

Collection: Malcolm Cooper Collection

Accession Number: 2023.32.01

FINDING AID

Date Range: 1934-2014

Bulk Date: 1950-1968

Creator: Malcolm E. Cooper Jr.

Number and Type of Containers: Six Folders

Storage Location: TBA

Aid Created By: Heather Garside, Curator

Biographical Information/ Historical Information:

Originally based in Suffern, N.Y., Everett Abbott Cooper (1860-1953) was the founder of the Paterson Wagon Company (1890s), later the Paterson Vehicle Company (1906). The company began producing diner cars under the Silk City Diner division around 1926. The company liquidated in 1965-1966.

Everett Abbott Cooper and his wife Sarah had six sons: Abbott, William, Fred, Irving, E. Reynolds and Malcolm. With the exception of Malcolm, all of the sons took an active part in the Paterson Vehicle Company.

Malcolm studied law, served in WWII and eventually moved to Vermont to become part owner in the J.K. Adams, quickly buying out his partner to become sole owner of the woodworking company. As of this writing, J.K. Adams is still family run.

Scope and Content:

Most of the material is related to the Cooper family, much of it having been received directly by Malcolm Cooper Sr. A large portion of the documents in this collection relate to family business, and specifically the settling of the estates of Everett Cooper, Sarah Cooper and E. Reynolds Cooper. Financial information, including lists of stocks and bonds, the will of Sarah Cooper and correspondence related to the sale of several properties owned by members of the family, are all part of this collection.

Additional material focuses on the Silk City Diner division, including menus from Silk City Diners, promotional materials distributed by the company and lists of diners produced by the company.

This collection also includes a photograph of the Cooper sons as young boys and a few personal pieces of correspondence (postcards etc.).

Series:

The material in the collection remains in the order in which it was received by the donor. As the file folders were not archival, the original folders were discarded, but the order of the documents was maintained and the new folders were renamed exactly as the original.

Related Collections:

2023.33	Malcolm Cooper Digital Collection
2003.28	Ms. Marilyn Grinwis Grey Collection