

Military Collection
State Archives of North Carolina

North Carolina War Industries (WWI 4)
[World War I]

Collection Number: WWI 4

Title: North Carolina War Industries

Dates: 1917-1920, 1929, undated

Creator: North Carolina Historical Commission; Fred A. Olds; and various others.

Summary/Abstract

The North Carolina War Industries collection contains correspondence, photographs, posters, forms, newsletters, and other materials related to the efforts during World War I of Fred A. Olds, Collector for the North Carolina Historical Commission's Hall of History, to document for the U.S. Army War Plans Division the businesses and factories which created products used to support the Allied forces in the war effort. The North Carolina Council of Defense and the North Carolina Historical Commission tasked Fred A. Olds with writing to industrial leaders and businesses in every county throughout North Carolina, seeking photographs of the businesses' war production or facilities used to manufacture materials for the war effort. Olds also sought names of businesses and companies in towns and cities around the state, which were involved in manufacturing materials for the war effort. Businesses and factories documented in this collection include those producing items used by Allied military forces, and those producing materials through U.S. government contracts. The bulk of the collection is the compiled records of North Carolina war industries retained by Olds, and later donated to the North Carolina Historical Commission by 1920.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.45 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository

State Archives of North Carolina, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use: There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Preferred Citation

[Item name or title], [Box and Folder Numbers], North Carolina War Industries, WWI 4, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

Acquisition

This collection was acquired in multiple parts by Fred A. Olds, collector for the North Carolina Historical Commission's Hall of History, from 1917 to 1920. Olds turned over his materials on North Carolina's war industries to Robert B. House, who was named by the North Carolina Historical Commission as the Collector of World War Records on June 19, 1919. In his December 1, 1920, report to the North Carolina Historical Commission (published in the 1918-1920 North Carolina Historical Commission Biennial Report), Olds noted that he had turned over to the war records collection project "reports on war industries in the State"—which included Olds' compiled listing of war industries in North Carolina.

A number of items in this collection were personally collected by Robert B. House, William S. Wilson (North Carolina Council of Defense Secretary), and Fred A. Olds. Each of these men donated the items to the North Carolina Historical Commission's war records collection project when they were finished with the materials. Some of the items in the collection were received from federal government agencies—such as the U.S. Department of Labor industrial plant and business bulletin board posters.

All of the materials in this collection were acquired or collected as part of the North Carolina Historical Commission's on-going World War historic materials collection project, which was authorized by Sections 3 and 4 of Chapter 144 of the North Carolina Public Laws and Resolutions in 1919.

Separated Material

The Ivanhoe Manufacturing Company (Smithfield, North Carolina) Hamilton Corliss Engine blueprint was relocated to the Military Collection Oversized Map Case in the Archives Stacks 3B, and is stored in WWI 4 Oversized Folders 1 (see Collection Inventory for list of individual oversized item stored in this folder).

Related Material

Ivanhoe Manufacturing Company Papers, 1908-1926, PC.230, Private Collections, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

North Carolina Council of Defense Records, WWI 1, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

Processing Information

Prior to 2015, this collection was originally part of the Miscellaneous series in the WWI Papers, arranged in this manner during the 1960s by the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The collection's materials formerly comprised 20 folders in the Miscellaneous series folders' headings "War Industries" and "Economic Data". Original groupings of materials—such as "Municipal Files"—was retained where possible in this collection's organization. The collection is arranged into three series. Series I General Records is composed of general correspondence from the U.S. War Department to the North Carolina Council of Defense and North Carolina Historical Commission.

There is no specific arrangement of the series in this collection, other than Series II: Municipal Files. The materials in Series I, Series III, and Oversized Materials were never arranged by the North Carolina Historical Commission after World War I in any particular manner. The original "Municipal Files" series (now Series II), however, was arranged in groupings of materials based on the name of the town or city in which businesses or factories were operating, in alphabetical order by name of the town or city. The Municipal Files had a mix of multiple North Carolina towns and cities' businesses represented in a single folder, as well as individual towns and cities' businesses materials in their own folders (such as in the cases of the cities of Raleigh and Wilmington). In reprocessing these materials, the original grouping title of "Municipal Files" was retained for the series name. Each individual town and city was given its own folder, and the corresponding materials were placed in these folders. The arrangement for Series II is alphabetical based on the name of the North Carolina town or city.

There were two sets of oversized materials, one of which fit within the oversized flat archival box which is now Box 2. One blueprint which is too large to fit within an archival box is now in Oversized Folder 1.

