

Finding aid for the Woodcock collection Collection 009

**manuscripts and photographs of Robert G.
Woodcock and Harold Woodcock, including
information on lumberman Robert B. Woodcock**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Woodcock collection
Date [inclusive]	1917-1919
Extent	0.5 Linear feet Two folders
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Manuscripts and Photographs of Robert G. Woodcock and Harold Woodcock is a small collection of only two folders. Robert G. and Harold B. Woodcock were the sons of Robert B. Woodcock, a pioneer West Michigan lumberman. The material primarily documents Harold's participation in World War I, as part of the 32nd Division of the 3rd 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.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

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 32nd Division of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I.

Scope and Contents note

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 32nd division of the A.E.F. during World War I, and in tracing the German line on the Western Front.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department 1986

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Donor information for this collection is unknown.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Woodcock, Harold B

Subject(s)

- World War, 1914-1918

Series I. Memorabilia

Collection Inventory

Series I. Memorabilia 1917-1919

Scope and Contents note

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.

	Box	Folder
The Thirty Second Division : American Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1919	1	1
USS Virginia. Transport Trip No. 4. May 7-May 21, 1919	1	1
Ambulance Company 125, Christmas Dinner, 1917	1	1
The Bar-Red-Arrow (Bar Red Arrow) Printed by G-2-C 3rd Army. [flyer w maps]	1	1
Sketch Showing points in German line which were pierced by the Red Arrow of the 32nd Division. Printed by G-2-C 3rd Army	1	1

Series II. Photographs & postcards

Scope and Contents note

Series II. Photographs & postcards

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

	Box	Folder
Harold B. Woodcock on rear of Motorcycle, ca. 1917	1	2
Harold B. Woodcock, at right, ca. 1917	1	2
Harold B. Woodcock, at far right. Ca, 1917.	1	2
Harold B. Woodcock, center of 3 men.	1	2
Ambulance Co. No. 1. 3-30	1	2
[32nd Michigan Infantry Division Ambulance Co., possibly Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas] "Poe"	1	2
[USS Virginia] C.O. Waterman(?)	1	2
"Camp Scene" Camp Douglas, Wis. Published postcard with message, postal mark Sept. 15, 1917, Dubuque, Iowa.	1	2