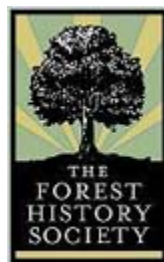


**Inventory of the
Wilson Martindale Compton Papers, 1918 - 1966**



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Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary.....	3
Biographical Note.....	3
Collection Overview.....	4
Restrictions.....	4
Subject Headings.....	5
Administrative Information.....	5
Detailed Description of the Collection.....	6
1. Correspondence, Speeches, Addresses, Articles, and Organizational Materials, 1918-1965.....	6

Descriptive Summary

Title:	Wilson Martindale Compton Papers,
Dates:	1918 - 1966
Creator:	Compton, Wilson Martindale, 1890-1967
Abstract:	<p>Wilson Martindale Compton (1890-1967) held a leadership role at the National Lumber Manufacturers Association from 1918 to 1944. Compton was one of the most prominent of all trade association leaders throughout the 1920s and 1930s.</p> <p>The collection includes correspondence; copies of speeches, addresses, and articles; minutes of meetings; and by-laws of organizations. The materials relate to Compton's career as a leader in the lumber and manufacturing industries, and much of the collection pertains to such forest industry organizations as NLMA (National Lumber Manufacturers Association), AFPI (American Forest Products Industries), TECO (Timber Engineering Company), and AFA (American Forestry Association). Prominent individuals referred to in the papers include Frank George Wisner, G.W. Dulany, Jr., and John W. Watzek.</p>
Extent:	1.0 linear feet(2 archival boxes)
Repository:	Forest History Society Library and Archives
Call Number:	3897
Language of Material:	Material in English

Biographical Note

Wilson Martindale Compton (1890-1967) held a leadership role at the National Lumber Manufacturers Association from 1918 to 1944. Compton was one of the most prominent of all trade association leaders throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

Compton was born in Wooster, Ohio, on October 15, 1890. He attended the College of Wooster and Princeton University, where he earned a Ph.D. degree in the department of history, politics, and economics. Compton was a professor of economics at Dartmouth for one year prior to his accepting an appointment with the Federal Trade Commission. While Compton studied for a law degree in the 1910s, he published in various professional journals a number of articles on the economic difficulties of the lumber industry, earning a reputation as an authority on the subject. In 1918 the newly reorganized National Lumber Manufacturers Association (NLMA) asked Compton to serve as the association's first secretary-manager. He served in that capacity until 1944, when he left the organization to become president of Washington State College in Pullman, Washington. In 1951 he resigned from that position to accept a position with the U.S. State Department's policy planning staff. He left this job just two years later due to conflicting differences with Senator Joseph McCarthy. Compton served as director of the Council for Financial Aid to Education until his retirement in 1959. His retirement years were spent in his home town, Wooster, Ohio. Compton died on March 7, 1967.

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While employed by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association (NLMA), Compton turned the NLMA into a profitable, prominent organization that came to wield great power within the lumber industry. Compton became a spokesman for organized lumbermen, helping to resolve demobilization problems after the First World War. Compton worked to lessen competitive rivalries in the lumber industry while focusing the attention of the lumber industry on national problems. Compton worked openly with numerous government agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, in order to produce cooperative programs (public and private) that were of benefit to the lumber industry. Compton strengthened and broadened the association's public relations and trade promotion programs; expanded its technical, research, and engineering capabilities; and increased the efficiency of the association's fire insurance and lumber standards. He formed both American Forest Products Industries (AFPI) and the Timber Engineering Company (TECO) as subsidiaries of the national association. Under his guidance, the NLMA earned a very important role in the nation's power structure, increasing its influence among lumbermen and policy makers alike.

Wilson Martindale Compton was one of the most prominent of all trade association leaders throughout the 1920s and 1930s. He continued to wield power in his profession in the following decades. For instance, he was instrumental in drafting the 1944 "Bailey Amendment" in an attempt to improve tax standards within the industry. Compton enjoyed the utmost respect of his peers until his death in 1967.

[For further information on Wilson Compton, NLMA, AFPI, or TECO, consult the *Encyclopedia of American Forest and Conservation History* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1983; Richard C. Davis, ed.).]

Collection Overview

The collection includes correspondence; copies of speeches, addresses, and articles; minutes of meetings; and by-laws of organizations. The materials relate to Compton's career as a leader in the lumber and manufacturing industries, and much of the collection pertains to such forest industry organizations as NLMA (National Lumber Manufacturers Association), AFPI (American Forest Products Industries), TECO (Timber Engineering Company), and AFA (American Forestry Association). Prominent individuals referred to in the papers include Frank George Wisner, G.W. Dulany, Jr., and John W. Watzek. The records are arranged in reverse chronological order.

