

# **George E. Leach Collection**

## **M/A 1994.31.01-03**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
<b>Creator - Author</b>	George E., Leach, Mayor of Minneapolis, 1921-1929, 1937-1939, 1876-1955
<b>Title</b>	George E. Leach Collection
<b>Date</b>	1876-1955
<b>Extent</b>	2.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## Biography

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George E. Leach graduated from Central High School in 1894. In 1903, he married Ella Van Vorous. They were divorced in 1922. He married Anita Churcher in 1923. Leach joined the National Guard in ca. 1905 and remained in service until the 1940's. He served in the First Minnesota Field Artillery, Battery B in the early years. In 1916 his outfit was called to mobilize to protect the southern border of Texas from further attacks from Mexico's Frachisco (Pancho) Villa's attacks on New Mexico. In 1918, he was sent to France to fight in World War I. At the war's end he had risen to the rank of Colonel. Upon returning from the war a decorated war veteran, he continued with the National Guard but also became involved in Minneapolis politics. In 1921, he was elected mayor of the city. He served as Mayor of Minneapolis from 1921-1929 and from 1937-1941. Some of the issues he worked for as mayor were to construct the Minneapolis Auditorium, to reduce taxes on small houses, to promote Minneapolis as a recreational and convention city, and the purchase of the Wold Chamberlain Airfield.

Anita Willard Churcher married George E. Leach, January 22, 1923. Churcher was from LaJolla, California and a neighbor of Marry Hammond Leach (George's mother). Churcher taught athletics and dance at Principia College of St. Louis, was a fencing expert and a member of the Zlac Rowing Club prior to World War 1. During the war, she served in the YMCA and was in charge of the amusement area for the service men in Monte Dore Les Baines, France. She also worked at the Pershing Stadium outside of Paris and was with the Army of Occupation at Neuenahr, Germany. When married and settled in Minneapolis, was active in the Women's Overseas Service League of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Women's Winter Club. She was an active member of the Minneapolis Community, giving numerous talks to various groups.

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## Description of Collection

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The collection consists of two document boxes and one oversized scrapbook. The collection includes clippings, Photographs, and correspondence on George E. Leach, Anita Churcher Leach, George B. Leach, the Minnesota National Guard Association, First Regiment of the Field Artillery, Battery B (1905-1916), and the Minnesota National Guard preparing at Camp Bobleter, Fort Snelling for combat and then stationed at Llando Grande, Texas, 1916-1917 for the conflict with Mexico. Also included are clippings, correspondence and cards from when he was stationed in France in 1918 during World War 1. Correspondence in the collection is frequently from high ranking state and federal officials including Theodore Roosevelt.

The scrapbook in Box-Folder 3:

Scrapbook has off white binding with black design and leather corners. Scrapbook of George E. Leach from the time he was stationed in France with the 151st Field Artillery American Expeditionary Forces,

1918. Contains Christmas Cards (in pocket front cover), a letter to Leach's uncle(?) William B. Leach regarding entering the service (1898), notice relinquishing command of camp Llando Grande, Texas from the commanding General, January 30, 1917, Letter from Camp Stewart, El Paso, Texas to George E. Leach, June 7, 1917. Correspondence: 1899-1920: Includes handwritten letter from Leach's father, March 15 1898, correspondence mostly from 1917-1918 relating to the 151st Field Artillery American Expeditionary Force in France. Also information on a flag that his father had taken during the Civil War which George E. Leach returned to the State of Alabama Department of Archives and History. Also correspondence with the Minnesota Historical Society concerning gifts to the society. Some noteworthy Correspondence includes letters from government officials including Theodore Roosevelt (1918).

Clippings covering mostly the years from 1917-1920. In the last section are newspaper clippings and newspapers from the early 1919-1920's.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Minneapolis (Minn.). Mayor.

### **Subject(s)**

- World War, 1914-1918.

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Biographical Information	1	1
Clippings 1920s-1930s	1	2
Clippings 1940s-1950s	1	3
		<b>Oversize</b>
"A Loyal Soldier," July 14, 1940 Minneapolis Tribune Editorial Reprint and Photograph undated		1
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence	1	4
Anita Churcher Leach: Biographical	1	5
Anita Churcher Leach: Clippings	1	6
Family Clippings	1	7
Family Correspondence	1	8
		<b>Box</b>
Scrapbooks 1905-1917		2
		<b>Box-folder</b>

Scrapbook 1898-1922

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