

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
Handley Regional Library & Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
P.O. Box 58, Winchester, Virginia 22604
Tel.: (540) 662-9041, ext. 17 • Email: archives@handleyregional.org
Website: www.handleyregional.org/archives

American Legion, Conrad – Hoover Post 21, Winchester, Virginia Collection
Collection Number: 940 WFCHS THL

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Processed by Archives Staff. Last updated by Lorna M. Loring, January 31, 2025.

ACCESSION NUMBER(S): 1988.003 THL; 2001.001 THL; 2020.001 THL; 2022.002 THL

EXTENT: 0.21 linear feet, plus 15 objects

CREATOR: American Legion

DATE: 1919-2019

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The American Legion, Conrad-Hoover Post 21, Winchester, VA Collection contains materials such as programs for shows sponsored by the American Legion from 1920 and 1927; memorabilia from a battlefield and cemetery tour of France (1927); and a scrapbook from a 1927 American Legion Convention in France all of which are associated with the Conrad-Hoover Post 21 of Winchester, VA. . There are also materials from the 100th anniversary celebration in August 2019. The collection also contains fifteen memorial plaques dedicated to World War I soldiers by the American Legion Auxiliary in 1924.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: The American Legion is a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of United States service men and women. The organization was established in 1919 when a members of the American Expeditionary Force convened a caucus in Paris, France. It was chartered by Congress in September 1919. In 1942, the Legion extended membership eligibility to include U.S. veterans of any conflict. The Legion is organized into posts throughout the United States and in some overseas locations.

The Robert Y. Conrad Post of Winchester, Virginia was the 21st post set up in Virginia. Major Conrad was killed in World War I at the Battle of Meuse-Argonne. After World War II, the name

was changed to the Conrad-Hoover Post, in honor of Charles Hoover, the first Winchester-Frederick County resident killed in action during World War II.

On Armistice Day, 1924, a ceremony to commemorate the fallen of World War I took place in Winchester with the dedication of Memorial Avenue near Handley High School. Forty-nine service men were honored with a memorial plaque and a red oak tree in an event organized by the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion. Over the years, as road improvements were made to the area around the school, many plaques were damaged and lost, and the trees died or were removed. A local resident recovered two plaques in 2016, and this began an effort to find and save the rest. Ultimately, the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society gathered fifteen of the original forty-nine plaques.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Materials in this collection have been acquired from various donors.

ORGANIZATION:

BOX 1

Programs, "As You Was," March 25, 1920, and "Fire at Will," February 17, 1927

Program, "Two Farce Comedies," April 24, 1922, presented by the Dramatic Club of the American Legion, Empire Theatre

Armistice Day Memorial Service, for the years 1946 (2 copies), 1947, and 1948

"American Legion Post 21 – A brief chronological history," by Bill Germelman, Post Adjutant, August 17, 2019.

Program, 100th Anniversary Celebration, Aug 17, 2019

Articles, American Legion Auxiliary, Memorial Plaques

Carr, Lucien, III (framed photo of plaque)

BOX 2 (filed, artifacts/objects shelving)

American Legion Auxiliary, Memorial Plaques for the following:

Brill, Russell

Cadwallader, William M.

Bolner, Milford J.

Fletcher, Thurman C.

Golliday, John H.

BOX 3 (filed, artifacts/objects shelving)

American Legion Auxiliary, Memorial Plaques for the following:

Graber, Charles E.
Johnson, Solomon
Kerns, Homer
Locke, William E.
Lucas, Floyd S.

BOX 4 (filed, artifacts/objects shelving)

American Legion Auxiliary, Memorial Plaques for the following:

Nelson, Clifton D.
Orndorff, Charles Henry
Payne, Manley C.
Whittle, Archibald
Willie, Edward V.