

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

Archives

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Finding Aid for the

Manuscripts and Photographs of

Robert G. Woodcock and Harold Woodcock, including information on Lumberman Robert B.  
Woodcock

Collection #009

September 2009 version

Abstract

The Manuscripts and Photographs of Robert G. Woodcock and Harold Woodcock (donors?) is a small collection of only two folders. The material primarily documents Harold's participation in World War I, as part of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army. Included is a brief history of The Thirty Second Division : American Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1919, distributed by the YMCA, as well as programs and color sketch maps. Also found are images of Harold Woodcock at Camp MacArthur in Waco, Texas. Items on the USS Virginia transport ship are included. Robert G. and Harold B. Woodcock were the sons of Robert B. Woodcock, a pioneer West Michigan lumberman. Robert B. Woodcock was a partner, superintendent and general manager of the Lewis H. Withey & Co., and one of the directors of the Michigan Trust Company. In addition, he was a member on the Board of Education, and was an Alderman for two terms in Grand Rapids. No documents from Robert B. are included in this collection. For more information on Robert G. Woodcock, see the biographical sketch prepared by the student processor, in the "Biography" section of this finding aid.

Collection #: Bruce Lee Siebers, 1986.

Accession #: 00.000

Donor: Unknown

Span dates: 1917-1919

Processor: Original processing, Bruce Lee Siebers, 1986; revised Jan. 16, 2002, and revisions for content Jan. 19, 2005, R. Mayne.

Inventory Sept. 1999, Andrea Stadt.

Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 25, 2000.

Size: Approx. .5 linear ft. ; (5.5 inches) including all collections in the box

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
	Box inventory 8/4/2009	

NOTE: Coll. 009 consists of 2 folders, and is boxed in the same box with collections #010, 011, 013, and 014, in one standard legal box. Coll. 012, previously included, now in its own box.

### Biography

Robert B. Woodcock was a pioneer West Michigan lumberman and one of the organizers and early directors of the Michigan Trust Company. He was a partner, superintendent and general manager in the lumbering business of the late Lewis H. Withey, and was the first president of the Michigan Trust Company.

Woodcock, son of Christmas Woodcock, was born in Yarmouth, England in March, 1838; died in Grand Rapids on October 6, 1898. His family emigrated to Oswego County, New York in the year 1845. He worked for a time as superintendent of construction upon the Erie Canal. In 1853 he came to Grand Rapids, and in 1855 went to the southern states, remaining there until the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, when he returned. He worked by the month for W. H. Withey for several years, and after his death purchased his stock of lumber. In 1867 he went into partnership with Lewis H. Withey in the lumber business, with an office in the rear of the National Hotel. In the same year they purchased the W. H. Withey sawmill, with 600 acres of timberland. In addition, they operated a water mill in Alpine and in 1861 bought a water mill on Canal Street. In 1882 he went out of active business; and devoted his attention to his work as one of the directors of the real estate interests of the Michigan Trust Company. The other directors were: Freeman Godfrey, John L. Shaw, William T. Powers, Adolph Leitelt, William Widdicomb, and James K. Johnston. In addition, he became involved in local politics. In 1871 he was a member on the Board of Education. In 1872 he was an alderman under Mayor Julius Houseman, and in 1876 he was an alderman under Mayor Peter R. L. Pierce.

His social connections were all with his family. Mrs. Anna Woodcock, his second wife, was known for her interest in the work of St. James Home, the Little Sisters of the Poor and St. Mary's and Butterworth Hospitals, and was active in St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish. Anna and Robert had two sons Robert G. and Harold B. Harold was a member of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I.

Bruce Lee Siebers

Scope and Content

Contains the manuscripts and photographs related to Harold Woodcock, and perhaps Robert G. Woodcock, in two folders. Basically, the collection covers a time span from 1917 to 1919.

The collection consists of two series, memorabilia and photographs. It is most valuable in tracing the history of the 32<sup>nd</sup> division of the A.E.F. during World War I, and in tracing the German line on the Western Front.

Series

**Series I. Memorabilia.**

Pamphlets, sketches, and a postcard (move in Folder 2 with other images & postcards) portraying the history of the Thirty Second Division of the American Expeditionary Forces, and the German line on the Western Front. No arrangement.

**Series II. Photographs & Postcards.**

Photographs pertaining to Harold Woodcock training with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Infantry Division at Camp MacArthur in 1917. No arrangement.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	<b>Series I. Memorabilia, 1917-1919. [1<sup>st</sup> inventory 1/19/2005</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chronological sketch of Robert Woodcock – [Note. This item is either missing, 1/19/2005, or has been misrepresented in the early finding aid as part of original collection documents, when it may actually be the compiled biography prepared by the staff member in the biography section of this finding aid.</li><li>• The Thirty Second Division : American Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1919. Publ. by the YMCA; Coblenz : Printed by Kindt &amp; Meinardus Nachf. P. Straub, n.d.</li><li>• USS Virginia. Transport Trip No. 4. May 7-May 21, 1919. [program?]</li><li>• Ambulance Company 125, Christmas Dinner, 1917</li><li>• The Bar-Red-Arrow (Bar Red Arrow) Printed by G-2-C 3<sup>rd</sup> Army. [flyer w maps]</li><li>• Sketch Showing points in German line which were pierced by the Red Arrow of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Printed by G-2-C 3<sup>rd</sup> Army</li></ul>
1	2	<b>Series II. Photographs &amp; postcards(8 items total 9/99)</b> <p>Snapshots</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Harold B. Woodcock on rear of Motorcycle, ca. 1917</li><li>2. Harold B. Woodcock, at right, ca. 1917</li><li>3. Harold B. Woodcock, at far right. Ca, 1917. Postcard format images.</li><li>4. Harold B. Woodcock, center of 3 men.</li><li>5. Amb. Co. No. 1. 3-30</li><li>6. [32<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Infantry Division Ambulance Co., possibly Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas] “Poe”</li><li>7. [USS Virginia] C.O. Waterman(?)</li><li>8. “Camp Scene” Camp Douglas, Wis. Published postcard with message, postal mark Sept. 15, 1917, Dubuque, Iowa.</li></ol>