

MC CORMICK FAMILY PAPERS

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BACKGROUND

Robert Laird McCormick

Robert Laird McCormick was born near Lock Haven, Pennsylvania on October 29, 1847. Both of his grandfathers fought in the War of 1812 and his great-grandfather served in the Revolutionary Army. McCormick attended school at Sunders Institute in Philadelphia and at the Tuscarosa Academy in Mifflin, PA. He left the Academy before graduating, however, and entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Erie Railroad as station clerk. In 1867, he married Anna E. Goodman in Ohio. They had three children; Blanche Amelia, William Laird and Robert Allen. In 1868, he took charge of the office of Laird, Norton and Company in Winona, Minnesota remaining there for six years. McCormick purchased a retail lumber yard in 1874, in Waseca, Minnesota. He owned this lumber yard until 1881. During this time he was mayor of Waseca (1875-1880) and acted as auditor for Laird, Norton and Company.

In 1880, McCormick was elected to the Minnesota State Senate, serving two regular and extra sessions. He abandoned state politics in 1881 to become secretary and treasurer of Frederick Weyerhaeuser's new company the Northern Wisconsin Lumber Company. McCormick's new position necessitated a move to Hayward, Wisconsin, where the main lumber mill was located. In partnership with Frederick Weyerhaeuser, he founded the Sawyer County Bank in Hayward in January 1884 and served as the bank's first president. In 1890, McCormick organized the Northern Grain and Flour Mill Company of Ashland, Wisconsin.

An avowed Republican, McCormick was a recognized leader in political circles and in civic endeavors in Minnesota and Wisconsin, serving as councilman, mayor, state senator, and county treasurer. He also found time to serve as president of the Hayward Free Library Association and when the town was divided into four school districts, he became

treasurer of District 1 and served on the board of school directors. While on the board of school directors, he wrote two books on Indian Education in Wisconsin (*Education in Sawyer County, Wisconsin: Part 1: Indian Schools*, 1901, and *Evolution of Indian Education: Mission, Public School*,

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U.S. Auspices in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, 1901). McCormick served as a delegate from the state of Wisconsin to the Republican National Conventions of 1880, 1896, and 1900. He also served as president of the Wisconsin State Historical Society from 1901 to 1904.

By the late 1890s, the standing timber supply of Wisconsin and Minnesota was nearing exhaustion. Frederick Weyerhaeuser and his associates in the Northern Wisconsin Lumber Company saw that the Pacific Northwest held an ample supply of lumber. In 1899, McCormick aided Weyerhaeuser in the purchase of vast timber tracts in Washington State and helped set up the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in Tacoma in 1900. He was made secretary of the new company and elected to the board of directors, served in these positions until his death in 1911. With the bulk of the timber company's operations moving to the Pacific Northwest, McCormick followed in 1904, relocating to Tacoma.

In the Northwest, McCormick was president of the Pacific National Bank of Tacoma, the Lumbermen's State Bank of Hoquiam, and served as vice-president of banks in South Bend, Elma, Kelso, Montesano, and Raymond. He also was president of the First National Life Insurance Company of Tacoma. Active in many organizations, McCormick was a member of the Order of the Mystic Shrine, Afifi Temple, Sons of Veterans, Society of the War of 1812, and Sons of the American Revolution. He was also a member of the Tacoma Union and Commercial Clubs and served as a director of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce. A life member of the Washington State Historical Society and the Ferry Museum, McCormick also served as president of both organizations from 1905 to 1911. Through his lobbying efforts in the legislature an appropriation bill was passed to build the museum/historical society building in Tacoma. The cornerstone was laid shortly before his death on February 5, 1911, in Sacramento California.

William Laird McCormick

William Laird McCormick was born on June 12th, 1876, at Waseca, Minnesota, to Robert Laird McCormick and Anna (Goodman) McCormick. The McCormick family remained in Waseca until 1883, when they moved to Hayward, Wisconsin. Young William attended the local grade school until 1889, when he entered the Shattuck Military School in Fairbault, Minnesota. During several of his summer vacations at Shattuck, William worked for the North Wisconsin Lumber Company around the

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lumber yard and log pond. He graduated from Shattuck in 1893, and entered the Phillips Academy at Andover, Massachusetts.

