 21 cm  
on mount 24 x 29 cm

Item is a photograph of the highest cliff at the Cape Split. Photograph is covered with annotations, recto, in ink.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file

**1989.001-CSD/4/5**    [Cape Split with measurements.](#) – [191?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 16 x  
21 cm

Item is a photograph of the Cape Split property. It is annotated, recto, in ink with the measurements of the cliffs and water levels and annotated, verso, in ink: "photo 3".

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file

**1989.001-CSD/4/6**    [Cape Split proposed site.](#) – [191?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 15 x 20  
cm

Item is a photograph of Cape Split. There are annotations, verso, in pencil, that give instructions to the engravers.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file.

**1989.001-CSD/4/7**    [Cape Split boat landing.](#) – [191?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 15 x 20 cm

Item is a photograph of the boat landing and bathing area at Cape Split. Photo is annotated, recto, in ink: "Boat landing & bathing beach protected by Little Split – good chance here for road up mountain side. Hight (sic) at top 360 ft approximately at this point. To the eastward further it is 550 ft high". There are many annotations, verso, in pencil and ink, that give instructions to the engravers.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file.

**1989.001-CSD/4/8**    [Blueprints of the Bay of Fundy ice flow.](#) – [191?]. – 2 technical  
drawings : blueprints ; 58 x 75 cm

File contains two copies of a blueprint illustrating the direction of the ice flow in the Bay of Fundy.

**Note:** Supplied title based on content of file

**1989.001-CSD/5**

**Publications. – 1916-1921. – 1 cm of textual records**

Series contains publications used or created by the Cape Split Development Company, or individuals within that company.

**File List**

**1989.001-CSD/5/1**    [Department of Trade and Commerce Weekly Bulletin.](#) – 1921. – 1 volume of textual records

Item is a published booklet containing an update on economic and commercial events in the British Commonwealth. A notation is made to a particular article that deals with a proposed power scheme in the west of England, with additional notations made by Walcott and addressed to Cutten.

**1989.001-CSD/5/2**    [Harnessing the tides of the Bay of Fundy.](#) – 1918. – 3 pp. of textual records

File contains two copies of an article written by Principal W. L. Archibald which was originally an address to the Manufacturer's Association, in which he outlines the plan to use the Bay of Fundy as a source of hydropower. He outlines the commercial and financial benefits of the policy to be pursued, as well as describing the progress already made, and calling for the Manufacturer's Association to support the project. Attached to one copy is a resolution of the Maritime Branch of the Manufacturers Association of Canada to support the Cape Split scheme.

**Note:** The copy with the attached resolution is fragile. Handle with care.

**Note:** There was another article by the same author with the same title published in the November 1918 edition of *The Busy East*.

**1989.001-CSD/5/3**    [Concerning the proposed hydroelectric power development at Cape Split, Nova Scotia.](#) – 1916. – 2 volumes of textual records

File contains two copies of a published circular given to prospective shareholders. Circular gives an account of the goals of the Cape Split Development Company, an explanation of the proposed development, estimated costs, a list of company officers, and a share subscription agreement. One copy also contains a list of prominent shareholders.

**Administrative History**

The Cape Split Development Company was created in 1916 with a four-fold purpose: to examine the economic viability of the development of a hydroelectric power plant at Cape Split; to obtain an engineer's report; to carry out experimental work; and to raise the capital necessary to complete the project. After raising its initial capital by selling shares, the company hired the services of the New York consulting engineers Bogart and Pohl, whose report emphasized the growing need for hydroelectric power in the Maritimes and the suitability of the Cape Split site for the generation of said hydroelectric power. Also hired was the consulting engineer Charles M. Allen, who conducted experiments on the efficiency of the Clarkson Current Motor prototype, which the company hoped to use, and gave an extremely favorable report. All was ready for the beginning of construction at the Cape Split site, except for the necessary capital. Unfortunately, the initial \$31,000 raised through the selling of shares was the sum total of all of the company's

capital, so the project fell through. In 1928, the property was sold to Minas Basin Pulp and Paper, although the right to develop power on the property was retained by the company. This right was deeded to the Nova Scotia Power Commission in 1957.