Processed by: Matthew M. Peek, June 2015

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series and oversized materials:

Series I: General Records
Series II: Municipal Files
Series III: Industry Records
Oversized Materials

Historical Note

The North Carolina Historical Commission (the precursor of the State Archives of North Carolina) recognized at the beginning of the United States' involvement in World War I the importance for North Carolina to begin an effort of collecting materials which documented the role taken by North Carolina soldiers and civilians in the war. In cooperation with the North Carolina Council of Defense, a special history committee, called the "Historical Preservation" committee, was appointed by the Council of Defense. The Historical Preservation committee consisted of the North Carolina Historical Commission Secretary Robert Digges Wimberly (or R. D. W.) Connor, as chairman; Haywood Parker of Asheville, North Carolina; Ms. Adelaide Fries of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Paul W. Schenck of Greensboro, North Carolina; Edgecombe County-native George Gordon Battle, who was one of the leading lawyers in New

York City at the outbreak of WWI; Ms. Lida T. Rodman; and J. G. deR. Hamilton of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The Council of Defense Historical Preservation committee's mission was to collect for permanent preservation the war records of the state of North Carolina. The term "war records" was given the widest possible interpretation, so as to include all materials that illustrate the state of mind of the citizens of North Carolina toward World War I; the effect of the war on social, educational, economic, agricultural, political and religious conditions; and the personal achievements, sacrifices, and services of North Carolina individuals in the war. Efforts were made by the North Carolina Historical Commission to secure the cooperation of such organizations as the State and County Councils of Defense; the State and County Fuel Administrations; the State and County Food Administrations; the American Red Cross; and other organizations engaged in work connected with the World War I preparedness and support efforts of the United States.

The Historical Preservation committee and the North Carolina Historical Commission urged these institutions, organizations, and members of the public to preserve carefully their records, and ultimately deposit them with the North Carolina Historical Commission. Efforts were also made to secure assistance in this work through the appointment in each county of a county historian for war purposes. However, these efforts were not particularly successful, as resources and people were stressed throughout the war at the local level in North Carolina. Individuals willing to work as volunteer war record collectors were secured in sixty counties. These individuals promised to aid in the historical preservation work of the committee, but only a few of them had been active throughout World War I.

Not much could be accomplished in terms of collecting war materials, however, due to a lack of funding and the lack of a law by the North Carolina State Legislature indicating a state-backed collection program. From 1917 to 1919, the State Legislature was not in session, and this scenario could not be remedied. However, in 1919 the State Legislature formally approved the North Carolina Historical Commission's war records collection efforts with the passage of Chapter 144 of the North Carolina Public Laws and Resolutions (specifically Sections 3 and 4) in 1919. The new law empowered the Historical Commission to appoint a collector of World War records, and provided money for the project's support.

Acting under authority of this law, the Historical Commission chose Mr. Robert B. House Collector of World War Records, and House entered upon his work June 19, 1919. On taking up his duties, House found that the Historical Preservation committee of the State Council of Defense (through a system of volunteer collecting in various counties of the state), and Col. Fred A. Olds (North Carolina Historical Commission Hall of History Collector) had already collected a large amount of war materials. House tried to systemize the collection process and network of volunteer collectors around North Carolina. House and a part-time stenographer worked to copy information from original materials; label, classify, and identify original materials; and operate a continuous correspondence network with individuals throughout the state and with federal war-time government offices.

One of House's first tasks was to survey all possible sources of information concerning North Carolina in the World War to be found in the National Archives; in departments of the North Carolina government; and among the various county organizations and individuals of North Carolina. Having found other states in America were performing the same records collection work during the war, in September, 1919, representatives from several states met in Washington, D.C., to organize what became the National Association of State War History Organizations. This was a cooperative enterprise financed by a membership fee of \$200, paid by each member state organization. The North Carolina Historical Commission became a member of this association. This organization assisted North Carolina and House in standardizing war records collection policies and procedures.

In North Carolina's government departments, House found that the correspondence and published documents from the years 1917 to 1920 would be essential for documenting the state's role in World War I; but, those documents still held an administrative value in their respective government offices during the war and could not be released to the North Carolina Historical Commission for preservation. House strongly advocated with the heads of each office the necessity of preserving their records for the war years, until such time as they could be released to the Historical Commission. The records produced by county organizations and individuals in North Carolina were found to be in a chaotic state. In many cases, officials of various war-work organizations in the state had destroyed their records immediately upon the signing of the armistice ending World War I, under the impression that these records were of no further value. In many cases, they had kept no complete records during the course of the war.

