

PURDUE

UNIVERSITY



FINDING AID TO THE GEORGE W. MUNRO PAPERS, 1826-1970

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
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Revised: Elizabeth Wilkinson, 13 July 2009
Compiled By: Previous archives staff and Susan Calvert, 2009

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Munro, George Wesley, 1872-1964
Title	George W. Munro papers
Collection Identifier	MSF 58
Date Span	1826-1970
Abstract	Personal papers of Prof. George W. Munro which cover a myriad of topics including: John Purdue, Purdue University, Mechanical Engineering, Astronomy, History, and Literature
Extent	3.5 cubic feet (7 mss. boxes)
Finding Aid Author	Susan Calvert and Elizabeth M. Wilkinson, 2009
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	VKK Vault; Hicks
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation:	MSF 58, George W. Munro papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Related Materials Information:	For other alumni and faculty collections, please search our Archon database at http://www4.lib.purdue.edu/archon

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Purdue, John, 1802-1876

Organizations

Purdue University—History

Purdue University. School of Engineering

Topics

Mechanical engineering

Thermodynamics

Engineering—Study and teaching

Moon—1890-1940

Form and Genre Types

Articles

Black-and-white photographs

Research notes

Occupations

Purdue University—Faculty

Biography of George W. Munro

George Wesley Munro was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on February 15, 1872. In 1909 he married Gertrude Madden. They later had one son named Robert Fowlis Munro.

Munro discovered the world of science from a textbook in physics and an enthusiastic teacher in a one room schoolhouse. He graduated from High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan and went on to attend Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) for one year. In 1894 he transferred to Purdue University. He earned a BSEE degree in 1897 and an EE degree in 1898 from Purdue.

He then worked for 12 years in industry as an engineer with the Western Electric Company, Westinghouse, Church and Kerr, and the General Electric Company. Munro's interest in people and intellectual matters led him to return to Purdue as an instructor. In December 1906 Munro accepted a position as assistant in the Engineering Laboratory. He became Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering in 1918 and full professor in 1926. From 1921 to 1942 Professor Munro devoted most of his time to instruction in the field of engineering thermodynamics. He was known on campus as "Uncle Mun"; his personality radiated kindness and confidence. He established the Munro Scholarship Fund in 1935 for worthy students.

He was chosen in 1922 to teach Advanced Thermodynamics, one of the two graduate courses offered. He devised examinations for which the passing grade was 70 and the highest possible grade was 200. This gave all the students an opportunity to tell all they knew, and kept even the best of them in the classroom until the end of the hour.

In 1897 Munro finished compiling "John Purdue and Purdue University: A Study of the Relations Between Them from Its Origin Until His Death." The 222 page typescript evolved from research in an estimated 4,500 issues of Lafayette newspapers printed between 1869 and 1876. Writing about the project, Munro explained: "Primarily this is source material and may prove of value when a complete history of the university is prepared. [By itself] it has only slight popular appeal."

His other writings include:

Linear elements on the Lunar Surface Lafayette, Indiana, 1937

Problems in Engineering Thermodynamics Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1936.

He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Fraternity and the American Association of University Professors. Professor Munro retired from Purdue University on June 30, 1942. Munro died on January 31, 1964 in Lafayette, Indiana.

Source(s):

Knoll, H. B. Story of Engineering Purdue University Studies, 1963.

Kriebel, Robert C. Midas of the Wabash: a biography of John Purdue Purdue University

Press, 2002

Vertical file: Journal & Courier "Resolutions on the Life and work of Professor George
Wesley Munro, 1872-1964"

The Purdue Alumnus v.14, Jan. 1927.

Collection Description

Scope

The George W. Munro papers (1826-1970; 3.5 cubic feet) consist of research collected by Munro on John Purdue and the history of Purdue University, and Munro's personal papers. The personal papers contain manuscript articles as well as the finished and published articles; work related papers, papers and articles related to teaching techniques; and non-work related papers and articles on various literary and timely topics

Arrangement

The collection is separated into two parts: the first half contains the research accumulated on John Purdue and Purdue University, and the second half contains the personal and work related papers of Munro.

Descriptive Rules Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1

1. Purdue Univ. Board Meetings to 1872
2. Purdue Univ. Board Meetings 1872-73
3. Purdue Univ. Board Meetings 1873-74
4. Purdue Univ. Board Meetings 1875
5. Purdue Univ. Board Meetings 1876
6. Notes about Purdue University
7. Locating the College 1869
8. Exponent Feb.19, 1937
9. Notes Re. Purdue Univ. 1880-89
10. Purdue Rifles
11. Loose Items

Box 2

1. John Purdue Chap. 3 1865-69
2. John Purdue Estate
3. John Purdue 1840-44
4. John Purdue Real Estate and Purdue Block
5. Purdue Univ. Misc. Notes 1874-75

