Henry Wood Booth (1837-1925)

Papers, 1814-1950

14.25 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 1985-05

Acquisition: Donated to the Cranbrook Archives by Henry Scripps Booth, Edmund Pratt, Henry Pratt, and other Booth family members.

Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted except for Boxes 17 and 18 due to fragility of the materials. Copies of materials in Box 17 can be found in Box 1 and 3.

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Preferred Citation: Henry Wood Booth Papers, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Photographs: In Photograph Special File

Index: None

History

Henry Wood Booth was born 21 Jan 1837 in the village of Cranbrook, Kent, England, the son of coppersmith Henry Gough Booth and Harriet Wood. At age five, his mother died and his father emigrated to America with his three children. The family lived for periods in Cincinnati, Ohio; Toronto, Ontario; and Buffalo, New York before returning to England where Henry Sr. set up a metalworking shop in 1850. A year later they again set sail for America and took up residence in St. Catharines, Ontario.

At age seventeen, Henry Wood Booth met Clara Louise Irene Gagnier, the eldest daughter of Maria Martel and Charles Gagnier, also of St. Catharines. They were married 18 May 1858 at Trinity Church in Toronto. Henry and Clara had ten children: Charles Henry, Alice Martel, Grace, George Gough, Edmund Wood, Theodora Marianne, Adelaide Clara Louise, Ralph Harman, Roland Bucer, and Bertha Beatrice.

By the age of twenty, Henry Wood Booth was active in temperance work, publishing in several news and temperance papers with which he was involved. At the same time, he also worked for winegrowers in the state of New York, who adopted his suggestion of distilling cheap brandy from wine furnished with extra sugar. In 1873, Henry became interested in the Reformed Episcopal Church movement. In 1874, he began publishing the *Sunday Times* in Toronto. The paper failed to gain acceptance and subsequently ceased publication.

Henry Wood Booth was also an inventor and received a United States patents commission during the years 1875-1887. His inventions included Ka-O-Ka, a coffee substitute, and a ventilated coffin. Booth was a prolific writer and speaker. His articles were published in the *Detroit News* as a religious page called "Peregrinations of a Church Tramp" and he spoke at many Detroit area churches. Out of this experience came his unsuccessful attempt to revive the practice of family prayer through the "Bell, Book and Candle Society."

Henry Wood Booth became an American citizen in September 1911 and spent his last twenty years living in “The Cottage” at Cranbrook, the estate of his son George in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. There he built rock gardens and paths, studied, and continued writing. Henry Wood Booth died 17 Mar 1925; his wife Clara Gagnier Booth died 1 Apr 1930.
Scope and Content of Collection

The Henry Wood Booth Papers document the early history of the Booth family and of Cranbrook, the estate of George Gough Booth in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The collection includes material documenting both the Booth family history as well as the Gagnier family history. In addition, a large bulk of the material pertains to Booth’s various professional, spiritual, and intellectual pursuits. Of particular interest are his autobiography, *Life of Henry Wood Booth*, and his *Annals of Cranbrook*, both of which contain a variety of photographs, news articles and publications in addition to Booth's handwritten manuscript.

The Henry Wood Booth Papers have been subdivided into six series: BIOGRAPHICAL, CORRESPONDENCE, FAMILY HISTORY, PUBLICATIONS, WRITINGS, SCRAPBOOKS, BOOKS, and REALIA.

The BIOGRAPHICAL series contains an interview of Henry Wood Booth, the *Life of Henry Wood Booth*, and business and personal materials. Henry’s diaries were included in this series as well as his views on his own religious beliefs.

The CORRESPONDENCE series contains general correspondence with members of the Booth family, including letters of sympathy after the deaths of both Henry and Clara.

The FAMILY HISTORY series includes correspondence to, from, and about members of the Booth and Gagnier families, as well as related families, in order to document the genealogy and family histories of these families. A few materials post-date the deaths of Henry and Clara and were added to this collection by Booth family members.

PUBLICATIONS consist of published articles and essays that Henry either wrote or edited.

The WRITINGS series spans the years 1860-1920 and consists primarily of religious writings and Booth’s views on various topics. For the most part, these writings were not published.

The SCRAPBOOKS contain clippings of articles on the various topics in which Booth was interested including temperance, religion, marriage, women’s rights, and politics, and span a forty-six year time period. Some articles pertain to Booth and Scripps family members. Scrapbook A is indexed.

The BOOKS series contains four books owned by Booth, all of which contain marginal commentaries by him.

