

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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COLLECTION NUMBER: 2005-29

PAUL OSCAR ESTERHAZY

REVISED MAY 20, 2020 BY MICHELLE OLSON AND MARK VAJCNER

REVISED JUNE 20, 2019 BY MICHELLE OLSON AND ELIZABETH SEITZ

AUGUST, 2005 BY MARK VAJCNER

Biographical Sketch: Paul Oscar Esterhazy, an immigration agent, was also founder of the Esterhazy 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. No photograph index was created.

Note on Arrangement: In 2019 the bound volume of Intimate Family Record of Paul Oscar d'Esterhazy II was photographed digitally for preservation purposes and sectioned into acid-free file folders.

Custodial History: These records were transferred to Archives and Special Collections from Anna Kovacs in 2005. They were collected by her husband, Dr. Martin Kovacs a professor of history at the University of Regina. Dr. Kovacs wrote and edited numerous books and articles on early Hungarian settlement in the Canadian West. These records constituted some of his research.

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		Intimate Family Record of Paul Oscar d'Esterhazy II
	1	Bound Volume (Red) [Includes Oversize #1]
	2	Section 1 [Includes Post Cards]
	3	Section 2 – 1/2
	4	Section 2 – 2/2
	5	Section 3
	6	Section 4
	7	Section 5
	8	Section 6 [Includes Post Card]
	9	Section 7
	10	Section 8
	11	Section 9
	12	Section 10 [Includes Oversize Family Tree Chart]
	13	Section 11
	14	Oversize Certificate: "United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England", 1863
	15	Genealogy and Correspondence – 1/2
	16	Genealogy and Correspondence – 2/2
Box 2	17	Photographs and Negatives [Includes Photographs] [Includes Negatives]
	18	Portfolio of Letters – My Parents II
	19	Scrapbook of Photographs [Includes Photographs] [Includes Black and White Preservation Copy of Scrapbook Pages]