

Denver Volunteer Fire Department: Woodie Fisher Hose Company



HISTORY *Colorado*

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Summary Information

Repository	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
Title	Denver Volunteer Fire Department: Woodie Fisher Hose Company
Date	1858-1978
Extent	1.0 Linear feet No collection size.
Language	English
Collection [Flat-Box]	16x20
Collection [Box]	.25 lf
Abstract	<p>The collection focuses around the history of the volunteer Denver Fire Department (1863-1880) and the city of Denver. Established in connection to the Hook and Ladder Company and the Woodie Fisher Hose Company, the department became famous nationally for their efforts to fight fires, build a department, and create stronger building guidelines after The Great Fire of 1863. The ledger contained in the collection, in accordance to several newspaper articles, gives incite into the history of who the fire fighters were, the department, and the minutes of their meetings. During their establishment, before becoming an official department in 1880, the volunteer fire fighters fought 163 fires. Several items found in this collection relate to the city of Denver and it's history are also housed in this collection.</p>

Preferred Citation note

Cite as: Denver Volunteer Fire Department Collection, Mss.02605 (accession 2012.81) History Colorado.

Biographical Note

Amos Steck (1822-1908) of Ohio studied law in Pennsylvania being admitted to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania after 1843. He then moved to California in 1849 for the Gold Rush and then followed the gold through the Pikes Peak Gold Rush in Colorado. Settling in Denver, Steck would become the second mayor of city of Denver, serve on boards of education, one of the founders of the University of Denver, along with serving as a volunteer fire fighter during The Great Fire of 1863. Married to Sarah Steck (b. 1825) in 1870, Amos left behind four children, Isabella, James M., George H., and Harry.

Historical Note

This collection is in reference to topics related to the Denver Volunteer Fire Department. In 1863 the Great Fire went through Denver, Colorado sparking the establishment of the volunteer department in connection to the Hook and Ladder Company and the Woodie Fisher Hose Company. The fire, sparked by wind, created new building guidelines to protect the city from future disasters. At the time of the Great Fire no fire department had been established and the 1st Colorado Volunteer Cavalry and the 3rd Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment fought the flames. Mayor Amos Steck at the time was revered for his work during the fire. The first chief of Denver's Fire Department was William E. Roberts (1858-1943). Denver's Fire Department was respected nationally for their efficiency in fighting flames, dedication to improving the department, and creating stricter building requirements. Before becoming a paid department the volunteers fought and recorded 163 fires. The department added their first fire truck to their team in 1873. By 1880 the city of Denver transitioned from an unpaid Volunteer Fire Department to a paid department.

Contents Note

The collection contains one ledger book detailing the minutes of Denver's volunteer fire department and several newspaper articles and written notes related to the history of the department. Also found in this collection are many items related to the history and city of Denver are included.

Several items appear to be unrelated to the history of the fire department and the city of Denver. These items are an image of a bird and flower, advertisements for events, and several newspaper articles.

Arrangement note

Loose items were removed from the ledger book and placed in file folders.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use note

Open to all researchers without restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Donated by Toby & Claudia Roberts. Toby is the grandson of Sarah Munderk, a relative of the Steck family.

Processing Information note

Processed by Haley Suby, August 2013.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

See also Mss.00607, Amos Steck Collection.

Mixed Collection Note

This collection is part of a larger donation of material (2012.81). Please contact research center staff for more information. Click [here](#) for related material.

Indexing Terms

Subjects - Corporate Bodies

- Hook & Ladder Company.
- Woodie Fisher Hose Company. (Denver, Colo.)

Function(s)

- Ledger

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Books.
- Flyers, Advertising
- Newsletters.
- Newspaper clippings.

Subjects - Places

- Denver City (Colo.)

Occupation(s)

- Fire departments--Colorado--Denver.

Subjects - People

- Carthew, Albert, 1858-1880
- McLaughlin, Sarah Hays, b. 1825
- Roberts, Wililam E., 1858-1943
- Steck, Amos, 1822-1908

Subjects - Topics

- Denver post.
- Rocky Mountain news.

General note

Accession 2012.81

Ledger Book

Collection Inventory

Item 1 Ledger Book 1872-1881 1.0 Item(s)

Woodie Fisher Hose and Hook and Ladder Company 1872-1881 1.0 Item(s)

Newspaper Articles Jan. 6, 1880-1978 8.0 Item(s)

FF1 *Resolutions of Respect*, Andrew Carthage Jan. 6, 1881 1.0 Item(s)

FF2 Denver Fire Chief In Old Days Dies 1943 1.0 Item(s)

FF2 Denver Post April 18, 1963 2.0 Item(s)

FF3 Rocky Mountain News Feb. 10, 1978 3.0 Item(s)

Books 1936-1963 1.0 File folder(s)

FF4 *History of the V.V.F. of Denver, Colo.* March, 25, 1936 2.0 Item(s)

FF4 *Year Book; West Denver Auraria Historical Society* 1963 1.0 Item(s)

Written Notes 1859-1967 19.0 Item(s)

FF5 Removed from pg. 115 1859-1967 15.0 Item(s)

FF6 Removed from pg. 119 N.d. 3.0 Item(s)

Advertisements 1858-1921 3.0 Item(s)

Newsletter

FF7 Autographed *Peter Jumping Horse* N.d. 1.0 Item(s)

FF8 *Cookies and Candles* 1858 1.0 File folder(s)

FF9 *St. John's Church in the Wildreness* Nov. 6, 1861-Nov. 6, 1921 1.0 Item(s)

Newsletter Oct. 1965 1.0 Item(s)

FF10 *Mountain & Plain History Notes* Oct. 1965 1.0 Item(s)

Images N.d. 1.0 Item(s)

FF11 Bird & Flower Print N.d. 1.0 Item(s)

FF12 Fire Chief N.d. 1.0 Item(s)

Envelopes N.d. 1.0 File folder(s)

FF13 Decendants of Pioneers of Colorado, 1859 N.d. 5.0 Item(s)

Object Report

9/3/2013

Object ID: 2012.81.2
Synopsis: uniform ~ fire - material ~ felt | color ~ red
Date: 1860-1920
Dimensions: L: 83.40 cm, W: 88.00 cm
Collection: Artifacts
Department: MC
Credit Line: Toby and Claudia Roberts



Object ID: 2012.81.3
Synopsis: uniform ~ fire - material ~ fabric | color ~ black
Date: 1860-1920
Dimensions: L: 100.00 cm, W: 70.00 cm
Collection: Artifacts
Department: MC
Credit Line: Toby and Claudia Roberts