After graduating from the Phillips Academy, in 1894, William entered Yale University in the fall. He dropped out after the winter term of 1895. For the next five years, William worked in the lumber yard and general store of the North Wisconsin Lumber Company, as an assistant cashier of the Sawyer County Bank (at Hayward), and for the Northern Grain Company.

In January, 1900, as a special student, he entered the law school at the University of Wisconsin. In the fall of 1900, he was elected to the Assembly (House of Representatives) of the State of Wisconsin and served on the Judiciary Committee. He continued his law studies and in 1903 was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar without obtaining a degree. He formed a legal practice in partnership with a former classmate, F.L. MacNamara, in Hayward. Aside from the law practice, William was appointed a Justice of the Peace, acted as a land agent for the lumber company, owned one-half interest in the local newspaper, and was involved in the insurance business. In June 1904, he married Ethel Gertrude Robinson of Chicago, Illinois.

At his father's request, William traveled to Duluth, Minnesota to aid his uncle, Allen D. Goodman, as secretary of the Duluth Universal Mill Company. This assignment lasted until the sale of the company in 1906. The year 1906 was an eventful and tragic year for William. His wife died, leaving a son, Robert Laird McCormick III, the law partnership at Hayward was dissolved, the newspaper interest was sold along with all

his property, and his son was taken by his grandmother (Anna McCormick) to Tacoma, Washington. William followed his son to Tacoma the next year. He spent the next year working for the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, as a legal advisor, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and forming a law partnership with J.T.S. Lyle in Tacoma. The partnership lasted until December 31, 1909, when it was dissolved and William started work for the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in the Tacoma office on January 1, 1910.

On July, 14, 1910, William was married a second time to Nelle Marie Bishop in Portland, Oregon. They had one child, a daughter, Jean, in 1918. Nelle died February 28, 1928, at La Jolla, California. On April 18, 1928, William married a third time, at Phoenix, Arizona, to Jessie M. Jones. They had two children, William Laird Devlin, born May 9, 1931, and Delinda Ann, born January 3, 1933.

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William L. McCormick was elected a director of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in 1911, succeeding his father who had died in February and continued to work for the company until his death in 1953. In 1915 he was elected assistant secretary and served as secretary from 1918 to 1938 and 1943 to 1945. He was elected to a vice-presidential position in 1929 and again in 1937, holding this position with the company until 1953. Aside from his work with Weyerhaeuser, William was a director of the General Insurance Company of America and the Puget Sound National Bank. He was the state president of the Sons of the American Revolution (1944-53), a trustee of Tacoma General Hospital, and a board member of the Seniors' Northwest Golf Association. Further, he was a member of the board of trustees of two northwest colleges; College of Puget Sound and Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Prominent in Masonic circles, both Scottish and York rites, William was also a member of the Tacoma Club, the Rainier Club of Seattle, the Tacoma Country and Golf Club, Christ Episcopal Church, Phi Kappa Psi, and Phi Delta Phi. A student of history, especially the early settlement of the state, William invested much of his time and assets in the Washington State Historical Society. He served as president of the society from 1937 to 1938 and again in 1941. He also

served as a member of the board of curators from 1931 to 1937, 1939 to 1940, and 1948 to 1953. William Laird McCormick died in Tacoma on March 26, 1953.

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection is divided into three series: the papers of Robert L. McCormick; William L. McCormick; and the McCormick Family genealogy.

REMARKS

For additional materials on the McCormick family, see the following collections: Neilson Barry, Harry P. Cain, John M. Canse, Ralph Chaplin, C.P. Ferry, Howard Hanson, Ezra Meeker, Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, Norman Thomas, Washington State Historical Society, and the "Forts" Collection.

INCLUSIVE DATES

RESTRICTIONS

NONE.

