



morris county park commission

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Woods Family Papers: Finding Aid

Overview of Collection

Creator: Woods Family, et al.
Title: Woods Family Papers
Date: 1910s to 1920s; modern oral histories
Quantity: 1 boxes, 0.5 linear feet

Restrictions

Important Information for Users of the Collection

This material is open for research with limited restrictions under the conditions of the Morris County Park Commission archives access policy. Records may be copied for use in individual scholarly or personal research; however, as with all materials in the Morris County Park Commission, researchers are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use material from the collection.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Woods Family Papers, Courtesy of the Morris County Park Commission.

Acquisition Information

The items in this collection were discovered during the 2002 restoration of the Fosterfields Farmhouse. When workers removed the mantle from the wall to make repairs, numerous papers from the 1910s and later were discovered behind it. These papers were salvaged by curator Nancy Strathearn and stored in a binder at some later date. They were not inventoried or accessioned into the Collection until their processing in 2014 and 2015. Series assigned accession numbers 2014.2.1-5.

Processing Information

Described by Chris Rain, 2014

Organized and arranged by Jenny Reilly, 2015

Finding Aid updated and series rearranged by Katie Humphreys, 2020

FONDS Parent Record is 2014.001

Biographical Note

The Woods family emigrated to the United States from England. Edward Woods served as Farm Foreman for the Fosterfields from 1918 to 1927. He, his wife Agnes, and their four daughters Edna,

Agnes, Elizabeth, and Dorothy, lived in the rebuilt Farmhouse. Agnes Woods was also employed by the Fosters to feed the farmhands and produce butter.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is primarily composed of notes, scrap papers, and greeting cards from the first half of the 20th century and provides a peek into the life of a working-class family. The arrangement of the collection reflects the natural groupings found within the Collection: Pastimes, Childhood, Correspondence, Religion, Holidays and Celebrations, Households and Homekeeping, and Oral Histories.

Associated Image Collection

Fosterfields Image Collection

With over 800 images the Fosterfields Image Collection captures the lives of the Foster family who resided at Fosterfields as well as other residents and employees of the farm. From the development of the farm and its dairy cattle business under the ownership of the Fosters to their personal enjoyments and recreations this Collection captures a snapshot of life across almost 150 years.

Arrangement

The Woods Family Papers are organized into 5 series relating to various aspects of the Woods Family:

Series 1: Pastimes & Childhood (2014.2.1)

Material relating to popular pastimes and hobbies enjoyed by the Woods Family. Material relating to the lives of the Wood's children, including education and hobbies.

Series 2: Correspondence (2014.2.2)

Material relating to the correspondences of the Woods family including various postcards and photographs.

Series 3: Religion, Holidays, and Celebrations (2014.2.3)

Material relating to the religious life of the Woods family and religious presence in everyday life. Material relating to the holidays and celebrations of the Woods family.

Series 4: Household & Homekeeping (2014.2.4)

Materials relating to the general running of the Woods household and farm. Materials relating to advertising and commercial business during the early 20th century.

Series 5: Oral Histories (2014.2.5)

Oral history transcripts relating to the Woods Family.

Container List

Series 1: Pastimes & Childhood

Box	Folder	
1	1	Playing Cards
	1	Blank Post Card Priuma Auricula Flower Print 1862
	1	Photograph of large estate inlaid on paper
	2	Coloring page of chickens

- 2 Crayon scribble on paper
- 2 Remnants of cutout paper doll
- 2 Crayon drawing of kite with face
- 2 Colored wax paper fishbowl
- 2 Selection of cutout words on cardstock
- 2 Vail School Tickets
- 2 Newspaper clipping

Series 2: Correspondence

- | Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 3 | Westchester County Courthouse |
| | 3 | Sand Shore, Budd Lake, NJ to Dolly Woods |
| | 3 | West Main Street, Wilmington VT, to Elizabeth Woods from Anna |
| | 3 | USMS St. Paul to Mrs. Woods from Ted |
| | 3 | Park Place, Morristown NJ, to Robert A Ward from Bernard |
| | 3 | Photograph of Mother and Son |
| | 3 | Torn photograph of baby |

Series 3: Religion, Holidays, and Celebrations

- | Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 4 | Alter Boy Decoration |
| | 4 | "The Pledge" |
| | 4 | St. Peter's Church Christmas leaflet |
| | 5 | Easter Card flower print to Anna |
| | 5 | Easter Card to from Anna, postmarked 1922 |
| | 5 | Birthday card to Mrs. A Woods from Elizabeth Woods, written backwards |
| | 6 | Christmas card to Miss Dorothy Woods from Mrs. Coqqeshill, 1922 |
| | 6 | Christmas card to Mrs. Woods from A. King, 1922 |
| | 6 | Christmas card to Miss Eliz Woods from Bertha M Howell, 1922 |
| | 6 | Christmas card to Dear Mother from Peggy M |
| | 6 | Christmas Card to Betty Woods, ripped |
| | 6 | Assorted Christmas labels |
| | 6 | Invitation to Holiday Party |
| | 6 | Letter to Santa and envelope |
| | 7 | Valentine's Card, no message |
| | 7 | Valentine to Dorothy W from "Guess? A U..?" |
| | 7 | Valentine to Tony Vacentino, handmade – Missing as of 8/18/2021 |
| | 7 | Valentine to Wilfred from "Guess" |
| | 7 | Valentine Card "This belongs to the one who gets it" x2 |
| | 7 | Valentine to Dorothy from Anna G |
| | 7 | Valentine card, hand drawn |

Series 4: Household & Homekeeping

- | Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 8 | Calendar from the American Insurance Company, Newark NJ, 1924 |
| | 8 | Sandpaper file |
| | 8 | Fragment of ruler |

- 8 Scrap paper with measurements
- 8 Paper sheaf of nails
- 8 Pages ripped out of notebook, numbered entries 272-408 – Missing as of 8/18/2021
- 8 Notice of Pennsylvania transfer to photo ID driver’s license
- 8 Employment agency notice
- 8 Cut out posting of Will Rogers
- 8 Handwritten board: The Boast of Heraldry
- 9 Label for Empire Photo Finishers
- 9 “Hot Water and Plenty of It” advertisement
- 9 Pepsodent Newspaper offer with envelope
- 9 Cigars United coupons
- 11 Note to Mr. Foster for fees for cow watching by Agnes and Betty Woods

Series 5 **Oral Histories**

Box	Folder	
1	10	Transcript of Oral History of Diane Cohen, daughter of Edna Woods, June 11, 2000
	10	Transcript of Oral History of Betty Woods Rametta, July 3, 1989, 2 copies

Note: Elizabeth Wood’s descendants, the Ramettas, visited Fosterfields and allowed staff to scan a few pictures. The digital scans of these photographs are located: I:\2014 Accessions\2014 TIF Accession Photos\2014 FF TIF Accession Photos\Woods Family Photographs Scans

The Ramettas did *not* donate the original photographs and no Deed of Gift was executed.

More information about the Woods family can be found in the “Woods Family” research file, which is located in the FF VC Library.