

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Robinson, Charles Arthur (1900-1976)** **MC 2012.1**

Material: Family Papers (1905-1973)

Volume: 1 linear foot (2 Document Boxes, 1 Oversized Box, 57 Photograph Folders, 1 Artifact Box)

Donation: Donated by Charles L. Robinson, 2012

Usage: These materials have been donated without any restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Charles Arthur Robinson was born on June 24, 1900 to Charles Lee Robinson and Maria Elizabeth Barnes Robinson. In addition to Charles Arthur, the Robinsons had four older children: Frederick, Frank, Mary, and Harry Delmer, who was born on August 21, 1896. Charles Sr. developed a business in the ice industry in Fairmont, West Virginia and expanded to Winchester, Virginia in 1901. He erected the first apple cold storage plant in Winchester in 1905 and created the Robinson Ice and Cold Storage Corporation.

Harry Delmer Robinson, who went by Delmer, attended Dickinson College and graduated in 1918. Delmer Robinson participated on his class track and football teams as well as in the Mohler Scientific Club. He was also involved in the Union Philosophical Society and Raven's Claw. In addition, Delmer Robinson took part in Dickinson Greek life as a member of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. He registered for the draft during World War I and served from August to November 1918 while stationed at Camp Lee in Virginia. After the war, H. Delmar Robinson returned to Winchester and worked for the Robinson Ice and Cold Storage Corporation.

Charles Arthur Robinson, who sometimes went by Arthur, followed in his brother's footsteps and started his Dickinson College career in 1916. While at Dickinson, Charles A. Robinson experienced the diversity of university life. He became an involved member of the Skull and Key and Raven's Claw societies as well as the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. In addition, he participated in campus athletics as a manager of the baseball team. He was also a part of the Union Philosophical Literary Society, the Dickinsonian Board, and Student Senate. Similar to his brother, the younger Robinson joined the World War I effort, registering for the draft and the Student Army Training Corps in 1918. He served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Infantry from September 16, 1918 until December 21, 1918 while stationed at Boston College in Massachusetts. Charles A. Robinson graduated from Dickinson in 1920.

Reba Marie Beam was born in November 1899 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania as the daughter of Lillie and Burton Beam. The Beams had one other child, a son named Percy, who was born in July 1894. Burton Beam worked as a railroad brakeman and later as a conductor; he passed away in January 1920 while his daughter was still in school. Reba Beam attended Dickinson College as a member of the class of 1922 and participated in the Chi Omega sorority on campus. She also was as a member of the Harman Literary Society and Philomel Club and class secretary for a year.

Reba and Charles met during their overlapping time at Dickinson. The two Dickinson alumni married in late 1921 and eventually returned to the Robinson family's hometown in Frederick County, Virginia. Their oldest child, Dorothy Anne (Dotty Ann), was born on June 5, 1923 in Winchester. She matriculated at Dickinson College and graduated with the class of 1945. While at Dickinson, she followed her mother's legacy as a member of the Chi Omega sorority and additionally was a member of the Microcosm staff.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Charles Arthur Robinson Collection was donated by Charles L. Robinson on January 14, 2012. The collection is housed in two document boxes, one oversized box, 57 photograph folders, and one small artifact box. The collection contains materials related to Charles A. Robinson and Reba M. Beam's Dickinson College careers as well as their married life. It also includes items belonging to Dickinson graduates Harry Delmar Robinson and Dorothy Anne Robinson. The Collection is arranged into eight series: Academic Papers, Correspondence, Ephemera, Financial Papers, Photograph Albums, Miscellaneous, Oversized, Photographs, and Artifact.

The first series, Academic Papers, consists of materials relating to Charles A. Robinson's Dickinson classes. It contains three college midterm reports and two notebooks compiled by Robinson while at Dickinson College: Junior Chemistry and Zoology. Both notebooks include handwritten notes as well as hand-drawn diagrams.

The second series, Correspondence, contains an assortment of letters and postcards sent to Charles and Reba Robinson during their time at Dickinson College and after their marriage. This series is organized chronologically and divided into six folders based on certain categories. Ranging from 1917 to 1922, the letters include World War I postcards, invitations, sympathy cards, Christmas cards, and get well notes.

The third series, Ephemera, is divided into ten different folders and includes a wide range of items relating to Charles and Reba Robinson's respective Dickinson College experiences. The majority contain fraternity and sorority dance programs dating from 1917 to 1921, including those for Phi Kappa Sigma, Skull and Key, and Chi Omega. Also included are an assortment of calling cards and score cards for card games.

