

Military Collection
State Archives of North Carolina

Hodge A. Newell Collection (WWI 65)
[World War I]

Collection Number: WWI 65

Title: Hodge A. Newell Collection

Dates: 1910, 1917-1919, 1940, 1942, 1945, undated

Creator: Hodge A. Newell; Cecil Gregg; Jane Newell Zodun; U.S. Army; and unidentified individuals.

Abstract

The Hodge A. Newell Collection is composed of original and copy-printed photographs, a photograph album, military-related booklets, two WWII-era school newsletters from his children, and two oversized certificates, documenting the World War I service of Hodge A. Newell of Louisburg, N.C. (later Henderson, N.C.). Newell served as a First Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard's Medical Corps from 1910 to 1917, and as a Major in the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division, U.S. Army, from 1917 to 1919. In January 1919, Newell became the commanding officer of the 105th Sanitary Train.

The most important item in the collection is an original WWI captioned photo album of the complete service of the 105th Sanitary Train from military camp in the United States through its service in France from 1917 to 1919. The album was apparently prepared by a professional photographer from New York named Cecil Gregg, who may or may not have served in the 105th Sanitary Train and took these photographs. The photo album contains over 160 small, custom-cut photographs (including some in odd shapes or patterns), and has a photograph of Hodge Newell in it when he became the 105th's commanding officer. The album was given to Newell at some point after WWI. It is one of the only-known complete photograph sets showing the full operations of the 105th Sanitary Train in WWI in a non-federal repository.

The collection also contains several loose photographs, as well as photographs removed from a photo album page removed at some point from Newell's personal WWI photo album. There are copy prints of the Newell family post-WWI, including his children, that are undated. The collection contains several booklets used or kept by Newell during WWI, and a single AEF Office of the Surgeon Services of Supply Weekly Bulletin used by Newell. There are two oversized military appointment certificates for Newell in the North Carolina National Guard's Medical Corps in 1910 and 1917.

Physical Description: 0.3 linear feet (2 boxes; 2 oversized folders)

Language(s): English

Repository

State Archives of North Carolina, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use: There are no restrictions on using this collection.

Preferred Citation

[Item name or title], [Box Number], [Folder Number], Hodge A. Newell Collection, WWI 65, WWI Papers, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

Acquisition

The materials in this collection were received from two different donors by the Military Collection at the State Archives of North Carolina. The bulk of the collection was donated in July 1997 by Jane Newell Zodun, a daughter of Hodge A. Newell. A single booklet was donated in March 1999 by Dr. Josephine E. Newell, a daughter of Hodge A. Newell.

Separated Material

The two oversized appointment certificates and two oversized newsletters have been separated from the collection due to their size, and stored in two oversized archival folders (one for the certificates, and one for the newsletters). They were relocated to the Military Collection Oversized Map case in the Archives Stacks 3B. The oversized folders are labeled as “WWI 65 Hodge A. Newell Papers, Oversized Folder 1 and Oversized Folder 2.”

Related Material

Hodge Newell Collection (CD 01.91), The Country Doctor Museum, at The William E. Laupus Health Sciences Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA.

Processing Information

The collection was organized into folders based without any particular order after it first came to the State Archives. The two oversized certificates were folded to fit legal-sized folders, and the photo album was stored upright on an edge instead of flat. The collection was reprocessed in 2018 from its prior arrangement and storage in order to separate the materials in the collection into smaller groups by format or size of the materials, to allow for better long-term preservation of the collection. Box 1 of the collection is only partially-filled, and an acid-free box support board was inserted to support the materials and fill the empty box space.

All of the loose photographs in the collection have been numbered with a soft HB No. 2 pencil on the back, according to the collection number, the folder number, and an individual image

number. For example, the number “WWI 65.B1.F1.1” should be interpreted as “WWI Papers 65 collection, Box 1, Folder 1, Photograph 1.” The identification of these images has been created in the finding aid, but not written on the photographs themselves (unless the images’ creators had written on them).

