

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Dr. Albert Vander Veer Papers

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Dr. Albert Vander Veer Papers

Call Number: DB 560

Creator: Unknown

Inclusive Dates: 1538 through 1953

Bulk Dates: 1862-1865, 1890-1929

Abstract: Personal papers of Albany physician Dr. Albert Vander Veer including his medical school lecture notes, personal correspondence, collection of playbills and train schedules and various newspaper clippings. The collection also includes the WWI diary of a family friend, two Dutch documents written in the 1530's, and the personal papers of Dr. Edgar Vander Veer and papers associated with the Wooster and Brown families.

Quantity: 6 boxes including two oversized

Administrative Information

Custodial History: In March of 1930, Dr. Vander Veer's sons Drs. James, Edgar and Albert Vander Veer originally collected and presented their father's Civil War journals and medical school notes to the Surgeon General's Office. Their offer to give the materials was refused and instead they were given to AIHA. James, Edgar and Albert Jr., contributed other items as well at various points. A number of Edgar Vander Veer's papers were donated to AIHA in March, 1969 by his daughter Grace Vander Veer McDonough.

Preferred Citation: Dr. Albert Vander Veer Papers, DB 560, Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: Unknown

Accession Date: Unknown

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Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term**Persons:**

Brown, Hamilton

Martin, Franklin

Roosevelt, Theodore

Snow, Simeon

Vander Veer, Albert

Vander Veer, Edgar

Vander Veer, Harriet (Wooster)

Vander Veer, Margaret (Snow)

Wooster, Benjamin

Organizations:

66th Regimental New York Volunteers

Albany Institute of History and Art

Albany Tercentenary Commission

Columbia College of Medicine (George Washington University)

Free Masons

Grand Stock Company

Holland Society

Leland Opera House

New York State Board of Regents

New York State Department of Education

Sons of the Revolution

Union College

U.S. Army Medical Department

W.B. Wooster Furniture Company

Subjects:

Albany, New York – History, local; Albany, New York – History –Tercentenary Celebration, 1924; Higher education and state – New York; Genealogy – Vander Veer Family; Genealogy – Snow Family; Genealogy – Wooster Family; Medical education; Medicine – History – nineteenth and twentieth century; Theater programs; United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Medical care; World War, 1914-1918

Places:

Albany, New York
Camp Alkmaar, Big Moose Lake, New York
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Root, New York
Sarasota, Florida
Washington D.C.
Veer, Holland

Document Types:

Journals; correspondence; newspaper clippings; scrapbooks; lecture notes; medical records; certificates; deeds; passports; playbills; transportation time tables, military issue documents.

Biography of Dr. Albert Vander Veer
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Albert Vander Veer was born of Dutch farmer stock in Root, New York on July 10, 1841 to Abraham and Sarah (Martin) Vander Veer. At the age of nineteen, he began to study medicine with the local physician Dr. Simeon Snow, who's daughter Margaret he later married. When the Civil War broke out he was attending Albany Medical College, so he dropped out to volunteer in the Army medical division. His first assignment was to the Ira Harris Hospital in Albany and from there, in May 1862, he was assigned to complete his medical training at the frontline hospital of Columbia College, now George Washington University, in Washington D.C. Once he had completed his requisite courses to receive a degree of medicine, he was reassigned to the 66th Regimental New York Volunteers as an assistant surgeon. In June of 1864, at the age of 24, he became one of the youngest regimental Surgeons of the war. During his time with the 66th Regiment, Dr. Vander Veer was present for the battles of Federicksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

At close of war, Dr. Vander Veer chose to continue his education first by taking post-graduate course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, and then with a tour of the medical colleges and hospitals of Europe. Upon returning to Albany, he set up an office on Jay Street and took up residence at the corner of State and Eagle Streets. As a result of his experiences in his private practice Vander Veer became interested in public health. It was in this capacity that he served on both Albany's first board of health and water board fighting for closed city sewers, pure water and other sanitary improvements. Furthermore, he was also one of the major lobbyists behind the construction of the Albany Hospital.

Dr. Vander Veer was also greatly concerned that physicians be qualified to treat patients. As such, he worked hard to create legislation designed to create state-wide standards for medical practitioners. In the later part of his life, he was a member of the very regulatory commissions he helped to create, serving first as Vice-Chancellor of the Sate Board of Regents in 1915 and then as Chancellor in 1922. As part of his commitment of medical education, Vander Veer was also a professor at and later Dean of Albany Medical College from 1896 to 1905. He was an active member of several professional organizations, and was elected President of the American Surgeons Association in 1905, and President of the American Medical Association in 1916. The

doctor was honored for his efforts as a surgeon, educator and pioneer of public health by being granted membership within the French Legion of Honor.

