



Guide to the Webster M. Pidgeon Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) papers 1936-1999

Accession number: 2000-55

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Title:

Webster M. Pidgeon Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) papers

Reference code/Local Identifier (Accession Number):

2000-55

Name of Creator:

Pidgeon, Walter M.

Archivist and date:

Finding aid prepared by Kate Telford

Finding aid encoded by Kate Telford

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Dates:

1936-1999

Bulk: 1936-1938, 1984-1986

Extent:

.75 cubic feet

Languages and Scripts of the Material:

English

Abstract:

The Webster M. Pidgeon Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) papers include photographs, clippings and convention memorabilia related to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

Administrative/Biographical History:

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a public work relief program for unemployed men, focused on natural resource conservation from 1933 to 1942. As part of the New Deal legislation proposed by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR), the CCC was designed firstly, to aid relief of high unemployment stemming from the Great Depression and secondly, to carry out a broad natural resource conservation program on national, state and municipal lands. Legislation to create the program was introduced by FDR to the 73rd United States Congress on March 21, 1933, and the Emergency Conservation Work Act, as it was known, was signed into law on March 31, 1933.

The CCC became one of the most popular New Deal programs among the general public and operated in every U.S. state and the territories of Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Members lived in camps, wore uniforms, and lived under quasi-military discipline. At the time of entry, 70% of enrollees were malnourished and poorly clothed. Very few had more than a year of high school education; few had work experience beyond occasional odd jobs. The peace was maintained by the threat of "dishonorable discharge." There were no reported revolts or strikes.

The total of 200,000 black enrollees were entirely segregated after 1935 but received equal pay and housing. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes pressured Director Robert Fechner to appoint blacks to supervisory positions such as education directors in the 143 segregated camps. The separate Indian Division was a major relief force for Native Americans.

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Initially, the CCC was limited to young men age 18 to 25 whose fathers were on relief. Average enrollees were ages 18-19. Two exceptions to the age limits were veterans and Indians, who had a special CCC program and their own camps. In 1937, Congress changed the age limits to 17 to 28 years old and dropped the requirement that enrollees be on relief.

Although the CCC was probably the most popular New Deal program, it never became a permanent agency. The last extension passed by Congress was in 1939. The CCC program continued to be reduced in operations as the Depression waned and employment opportunities improved. Also fewer eligible young men were available after the draft commenced in 1940. Beginning in May 1940, as war raged in Europe, the program began a shift toward national defense and forest protection. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 all federal programs were now focused on the war effort. The CCC disbanded one year earlier than planned, as the 77th United States Congress ceased funding, causing it to formally conclude operations at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1942. Liquidation of the CCC was ordered by Congress by Labor-Federal Security Appropriation Act (56 Stat. 569) on July 2, 1942; and virtually completed on June 30, 1943. Liquidation appropriations for the CCC continued through April 20, 1948.

Conditions governing access:

No special restrictions unless otherwise specified.

Scope and content:

The Webster M. Pidgeon Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) papers include photographs, clippings and convention memorabilia related to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Specific items of interest include a photograph album of images from Burlingame Camp SP-2 at Watchaug Pond, Westerly, RI and a photographs album showing views of the building of the Alaska Highway, 1942.

The collection was donated by Walter Pidgeon who was a recruit at the Burlingame Camp in Westerly RI and the original owner of the records. One photograph previously belonged to Frank Fields of 141 Co. CCC, Charlestown, RI.

System of arrangement:

The Webster M. Pidgeon Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) papers are arranged into the following series:

Series 1. Papers and Ephemera

Series 2. Photographs

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

Donated by Webster M. Pidgeon, 158 Webster Avenue, Providence, RI, 02909 on December 4, 2000.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Rhode Island State Archives, 2000-55, Webster M. Pidgeon Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) papers.

Accruals:

No additional accruals are anticipated.

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Related archival materials:

RIAMCO Browsing Term (if applicable):

Government, Politics and Law

Rhode Island/Local Interest

Names:

Pidgeon, Walter M.

Fields, Frank

Subjects:

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)--1930-1940.

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)--History--Pictorial works.

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)--History.

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)--Officials and employees--History--20th century.

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)--People--1930-1940.

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)--People--1930-1950.

Alaska Highway.

Alaska Highway--History--20th century.

National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni

AmeriCorps (U.S.)

Types of Materials:

certificates

souvenir programs

pamphlets

application forms

journals (periodicals)

clippings (information artifacts)

ephemera

maps

black-and-white photographs

color photographs

photograph albums

Inventory:

Series 1. Papers and Ephemera

Box 1

1. Temporary Charter Certificate - Charter NACCA (National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni for the Rhode Island Yankee Chapter No. 109 located in Rhode Island. October 10, 1984.
2. CCC Souvenir Program Book of the 1985 National Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 23 - 27, 1985. Includes photographs
3. Brief History of the Civilian Conservation Corps (Fifth Ed. April 1983)

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4. National Association of CCC Alumni, Eighth Biennial Convention Program, July 15-22, 1999 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
5. National Association of CCC Alumni, Sixth Biennial Convention Program, September 11-15, 1989 in Dayton, Ohio
6. Americorps, National Civilian Conservation Corps Member Application Packet [1993].
7. Meeting packet - Sixth Biennial Convention, 1989
8. 1999 National Convention/Reunion of the NACCC Alumni, August 30-31, September 1, 1999 in Mystic CT, 06355
9. NACCCA Journal
Vol. 22, Nos. 9 - 12, Vol. 23, Nos. 1-4 (1999-2000)
10. Civilian Conservation Corps Official Annual 1937 (Third C.C.C. District, First Corp Area) - District Headquarters, Fort Devens, Massachusetts
- Includes clipping from the South County Independent, August 6, 1998 - The CCC Built Men and Planted Self-Respect.
11. CCC recruits' hat, WWI army wool material, forest green. Emblem is forest green on yellow.
12. Clippings, 1993, Providence Journal, July 16, Friday CCC Vets Call for Rebirth.
13. Copy of Map of Charleston reproduced from the Beers Atlas, 1870

Series 2. Photographs

Box 2

1. Photograph Album - - mixed photographs, black and white and color, Polaroid's, photos of the period [1937?] of the Rhode Island Beach Pond Camp SP (State Park)-1, 1186 Company CCC- in magnetic album -views of the camp and includes photographs of signs at other sites. Includes 1999 membership list from the NACCCA Yankee Chapter 109.
1 album, 39 photographs
2. Photograph Album of Frank Fields, 141 Co. CCC, Charlestown, RI - many from Burlingame Camp SP-2, Watchaug Pond, Westerly RI, 1936 - [1938]
- Includes a few images showing the destruction of the 1938 Hurricane in Westerly.
1 album, 68 b&w photographs
3. Photograph Album of Webster Pidgeon - shows black and white views of Alaska and the building of the Alaska Highway (Alcan Project) 1942. Includes booklet - The Alaska Highway: A Saga of the North, 1943.
1 album, 167 b&w photographs