The REALIA series (1853-1869) contains Booth family memorabilia.
Box Number--Description

SERIES I: BIOGRAPHICAL

Box 1

1. Articles, 1917-1925
2. The Bell, Book and Candle Family Altar, 1925
3. Booth Family, Obituaries, 1925-1930
4. “A Brief Chronological Record of Booth Family and Business Affairs,” 1924
5. Certificates, 1836-1911
6. Ephemera, 1887-1914
7. Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1908
8. Golden Wedding Anniversary - Telegrams, 1908
9. Henry Wood Booth Family Chronology (Book No. 18), 1836-1909
10. Henry Wood Booth Diary (Book No. 16), 1906-1908
11. Henry Wood Booth Diary (Book No. 17), 1908-1909
12. Henry Wood Booth Memorials, 1925
13. Interview by W.J. Cameron, n.d. [photocopy]
14. Last Will and Testament, 1920
17. Receipts, 1907-1922
18. Religion – Trinity Church, 1894

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE

Box 2

1. Edmund Wood Booth, 1923-1924
2. George Gough Booth, 1911-1924
3. General, 1876-1925
4. Henry Wood Booth, 1884-1904
5. Henry Wood Booth Family, 1865-1923
6. Letters of Sympathy, 1925-1930

SERIES III: FAMILY HISTORY

7. Booth and Kingswood Old Family Records (Ledger)
8. Henry Gough Booth Family, 1836-1861
9. Henry Gough Booth Family, 1862-1897
10. Dungey Family, 1865, 1921-1926
Box 2 (cont’d)

11. Gagnier and Martell
13. Gagnier Family, ca 1922-1943
14. General Materials
15. Martell Family, 1814-1877

SERIES III: FAMILY HISTORY (cont’d)

Box 3

1. Martell Family – Military, 1836-1902

SERIES IV: PUBLICATIONS

3. *Alliance News*, 1911-1912
5. *Christianity and Family Religion*, 1898-1899
7. Cranbrook, England Church Histories
10. *The New Star Spangled Banner*, ca 1908
11. Prohibition and Temperance, 1916-1922
14. *The Snake Scotched*, 1899

SERIES V: WRITINGS

15. Introduction and Description, Henry Scripps Booth, n.d.

Box 4

2. “One Hundred Warnings Collected from the New Testament”
3. Religious, 1855
4. Religious, 1882-1886
5. Religious, ca 1886-1887
6. Religious, 1887-1888
7. Religious, ca 1889
8. Religious, 1890
Box 4 (cont’d)

9. Religious, 1894
10. Religious, 1896-1897
11. Religious, 1899
12. Religious, 1900

Box 5

1. Religious, 1913
2. Religious, n.d.
5. Religious, n.d.
7. “Sketch for an American System of Measures and Money,” 1897

Subseries: Newsclippings

Box 6

1. Selections from Peregrinations and Cogitations of a Church Tramp [hereafter known as Church Tramp], Vol. I, Title Page and Table of Contents, 1900-1902

Box 7

4. Selections from Peregrinations and Cogitations of a Church Tramp [hereafter known as Church Tramp], Vol. II, Title Page and Table of Contents, 1903-1905
Box 8

1. Church Tramp, Vol. II, Thoughts No. 21-26, Jan - Mar 1904
3. Church Tramp, Vol. II, Thoughts, Tours and Answers, Jul – Sep 1904
5. Church Tramp, Vol. II, Thoughts and Answers, Jan – Mar 1905

Box 9

1. Selections from Peregrinations and Cogitations of a Church Tramp [hereafter known as Church Tramp], Vol. III, Title Page and Table of Contents, 1906-1909
5. Church Tramp, Vol. III, Thoughts, Jan – Mar 1907
7. Church Tramp, Vol. III, Thoughts and Answers, Sep – Nov 1907
10. Thoughts and Answers, Jul – Nov 1908

SERIES IV. SCRAPBOOKS

Box 10  Scrapbook A, 1876-1906

Box 11  Scrapbook #1, 1901-1908

Box 12  Scrapbook #2, 1897-1906

Box 13  Scrapbook #4, 1887-1919

Box 14  Scrapbook #5, 1919-1922

SERIES V: BOOKS [all with Henry Wood Booth’s marginalia]

Box 15

2. The Holy Bible [King James Version], [n.d.]
3. Memory: A Souvenir, 1854
4. Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism, 1885
SERIES IV: REALIA

Box 16
- Bookmark by Clara Louise Gagnier Booth; Image of unidentified woman, [n.d.]
- Clara Louise Gagnier Booth’s wedding ring and bouquet remnants, [n.d.]
- Masonic regalia, ca.1866-1869
- Waistcoat, [n.d.]
- Waistcoat, [n.d.]
- Watch pocket, 1853
- Wedding gloves, [n.d.]

Box 17: RESTRICTED
1. “Annals of Cranbrook” [original]
2. “Life of Henry Wood Booth” [original]
3. Interview by W.J. Cameron [original]

Box 18: RESTRICTED
1. Martell Family Bible