Box 3

1. Notes not sorted
2. Ohio Notes
3. Newspapers
4. Cemetery Notes
5. Indianapolis to Lafayette Railroad 1845-
6. County Board Notes 1826-31
7. West Lafayette

Box 4

1. Items not Connected with Purdue University
2. Notes from Years before 1835
3. Notes 1835-
4. Quotes and Notes 1864-67
5. Quotes and Notes 1869-71
6. Quotes and Notes 1872
7. Quotes and Notes 1873
8. Quotes and Notes 1874

9. Quotes and Notes 1875
10. Quotes and Notes 1876
11. Notes to be Started on various topics

Box 5

1. "Intro to Eoneering" by Horace B. Hench A Study of Questions Raised by Munro
2. SPEE (Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education) Summer School 1929
3. Letter to the Editor 11/19/1955
4. The Development of the Diesel Engine. WBAA Talk 3/10/36
5. Moon Paper (untitled) 1936
6. Phantom Circles on the Moon Science
7. Manuscript Letter on Moon 1935
8. "Moon" correspondence, 1936-1938
9. Linear Elements on the Lunar Surface 1965
10. Photographs of the Moon and two pamphlets, 1936-1940

Box 6

1. Articles and talks, 1909
 - "James Fenimore Cooper" Am Lit Club, 1909
2. Articles and talks, 1910s
 - Rebuttal in Power, Dec. 5, 1911
 - "Gas Analysis" 1910s
 - "Combustion" original notes, 1910s
3. Articles and talks, 1920s
 - "Scheduling Students According to their Ability to Progress" Purdue SPEE Dinner, Feb.16, 1922
 - "What the Founders Founded" 12-5-22
 - "The place of Mental Growth in the College Plan" Engineering Education , Vol 13, no.6, 1923.
 - "Shows and Sideshowes at College" WBAA, 11-26-23
 - "Why I want My Son to Go to College" WBAA, 4-6-25
 - "To Teach" Jan. 28, 1927
 - "SPEE Summer School for Mechanical Engineering" The Wiley Bulletin, Oct. 1929
4. Articles and talks, 1930-1933
 - Purdue Univ. Journal of Engineering Education, May 1931, pp. 576-582
 - "Discussion" Science, Mar. 14, 1932
 - "The Cause and Control of the Business Cycle" by E.C. Howard: An Interpretation for Oral Presentation by Munro" Exchange Club of Lafayette, 2-27-33
5. Articles and talks, 1934
 - Earth Evolution; A Dynamic Episode
6. Articles and talks, 1934-1939
 - "Continental Drift: An Engineering Problem" Journal of Geology, 1934

“Nature of Light Rays on the Surface of the Moon” *Science*, April 26, 1935, pp. 400-401

“Problems in Engineering Thermodynamics” 1934

“Power to Move Continents” *Science*, Nov.22, 1935, pp. 488-90

“The Sixplusses” April 8, 1938

“The Professor”, circa 1930s

“Taxes: A Discussion from the Common Sense Point of View”, circa 1930s

7. Articles and talks, 1943, 1954
8. Poems, circa 1950s
9. Purdue work papers and memos, 1922-1930
10. Materials regarding Dean Clark, circa 1920s
11. Personal papers, certificates, clippings, and notes, 1919-1970
12. Notes on Lincoln, Lanier, Washington, and Lowell, circa 1950s

Box 7

1. Pictures Clipped and Mounted from various Sources
2. Ads of the 1860's
3. Boat Scenes – mostly from *Literary Digest* Covers
4. Interesting People
5. Sail Boats – Literary Digest Covers 1926-33
6. Wood Engraving in Illustration and Art
7. World's Fair Pictures 1893, 1904
8. Art Subjects- Engravings
9. Whiskers- From the History of Steuben County (1879)
10. America's Twelve Greatest Women – From Good Housekeeping Selection
11. Preachers
12. Literary Digest Covers-Mostly Paintings
13. Portraits
14. American Indians (1904)
15. Tribune Portraits
16. Colonial –JLG Ferris Literary Digest Covers 1928-32
17. Washington
18. Lincoln
19. Magazine ads of the 1880's
20. Of Historical Interest
21. Science and Health – Interesting Lists of Science and People.
22. Craters – Earth and Moon
23. Astronomical Diagrams & Instruments
24. Astronomy – Solar System
25. Astronomical – The Sun
26. Astronomical – Spiral Nebula
27. Astronomical – Our Galaxy
28. English Poets
29. Signers of the Declaration of Independence

30. English Prose Writers
31. Interesting Places
32. Religious Topics
33. Scenes from Lalla Rookh
34. Scenes from the plays of Shakespeare
35. Magazine Ads of Passing Interest
36. Of Engineering Interest- Works
37. Of Engineering Interest-Machines
38. Flight- Pictures of 1931-33
39. Power Plants
40. Building Towers
41. Railway Equipment
42. Of Engineering Interest