The photo album was in good enough condition to leave it currently as it is, but it needed to be stored flat. The photographs were glued between 1919 and the 1930s with a strong adhesive, which made it impossible to safely remove the photographs from the album pages and store in acid-free plastic archival photograph sleeves. In order to mitigate further surface damage to the photographs by the acidic black album pages coming in contact with the images, custom-cut sheets of acid-free 20 lb. bond paper were interleaved in-between each of the album pages. Acid-free boards were formed into box supports to fill out the rest of the flat box, and to keep the album from shifting too much in storage when the box is pulled for reference.

The two oversized appointment certificates and two oversized newsletters were removed from the collection due to their large sizes. They were removed and relocated to oversized folders to allow for better physical storage and long-term preservation (see “Separated Material” note for more information on these oversized items). Large sheets of acid-free bond paper were used to interleave the items in the folders.

Three original issues of the World War II military weekly publication *Yank: The Army Weekly*, were removed from the collection during its reprocessing. The issues appear to have been collected by Hodge Newell during his WWII military service for personal use. The Military Collection contains one full set of the *Yank* weekly throughout WWII, and numerous miscellaneous issues. Also, the magazine is widely available other places. After reviewing these three issues, there does not appear to be a mention of Newell in any of them, which if they had the issues would have been maintained in the collection. These items do not fit the collection policy of the Military Collection, and were discarded through archival trash in keeping with State Archives of North Carolina policies.

Processed by: Matthew M. Peek, March 2018.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format or size of the materials in folders and boxes.

Biographical Note

Hodge Albert Newell was born on August 22, 1883, in Franklin County, North Carolina, to Rev. George W. and Sarah Coppedge Newell. By 1900, the Newell family was living Louisburg, North Carolina. Hodge Newell attended college as an undergraduate studying medicine at Wake Forest College in Wake Forest, North Carolina; he was a member of the Medical Class at Wake Forest in 1903. Newell graduated with a medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1906. He began practicing medicine in Louisburg, North Carolina, after graduating with his medical degree. On June 2, 1909, Hodge Newell married Janet E. Hayes, but she died the following year. In 1915, he married his first wife’s sister—Mary Hayes.

Hodge Newell was commissioned by North Carolina Governor William W. Kitchin on April 21, 1910, as a First Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard's Medical Corps. He was inducted into federal military service in 1916, when the United States sent various National Guard units to New Mexico and Texas as part of what was known as the Mexican Border Crisis (or the Mexican Border War). Newell served along the Mexican border in the U.S. Army Medical Corps with the rank of Captain. After returning from the Mexican border in 1917, Newell was promoted to Major, and appointed by the Governor of North Carolina as Chief Surgeon of the State of North Carolina.

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, Dr. Hodge Newell was serving in the 3rd Infantry, North Carolina National Guard, which was based in Henderson, North Carolina. On August 5, 1917, Newell was drafted into federal military service in the U.S. Army's Medical Corps, and sent for training to Camp Sevier in South Carolina. Newell was assigned as a Major to the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division, U.S. Army. He served overseas in Europe from May 8, 1918, through April 2, 1919, and was honorably discharged from active service on April 12, 1919. Newell was involved in the Aisne-Marne and Champagne campaigns. On January 13, 1919, Major Newell was transferred to being the commanding officer of the 105th Sanitary Train in France.

Upon returning to the United States from the war, Hodge Newell moved to the city of Henderson in Vance County, North Carolina, in 1919, where he practiced medicine as an eye, ear, nose, and throat specialist. Newell was the initiating force in the construction and later expansion of the Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson, and would serve for 25 years as medical director and manager of the hospital, until he was called into service in World War II. Newell served for 25 years as chairman of the Henderson (N.C.) School Board. He was a charter member of the Henderson Rotary Club, and held numerous offices in the American Legion. On June 25, 1925, Newell was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the North Carolina Army National Guard's Medical Corps. At that time, he was assigned the command of the 105th Medical Regiment, 30th Division, U.S. Army Reserves, at their headquarters in Henderson, North Carolina.

