



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

CONTROL BOARD Soldier Welfare Division

An Inventory of Its Guardianship Files

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency:	Minnesota. Division of Soldier Welfare.
Series Title:	Guardianship files,
Dates:	1919-1933 (bulk 1928-1931).
Abstract:	Primarily case files for veterans of World War I who were wards of the state during 1928-1931; with a few administrative files.
Quantity:	1.0 cu. ft. (1 box).
Location:	109.F.13.7B

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE DIVISION OF SOLDIER WELFARE

The 1923 legislature provided for the establishment of a state soldiers' welfare fund and the appointment of a soldiers' welfare agent under the direction of the Control Board (Laws 1923 c436). The Soldier Welfare Division began actual work in July, 1925, after a portion of the money in the soldiers and sailors tuition fund was transferred to the soldiers' welfare fund (Laws 1925 c396). The division assisted veterans and their dependents in securing compensation, pensions, and medical treatment from federal government agencies; and it provided relief to destitute veterans and their families.

Powers of the division were soon extended to include guardianship of veterans or their estates in cases where a probate court had adjudged a guardian to be necessary, generally due to incompetence or insanity (Laws 1925 c88). Such veterans were placed under the supervision of a state appointed guardian and received living stipends from the U.S. Veterans Bureau, which also reviewed the guardianship accounts on an annual basis and at the end of a guardianship. In some special cases, including instances when no other suitable guardian could be found, the Director of Soldier Welfare assumed the guardianship responsibility.

In 1929 the division was authorized to spend money for veterans' rest camps and to assist families of non-compensated, hospitalized veterans (Laws 1929 c327). Powers were further expanded in 1935 to include educational aid to orphans of veterans (Laws 1935 c350). In April of that year the Board of Control organized the War Veterans Direct Relief Agency as a unit

apart from the Soldier Welfare Division. The unit was transferred to the Executive Council and extended relief only to veterans who were permanently disabled to a moderately severe degree. In 1937 the Soldier Welfare Division regained control of the relief agency.

All of the powers and functions of the division were transferred to the adjutant general's office in 1939 when the Board of Control was abolished (Laws 1939 c431). All state-financed veterans' agencies, including the Soldier Welfare Division, were subsequently consolidated to form the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1943 (Laws 1943 c420).

Soldier welfare directors: Stafford King, 1925-1930; William T. Kroll, 1931-1937; David Lundeen, 1937; Howard Y. Williams, 1937-1939; none listed, 1940-1943.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Primarily case files for veterans of World War I who were wards of the state during 1928-1931, having been judged incompetent or insane, their widows, and their minor children. The files include letters of guardianship, copies of the annual and final accounts, inventory and appraisal documents noting assets of the ward, orders to invest, estate settlement descriptions, other legal and financial documents, and related correspondence. Background materials from the early 1920s, reflecting the history of the ward's case, are present in several files. The case files are those of Stafford King, who served as Director of Soldier Welfare from 1928 to 1931 before he was elected to the position of State Auditor. At the time of his election it appears that most of the guardianships were transferred to the new Director of Soldier Welfare, William T. Kroll.

Included in the case files are those of two African-American veterans. It is interesting to note that the monthly stipend sent to each of these veterans in the hospital seems to be less than the average monthly stipends sent by King to other hospitalized wards.

There are also a few administrative files, consisting of letters that reflect the duties and procedures of the Director of Soldier Welfare and his office, as well as statistical data on the veteran wards under his direction.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE RECORDS

The case files are arranged alphabetically by surname. The contents of the administrative files are arranged for the most part in chronological order while the contents of each case file are arranged in reverse chronological order.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Capacity and disability--Minnesota.
Veterans--Minnesota.
World War, 1914-1918--Veterans.

Persons:

King, Stafford, 1893- .
Kroll, William T.

Organizations:

Minnesota. State Board of Control.

Types of Documents:

Guardianship records--Minnesota.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item and folder title here]. Minnesota State Board of Control.
Guardianship files. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none

Processing Information:

Processed by: Marie Perry, March 1999

Bank statements, routine facilitative correspondence, routine court orders for appearances, documentation of individual financial transactions, and other non-substantive materials were weeded from these files.

PALS ID No.: 0800000024 (history); 0800006792 (records)

RLIN ID No.: MNHVC0011H-A (history); MNHV763-A (records).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
109.F.13.7B	1	<p>Administration/Guardianship Records, 1919-1925. 1 folder. Records show the names and addresses of guardians and their wards; date of the commencement of the guardianship; and information regarding the ward's personal history.</p> <p>Administration/Letters from Director of Soldier Welfare, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1933. 1 folder. Letters highlight the duties, processes, and statistical data relating to the position of the Director of Soldier Welfare. A letter (1/19/1933) by William Kroll, director of Soldier Welfare, to state senator Patrick Farnand, outlines the steps involving the processing of relief claims as well as giving a summation of the department's claim work with regard to the Twin Cities area and outlying counties.</p> <p>Administration/ Wards by County, undated. 1 folder. A list of wards by county (most likely during the time of Stafford King's appointment as Director of Soldier Welfare), noting their current standing (e.g., whether hospitalized, etc.).</p>

Location	Box	
109.F.13.7B	1	Case Files, ca. 1922-1931 (bulk 1928-1931): Banker, Frederick Berg, Adolph G. Brinkhause, Virgil T. Braddock, Alfred N. Edberg, Lorraine and Joan Eljenholm, Harold Goodale, Harold Gaisbauer, Frank Louis Hanson, George Hymes, William B. 2 folders. This individual wrote voluminously to the Soldier Welfare Division; only a sample of his letters has been retained. Iverson, Carl and Evelyn Johnson, George R. Johnson, Harry O. Joyce, Raymond Kelley, Donald Latuff, Marcella McFarlin, Cull (African-American) Mitchell, Philip K. (African-American) Montgomery, Florence Nicholson, Stanie Pella, Richard Robinson, George Ryan, Edward B. Savloff, James Schmaltz, Fred Sheehan, Daniel Snoek, Budd Sundberg, George A. Tidd, John Vinitsky, Charles Waldron, Inez Wright, John A. Yohn, John