There is a very close connection between the Cape Split Development Company and Acadia University. George B. Cutten served as the President of both institutions, while the Vice-President and Managing Director of the Cape Split Development Company, Ralph P. Clarkson, was an Acadia University professor of engineering. The Clarkson Current Motor, which the company hoped to use, was his invention. Finally, the Secretary of the company was William Laird Archibald, Principal of the Acadia Collegiate and Business Academy.

### Custodial History

After the Cape Split Development Company became defunct all company documents were left in the care of William L. Archibald, the company Secretary. In 1942, he sent some of the records to Professor W. Abell of Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S. – the printed prospectus from which the shares were sold, a black covered book with engineering data, a progress report from August 1917, an article written by Archibald and published in *Industrial Canada*, the final 1929 letter to the shareholders, and “other material”. Archibald instructed that these records were to be placed with the Acadia University Library when Abell was finished using them. The date when this actually occurred has not been determined.

In 1955, Morley Taylor of the Nova Scotia Power Commission expressed an interest in studying the company documentation with a view to reviving the project. Archibald had retained some documentation in his home and sent this to Taylor. There were twelve items: a deed; a copy of his article; two legal agreements; patent assignments; four photographs; a blueprint; a booklet; a copy of the final letter, 1929, to the shareholders; a copy of the engineering report; and two lists of company shareholders. At this time, Archibald also instructed the Acadia University Library to allow Taylor to remove the documentation that it held, with the promise that it would be returned at a later date. After analyzing the project, NSPC decided that it was not feasible; however, Taylor wished to keep the documentation in case circumstances changed. Archibald agreed to this on 24 July 1956. In February 1957, Archibald sent Taylor the deed to the property along with still further documentation that he had not yet sent and on 4 March 1957, the rights inherent in the deed were legally transferred to NSPC.

For the next thirty-years, the records were kept by various officials of the Nova Scotia Power Commission. They – both those that had been removed from the Acadia University Library in 1955 and the additional ones that Archibald had sent to Taylor - were finally all sent to the University Archives on 10 July 1989, by G. C. Baker of the NSPC. When returned, the NSPC did not include any records it created during the time it was restudying the project.

### Scope and Content

Fonds consists of records created by the Cape Split Development Company beginning in the 1910s and continuing until the 1950s when the Company turned over its rights to produce hydroelectric power at the Cape Split site to the Nova Scotia Power Commission. At this time, the Company also turned over its records to Morley Taylor, Manager of NSPC.

The records of this fonds extend from 1915, just prior to the legal existence of the Cape Split Development Company, to the time of the acquisition of its rights by the Nova Scotia Power Commission in 1957. They have been divided into five series:

1. Correspondence and Shareholder Lists
2. Reports
3. Legal Documents
4. Graphic Material and Technical Drawings
5. Publications

### Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds.

See accession file for the correspondence related to the custodial history

Digital reproductions of records available

Records subject to the Copyright Act. Written permission from the Copyright holder is required in order to publish any of these records.

See also the Alexander Moir fonds (accession 1976.001) and the Ralph P. Clarkson fonds (accession 1900.004) for related records.

See also George Barton Cutten (accession 1900.010, box 1) for a memoir, written by Dr. Cutten's son, William F. Cutten in 1981, which includes a brief description of G.B. Cutten's involvement with the Cape Split Development Company, the tides, generators, Cutten scaling cliffs to install machinery, machinery being so light that tides swept it away. Mentions that because Henry Ford would not put money into the company, it fell. Also mentions that \$150,000 had been collected around the province for the project

See also the Acadia Bulletin, Fall 1976, Summer 1977, Fall 1979, and Winter 1984 (best source) for articles about Fundy tidal power

For reasons of historic authenticity, all file titles provided by the author and captions provided by the photographer are transcribed unedited. The spelling of both peoples' and places' names has changed with time, so inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the titles are unavoidable. Files and captions may also contain inaccuracies or terms that would now be considered offensive.

### Citation Information:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

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## Access Points

Cape Split Development Company  
Nova Scotia Power Commission  
Archibald, William Laird  
Clarkson, Ralph P.  
Cutten, George Barton

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