VOLUME

ACCESSION NUMBERS

1956.50, 1957.18.

ACCESSION DATES

1956-57.

FILE LISTING

BOX 1:

- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1833.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1847.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1884-1888.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1890.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1893.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1894.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1895.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1896.
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- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1899.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1900.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1901-1903.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1904.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1905.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1906.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1911.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1920-29.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1930-39.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence 1940-49.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Correspondence Undated.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Deeds—John Sprague 1828-1858.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family Charts—Bowman Family.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family Charts—Goodman Family.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family Charts—McCormick Family 1893.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family Charts—McCormick Family (1 of 4).
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family Charts—McCormick Family (2 of 4).
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family Charts—McCormick Family (3 of 4).
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family Charts—McCormick Family (4 of 4).
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family History—Bible Records of the
McCormick Family.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family History—Biography: Diffenbacher,
Benjamin F.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family History—Biography: Hoss, Amelia.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family History—Biography: Laird, Wm. H.
- McCormick Genealogy:** Family History—Biography: McCormick
Family (Various individuals).

William L. McCormick:

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William L. McCormick:

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1942.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1943.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1944.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1945.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1946.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1947.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1948.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1949.

William L. McCormick: Report—Weyerhaeuser Sales Co. General Manager's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 1950.

- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.1—Beach in the San Juan Islands.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.2—Robert Laird McCormick.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.3—McCormick Family Cemetery Plot. Highland Cemetery, Lock Haven, PA., 1898.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.4—Hayward, WI. Main Street, Sawyer County Bank Corner, c.1900.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.5—Hayward, WI. Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. McCormick in their library, undated.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.6—Hayward, WI. Robert L. McCormick residence, view of right side, c.1895.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.7—Hayward, WI. The McCormick School.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.8—Hayward, WI. Interior view of the Congregational Church, c.1898.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.9—Hayward, WI. Group on the front steps of the Robert L. McCormick house in the early 1890s (list on back of the photograph).
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.10—Hayward, WI. Mr. & Mrs. McCormick going to the city by train, c.1896.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.11—Portrait, Robert Laird McCormick.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.12—Portrait, Blanche Amelia McCormick.
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.13—Artist J. Scott Ellis' trip of the steamer *R.G. Stewart* to Lake Superior, 1896. Group shot in field (list of participants on back of the photograph).
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.14—Artist J. Scott Ellis' trip of the steamer *R.G. Stewart* to Lake Superior, 1896. Group shot in front of the steamer (list of participants on back of the photograph).
- Photograph:** 1956.50.1.15—Artist J. Scott Ellis' trip of the steamer *R.G. Stewart* to Lake Superior, 1896. Photo-

graph of the steamer on Lake Superior.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.16—Artist J. Scott Ellis' trip of the steamer R.G. Stewart to Lake Superior, 1896. J.E. Dodge and E.J. Seymour with unidentified group of Native Americans.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.17—Artist J. Scott Ellis' trip of the steamer R.G. Stewart to Lake Superior, 1896. J.E. Dodge and E.J. Seymour with unidentified group of Native Americans.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.18—Hayward, WI. Panoramic view of the town, c.1900.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.19—Hayward, WI. North Wisconsin Lumber Company. Loggers at Lunch, undated.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.20—Hayward, WI. North Wisconsin Lumber Company. Interior of the saw mill, undated.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.21—Hayward, WI. North Wisconsin Lumber Company. Loading logs, undated.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.22—William Laird McCormick, undated.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.23—Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. McCormick, F.E. Weyerhaeuser, and F. Weyerhaeuser in front of a train passenger car.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.24—Portrait: Robert Laird McCormick.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.25—Portrait: Mary (Harris) Foss.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.26—Portrait: A.J. Hayward.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.27—Portrait: Woman—unidentified.

Photograph: 1956.50.1.28—

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Photograph: 1956.50.1.125

Photograph: 1956.50.1.126

SUBJECTS:

BROAD SUBJECTS: