

Archive
Lakeshore Museum Center
Wood/ Furman/ Hubbard Family Finding Aid

Collection: Wood/ Furman/ Hubbard Family Collection

Object ID Number: x84.070.024

Location: LCM Archive, room 204, shelf R 1

Dates: 1839 to 1936

Quantity: One archival box, 10" X 12.5" X 5"

Restrictions: No Restrictions

Abstract: This collection of archival materials contains letters and assorted paper materials from the Wood, Hubbard, and Furman families. The Wood family was prominent in Muskegon and owned a real estate business for many years. Wesley and Frank Wood, and Jessie Wood were well known and active in their community. The Wood family knew the Hackley and Hume families, and Frank and Jessie's daughters often visited with Constance and Florence Hume. Jessie Hubbard Wood's family moved to Newaygo, Michigan where Jessie's father Justus was engaged in the lumber business. Jessie's mother Cornelia later moved to Muskegon and was well known in the community. This collection provides researchers with a better understanding of the events that occurred in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries. This collection of letters and documents demonstrates the concerns and perceptions of related families, and allows researchers to see how Muskegon changed over time. In addition, this collection of materials demonstrates the link between families and how marriages, deaths, and other events changed the lives of several generations.

Historical Information: Wesley F. Wood, the son of Jonas B. Wood and Hannah Reed was born in Clay, Essex County New York on June 18, 1823. He was the youngest of nine children and after receiving an academic education, Wesley Wood moved to New York City. He worked at a mercantile until 1849 when he moved to Hopkinton, New York. In 1852 Wesley married Sarah G. Scott of New York City.

Wesley F. Wood came to Muskegon in 1857 believing that the area had many future possibilities. He set up a homestead with his wife Sarah G. Scott Wood, and their four children: William S. Wood, Mary Sophia Wood, Edward Wood, and Frank Wood. Mary Sophia Wood died in 1859 at the age of five.

Wesley Wood worked in the real estate business and his office was located at 76 Wood Street. After the Civil War, Wesley Wood acquired a large amount of unimproved property. He built houses on his property and rented the homes at a reasonable price. In 1877, Wesley Wood owned 110 parcels of land in Muskegon, more than anyone else, and he made home ownership possible for poorer families.

In addition to real estate, Mr. Wesley Wood worked with other community members to bring a railroad to Muskegon. He was elected as the director of the Lumberman's National Bank in 1873, and he served for 34 years. He was also a director of the Muskegon Valley Furniture Co. Mr. W. Wood also helped organize and erect the First Congregational Church in 1859, and he served the church until 1905. Wesley Wood died on February 26, 1907, outliving his wife Sarah, who died on March 23, 1889, and all four of his children.

Wesley and Sarah Wood's Children:

William S. Wood was born on February 2, 1853 in Hopkintown, New York. He was four years old when his parents moved the family to Muskegon. William S. Wood lived in the Muskegon area for most of his life, and since 1874 he has helped his father with real estate business. William also served as one of the directors of the Muskegon Savings Bank, served and was a stock holder for: the Muskegon Gas Light Co., Muskegon Car Co., Sargeant Manufacturing Co., Muskegon Valley Furniture Co., and the Muskegon Milling Co. William also was a member of the Masonic Order and has attained 32 degree in the fraternity. In 1877, William married Miss Alice Miriam Witcher and they had three children: Berry, Scott, and Malcolm. William S. Wood died on February 4, 1892 from pneumonia. Mrs. Alice M. Wood was born in 1849 and moved to Muskegon in 1875 to teach high school when she met William Wood. Alice was the president of the Michigan branch of the National Shut in Society, a past regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and was an active member of the First Congregational Church and the Muskegon Woman's Club. Mrs. Alice M. Wood died in Muskegon after an operation on August 6, 1934.

Mary Sophia Wood was born in 1854 and died on December 22, 1859.

Edward Wood was born in 1860 and died on May 10 of that same year.

Franklin Wood was born in March 13, 1856 in Hopkintown, New York. and came to Muskegon with his parents when he was two. Frank Wood went to the public schools of Muskegon and Grand Rapids. He started at the Muskegon National Bank as a collector and worked his way through every post to that of a cashier. Frank took over as cashier for George A. Abbott, and he held that position for several years. Muskegon National Bank became Hackley National Bank and Charles H. Hackley was the president. Frank Wood worked for Charles Hackley at the bank for a number of years.

Frank Wood resigned from the bank in 1886, and went into the lumber business with his brother in law, Mr. C. L. Houseman. Frank later continued in the lumber business alone. Frank then traveled West and engaged in the mining business in Montana for four months, but the effects of the high altitude and the strain on his health caused Frank to suffer a stroke of paralysis at Butte. Frank returned from the West in 1892, and worked in the real estate office owned by his father to take the place of his recently deceased brother, William. Frank served as the manager of the W.S. Wood Real Estate Office for twelve years. He also took an active part in the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce when he became a charter member and served on the board of directors. Frank died on February 22, 1904 in his home at 207 W. Webster Avenue.

Frank Wood married Jessie L. Hubbard on October 13, 1880. Jessie L. Hubbard Wood is the daughter of Justice Hubbard and M. Cornelia Furman Hubbard. Jessie was born in Newaygo, Michigan on April 11, 1858. She married Frank Wood in 1880 and Frank and Jessie had two daughters, Mary Scott Wood, born in 1884, and Jessie Cornelia Wood, born in 1883. Jessie Lynn Hubbard Wood lived in Muskegon for 70 years, 40 of those years as a widow. Jessie Wood was a prominent artist famous for her oil paintings. She was also the 14th president of the Women's Club.

Children of Jessie and Frank Wood:

Jessie Cornelia Wood married John Orin Hume, son of the grocer George Hume, on June 8, 1904 at the home of Frank and Jessie Wood.

Mary Scott Wood married Joseph Davis Bicknell, director of the Muskegon Hackley Manual Training School, on June 25, 1910 at the home of Mrs. Jessie Hubbard Wood.

Children of William S. Wood and Alice M. Wood:

M. Berry Wood was born in 1880 and died on February 3, 1944. Berry never married.

W. Scott Wood was born in Muskegon on December 9, 1884. Scott graduated from Muskegon High School and the University of Michigan Law School. He never actively practiced in law, preferring to assist his father in the real estate business instead. Scott Wood served throughout the First World War. He entered the first officer's training school at Fort Sheridan and was commissioned a second Lieutenant. He went to Camp Custer, where he then was sent to France in charge of a company of the 85th Division with the rank of First Lt. Although he was gassed by the enemy, Scott Wood led the company until the end of the war. After Mr. Wood was discharged, he returned to Muskegon and became one of the organizers of the local American Legion Post. He was also a member of the local Masonic Organization and the Elks. W. Scott Wood died in Tucson, Arizona, where he went to recover his health, on August 14, 1928.

Malcolm B. Wood was born in Muskegon on January 17, 1889 and graduated from Muskegon High School. Malcolm was a member of the Mu Delta Sigma fraternity and he belonged to the Young Men's Club of the First Congregational Church. Suddenly stricken with heart failure, Malcolm died on August 22, 1907 at his home at 245 W. Webster Avenue.

Hubbard and Furman Families

Mrs. Cornelia M. Furman Hubbard, the daughter of John Gazley Furman, was born on March 31, 1828 near Peterboro, New York. Cornelia had five siblings: John Furman, Ashley Furman, Melinda Furman, Elizabeth Furman, and Harriet Furman. Cornelia married Justus C. Hubbard on January 4, 1846 in Binghamton, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard moved to Owego, New York, where Justus Hubbard was a merchant, and they lived there for ten years. Justus and Cornelia Hubbard had five daughters: Jessie L. Hubbard, born on April 11, 1858, who later married Frank Wood; Fanny Hubbard, who later married Charles L. Houseman; Armenia Florida Hubbard, born on June 24, 1847, who later married Francis Smith; Alice Hubbard, who married Albert Standish and died in 1894; and Ella Cornelia Hubbard who was born on July 4, 1850 and died on August 13, 1852.