Collection Arrangement

1. Correspondence, Speeches, Addresses, Articles, and Organizational Materials, 1918-1965

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

Copyright Notice

The nature of the Forest History Society's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. The Forest History Society claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

The materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. Copyright law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

Subject Headings

American Forest Products Industries
American Forestry Association
Clapp, Norton
Compton, Helen
Compton, Wilson Martindale, 1890-1967
Depressions -- 1929 -- Forest products industry
Dulaney, G. W., Jr.
Forest products industry -- United States -- 20th century
Forests and forestry -- Standards -- United States
Lumber trade -- United States -- 20th century
National Lumber Manufacturers Association
Ritter, W. M.
Timber Engineering Company
Watzek, John W.
Wisner, Frank George

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Wilson Martindale Compton Papers, Library and Archives, Forest History Society, Durham, NC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Received from Catherine Compton Chase (Mrs. Sherret S. Chase; daughter of Wilson Compton) in May 1978. Additional materials received from Catherine Compton Chase in April 1992, May 1994, and November 1994.

Processing Information

Processed by Michele Justice, April 1997

Encoded by Amanda Ross, September 2008

Funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission supported the encoding of this finding aid. Support for digitization and outreach provided by the Alvin J. Huss Endowment.

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Correspondence, Speeches, Addresses, Articles, and Organizational Materials, 1918-1965.

Box 1	Personal
Folder 1	Biographical Materials, undated
Folder 2	General Correspondence, 1931-1965 and 1975
Folder 3	Social Events and Invitations, 1935-1952 and undated
Folder 4	NLMA Employee Christmas Greetings, 1923-1932 and undated
Box 1	National Lumber Manufacturers Association (NLMA)
Folder 5	By-Laws and Certificate of Incorporation, November 1941
Folder 6	United States vs. NLMA (Consent Decree), May 6, 1941
Folder 7	Proposed Lumber Industry Economic Survey, April 1939
Folder 8	Speeches, Addresses, and Articles, April 1929 to December 1944 and September 1952
Folder 9	Correspondence, October to November 1944 and March 1952
Folder 10	Miscellaneous, 1964, 1966, and undated
	Includes 1966 NFPA directory of officers, managers, and committee members; 1964 Wall Street Journal article concerning NLMA and lumber standards; and an undated list of NLMA presidents who served from 1902 to 1952.
Box 1	AFPI
Folder 11	By-Laws, Certificate of Incorporation, and Meeting Minutes, May 1941 to February 1942 and undated
Folder 12	Annual Report, 1958
Folder 13	Advertisements and Promotions, 1961
	Includes promotion ideas concerning the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Tree Farm Movement.
Folder 114	TECO: Correspondence Regarding Annuity Contract, November 1944 to December 1948, December 1958, and undated
Box 1	AFA
Folder 15	Correspondence, May 1954 to March 1965
Folder 16	Speeches, Addresses, and Articles
Box 1-2	Miscellaneous
Folder 17	Taxation: Correspondence Regarding Capital Gains and Sec. 117 (K), July 1956 to January 1965

Folder 18	Taxation: Report Regarding Sec. 117 (K), 1954
Folder 19	Speeches, Addresses, Articles: Lumber Industry, NRA, 1923-1944, 1960, and undated
Folder 20	Speeches, Addresses, Articles: Universities, 1934
	Includes dedications, commencement addresses, and the like.
	Newspaper Clippings and Journal Articles
Folder 21	Preservation Copies Regarding Wilson M. Compton, March 1918 to July 1957 and undated
Folder 22	Original Copies Regarding Wilson M. Compton, March 1918 to July 1957 and undated
Folder 23	Preservation Copies Regarding Others, 1934, 1950, and undated
Folder 24	Original Copies Regarding Others, 1934, 1950, and undated
Museum Item 25	Museum Items
	Includes such items as the pen used by George W. Dulany, Jr., in signing annuity contract of TECO with Wilson Compton; a colleague's business card; Mrs. Compton's name tag from NLMA's 50th anniversary meeting in Herndon, Virginia; and two wooden certificates, each worth twenty-five cents in U.S. currency, issued by the Tenino, Washington, Chamber of Commerce in 1933 when the Citizens Bank of Tenino failed during the Great Depression (two booklets that explain the terms under which the currency was issued accompany the certificates).
Folder 26	Miscellaneous, 1942-1962 and undated
	Includes the following: 1962 A.E. Wackerman article entitled "Keeping Faith With Forest Farmers"; 1961 article entitled "Chiefs of the Forest Service"; 1957 annual report and April 8-9, 1957 meeting summary of the Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association; 1944 letter from George Dulany, Jr., to Wilson Compton concerning Compton's acceptance of the presidency of Washington State College; 1992 letter from Catherine Compton Chase to family members regarding NLMA's 1942 purchase of the Slater House in Washington, D.C., to serve as national headquarters.
Folder 27	Photographs, 1919, 1937, 1942, 1963 and undated
	File contains photocopies of the photographs Mrs. Chase donated to the Forest History Society. The original photographs are currently filed in the FHS Photograph Collection.