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PAUL OSCAR ESTERHAZY

BY MARK VAJCNER

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Biographical Sketch:

Paul Oscar Esterhazy, an immigration agent, was also founder of the Esterhaz Colony, the first Hungarian settlement in Saskatchewan. Esterhazy was born Johannes Packh in Esztergom, Hungary in 1831. He left Hungary after the failed war for independence of 1848-49, in which he served as a rebel soldier; during the following decade, Packh served in the British army. He adopted the Esterhazy name about 1867 when obtaining an Austrian passport in Munich. His reasons for adopting the name are unknown, and while he never concealed or changed any details of his past he steadfastly maintained his claim of relationship to the Esterhazy family, one of the wealthiest and most prominent in Hungary. By 1868 he was residing in New York City under the name of Paul Oscar Esterhazy; his name often appears with the title "Count" before it.

Esterhazy took a keen interest in the fate of his fellow countrymen. In the late 19th century many immigrants from Hungary, ethnic Hungarians and Slovaks, migrated to the United States and found work in the coalmines of Pennsylvania. In 1885 and 1886 Esterhazy arranged the migration of a group from the United States, first to Manitoba and later to the Qu'Appelle Valley near what is today the town of Esterhazy. In 1888 a second group of peasants came directly from Hungary to the same district. Esterhazy continued to aid immigration from his homeland to western Canada, and remained keenly interested in the success of his colony for the remainder of his life.

Scope and Content: This collection consists of various scrapbooks and correspondence relating to Paul Esterhazy and his family, the material ranges in date from 1810 to 1934.

Custodial History: The records were transferred to the Archives and Special Collections from Anna Kovacs in 2005.

Legal Agreement: The legal agreement was signed on July 27, 2005.

Future Accruals: Future accruals are not expected.

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions in this collection.

- Box 1 Bound volume of Intimate Family Record of Paul Oscar d'Esterhazy II
- Box 2 Portfolio of Letters - My Parents II
 Scrapbook of Photographs
 Folder of genealogy and correspondence