During World War II, Hodge Newell was called into active service as commander of the 105th Medical Regiment, 30th Division, while they were stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. In the early days of the war, the U.S. War Department had not planned for sufficient installations and sanitary facilities at Fort Jackson. Reportedly, it was largely due to the pressure on soldiers by Col. Hodge Newell and his staff regarding the observation of proper military sanitation practices, that health conditions at the camp remained at a good level despite the poor facilities. Later, Newell was assigned to be the post surgeon at Fort McPherson in Georgia. He retired from the U.S. Army at the end of World War II in 1945 with the rank of Colonel.

Dr. Hodge Newell was a member of the North Carolina Medical Society for over 50 years. He was a member of the Southern Medical Society, and the American Medical Society. He also served as the surgeon for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. Dr. Hodge A. Newell died on November 2, 1956, in Raleigh, North Carolina, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Louisburg, North Carolina.

[Historical information used to create this biography comes from the following sources: “Henderson Doctor Dies,” obituary for Hodge A. Newell, *Raleigh News & Observer*, November 3, 1956; North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Application for Membership for Colonel Hodge Albert Newell, March 4, 1930; Henry Dozier Russell, *The Purge of the Thirtieth Division*, edited by Lawrence M. Kaplan, Naval Institute Press, 2014, pp. 19; and Biographical Note, finding aid for Hodge Newell Collection (CD 01.91), The Country Doctor Museum, at The William E. Laupus Health Sciences Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA.]

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of original and copy-printed photographs, a photograph album, military-related booklets, two WWII-era school newsletters from his children, and two oversized certificates, documenting the World War I service of Hodge A. Newell of Louisburg, N.C. (later Henderson, N.C.). Newell served as a First Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard’s Medical Corps from 1910 to 1917, and as a Major in the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division, U.S. Army, from 1917 to 1919. In January 1919, Newell became the commanding officer of the 105th Sanitary Train.

The most important item in the collection is an original WWI captioned photo album of the complete service of the 105th Sanitary Train from military camp in the United States through its service in France from 1917 to 1919. The album was apparently prepared by a professional photographer from New York named Cecil Gregg, who may or may not have served in the 105th Sanitary Train and took these photographs. The photo album contains over 160 small, custom-cut photographs (including some in odd shapes or patterns), and has a photograph of Hodge Newell in it when he became the 105th’s commanding officer. The album was given to Newell at some point after WWI. It is one of the only-known complete photograph sets showing the full operations of the 105th Sanitary Train in WWI in a non-federal repository.

The collection also contains several loose photographs, as well as photographs removed from a photo album page removed at some point from Newell’s personal WWI photo album. There are copy prints of the Newell family post-WWI, including his children, that are undated. The collection contains several booklets used or kept by Newell during WWI, such as a popular YMCA booklet titled *France: Our Ally*. There is one original copy of the American Expeditionary Forces Office of the Surgeon Services of Supply Weekly Bulletin #43 (dated February 3, 1919), which was kept and used by Newell. There is one original, fragile oversized certificate for when North Carolina Governor William W. Kitchin appointed Hodge Newell as a First Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard’s Medical Corps on April 21, 1910. There is also a large, fragile certificate for Newell’s commission as a Major in the North Carolina Army National Guard’s Medical Corps on May 24, 1917.

The collection holds one 1940 *Third Army Maneuvers (Red River Area—Louisiana)* booklet, apparently from Newell’s World War II-era military service.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Newell, Hodge A. (Hodge Albert), 1883-1956

Places

Camp Sevier (S.C.)
Fort Jackson (S.C.)
Franklin County (N.C.)
Henderson (N.C.)

