



Vandivort Family Papers (CG0025)

Collection Number: CG0025

Collection Title: Vandivort Family Papers

Dates: 1910, 1939-1948, 1963-1965

Creator: Vandivort, Arthur Clayton, 1918-1944

Abstract: Correspondence from Arthur Clayton Vandivort from 1941-1945. Work related correspondence and membership cards for Leon Vandivort from 1910 and 1943-1944. Also includes genealogical information, graduation announcements, and high school basketball tournament brackets for members of the Vandivort family.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic feet
(7 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at capegirardeau@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Collection Title* (Collection Number); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-CG].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Robert C. Marrow on April 19, 2018 (CGA0025).

Processed by: Processed by Katie Lewis, May 2018

Biographical Note:

Leon Vandivort was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on February 19, 1890 to Elizabeth Brown and Samuel Arthur Vandivort. His father passed away on August 19, 1891; his mother remarried Williams Edwin Sorsby on December 29, 1914. Leon married Naomi Ruth Davis on November 5, 1917. They had four children: Arthur Clayton Vandivort, Nancy Vandivort (Morrow), William Sorsby Vandivort, and Artie Lee Vandivort (Britt). Around 1910, Leon worked as a surveyor for the Woodlawn Land Company. Between working for the Woodlawn Land Company and the Oregon Shipbuilding Company, Leon worked as an automobile salesman. In 1944, Leon worked for the Oregon Shipbuilding Company. He passed away on June 8, 1963 in Mount Vernon, Missouri and buried at the Loremier Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Arthur C. Vandivort, the oldest son of Leon and Naomi Vandivort, was born on July 21, 1918. When Arthur was around 21 years old, he worked at the J.R. Prather Standard Hatchery as a poultry man. On October 16, 1940, Arthur joined the United States Army to fight in World War II. During the war, Arthur wrote many letters home to his family. On July 23, 1944, Arthur passed away in Noemfoor, New Guinea. However, his body did not return to the United States until 1948. His family buried him at Loremier Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, Missouri in June of 1948.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains various documents pertaining to the Vandivort family. Folders 1 and 2 contain correspondence from Arthur Clayton Vandivort during World War II. Included in folder 1 is a letter from Lt. William Miller who details the circumstances of Vandivort's death. The third folder contains a power of attorney document for Arthur C. Vandivort from 1942 and the death benefits his parents received in 1945 for his death in 1944. Folder 4 contains work correspondence for Leon Vandivort as well as the working cards for his jobs from 1943-1944. The fifth folder contains pages from the memorial book from the funeral of Leon Vandivort. This folder also contains a thank you note and a condolence letter. Folder 6 contains basketball tournament brackets from December 1939 and from February-March 1940. This folder also contains a graduation invitation for Central High School from 1939, a program for the Commencement Exercises at Southeast Missouri State Teachers College from 1941, and a letter acknowledging that Leon Vandivort was accepted to Cape Girardeau State Normal School in 1906. Folder 7 contains various Vandivort family records. Of interest in this folder is the marriage license for William Sorsby and Lizzie Vandivort in 1914, Leon Vandivort's delayed certificate of birth, and census records from 1900 and 1920.

Container List:

- f. 1 Arthur Clayton Vandivort Correspondence, 1941-1945
- f. 2 Arthur Clayton Vandivort Correspondence, c. 1941-1945

- f. 3 Arthur Clayton Vandivort – Power of Attorney and Death Benefits, 1942 and 1945
- f. 4 Leon Vandivort – Work Correspondence & Membership Cards, 1910 and 1943-1944
- f. 5 Leon Vandivort – Death, 1963
- f. 6 Education, 1939-1944
- f. 7 Vandivort family Papers, 1914, 1944-1948 and 1965

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Genealogy and Family Papers	7
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 48	4
McGrath, Winifred	1
Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation	4
Postcards	7
Segrave, W.J.	1
Southeast Missouri State Teachers College	6
Vandivort, Arthur Clayton, 1918-1944	1-3, 7
Vandivort, Elizabeth (Lizzie)	7
Vandivort, Leon, 1890-1963	3-6
Vandivort, Naomi Ruth	1-3, 7
Vandivort, William Sorsbey	6
Walther's Funeral Home	7
World War, 1939-1945--New Guinea	1-2
World War, 1939-1945--Soldiers	1-2