The fourth series, Financial Papers, is comprised of six folders and contains information pertaining to Charles A. Robinson's financial records during his time at Dickinson College from 1916 to 1920. It includes two account books as well as the corresponding paid checks and receipts for college expenses.

The Photograph Albums series contains three photo albums. The first album belonged to Charles A. Robinson and documents activities around Carlisle from 1916 to 1919. The second and largest album includes photographs of the campus, as well as college and military life from 1918 to 1919. The third is unlabeled and undated, but includes photographs from Dickinson

College and personal life, circa 1920.

The Miscellaneous series is comprised of materials from various members of the Robinson family, organized chronologically.

The Oversized series is housed in a separate oversized box and consists of a scrapbook compiled by Charles A. Robinson documenting his Dickinson College and military service experiences (1916-1920). It includes newspaper clippings, photographs, dance programs and invitations, curriculum schedules, and classmate autographs and notes.

The Photographs series of the Charles Arthur Robinson Collection is divided into four subseries: Dickinson College, Military, Portraits, and Candid, containing a total of 183 photographs and 25 negatives in 28 folders that are housed separately in the Photograph collection. The first subseries, Dickinson College, contains 20 snapshots that document activities around campus in the late 1910s and early 1920s, as well as two class pictures from Charles A. Robinson's college reunions in June 1955 and May 1970. The 10 photographs in the Military subseries correspond with Charles Robinson's World War I experience in 1918, including candid and a group shot of the Students' Army Training Corps (SATC) experience in Plattsburg, New York during the summer of 1918. The third subseries is comprised of portraits, including Charles A. Robinson and several other unidentified persons. The Candid series contains the majority of the photographs and is divided into 44 folders by outing or subject matter, arranged chronologically.

The final series, Artifact, contains a small black wallet that has a Phi Kappa Sigma emblem on the front.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### BOX 1 - MC 2012.1

#### ACADEMIC PAPERS

- Folder 01) Junior Chemistry: Qualitative Analysis notebook – 1918-1919
- Folder 02) Zoology notebook – 1919-1920
- Folder 03) Midterm reports – 1917-1918

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 04) Assorted World War I letters and postcards – 1917-1918
- Folder 05) Invitations sent to Reba M. Beam – 1919
- Folder 06) Sympathy cards sent to Reba M. Beam regarding her father – 1920
- Folder 07) Christmas cards sent to Reba and Charles A. Robinson – 1921
- Folder 08) Get well cards sent to Reba Beam Robinson – 1922
- Folder 09) Miscellaneous – 1918-1934

#### EPHEMERA

- Folder 10) Dickinson College dance invitations and dance cards – 1917
- Folder 11) Dickinson College dance invitations and dance cards – 1918
- Folder 12) Dickinson College dance invitations and dance cards – 1919
- Folder 13) Dickinson College dance invitations and dance cards – 1920

## BOX 2 - MC 2012.1

### EPHEMERA (cont.)

- Folder 01) Dickinson College dance invitations and dance cards – 1921
- Folder 02) Dickinson College dance cards – undated
- Folder 03) Dickinson College banquet programs – 1917-1921
- Folder 04) Score cards for card games – undated
- Folder 05) Calling cards and name cards-assorted – undated
- Folder 06) C. A. Robinson's YMCA membership card – 1918  
Reba Beam's Class of 1921 name tag – undated  
Reba Beam's Y.M.C.A name tag – undated  
"Chats" card – undated  
Annual Reunion of Alumni Association program: Carlisle High School – 1917

### FINANCIAL PAPERS

- Folder 07) The Commercial and Savings Bank (Winchester, VA), account book – 1916-1918
- Folder 08) The Commercial and Savings Bank, cancelled checks – 1916
- Folder 09) The Commercial and Savings Bank, cancelled checks – 1917
- Folder 10) The Commercial and Savings Bank, cancelled checks – 1918
- Folder 11) State Street Trust Company (Boston, MA), account book – 1918
- Folder 12) Receipts, Dickinson College expenses – 1916-1920

### PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS

- Folder 13) Photograph album – 1916-1919
- Folder 14) Photograph album – 1918-1919
- Folder 15) Photograph album – c1920

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 16) Methodist Junior Catechism booklet – 1905  
Winchester High School Scholar's Monthly Reports – 1912-1913
- Folder 17) C. A. Robinson's Dickinson College Handbook – 1916  
C. A. Robinson's EHCO Statistic Book (Greek life handbook) – 1916
- Folder 18) Eye glass prescriptions – 1916, 1918  
"Betas Entertain" *Dickinsonian* clipping – May 16, 1918  
Burton Beam prayer card – 1920  
Dickinson Library Guild: Report of the Directors – 1922
- Folder 19) Birth announcement for Dorothy Anne Robinson – Jun. 5, 1923  
The Little Green Book – 1923  
The General Alumni Association of Dickinson College certificate for life membership: H. Delmer Robinson, Sr. – 1954
- Folder 20) "Twelve Views of Boston College" postcards – undated  
Edgar A. Guest, "The Second Lieutenant," newspaper clipping – undated  
Handwritten poem – undated

## OVERSIZED - OC 2012.1

### SCRAPBOOK

Folder 01) Charles A. Robinson's scrapbook – 1916-1920

## PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2012.1

### DICKINSON COLLEGE

Folder 01) Group portraits – c1915 (2)  
Folder 02) Campus buildings – c1920 (2)  
Folder 03) Flag raising – c1920 (2)  
Folder 04) Flag scrap – c1920 (3)  
Folder 05) Phi Kappa Sigma dance – c1920 (3)  
Folder 06) Candida – c1920 (6)  
Folder 07) Class of 1920 reunions – Jun. 1955, May 1970 (2)

### MILITARY

Folder 08) Candida – c1920 (5)  
Folder 09) Candida – c1920 (4)  
Folder 10) Phi Kappa Sigma members, Plattsburg Barracks, NY – Summer 1918 (1)

### PORTRAITS

Folder 11) Charles Arthur Robinson – c1910, c1915 (2)  
Folder 12) Unidentified – c1910-c1940 (5)  
Folder 13) Unidentified – c1970 (3)

### CANDIDS

Folder 14) Charles Arthur Robinson – c1910 (1)  
Folder 15) Temperance demonstration group photo –c1910 (1)  
Folder 16) Girls in rowboat – c1910 (2)  
Folder 17) Man and woman outdoors – c1910 (2)  
Folder 18) Swimming outing at dam – c1910 (5)  
Folder 19) Group of girls on summer outing – c1910 (2)  
Folder 20) Group on summer outing – c1910 (3)  
Folder 21) Group of women on summer outing – c1910 (5)  
Folder 22) Group of women on winter outing – c1910 (5)  
Folder 23) Group at farmhouse – c1910 (3)  
Folder 24) Candida – c1910 (5)  
Folder 25) Bonnybrook, PA – 1913 (3)  
Folder 26) Holly Park: Mount Holly Springs, PA – June 1913 (1)  
Folder 27) Atlantic City, NJ – Aug. 7, 1913 (2)  
Folder 28) Craigheads, PA – Aug. 24, 1913 (2)  
Folder 29) Duncannon, PA: Easter – 1914 (1)  
Folder 30) Ginters – May 17, 1914 (4)  
Folder 31) Bram's Camp – Nov. 8, 1914 (1)  
Folder 32) Carlisle Indian School – Nov. 26, 1914 (3)

## PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2012.1 (cont.)

### CANDIDS (cont.)

Folder 33)	Canawagua Creek – July 4, 1915	(1)
Folder 34)	Group of women on summer outing – c1915	(8)
Folder 35)	Group on summer outing – c1915	(2)
Folder 36)	Group of girls on summer picnic outing – c1915	(3)
Folder 37)	Group of girls on summer outing – c1915	(4)
Folder 38)	Group by lake – c1915	(2)
Folder 39)	Group on winter outing – c1915	(6)
Folder 40)	Group on winter outing – c1915	(6)
Folder 41)	Group at cabin – c1915	(3)
Folder 42)	Group by car on mistletoe gathering expedition – c1915	(2)
Folder 43)	Man cross country skiing – c1915	(2)
Folder 44)	Candids – c1915	(5)
Folder 45)	Candids – c1915	(5)
Folder 46)	Candids – c1915	(5)
Folder 47)	Candids – c1915	(5)
Folder 48)	Candids – c1915	(5)
Folder 49)	Hunting outing – c1920	(2)
Folder 50)	Group at beach – c1920	(2)
Folder 51)	Candids – c1920	(5)
Folder 52)	Woman with boys – c1965	(2)
Folder 53)	Woman with children on couch – c1965	(2)
Folder 54)	Woman napping, cat – c1970	(6)
Folder 55)	Candids – c1950-1973	(5)
Folder 56)	Landscapes – undated	(4)
Folder 57)	Negatives – undated	(25)

## ARTIFACT BOX 1 - AC 2012.1

Item 01) Black wallet with a Phi Kappa Sigma emblem

This collection register was prepared by Brenna McKelvey, May 2012.  
This collection register was edited by Lily Key, August 2013.