Sometime between March and June 1918, W. S. Wilson, Secretary of the North Carolina Council of Defense, and Fred A. Olds, Collector for the North Carolina Historical Commission's Hall of History (and a contributor of materials to the state's war records collection project), received communications from Lt. Col. C. W. Weeks (Chief of the U.S. War Department's War Plans Division Historical Branch) and Major Kendal Banning (of the U.S. Army Signal Reserve Corps Pictorial Section). The War Department sought to document which industries in North Carolina and other states were involved in war production—or "war work," as was the parlance of the time. This effort was part of the War Plans Division's larger project, as tasked by the U.S. Army, to "secure for the official files a comprehensive series of photographs [and records] that will adequately record the war activities" of North Carolina, according to a letter from April 2, 1918 (see Box 1, Folder 1). The War Plans Division "also desired to secure pictures [from the North Carolina Council of Defense] showing products that are being manufactured" in North Carolina.

The North Carolina Council of Defense and the North Carolina Historical Commission, therefore, tasked Fred A. Olds with writing to industrial leaders and businesses in every county throughout North Carolina, seeking photographs of the businesses' war production or facilities used to manufacture materials for the war effort. Olds also sought names of businesses and companies in towns and cities around the state, which were involved in manufacturing materials for the war effort—whether items used by Allied military forces or items produced specifically for the war effort through U.S. government contracts. All of the materials within Series II: Municipal Files in this collection are a result of Fred A. Olds' correspondence seeking information and photographs of the state's war production. In 1918, Olds used this information to compile a "War Industries in North Carolina" list, which notes the names of companies

producing materials for the war effort, type of materials the companies produced for the war effort, and the number of employees the companies employed at the time of Olds' correspondence.

Scope and Content

The North Carolina War Industries collection is composed of correspondence, pamphlets, posters, photographs, telegrams, notes, reports, typed lists, and association conference meeting minutes and newsletters relating to industries, businesses, factories, and commerce in North Carolina during World War I. The materials in this collection document some of the state's businesses and factories involved in wartime production of materials and supplies, used on the home front and in combat by the Allied forces during World War I. The collection is subdivided into three series and a small group of oversized materials: Series I: General Records; Series II: Municipal Files; Series III: Industry Records; and Oversized Materials.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Banning, Kendall
Olds, Fred A.
Weeks, C. W
Wilson, William Sidney, 1873-1918

Corporate Names

North Carolina Council of Defense
North Carolina. State Department of Archives and History

Places

North Carolina

Subject—Topical

Industry--United States--1910-1920
United States. Department of Labor--History
United States. War Department. Historical Branch
World War, 1914-1918
World War, 1914-1918--North Carolina
World War, 1914-1918--Pamphlets
World War, 1914-1918—Posters
World War, 1914-1918--Social aspects--United States
World War, 1914-1918--Technology
World War, 1914-1918--Transportation--United States
World War, 1914-1918--United States—History

Material Types

Correspondence
Form letters
Pamphlets
Photographs
Posters

Collection Inventory

Series I: General Records

Series I contains correspondence, typed lists, and blank forms related to the U.S. Army War Plans Division and North Carolina Council of Defense's efforts to document the industries and industrial operations of North Carolina's companies and factories, which were producing materials that supported the war effort during World War I. Of particular interest in this series are two copies of a typed list, compiled in 1918 by Fred A. Olds of the North Carolina Historical Commission for the North Carolina Council of Defense, which notes the names of North Carolina companies and factories producing materials for the war effort; type of materials the companies produced for the war effort; and the number of employees the companies employed at the time Olds compiled the list (see Box 1, Folder 3). Series I has no specific arrangement.

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/1	U.S. Army War Plans Division Correspondence	1918
1/2	Emergency Fleet Corporation Correspondence	1918
1/3	War Industries in North Carolina List	1918
1/4	Unidentified Lists of Businesses in North Carolina Cities	Undated
1/5	List of County Managers for Railroad Work in North Carolina	Undated
1/6	Non-war Construction Project License Blank Application	Undated
1/7	Blank Report Forms for North Carolina Materials for Rapid Highway and Railroad Construction	1917
1/8	Unidentified North Carolina Labor Conference Resolutions, 1918	June 4, 1918

