WILLIAM DUNCAN NICOL
MATERIALS, CA. 1941–1946

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Kate Scott
June 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript folders, 2 photograph folders, 12 artifacts, 2 maps

COLLECTION DATES: 1941–46

PROVENANCE: Kevin Egan, Indianapolis

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:


ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0002

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Duncan Nicol was born in 1902 in Connecticut. His parents were William and Elizabeth Nicol, immigrants from Scotland and Ireland, respectively. As a young man he worked as an electrician and box maker before serving in the U.S. Army during the Second World War. Nicol attended officer candidate training at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1942 and then served in Company L, 169th Infantry, 43rd Division at the rank of 1st Sergeant. As a member of the U.S. Fifth Army, he may have seen action in Italy. By September 1943 he was stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, serving on the Reception Center staff at the rank of Captain. His date of discharge is unknown. In 1943, shortly after moving to Indiana, he became involved with the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (Freemasons), Valley of Indianapolis. Earlier in the 1940s he had been involved with the Odd Fellows in Connecticut. Nicol married Pauline Adams in 1946. They continued to reside in Indianapolis, where he died in 1970.

Sources:
Collection materials; U.S. Census Records; Indiana Death Records.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This short collection comprises documents, photographs, and artifacts that belonged to William D. Nicol of the United States Army during WWII. Military-related materials include a booklet containing images and the roster of Nicol’s 1942 officer candidate class at Fort Benning, Georgia, several photographs of staff and the 1943 Armistice Day parade at Fort Benjamin Harrison, and his monthly expense book. The expense book provides examples of a WWII-era officer’s pay, as well as the cost of basic items and services. The photographs depict wintertime military parade dress, and also show that male and female personnel sometimes marched together in parades. In addition to military-related items, there are a few documents related to fraternal organizations: the Odd Fellows and the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (Freemasons). These include a Scottish Rite pamphlet explaining the organization to non-members.
CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Railway Express Agency Luggage Tag for William D. Nicol, n.d.

Odd Fellows Certificates for William D. Nicol, Lodge 16, Willimantic, Connecticut, 1941–43

Officer Candidate Class 23rd Company Booklet, Fort Benning, Georgia, 1942

5 43rd Infantry Division Insignia Patches, ca. 1942–45

Brown Leather Belt, ca. 1942–45, ca. 1942–45

Cane Riding Crop, ca. 1942–45

Desk Nameplate (William D. Nicol), ca. 1942–45

Foot Locker, ca. 1942–45

5 Garrison Caps, ca. 1942–45

Khaki Wool Shirt with U.S. 5th Army Patch, ca. 1942–45

Olive Coat with U.S. 5th Army Patch, Captain’s Bars, and Assorted Pins and Ribbons, ca. 1942–45

Olive Wool Gloves, ca. 1942–45

Olive Wool Jacket with U.S. 5th Army Patch, Captain’s Bars, and Assorted Pins, ca. 1942–45

2 Olive Wool Shirts, ca. 1942–45

Poncho, ca. 1942–45

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis Pamphlets, ca. 1943

Reception Center Officer Personnel Group Portrait, Fort Benjamin Harrison, 1943

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 5

Folder 2 of 5

Folder 3 of 5

Artifacts

Artifacts

Artifacts

Artifacts

Artifacts

Artifacts

Artifacts

Artifacts

Artifacts

Photographs

Folder 4 of 5

Folder 1 of 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armistice Day Parade, Fort Benjamin Harrison, 1943</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 2 of 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Pacific Railroad Military Map of the United States, 1943</td>
<td>Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William D. Nicol’s Expense Book, 1943–46</td>
<td>Folder 5 of 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Pacific Railroad Military Map of the United States, 1944</td>
<td>Maps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 3026).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.