

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Clifton A. Woodrum Collection**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Title: Clifton A. Woodrum Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 record storage box

Donated by: Unknown

Arrangement: Documents are arranged alphabetically by document type.

Creator: Clifton A. Woodrum, with some materials compiled by Lena Woodrum.

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

Processor: Dyron Knick, 29 June 2016

Biographical Note:

Born in Roanoke, Virginia on 27 April 1887 to Robert Woodrum and Anna Musgrove, Woodrum attended the public schools of his native city and the University College of Medicine (now combined with the Medical College of Virginia), Richmond, Virginia. He became a registered pharmacist and engaged in his profession in Roanoke. He studied law at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. He was admitted to the bar in 1908 and commenced practice in Roanoke, Virginia. Woodrum served as the Commonwealth Attorney of Roanoke from 1917-1919. He served as judge of the Hustings Court of Roanoke 1919-1922.

Woodrum was elected as a Democrat to the 68th and to the eleven succeeding Congresses and served from 4 March 1923, until his resignation on 31 December 1945, to become president of the American Plant Food Council, Inc.

He was considered a "Southern Progressive" in Washington, and he bucked the powerful Byrd Organization to become an ardent "New Dealer." As a member of the United States House Committee on Appropriations, he steered federal money for the purchase of land for Roanoke's airport, originally called "Woodrum Field" in his honor, and today known as the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport. He was also instrumental in bringing the United States Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, now known as the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center, to the area. The hospital brought many jobs to the region during the Great Depression.

Woodrum married Martha Lena Hancock on 26 December 1905. They had two children, Clifton Alexander, Jr. and Martha Anne. In addition to his many professions, Woodrum was involved in a number of fraternal organizations and was known as a "fine baritone", who performed in a number of recitals, civic events and theatricals.

He died in Washington, D.C., 6 October 1950. He was interred in Fairview Cemetery, Roanoke, Virginia.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of one record storage box of material, presumably collected by Woodrum over the course of his life. It is known that at least some of the material was collected by his wife, Lena, as indicated by notes in the collection and the fact the some materials were collected posthumously. The collection includes correspondence files,

both personal and professional in nature, news clippings, photographs, and publications that discuss his political career. Also included are a number of scrapbooks that contained news clippings, primarily related to his political career. For preservation purposes, the scrapbooks were dismantled and photocopies were made of their contents. Each “scrapbook” is housed in its own folder with the contents arranged in the order presented in the scrapbooks. The collection of material seems to have begun in 1922 and ended shortly after Woodrum’s death in 1950.

Container List:

Box 1

- Folder 1: Correspondence – from Franklin Roosevelt
- Folder 2: Correspondence – miscellaneous
- Folder 3: Correspondence – miscellaneous telegrams
- Folder 4: Correspondence – regarding auto accident in August 1936
- Folder 5: Correspondence – regarding retirement from the House of Representatives
- Folder 6: Correspondence – regarding Woodrum’s death
- Folder 7: Correspondence – telegrams regarding auto accident in August 1936
- Folder 8: Court Cases – Harry R. Eades
- Folder 9: Ephemera
- Folder 10: House Resolution #465 – Committee of Post-War Military Policy
- Folder 11: News clippings – 1922-1928, miscellaneous
- Folder 12: News clippings – 1926-19247, regarding political career
- Folder 13: News clippings – Woodrum Family social activities
- Folder 14-15: Photographs
- Folder 16: Publications – article, “Remembering Cliff Woodrum”, from the *Roanoker Magazine*, 1980
- Folder 17: Publications – “Cliff Woodrum Says”, 1940
- Folder 18: Publications – *Congressional Record*
- Folder 19: Publications – *Public Speakers Magazine*, February 1927
- Folder 20: Scrapbook – 1900-1927 (1 of 3), news clippings related to musical performances and campaign for office.
- Folder 21: Scrapbook – 1900-1927 (2 of 3), news clippings related to musical performances and campaign for office.
- Folder 22: Scrapbook – 1900-1927 (3 of 3), news clippings related to musical performances and campaign for office.
- Folder 23: Scrapbook – 1923-1927 (1 of 2), news clippings regarding political career
- Folder 24: Scrapbook – 1923-1927 (2 of 2), news clippings regarding political career
- Folder 25: Scrapbook – 1925, news clippings regarding Byrd vs. Map campaign
- Folder 26: Scrapbook – 1933-1942, news clippings regarding political career
- Folder 27: Scrapbook – 1934, news clippings regarding political career
- Folder 28: Scrapbook – 1936, miscellaneous news clippings
- Folder 29: Scrapbook – 1936, news clippings, cards and letters regarding auto accident
- Folder 30: Scrapbook – 1936-1937, news clippings regarding political career
- Folder 31: Scrapbook – 1937-1938, news clippings regarding political career

Folder 32: Scrapbook – 1939, news clippings regarding Works Progress Administration

Folder 33: Scrapbook – 1939, news clippings regarding Works Progress Administration
Relief Fund

Folder 34: Scrapbook – 1939-1940, news clippings regarding political career

Folder 35: Scrapbook – 1941-1945, news clippings regarding political career

Folder 36: Scrapbook – 1942-1945, miscellaneous news clippings

Folder 37: Scrapbook – news clippings regarding Woodrum Field dedication and aviation

Folder 38: Scrapbook – 1950, news clippings on Woodrum's death

Folder 39: Speeches