Series II: Municipal Files

Series II contains correspondence and photographs, documenting which companies and factories in certain North Carolina towns and cities were involved in producing materials that supported the war effort during World War I. The correspondence includes letters written and received by Fred A. Olds of the North Carolina Historical Commission. The correspondence was sent to him by corporations and regional business or political leaders, in cities and towns throughout North Carolina in response to Olds' inquiries regarding local businesses involved in war production. Also included for several towns are photographs of the interior operations of North Carolina companies and factories manufacturing war products. These photographs retained by Olds—later donated to the North Carolina Historical Commission—were received as part of the U.S. Army War Plans Division's project to secure pictures showing war effort products that were being manufactured in North Carolina. Box 1, Folder 28—High Point includes photographs of the manufacture of wooden airplane propellers by the Giant Furniture Company of High Point, North Carolina. Box 1, Folder 49—Wilmington includes photographs of the construction and launching of U.S. Emergency Fleet Corporation steamer ships, U.S. Coast Guard cutters, and other ships by the Liberty Shipbuilding Corporation and the Carolina Ship Building Corporation in Wilmington, North Carolina. The Municipal Files are arranged alphabetically by name of the North Carolina town or city.

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/10	Albemarle	August 1918
1/11	Asheboro	August 1918
1/12	Asheville	June 1918
1/13	Badin	1918
1/14	Burlington	August 1918
1/15	Canton	1918
1/16	Carthage	August 1918
1/17	Charlotte	August 1918
1/18	Clayton	August 1918
1/19	Concord	August 1918
1/20	Durham	1918

1/21	Elkin	August 1918
1/22	Graham	August 1918
1/23	Greensboro	August 1918
1/24	Greenville	August 1918
1/25	Haw River	August 1918
1/26	Henderson	August 1918
1/27	Hickory	July 1918
1/28	High Point	June-August 1918
1/29	Kannapolis	1918
1/30	Kinston	August 1918
1/31	Leaksville	September 1918
1/32	Lenoir	August 1918
1/33	Lexington	August 1918
1/34	Lumberton	August 1918
1/35	Morgantown	August 1918
1/36	Raleigh	1918, 1929
1/37	Rockingham	August 1918
1/38	Rosemary	August 1918
1/39	Rutherfordton	August 1918
1/40	Salisbury	August 1918
1/41	Selma	August 1918
1/42	Shelby	August 1918
1/43	Sylva	August 1918

1/44	Spray	July-August 1918
1/45	Statesville	August 1918
1/46	Tarboro	August 1918
1/47	Vilas	August 1918
1/48	Wadesboro	August 1918
1/49	Wilmington	1917-1919
1/50	Winston-Salem	June-August 1918

Series III: Industry Records

Series III includes correspondence, maps, railroad and street car time tables and travel rate charts, industrial association and conference newsletters, and photographs, documenting various North Carolina and southern United States industries and corporations' reactions to the effects of rationing and mobilization on the home front for America's role in World War I. Documents in this series includes letters detailing efforts by newspapers and printing companies to reduce the amount of print paper used in printing operations due to the labor force shortage during World War I (see Box 1, Folder 51). Carolina Power & Light Company sent out a notification in May 1918 to its customers about gas rate increases, due to increased gas production costs during World War I (see Box 1, Folder 52). Also included in this series is a Seaboard Air Line Railway "Military Camps and Nearby Resorts" route map and informational brochure, specifically aimed at those wishing to "Winter Near Your Soldier Boy" (see Box 1, Folder 57). Series III has no specific arrangement, except with miscellaneous and unidentified items at the end of the series.

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/51	Conservation of Print Paper	Undated
1/52	Carolina Power & Light Company	1918-1919
1/53	Hilker Brothers Tailors of Raleigh Rate Changes Letter	1919
1/54	North Carolina Merchants Association	1918-1920
1/55	Raleigh Building and Loan Association Booklet	Undated
1/56	Street Car Zone System Fares Rate Booklet	Undated
1/57	Railway Time Tables and Military Camp Stops Chart	1919-1920, undated

1/58	Miscellaneous State and Regional Industrial Association Materials	1918-1920
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1/59	Unidentified Aircraft Construction Factory Photographs	circa 1910s
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Oversized Materials

Oversized materials includes a number of U.S. Department of Labor War Plant Posters, and a steam engine blueprint for the factory steam engine used in the Ivanhoe Manufacturing Company during World War I in Smithfield, North Carolina. The Oversized Materials have been arranged based on the size of the records.

Box/Folder	Description	Date
2/1	U.S. Department of Labor War Plant Posters	Undated
Oversized Folder 1	Ivanhoe Manufacturing Company (Smithfield, North Carolina) Hamilton Corliss Engine Blueprint, 1917	May 22, 1917 (print issue date)