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Dear Jonathan Gorman,

Thank you for your recent email to the Hudson's Bay Company Archives (HBCA) in which you asked about photographs, diaries and other records related to your ancestor, William Crawford Rackham, who worked for the HBC in the early 1900s.

The records, as you mentioned, are only available in their original form which makes it a bit challenging to conduct research from a distance; however, I've attached two documents – one is a short description of a diary of William's and the other is an index for the 222 photos found in three separate albums. All of these records are actually held by the Private Records division of the Archives of Manitoba (which is a separate division from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives) but my colleagues in Private Records graciously provided the attached lists for me to send to you.

In addition to the above records, the Hudson's Bay Company Archives has one diary of William Rackham's (location code E.392). A description of the diary is as follows:

The diary consists of daily entries written by William Crawford Rackham from September 1910 through July 1917. The front fly leaf reads, "Diary, Wm. C. Rackham, Hudson's Bay Co. Edmonton, Volume 1." The volume describes primarily his work for the Hudson's Bay Company as an accountant and inspecting clerk and an inspecting officer for the Athabasca (1911-1914) and Keewatin (1914-1918) districts. Entries include information about weather, travel routes, accommodations, people encountered and post conditions, with reference to reports produced as a result of the inspections. The diary also describes personal and leisure activities while on inspection tours. The volume contains two maps drawn by Rackham. One is entitled "Rough Map of South Shore of Lake Athabasca from mouth of Athabasca River to Fond du Lac" (opposite April 22, 1911 entry). The other illustrates his description of rafting planks on the Peace River at the Chutes (following July 6, 1911 entry).

The HBCA also has a photo album of William's that was sent to a man named J.G.M. Christie (who likely travelled with him while working in the Fur Trade Department). I have attached a description and index for the album.

Hopefully the index and descriptions will give you a better idea of the scope of the records. Once you've reviewed them, if you have additional questions or would like to ask about specific records, don't hesitate to get in touch with me and we can discuss other options, such as ordering photographic reproductions of some of the material.

I hope you will find this information helpful and we thank you for your interest in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Best regards,

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