Apart from his professional pursuits, Dr. Vander Veer was a family man and greatly interested in his Dutch Heritage. On June 5, 1867 he married Margaret Snow, the daughter of his mentor. They had six children, three of whom survived to adulthood. Each of these three sons, Edgar, James and Albert Jr., became doctors as well. Dr. Vander Veer was an active member of the Holland Society of New York and was awarded the Order of Orange-Nassau by the Queen of Holland.

Dr. Albert Vander Veer died on December 19, 1929 at the age of 89.

Margaret (Snow) Vander Veer was born September 20, 1845 the youngest daughter of Simeon and Margaret Snow of Root, New York. She married Albert Vander Veer on June 5, 1867. She died on March 24, 1914 while vacationing in Florida.

Simeon Snow was born on February 18, 1803 in Mansfield, Massachusetts. He received his degree of medicine in 1828 from Pittsfield Medical College in Massachusetts. He lived in several places in New York before settling in Currytown in 1834 and marrying one Margaret Dievendorff shortly there after. He worked there as a practicing physician and was also involved in education serving as both commissioner and superintendent of schools. He also served in the state Senate during 1852 and 1853. He died on September 20, 1865 after falling from his horse while riding with his daughter Margaret three days before.

Dr. Edgar Vander Veer was born September 29, 1873 the son of Dr. Albert and Margaret Vander Veer. He received his M.D. from Union University in 1898. Shortly there after, he served as a military surgeon in the Spanish-American War. In 1900, he married Harriet Wooster with who he eventually had a daughter and two sons. He practiced medicine in Albany from 1899 until his retirement in 1950. During that time he was a professor at Albany Medical College, a consulting surgeon at a number of area hospitals and a member of numerous medical societies. He died on September 20, 1953 after an extended illness.

Benjamin Wooster was born on March 24, 1820 in Albany County to David and Polly Wooster. The family was rather poor, and so he apprenticed himself to a cabinet-maker at the age of seventeen. After four years, he set up his own shop and over the course of his lifetime B.W. Wooster Furniture Company became known as one of the leading furniture stores in the Northeast. In 1878 he became president of the Albany County Bank. His wife was a member of the Brown family and his daughter Harriet married Edgar Vander Veer. Wooster died 1897 after a prolonged illness.

Scope and Contents of the Papers

The Dr. Vander Veer collection contains bound journals, newspaper clippings, correspondence, scrapbooks, legal documents, play bills, time tables and certificates. The collection contains documents from the 16th century to 1953, with the bulk of the papers coming from the 1860's and the first two decades of the 20th century. The Dr. Vander Veer Papers are divided into 7 series; Journals and Records; Military Documents; Dr.

Albert Vander Veer's Papers; Dr. James Vander Veer's Papers; Dr. Albert Vander Veer II's Papers; Dr. Edgar Vander Veer's Papers; and Benjamin Wooster's Papers.

The first two series, Journals and Records, and Military Documents contain documents that were created during the 1860's and are primarily associated with Dr. Vander Veer's service as Surgeon for the 66th New York Volunteers. Contained within these two series are Dr. Vander Veer's medical school notes, the medical records for the 66th Regimental Volunteers, the Doctor's pass-book and several official military documents. Dr. Vander Veer's class notes cover a wide range of medical related topics, and provide insight into the state of medical knowledge in the 1860's. The medical records of Vander Veer's regiment not only contain information on the casualty rates for specific battles, but also give an understanding of the other ailments that plagued the military during the Civil War.

Series III, Dr. Albert Vander Veer's Papers, primarily concerns the Doctor's life after the Civil War until his death in 1929, with the bulk of the papers coming from the 1910's and 1920's. The papers within this series cover a wide range of topics including WWI, the 1924 Tercentenary Celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims, Vander Veer genealogy, and local history. The series contains a large collection of letters, including two written by President Theodore Roosevelt, a number of newspaper clippings, and various oversized certificates. While the majority of the series consists of items collected by Doctor Vander Veer during his lifetime, also grouped within this series are several items written about the doctor after his death and presumably collected by one of his children.

