

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Manuscript Collection Finding Aids
Steve Brody Papers, 1889-1978**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 1983.1.1

Title: Steve Brody Papers, 1889-1978

Physical Characteristics: 1 record storage box; 1 suitcase

Donated by: Steve Brody Estate

Arrangement: Documents are arranged by document type and chronologically thereunder. Photographs and negatives were separated and organized according to subject. Artifacts are arranged according to type and size. The Brody Papers had no original order at the time of donation,

Creator: Isidor Steve Brody

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Alicia R. Sell, 23 July 2007

Biographical Note:

Born March 12, 1889 in Kiev, Ukraine, Russia, Isidor (Steve) Brody came to the United States in 1906 at the age of 17. He became a U.S. citizen in 1912. In 1916, Brody enlisted in the army as a medic and fought with the American Expeditionary Force in France. He came to Roanoke in 1935, serving first at the VA Hospital in Salem, VA, then the VA Regional Office from 1946 until his retirement in December 1958. An active member of the community, Brody helped establish a unit of the United Service Organization and the first War Mothers Chapter in the Roanoke Valley. He was an active member in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans and received numerous awards and honors for his patriotism.

Roanoke World-News editor M. Carl Andrews said of Brody, "It requires a person born in a country without basic human rights to fully understand and demonstrate his love for our America...[n]o other person in Roanoke ever did so much to honor that [American] flag in his lifetime." He unselfishly made financial contributions to many civic organizations, most notably the Boys Scouts of America. Brody is best known for donating and placing a United States flag in almost every building in the City of Roanoke. (The last flag that he donated was at the dedication of the Roanoke Civic Center in 1971.) The Steve Brody Room in the Main Library of the Roanoke Public Libraries was named in his honor in 1983. Remembered as Roanoke's Russian-born patriot, Brody died on November 20, 1978.

Scope and Content:

The Brody Papers are comprised of documents, photographs, and artifacts that relate to community work done by Steve Brody in Roanoke from 1935-1978. Documents include a biographical timeline of military service, news clippings, awards, stars of David, war enlistment cards, Christmas cards (including images of local families) and

correspondence (1951-1977). Photographs and negatives include portraits of Brody from WWI – 1978, public events (flag dedication ceremonies, picketing during Vietnam, festivals in Elmwood Park and Victory Stadium); streetscapes and local buildings; small group photos (award ceremonies, WDBJ TV man of the week award ceremony); and collages of awards, news clippings, and photographs of Brody. Artifacts include war registration cards, wallets with all personal contents scrapbook, yarmulke, a suitcase, flag, and various awards and trophies.

Box 1 of 1

Star of David - Folder 1

Correspondence, 1951-1977 - Folder 2

Christmas Cards (include pictures of local families) - Folder 3

Newsclippings re: Steve Brody - Folder 4

Photographs (collages and signs) - Folder 5

Photographs (portraits of Steve Brody) - Folder 6

Photographs (public events) - Folder 7

Photographs (streetscapes and buildings) - Folder 8

Photographs (small group pictures) - Folder 9

Negatives - Folder 10

Awards - Folder 11

Biographical Timeline - Folder 12

Correspondence re: Security National Bank - Folder 13

Documents re: Civil Service Commission - Folder 14

Raleigh Court Library Dedication - Folder 15

Collage of certificates, letters, and photographs (framed) - Item 16

Collage of certificates, photographs and newsarticles (2 framed images nailed together) -
Item 17

Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce resolution re: Roanoke Citizen of Honor, Steve
Brody (framed) - Item 18

Photographs of Steve Brody, 2 portraits (framed) - Item 19

Artifact Box (ID bracelet, cufflinks, ivory pocketknife) - Item 20

Artifact Box (Award lapel pins) - Item 21

Artifact Box (Beaver Badge) - Item 22

Artifact Box (tweezers, key holder, scissors) - Item 23

Artifact Box (contents of wallet) - Item 24

Artifact Box (Key pouch) - Item 25

Suitcase (containing artifacts and images)

Trophy (cup on a wood stand) 'To my good Samaritan friend Steve Brodie from
Saunders Guerrant 1972' - Item 1

Framed Picture (three black and white images of Steve Brody, 1956, 1955, 1916 – 1918)
- Item 2

United States Flag - Item 3

Yarmulke – white - Item 4

Scrapbook – 'photographs' dark red (contains newspaper articles and pictures and
magazine clippings all concerning Steve Brody) - Item 5

Photograph (black and white image of a baby lying on its back) - Item 6
Photograph (five color circle portraits of a woman, a young girl, and three young boys) -
Item 7
Framed Certificate – ‘Boy Scouts of America the Silver Beaver Award for Distinguished
Service to Boyhood’ ---- also in frame newspaper article “Civitan Select ‘Good
Samaritan’” - Item 8
Framed Letter – ‘ IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA,
The 10th day of March, 1975.’ Attached on letter is gold seal with purple ribbon -
Item 9
Award –‘THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS Presents its
brotherhood citation to Steve Brody’ - Item 10
Yamika – black - Item 11
Wallet (empty) - Item 12
Bill holder (plastic) - Item 13
Wallet (with contents) - Item 14
Silver Beaver Award Box - Item 15