

VAN WORMER FAMILY PAPERS

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator:

Title: Van Wormer Family Papers

Dates: 1904-1935, bulk 1904-1905.

Abstract: This collection consists mostly of letters written, 1904-1905, by John R. Van Wormer of New York City to his cousin, Helen M. Griswold of Baker City Oregon. The primary subject of this correspondence is the history of the Van Wormer family, and also the death of Mrs. Griswold's father and her trip east to move her mother from her home in West Fort Ann, New York, to Oregon. The letters discuss family matters, including genealogy, settling of the estate, family news, and recollections by Mr. Van Wormer of his early years in West Fort Ann. Some later family correspondence and related papers to 1935 are included.

Quantity: .25 ft. (1 box, 6 folders)

Identification Number: Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Helen Van Wormer (1855-1935) was born in West Fort Ann, Washington County, NY, the daughter of Harriet Blood and William Van Wormer. Her younger brother, George, was born in 1863. In about 1886 Helen married John Griswold. Helen's grandmother was also named Griswold, but it is not known whether Helen and John were related. By 1900 they were living in Baker City, OR, where John was a dry goods merchant. Helen's father died in 1904, and her mother subsequently moved to Oregon, where she lived with Helen and John Griswold until her death in 1911. John Griswold died in 1915 and Helen moved back to Washington County, NY, where in 1920 she lived in Hudson Falls, and in 1930 on Catherine Street in Fort Ann. She died in 1935 and is buried, along with her husband, in Bay Street Cemetery in Glens Falls.

John Rufus Van Wormer () was a second cousin of Helen Van Wormer Griswold, both of them descended from Jacob Van Wormer (1749-1829) their common great-

grandfather. During the period of the correspondence in this collection John R. Van Wormer worked for the Lincoln Safe Deposit Co., in New York City.

Mary Edna Van Wormer Cooling (“Edna”), was Helen’s niece, the daughter of her brother George Van Wormer and his wife Priscilla Yole. Edna was born in West Fort Ann ca. 1882. In 1905 she married John Henry Cooling, and they resided in Philadelphia, PA. They had three daughters: Dorothy, Miriam, and Helen. The Van Wormer Collection includes letters to and/or from Edna and her daughters.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

Mostly letters written, 1904-1905, by John R. Van Wormer of New York City to his cousin, Helen M. Griswold of Baker City, Oregon. The primary subject of the correspondence is the history of the Van Wormer family, and also the death of Mrs. Griswold’s father and her trip east to move her mother from her home in West Fort Ann, New York, to Oregon. The letters discuss family matters, including genealogy, settling of the estate, family news, and recollections by Mr. Van Wormer of his early years in West Fort Ann. Some later family correspondence and related papers to 1935 are included.

INDEX TERMS

Topics:

Places: West Fort Ann, Washington County, NY

Important People: John Rufus Van Wormer
Helen Griswold
Edna Van Wormer

Form/Genre: Correspondence

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Van Wormer Family Papers Collection
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Gift of William Woodward, December 19, 1996.
Accession number: 1996-034

Processing Information: Arranged and described by

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Folder 1: Letters, John Rufus Van Wormer to Helen Griswold 1904-1905. Includes a sketch of the life of Jacob Van Wormer (1754-1824)

Folder 2: Edna Van Wormer (later Cooling)

Folder 3: Letters to Edna mostly from her grandmother, in Baker City.

Folder 4: Edna V. Cooling finances: bank books and list of stocks

Folder 5: Other Van Wormer letters

Folder 6: Miscellaneous papers