Series IV through VI contain documents associated with Albert Vander Veer's sons. Series IV, Dr. James Vander Veer's Papers, consists of a transcript of his friend Franklin Martin's WWI diary and provides an interesting and detailed account of this officer's war-time experience. Series V, Dr. Albert Vander Veer II's Papers, contains copies of an undetermined age of Dutch documents from the 1530's concerning the town of Veer, Holland along with their translation. Series VI, Dr. Edgar Vander Veer's Papers, includes several pieces of personal correspondence, numerous certificates, mailings and publications relating to the various organizations with which he was associated.

The final series, Benjamin Wooster's Papers, contain documents associated with the father of Dr. Edgar Vander Veer's wife Harriet. Included within this series are a number of legal documents relating to Mr. Wooster's various real estate holdings in downtown Albany, and few papers about B.W. Wooster Furniture Company.

Organization of the Papers

The Dr. Albert Vander Veer Papers is divided into seven series; Journals and Records; Military Documents; Dr. Albert Vander Veer's Papers; Dr. James Vander Veer's Papers; Dr. Albert Vander Veer II's Papers; Dr. Edgar Vander Veer's Papers; and Benjamin Wooster's Papers.

All letters are in chronological order within their various folders.

Oversized documents within each series are contained within the oversized section and are indicated with an (OV) within the description.

Related Material

- ms-2100, Correspondence 1863-1865. Contains five ALS and two letters to an unidentified Albany friend concerning Vander Veer's time practicing medicine with the 66th Regiment.
- VF (Biography) Vander Veer Family. Contains a 1927 article from the Knickerbocker Press on the life of Dr. Vander Veer.
- VF (Subject) Albany Medical College (Albany, N.Y.) Contains a photograph of the students and faculty of the College in 1884 including Dr. Vander Veer.
- VF (Subject) Camps- NY- Adirondack Mountains. Contains the essay "A History of the Vander Veer Camp" by Grace Vander Veer McDonough.
- HB 79-04 Grace Wooster Papers, 1859-1953. Contains papers associated with the Wooster family.

Separated Materials

Oversized materials from the various series are filed in two oversized boxes.

Other Finding Aids

The original, handwritten, finding aide can be found in the unnumbered folder in the front of box 1.

Detailed Description of the Papers

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series I, Journals and Records

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
1	1	Journal, 1865-66 <i>daily medical reports for 66th regiment, lecture notes.</i>
1	2	Scrapbook/Journal 1866 <i>clippings of articles on Cholera, lecture notes, military medical reports.</i>
1	3	Journal, Patients Treated 1865-66 <i>military medical reports, lecture notes.</i>
1	4	Journal, Gettysburg Patients and Other Medical Notes <i>lecture notes, patient records from battle of Gettysburg.</i>
1	5	Diary 1864 <i>dairy and personal financial records.</i>
1	6	Prescription Book and Surgical Instrument Inventory

Series II, Military Documents

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
2	1	Army Medical Records (2 vols.) 1862-70

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| 2 | 2 | Ambulance Train Passbook 1865 <i>contains both completed and blank forms for military pass.</i> |
| 2 | 3 | Regimental Flag Booklets (2) 1863, 1864 <i>government issued documents regarding company flags.</i> |

Series III, Dr. Albert Vander Veer's Papers

- | Box # | Folder # | Title / Description |
|-------|----------|---|
| 2 | 4 | Miscellaneous Correspondence to Dr. Vander Veer <i>39 letters on various subjects ranging in date from 1870 to 1929. Includes two personal letters from President Theodore Roosevelt.</i> |
| 2 | 5 | Miscellaneous Civil War Papers <i>11 items including casualty reports, medical supply invoices, veteran's pension documents and letters relating to the war.</i> |
| 2 | 6 | Tercentenary Celebration 1924 <i>29 letters, a ticket, two place cards, 9 pamphlets and various press clippings concerning the event.</i> |
| 2 | 7 | Deed 1874 |
| 2 | 8 | A. Vander Veer's 1874 Passport |
| 3 | 1 | Vander Veer Genealogy <i>contains a little pamphlet on similarly named family, several pieces of correspondence relating to Vander Veer family, and a document recording marriages.</i> |
| 3 | 2 | History and Antiques <i>contains procures, and a book on local history and antique furniture.</i> |
| 3 | 3 | Newspapers and Periodicals, W.W. I |
| 3 | 4 | Programs and Play Bills |
| 3 | 5 | Time Tables <i>contains train and ferry schedules.</i> |
| 3 | 6 | Press Clippings on the Doctor |
| 3 | 7 | Memorials to Dr. Vander Veer |
| 4 | 1 | Photos and Prints |
| 4 | 2 | Portrait of Dr. Abraham Jacob |
| 5 | | Item 1, photocopy of records of New York State Comptroller from January 22, 1798 (OV) |
| 5 | | Item 2, photocopy of ledger book of City of Albany from 1782? (OV) |
| 5 | | Item 3, scrapbook on the Snow family (OV) |
| 5 | | Item 4, scrapbook of Vander Veer genealogy (OV) |
| 5 | | Item 5, scrapbook of obituaries (OV) |
| | | A. Vander Veer's commission to act as NY's representative to the National Academy of Medicine, 1896 (OV) |
| | | A. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in NYS Forestry Association, 1914 (OV) |
| | | A. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in New York State Historical Society, 1905 (OV) |
| | | A. Vander Veer's certification as a New York State Regent, 1895 (OV) |

A. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in Young Man's Association, 1888 (OV)
 A. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in NY Medico Legal Society, 1887 (OV)
 A. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in Albany Excelsior Corps, 1888 (OV)
 A. Vander Veer and M. Snow's marriage license June 5, 1867 (OV)
 A. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in McKinley Memorial Association, 1902 (OV)
 Fancier version of A. Vander Veer and M. Snow's marriage license June 5, 1867 (OV)

Series IV, Dr. James Vander Veer's Papers

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
4	3	Diary, W.W. <i>I contains a transcript of the Diary of Colonial Franklin Martin, gifted to James Vander Veer</i>

Series V, Dr. Albert Vander Veer II's Papers

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
4	4	Rights and Duties of the Town of Veer, 1538 <i>contains copies of two 16th century Dutch documents, a translation and the envelope in which they arrived.</i>

Series VI, Dr. Edgar Vander Veer's Papers

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
4	5	Item 1, envelope from Berlin 1899.
4	5	Item 2, post card dated August 24, 1900
4	5	Item 3, letter dated March 11, 1912
4	5	Item 4 a, b, letter and envelope it came in dated December 13, 1923
4	5	Item 5 a, b, press clipping and envelope it came in
4	5	Item 6, letter dated November 10, 1931
4	5	Item 7, Union University Alumnae Association death notice October 8, 1953
4	5	Item 8, Edgar's Passport dated October 3, 1898.
4	5	Item 9, Award of Order of Orange-Nassau in Dutch dated 1932
4	5	Item 10, Deed
4	5	Item 11, photograph of Edgar's late sister
4	5	Item 12, Mrs. Vander Veer's 1914 membership card to Albany Institute and Historical and Art Society
4	5	Item 13, Dr. Vander Veer's 1914 membership card to Albany Institute and Historical and Art Society

4	5	Item 14, Certificate of contribution of Sons of the Revolution dated 1907
4	5	Item 15, Albany County Society of Mayflower Descendants rolls 1955-1956
4	5	Item 16, a-q, Images and press clippings relating to historical homes.
4	5	Item 17, Independence day poem. E. Vander Veer's Sons of Revolution certificate and two copies of a letter (OV) E. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in Rose Croix, 1913 (Free Mason order) (OV) E. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in Albany Institue, 1900 (OV) E. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in Grand Army of Royal Serret, 32 nd Degree, 1913 (Free Mason order) (OV) E. Vander Veer's certificate of membership in Princes of Jerusalem, 1912 (Free Mason order) (OV)

Series VII, Benjamin Wooster's Papers

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
4	6	Item 1, Deed between Hamilton Brown and Benjamin Wooster dated May 20, 1878
4	6	Item 2, Deed between Anna Nichols, Clara Russell and Henry Russell dated May 13, 1886
4	6	Item 3, Surrogate Court paper work regarding the will of Mary Ann Bicknell dated August 3, 1883.
4	6	Item 4, property tax assessment notice for Hamilton Brown May 17, 1878
4	6	Item 5, account of various land deals with the Brown family
4	6	Item 6, document waving debts owed by Wooster to the First Presbyterian Church dated May 18, 1887.
4	6	Item 7, resolution of the Board of Trustees of First Presbyterian Church concerning death of Benjamin Wooster dated September 24, 1897.
4	6	Item 8, Benjamin Wooster's certificate of membership in Royal Arch Masons dated July 19, 1888.
4	6	Item 9, hand drawn map of corner of Robin Street and Western Ave.
4	6	Item 10, account of Benjamin Wooster's business history.
4	6	Item 11, shipping invoice from the Wooster Furniture Company dated April 23, 1901.
4	6	Item 12, letter to Wooster dated June 8, 1887.
4	6	Item 13, handwritten account of Lincoln's funeral with typed version as well.