

## Henry Wood Booth Papers

1814-1950  
7 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, beginning ca. 1980.

Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Copyright: Copyright for this collection is held by the Cranbrook Educational Community.

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

Photographs: In Photograph Special File

Processing: Steven Weiss, 1995.



## History

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. Henry Wood Booth is the father of George Gough Booth, from 1906 until 1929 the president of the *Detroit News* and until 1946 the president of Booth Newspapers. George Booth, with his wife Ellen Scripps Booth, founded religious, educational, and civic institutions at Cranbrook beginning in 1915.

Henry Wood Booth was born in the village of Cranbrook, England, on January 21, 1837, the son of coppersmith Henry Gough Booth and Harriet Wood. At age five, his mother died and his father immigrated to America with his three children.

The family lived for periods in Cincinnati, Ohio; Toronto, Ontario; and Buffalo, New York before returning to England to set up a metalworking shop in 1850. A year later they again set sail for America and took up residence in Saint Catharines, Ontario.

At age seventeen, Henry Wood Booth met Claria Louise Irene Gagnier, the eldest daughter of Charles Gagnier and Maria Martel Gagnier, also of St. Catharines. They were married at Trinity Church in Toronto on May 18, 1858. Henry and Claria 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 the first of several news and temperance papers with which he was involved. At the same time Henry 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, at the age of 36, 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 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 was also an inventor and had a United States patents commission during the years 1875-1887. His inventions included Ka-O-Ka, a coffee substitute, and a ventilated coffin.

Henry Wood Booth became an American citizen on 11 September 1911 and spent his last twenty years living in "The Cottage" at Cranbrook, the estate of his son George in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, building rock gardens and paths,

studying, and writing. Henry Wood Booth died on 17 March 1925; his wife Clara Louise Gagnier Booth died on 1 April 1930.

## Scope and Content of Collection

The Henry Wood Booth Papers includes material documenting his family history and his 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, PERSONAL, WRITINGS, BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPHS, and REALIA.

The BIOGRAPHICAL series (1814-1950; 1 linear ft.) contains family chronologies, genealogical material, family documents, obituaries, tribute materials, historic materials relating to Cranbrook, an interview of Henry Wood Booth, the *Life of Henry Wood Booth*, and the *Annals of Cranbrook*.

The PERSONAL series (1814-1930; 2.5 linear ft.) contains material related to the Bell, Book and Candle Society, a small amount of business records, collected family letters, collected bible prayers, a diary, notebooks relating to Booth's temperance research and to the mechanical trades, several scrapbooks and his will.

The WRITINGS series (1855-1924; 2 linear ft.) contains the writings of Henry Wood Booth, including manuscripts, newspaper articles and publications.

The BOOKS series (1878-1899; 0.5 linear ft.) contains four books owned by Booth, all of which contain marginal commentaries by him.

The REALIA series (1853-1869, chiefly n.d.; 1 linear ft.) contains Booth family memorabilia.

The PHOTOGRAPHS series (1866-1890; 1 envelope) includes photographs of newspaper advertisements of Booth's as well as two small portraits of Henry Wood Booth. For more pictures of Henry Wood and Clara Louise Gagnier Booth and their family, see the Estate photograph albums in the Cranbrook Archives.

## **Box Number--Description**

---

### **Box 1**

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL**

Annals of Cranbrook, 1904-1922  
Annals of Cranbrook, 1904-1922 [typescript]  
Chronology of Booth Family, 1836-1909  
Chronology of Booth Family and Business Affairs, 1855-1907  
Diary of Cranbrook Visitors, 1906-1908  
Family Materials, 1871-1950 and undated  
Family Obituaries and Funeral Service Scripts, 1925-1930  
Gagnier and Martell Family Documents and Related Genealogical  
Materials, 1814-1924 and undated  
Gagnier and Martell Family History, 1943 and undated

### **Box 1A**

Gagnier Family Bible

### **Box 2**

Interview by W.J. Cameron, [n.d.]  
Interview by W.J. Cameron [n.d.], [photocopy]  
Life of Henry Wood Booth, 1907-1925  
Life of Henry Wood Booth, Part 1 [photocopy]  
Life of Henry Wood Booth, Part 2 [photocopy]  
Autobiographical Sketch, ca. 1914  
Old Family Records, ca. 1921  
St. Dunstan's Church, 1922 and undated  
Tribute Materials, 1917-1925

### **Box 3**

#### **PERSONAL**

Bell, Book and Candle Society Materials, 1905 and undated  
Business Records, 1907-1930  
Collected Family Letters  
Booth Family, 1831-1925  
Clara Gagnier Booth, 1884-1904  
Edmund Wood Booth, 1923-1924 and undated  
Dungey Family, 1919-1924  
Gagnier and Martell Families, 1814-1877 and undated  
George Gough Booth, 1911-1928  
Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1908  
Letters of Appointment and Miscellaneous Letters 1875-  
1925  
Letters of Sympathy, 1925-1930  
Collected Prayers, undated  
Diary, 1908-1909  
Freemason Membership Certificates, 1862-1895  
Mechanics Handbook/Nazarite Ritual, ca. 1860-1873  
Notebook #3, 1888

**Box 4**

Scrapbook A, 1876-1906

**Box 5**

Scrapbook #1, 1901-1908  
Scrapbook #2, 1897-1906  
Scrapbook #4, 1887-1919  
Scrapbook #5, 1919-1922

**Box 6**

Will, 1916

WRITINGS

Manuscripts

Addresses and Sermons

1855-1887

1887-1890

1894-1897

1898-1900

Addresses, Studies and Pamphlets, 1913 and undated  
Pamphlets, 1897 and undated

**Box 7**

Philosophies, 1921 and undated

Newspaper Articles

1867-1924 and undated

From A Church Tramp

1900-1902

1902-1903

1903-1904

1904-1905

1906-1908

**Box 8**

Publications

1895-1896

1898-1922 and undated

1923-1924

Resumé: The Birth Pains of Detroit's Trinity Episcopal  
Church, 1878-1899

Scrap and Note Books of Henry Wood Booth, ca. 1970  
[compiled by Henry Scripps Booth]

**Box 9**

BOOKS [all with Henry Wood Booth's marginalia]

Book of Common Prayer, [n.d.]

The Holy Bible [King James Version], [n.d.]

Memory: A Souvenir, 1854

Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism, 1885

**Box 10**

## REALIA

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

**Box 11**

## WRITINGS (cont'd from Box 7)

"Rough Sketch of Incidents in the Life of Henry Wood Booth," 1916  
"Vocational Life of Henry Wood Booth," 1920

**Photograph Special File**

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Ambrotype of Henry Wood Booth, [n.d.]  
Photograph of Henry Wood Booth, 21 January 1862  
Photograph of Henry Wood Booth and Henry Charles Dungey, ca. 1905  
Newspapers and advertisements, 1866-1890