

Inventory of the

Thurow Family Collection
Plano, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 10

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Walter M. Thurow, DeKalb, Illinois, donated the Thurow Family Collection to the Northern Illinois University Archives in 1972. University Archivist J. Joseph Bauxar transferred the collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in June 1978. An addendum from Rare Books and Special Collections in Founders Memorial Library was added on July 18, 2000.

Property rights to the materials in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to materials in the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.75
Number of containers: 6 boxes + 1 volume
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 10

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Thurow Family Collection contains materials collected by Walter M. Thurow tracing three generations of family history in Plano, Illinois from the late 1800s to 1965. Box 1 consists of fifteen folders of typescript World War I records, letters, diaries, and local histories of the American Legion in Kendall County, Illinois. Contained in box 2 are legal documents including deeds, certificates, land leases, contracts, and ten envelopes of family and geographic photographs. Of special interest in folder 4 are two letters/agreements written in German. Family and geographical photographs are contained in box 3 and part of box 4. Also included in box 4 are four photograph albums containing family photographs, WWI photographs, foreign and domestic postcards, and an American Legion Post Memorial Book. Thirty-one tapes discussing World War I veteran reminiscences, songs, and Bible readings are found in Box 5.

The black and white photographic prints in this collection depict World War I action and illustrate family lifestyles during the first part of the 20th Century. Two panoramas of a soldier/sailor homecoming and a Kansas City Convention are in drawer 3, folder 3 of the oversize manuscript cabinet.

The addendum includes correspondence and printed material. The handwritten letters found in box 6, folders 1 and 2 are the same as the typescript diary found in box 1, folder 3. Researchers should compare both the handwritten and typescript letters because they may not be exact duplicates. Also there are letters that are not available in both forms.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Walter W. Thurow was born to Ernest F. and Phoebe E. Thurow on January 9, 1896. His father, Ernest Thurow, a native-born German, entered this country as a young boy and settled in Kendall County, Illinois, in the late 1800s. He learned the butcher's trade and eventually became sole owner of the former F.S. Erwin Meat Market in Plano, Illinois. Ernest Thurow did not confine his attention to the butcher business alone but participated in land development, holding stock in the tin mining industry of Deadwood, South Dakota.

Walter W. Thurow was raised in Plano, Illinois, and married Freda Zeller on September 20, 1924. Both held positions with the Federal Huber Company of Plano, Illinois. On June 29, 1927, the Thurows celebrated the birth of their first and only child, Walter M. Thurow, a resident of DeKalb, Illinois.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Diaries, 1910-1960
Kendall County (Ill.)
Plano (Ill.)
Thurow Family
World War I

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Marriage Certificate, Ernest and Phebe Barnes Thurow, October 15, 1895
	2	Bear Gulch Mining and Milling Co., 1902
	3	Wartime Diary of Walter W. Thurow, 1918-1919; Walter W. Thurow letter to U.S. Veterans Bureau, 1942
	4	History of Leon Burson Post No. 395, The American Legion, Walter W. Thurow, 1919-1928
	5	A Short History of Leon Burson Post No.395, The American Legion, Walter W. Thurow, 1919-1931
	6	American Legion Reports from <u>Kendall County News</u> , 1928-1934
	7-8	WWI boot camp letters, 1917-1919
	9	Reports from <u>Kendall County News</u> , 1917-1919
	10	Bank notes, April 12, 1911-March 7, 1963
	11	Letter to Walter M. Thurow, Jr. from Charlotte T. Reid, House of Representatives, May 25, 1965
	12	Insurance papers, February 25, 1914-March 18, 1960
	13	Driver's Training Fund, Walter M. Thurow, Chairman, June 6, 1962-May 17, 1963
	14	Sales receipts, May 30, 1903-June 6, 1960
	15	Plano Farmer's Co-op Grain Co., November 22, 1937
2	1	Chattel Mortgages, 1932-1960
	2	Leases, 1951-1956
	3	Release Deeds, 1910-1960
	4	Warranty Deeds, 1906-1956
	5	Articles of Agreement, 1910-1958
	6	Trust Deeds, 1909-1933
	<u>ENVELOPES</u>	
	1	Parade float (1)
	2	Home of Ernest Thurow (1)
	3	Walter and Freda Thurow, 1924 (2)
	4	Picnic with Mr. and Mrs. Thurow and son, (2)
	5	Balloon route excursion (1)
	6	Pfingsten home (2)
	7	Thurow's Butcher Shop interior (3)
	8	Emma Isterman Priebe (2)

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
2	9	Mr. and Mrs. Louis Isterman (1)	
	10	Walter Thurow, Sr. (group) (1)	
3	1	Pfingsten home, May 1, 1909 (1)	
	2	Freda Zeller (3)	
	3	American Legion Members (Walter Thurow pictured) (1)	
	4	Dorothy L. Dodd (1)	
	5	Walter W. and Freda Thurow (1)	
	6	Marshall Dimock (1)	
	7	Elizabeth Dimock (2)	
	8	William Pfingsten (2)	
	9	Lydia Behrens, ca. 1890 (1)	
	10	Ernest Thurow (1)	
	11	Marshall Edward Dimock (1)	
	12	Phoebe Behrens (grandmother) (2)	
	13	Plano Congregational Church, 1906 (1)	
	14	Walter Thurow and friend (1)	
	15	Phoebe Behrens sister (3)	
	16	Colorado Ranch (1)	
	17	Margaret (1)	
	18	Mr. and Mrs. William Thurow (1)	
	19	Martha's Children (1)	
	20	Marshall Edward Dimock, 1904 (1)	
	21	Bernice Kellner and Bill, December 1907 (1)	
	22	Walter Thurow, Sr. (group) (1)	
	23	Behrens sisters (2)	
	24	Walter W. Thurow, Sr. (2)	
	25	Behrens (1)	
	26	Methodist Church in Plano (1)	
	27	Mr. and Mrs. William Zeller (1)	
4	1	Behrens Family (1)	
	2	Flood (1)	
	3	F.S. Erwin Meat Market (1)	
	4	E.F. Thurow Butcher Shop (3)	
	5 volumes	Family photographs, WWI photographs, foreign and domestic postcards	
	1 volume	American Legion Post Memorial Book, World War II	
5	31 tapes	Oral Histories -- WWI veteran reminiscences, WWI songs, Bible readings	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
Oversize	1 volume	E.F. Thurow Butcher Shop Account Ledger, 1902	
Oversize Drawer 3, Folder 9		Soldier, Sailor Homecoming, Earlville, IL (Panorama), 1919 Kansas City Convention Panorama, n.d.	

ADDENDUM

6	1-2	World War I Correspondence, Walter Thurow, April 26, 1918- June 10, 1919	
	3	Correspondence to Walter Thurow, January 1, 1917-June 12, 1919	
	4	Correspondence to Mr. and Mrs. Thurow, October 28, 1918- September 11, 1928	
	5	American Red Cross, Certificate of Membership, n.d.	
	6	Receipts, August 1, 1918-August 1, 1923	
	7	Obituary, Albert J. Behrens, [November ??]	
	8	Printed Material, (1922-1937)	
	9	Photograph: Portrait, unidentified man, n.d. (1)	