

Guide to the James B. Woodman Papers, 1888-1958, bulk 1925-1941

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

James B. Woodman Papers, 1888-1958, bulk 1925-1941

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2020.072

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Woodman, James B., 1879-1958

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.67 linear feet

Abstract:

James B. Woodman (1879-1958) was a physician in Franklin, New Hampshire. He was primarily a surgeon and was affiliated first with a private hospital, Sanborn Hall, and then with the Franklin Hospital. The papers in this small collection consist of a household expense book (1910-1916), marriage certificate and list of gifts received, records of his service in World War I in France, and letters from patients and other physicians between 1926 and 1940.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The James B. Woodman Papers were a gift of Helen Elizabeth Woodman in October 2020.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in June 2021. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in June 2021. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

This collection is on paper, with a few three-dimensional objects (medals, watches). There are no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, James B. Woodman Papers, 2020.072. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

James B. Woodman (1879-1958) was born on January 12, 1879 in Lebanon, New Hampshire, the son of a physician, Milton S. Woodman and his wife, Mary Emma (Morey) Woodman. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1900 and Dartmouth Medical School in 1903. In 1904, he became associated with John W. Staples, a physician in Franklin, New Hampshire, and in 1906 they opened Sanborn Hall, a private hospital, with Woodman as Surgeon. Upon the death of Dr. Staples in 1913, it closed, and Woodman's professional affiliation continued with Franklin Hospital, the staff of which he was on until his death. Dr. Woodman served in the U.S. Army in World War I, organizing and commanding a 2,000-bed surgical hospital at Beau Desert, France. In addition to membership in various civic and fraternal organizations in Franklin, he was a member and officer of several medical organizations, among them: the Merrimack County Medical Society, the New Hampshire Medical Society, New Hampshire Surgical Society, and New England Surgical Society.

James Woodman married Ethel Everett on October 15, 1910 at Wollaston, MA. She was the daughter of Willard E. and Ida E. (Woodbury) Everett, born on January 30, 1884 at Montague, MA. Ethel had three children born at Franklin: James B. Jr. born April 13, 1913; Everett born February 11, 1916; and Dorothy (married Howard Hatch) born November 25, 1925.

James died at Franklin on June 28, 1958; Ethel died in July 1982.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The James B. Woodman Papers offer a glimpse of the professional life of a mid-twentieth-century surgeon in a small New Hampshire city. There are a few brochures of the private hospital he and a colleague owned and operated between 1906 and 1913 (but no other records of it), and letters from patients and colleagues from the mid-1920s to 1940. Patients thanked him for his care and for cancelling their bills; colleagues asked his advice and thanked him for the care given their patients.

Woodman's non-professional and family life is undocumented except for a household expense memorandum book kept between 1910 and 1917. There are only a few items from his World War I experience: a few postcards he sent his wife and children, and his discharge papers. The collection contains a few small objects: his service ribbon and identity discs from World War I, a German Medal from World War I (a souvenir), three pocket watches, a watch chain with a seal and small tag engraved "Dr. Jim 1-19-55 from your hospital family," and a medal commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Franklin, New Hampshire.

Arrangement:

Materials in the James B. Woodman Papers are arranged by type, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Woodman, Milton S. materials, 1888-1908
Biographical information, Dartmouth Medical School graduation program, reunion program, undated reprint of a paper "The Spread and Restriction of Typhoid Fever," printed 1905 "Address to the Graduating Class of Dartmouth Medical College."
- Folder 2 Woodman, James B. biographical information (newspaper clippings, retirement program), 1919, 1955
- Folder 3 Woodman, James B., education (report cards, graduation program), 1895-1908
- Folder 4 Sanborn Hall brochures, circa 1906-1913
- Folder 5 Woodman, James B. and Ethel Everett marriage certificate and service, 1910
- Folder 6 Woodman, James B. and Ethel Everett wedding gifts, 1910
- Folder 7 Woodman, James B. account book, household and personal expenses, 1910-1917
- Folder 8 Woodman, James B. U.S. Army Service documents, 1918-1919, 1940
- Folder 9 Woodman, James B. correspondence, outgoing (postcards), 1918-1919, undated
- Folder 10 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1926
- Folder 11 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1927
- Folder 12 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1928

- Folder 13 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1929
- Folder 14 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1930
- Folder 15 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1931
- Folder 16 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1932-1933
- Folder 17 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1934-1936
- Folder 18 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1938-1940
- Folder 19 Woodman, James B. New England Surgical Society correspondence and Presidential address, 1941

Box 2

- Folder 1 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, 1943
- Folder 2 Woodman, James B. correspondence, incoming, undated
- Folder 3 Woodman, James B. death and estate documents, 1958
- Folder 4 Woodman, James B. postcards (no message), undated
 - Postcards are from France; Italy; France, Franklin, NH; Atlanta, GA; New Orleans, LA; Warren, NH
- Folder 5 Woodman, James B. photographs (as infant, boy, teen, in WWI uniform, formal adult studio images), undated
- Folder 6 Woodman, James B. photographs (his sister, mother, father), undated [before 1900]
- Folder 7 Woodman, James B. photographs (his wife, children), 1928, 1939, undated
- Folder 8 Woodman, James B. photographs (reunion groups, unidentified people and places), undated
- Folder 9 Woodman, James B. objects: three pocket watches
 - Watch #1: yellow metal, no front cover, engraved flowers on back, photo of unidentified woman inside back cover. On face: American Waltham Watch Co.
 - Watch #2: yellow metal, front and back covers. On face: Arnold/Chas Frodsham/9642 Ad Fmsz
 - Watch #3: white/grey metal, no front cover. Engraved on back: Corps of Engineers/U.S.A./No. 1993. Engraved on body of watch inside cover: Vacheron & Constantin Geneve
- Folder 10 Woodman, James B. objects: various
 - German Iron Cross medal
 - Watchchain, yellow metal, with signet seal "JBW" and small tag engraved: "Dr Jim" 1-19-55 From Your Hospital Family
 - World War I identity disc and service ribbon
 - Various medals, tags: oval engraved "James Brown W Lebanon NH Please Return & Be Rewarded; Franklin NH Centennial medal (1928); Key-shaped white metal charm "F C Boehmer Waxachie Tex Watch Maker and Jeweler"" thin white metal chain

Subject Terms

People:

Woodman, Ethel, 1884-1982

Woodman, James B., 1879-1958

Organizations:

Dartmouth College
Dartmouth Medical College
Franklin Hospital
New Hampshire Surgical Society
Sanborn Hall Hospital (Franklin, N.H.)

Subjects:

Account books
Medals
Medicine--Practice
Photographs
World War I, 1914-1918

Locations:

Franklin, NH

Occupations:

Physicians

Related Materials

Library

Woodman, Betsy. "Sanborn Hall: An Early Twentieth-Century Proprietary Hospital in Franklin."
Historical New Hampshire, Volume 64, Number 1, Summer 2010. Pages 38-47