Subject—Topical

North Carolina. National Guard
United States. Army. Division, 30th
United States. Army--History--Punitive Expedition into Mexico, 1916
United States. Army. Medical Corps
United States. Army. Sanitary Train, 105th

Material Types

Booklets
Photograph albums
Photographs

Collection Inventory

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/1	Loose WWI Photographs	August 1918, 1919, undated

WWI 65.B1.F1.1: Snapshot of three U.S. Army soldiers standing next to and holding the reins of horses outside, next to a bomb-damaged building somewhere in Europe during World War I. The men are believed to be members of the 30th Division, U.S. Army (undated) [Photograph taken or collection by Maj. Hodge A. Newell while he served in the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division].

WWI 65.B1.F1.2: Photograph of the American Red Cross evacuation hospital operated with the U.S. Army in Château-Thierry, France, in August 1918 during World War I. Maj. Hodge A. Newell of Louisburg, N.C., served at this hospital as an Army

doctor with the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division, U.S. Army (August 1918).

WWI 65.B1.F1.3: Snapshot of Maj. Hodge A. Newell of Louisburg, N.C., wearing his full Army uniform, standing in the doorway of an unidentified wooden building in France around January 1919. Newell served as an Army doctor with the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division, U.S. Army. This photograph was taken around when Newell was appointed as the commanding officer of the 105th Sanitary Train on January 13, 1919 (circa January 1919).

WWI 65.B1.F1.4: Photograph of unidentified U.S. Army soldiers [possibly with the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division, U.S. Army] standing outside of the gates to an American Red Cross hospital somewhere in France during World War I (undated) [Photograph taken or collection by Maj. Hodge A. Newell while he served in the 105th Sanitary Train, 30th Division].

WWI 65.B1.F1.5: Snapshot of Maj. Hodge A. Newell, wearing his full Army uniform, standing outside in front of a house [believed to be the Newell family house in Louisburg, N.C.] holding his ten-month old child during World War I (undated).

WWI 65.B1.F1.6: Snapshot of Hodge A. Newell, wearing civilian clothes and a boater hat, standing outside on a lawn next to a tree [believed to be at the Newell family house in Louisburg, N.C.] holding his ten-month old child around World War I (undated).

WWI 65.B1.F1.7: Snapshot of Hodge A. Newell, wearing civilian clothes and a boater hat, sitting in the driver's seat of an automobile [believed to be at the Newell family house in Louisburg, N.C.], holding his ten-month old child as the child has their hands on the steering wheel, around World War I (undated).

1/2	<i>France: Our Ally</i> YMCA Booklet by B. Van Vorst	1918
1/3	American Expeditionary Forces Office of the Surgeon Services of Supply Weekly Bulletin #43	February 3, 1919
1/4	<i>Operations: Thirtieth Division Old Hickory</i> booklet	circa 1919
1/5	<i>Third Army Maneuvers (Red River Area—Louisiana)</i> booklet	August 1940

1/6	Unidentified Newell Family Copy Prints	Undated
2	105th Sanitary Train WWI Photo Album	1917-1919
Oversized Folder 1	Newell's North Carolina National Guard Appointment Certificates	1910, 1917

Oversized Item 1: One original oversized certificate appointing Hodge A. Newell as a 1st Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard's Medical Corps on April 21, 1910. Certificate signed by North Carolina Governor William W. Kitchin.

Oversized Item 2: One original, fragile oversized certificate commissioning Hodge A. Newell as a Major in the North Carolina Army National Guard's Medical Corps on May 24, 1917.

Oversized Folder 2	Newell's Family WWII-era High School Newsletters	1942, 1945
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Oversized Item 3: One original issue of *The Blue Print*, the school newsletter of Dreher High School in Columbia, S.C. Issue is Volume 4, Number 12, dated April 17, 1942. Newsletter believed from the high school attended by one of Hodge Newell's children during World War II while he was stationed at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Oversized Item 4: One original issue of *The Bulldog*, the monthly school newsletter of the Henderson (N.C.) High School Journalism Club. Issue is Volume 9, Number 4, dated January-February 1945. Newsletter believed from the high school attended by one of Hodge Newell's children during World War II.