The Hubbard family came to Michigan in 1856 and they settled in Newaygo and Justus became engaged in the lumber business. The family lived there until Justus's death in 1873, when Mrs. Hubbard came to Muskegon with her daughters in 1874. Mrs. Cornelia Hubbard purchased a home at No. 5 Peck Street where she lived until her death on March 23, 1899.

Scope and Contents: This collection of archival materials is composed of letters, invitations, telegrams, and other materials from the Wood, Hubbard, and Furman families. Many of the materials regard Frank Wood, his wife Jessie Lynn Hubbard Wood, and their two daughters. The collection of materials demonstrates the link between families and how marriages, deaths, and other events changed the lives of several generations.

The collection is arranged into the following nine series: Letters, Correspondence, Telegraphs, Invitations/Letters, General Letters, Certificates, Notes/Misc., Letters of Recommendation, and Obituaries.

The Letters series contains letters sent or received by members of the Wood family, the Hubbard family, the Furman family, and a few of the Scott family. This series is arranged into sub-series based on who received or sent the letters. The collection of letters was transcribed and each letter was given a number. The number of each of the letters in the series is written on the folder underneath the sub-series name. A copy of the transcribed letters in the specific sub-series is placed at the front of the folder.

The Correspondence series contains eight letters sent to and from Mrs. Jessie Wood and Alfred A. Furman. Mr. Furman lived in New Jersey and was working on his family's genealogy and learned that Jessie was related to the Furman family. Jessie was Albert's second cousin and their letters contained family information and their Furman ancestry.

The Telegraph series contains three telegraphs that were sent to Wesley F. Wood regarding his wife Sarah Scott Wood's father William Scott. The three telegraphs were sent from Sarah's nephew John Scott. One telegraph is about William Scott's illness, the second telegraph is about his death, and the third telegraph was sent to Wesley Wood to let him know that Sarah reached the funeral safely.

The Invitation/ Letters series contains invitations sent to Florence and Constance Hume, and letters written to the Hume daughters.

The General series contain letters from the public schools in the city of Muskegon sent in 1936, and notes and a resolution upon the death of Mr. Joseph D. Bicknell, the son-in-law of Frank and Jessie Wood. These letters did not fit within a sub-series and were placed into one series to provide easier access.

The Certificates series contains: two school certificates given to Jessie Hubbard when she passed geometry and Algebra on March 24, 1876; Jessie L. Wood's passport issued on January 25, 1911; Frank and Jessie L. Hubbard Wood's wedding certificate from their wedding on October 29, 1880; wedding invitations for Frank and Jessie's wedding; and a wedding card for Mr. and Mrs. L.S. Stevens.

The Notes/ Misc. series contains: an invitation for Justus Hubbard, Jessie Wood's father, to attend a donation at the house of Rev. Benjamin Paddock; an invitation for Mr. Hubbard to attend a social assembly; a booklet memorializing Mrs. Francis Smith, Jessie's sister-in-law; a Hackley Art Gallery program about the display of Jessie Wood's artwork; and a collection of old stamps.

The Letter of Recommendation series contains two letters written for Frank Wood. One of the letters was written and signed by Charles H. Hackley on April 20, 1891. The second letter was written by a Mr. Gorman detailing Frank Wood's good character and work ethic.

The Obituary series contains obituaries from the Wood family and tells about the death of Wesley Wood, Frank Wood, and several others.

Arrangement: This collection was donated by a descendant of Ellen Bicknell Wilson, Frank and Jessie Wood's granddaughter. The archival material was originally folded and placed into a gold and pink jewelry box. At the time the collection was donated, museum staff photocopied and transcribed each letter, and gave each letter a number. They created a key which gave a basic description of each letter based on its number. The numbers go from 1 to 29. Museum staff then folded and placed the originals back in the jewelry box. Due to the high acidity of the original container, and in order to best preserve the collection, all of the archival material was removed from the box. The materials were gently flattened and placed into acid-free folders. Acid-free paper is interleaved between each material and the collection was arranged into series and sub-series. Each folder is clearly labeled with the object identification number, collection title, series, sub-series, and gives the numbers of the letters inside the folder. A copy of the transcriptions was placed at the front of the folder. The vertical file labeled "Wood Family" contains the photocopies of every letter and all of the transcriptions. The file also contains a family tree that shows how the Furman, Hubbard, and Wood families were related. This collection was catalogued on Past Perfect and is stored in the Archive, room 204, shelf R 1. The collection fits within one archival box.

Contents

Series 1: Letters

Sub-series: Jessie L. Hubbard from Frank Wood

Dates-1876, 1877, 1891

Letter Numbers 13, 14, 21

Sub-Series: Jessie L. Hubbard (Jessie Wood)

Dates-1877

Letter Numbers 15, 16

Sub-series: Mrs. Frank Wood

Dates-1892, 1895, 1896, 1897

Letter Numbers 22, 23, 24, 25

Sub-series: Cornelia/ Mary Wood (Frank Wood's Daughters)

Date-1891

Letter Number 19

Sub-series: Wood Family

Date-unknown

Letter Number 27

Sub-series: M. Cornelia Furman Hubbard

Dates-1849, 1858

Letter Numbers 7, 1

Sub-series: Furman Family

Date-unknown

Letter Number 2

Sub-series: Mary Scott Wood

Date-1888

Letter Number 18

Sub-series: Scott Family- Sarah Scott Wood

Dates-1852, 1856, 1859, 1868

Letter Numbers 3, 6, 8, 9, 11

Series 2: Correspondence

Letters To/From Jessie Hubbard Wood and Alfred A. Furman

Dates- 1933 to 1934

Letters Numbered 29

Series 3: General Letters

Letter Regarding the Public Schools- City of Muskegon

Date-1936

Series 4: Telegraphs

Regarding Illness/Death of William Scott

Dates-February 1867

Series 5: Invitations/Letter- Hume Daughters

Dates-1898, 1899

Letter Number 26

Series 6: Certificates

Assorted Certificates/ Wedding

Dates- 1876, 1880, 1911

Series 7: Notes/ Miscellaneous

Invitations/ Booklets/ Stamps

Dates- 1839, 1840, 1929

Series 8: Letters of Recommendation

Letters For Frank Woods
From Charles H. Hackley and Mr. Gorman
Date- 1891

Series 9: Obituaries

Assorted Obituaries of Wood/ Hubbard Families
Dates-1892, 1899, 1904, 1907, 1928, 1934

Related Materials: A photographic collection was also donated at the same time, and by the same person, as the archival materials. The photograph collection contains daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, and gelatin/ collodion prints.

Photographic Prints: P84-066 through P84-106 are images of the Wood and Hubbard families. The photographs are stored in the archive, room 204, cabinet G drawer 3.

Ambrotypes, Daguerreotypes, and Tintypes: X84.070.027 through X84.070.046 are images of the Furman, Hubbard, and Wood families. These images are stored in the archive, room 204, container A-07.

Photographic prints of the Hackley Manual Training School belonged to Joseph Bicknell, the husband of Jessie Hubbard Wood's daughter Mary Scott Wood. Joseph Bicknell was the director of Hackley Manual Training School. Photographic Prints: P84-066(A-01) to P84-066(A-30). These images are stored in the archive, room 204, cabinet G, drawer 3.