



## Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

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### What are Legacy Finding Aids?

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## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID

**Title:** MS 382 Harry and Lillian Wardman Papers, 1916-1930

**Processors:** Helen Toomey, 1986; Faith Hofstader, 1998

**Harry Wardman** (1872-1938) was born in Bradford, England, April 11, 1872, and emigrated to New York in 1889. Wardman worked in a department store there and then moved on to Philadelphia where he continued in the dry goods business for several years. About 1893, he met and married Mary Hudson, a Philadelphian who was also a native of Bradford, England. They had one daughter, Alice, whose later married name was Rheem. By 1897, the Wardmans were living in Washington, where Harry was working as a carpenter. Soon he was building homes, successfully marketing affordable homes and apartments to Washington's growing population of government workers.

Widowed in 1900, Wardman married Lillian Glascox, a member of an established Washington family, in 1908. During the early years of his second marriage, Wardman built a number of luxury apartments designed by architect Albert H. Beers, including the Dresden, the Brighton, and the Northumberland. In 1916, Wardman embarked on his most ambitious project, the 1200-room Wardman Park Hotel to be built on Connecticut Avenue, north of Calvert Street. Originally known as "Wardman's Folly," the hotel became a financial success as a result of the influx of government workers after World War I. Wardman continued to create a real estate empire in Washington throughout the 1920s. Several more luxury hotels were built during the decade, including the Carlton, Roosevelt, Annapolis, and Hay-Adams.

The Wardmans lived an extravagant life style in Washington and abroad. Lillian Wardman was involved in the Republican Party and was a committeewoman for the District of Columbia. During the reign of King George V and Queen Mary, she was presented at court in London. Harry and Lillian had one daughter, Helen, who married Count Giovanni Naselli in 1936.

After suffering huge financial losses during the stock market crash of 1929, Wardman managed to make a comeback in the middle-class housing market. His projects during this period included subdivisions in Ft. Stevens and on Queens Chapel Road near Woodridge.

Harry Wardman was a member of the Washington Real Estate Board, Washington Board of Trade, Racquet Club, Columbia Historical Society, Columbia and Burning Tree Golf Clubs, and The American Club in London. He died in 1938 and is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery. At the time of his death, it was estimated that ten percent of Washington's population lived in a home built by Wardman.

**Scope and Content:** The Harry and Lillian Wardman Papers, 1916-1930, are arranged in four series:

**SERIES I, CORRESPONDENCE AND PERSONAL PAPERS**, consists of correspondence primarily from Harry to Lillian, most addressed to her while she was living in Paris and London; letters to Lillian from others, including some in reference to her presentation to the English Court at Buckingham Palace; letters to Harry Wardman; Helen's school records; and miscellaneous telegrams.

**SERIES II, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**, consists of bills, receipts, and account statements, primarily related to the expenses of Lillian and Helen Wardman.

**SERIES III, MEDICAL RECORDS AND MEMORABILIA**, consists of Lillian and Helen's medical records; the Wardmans' marriage certificate; passports; and newspaper clippings.

**SERIES IV, PHOTOGRAPHS AND PORTRAITS**, consists of pictures of family and friends, private dwellings, and hotels; portraits, some of which are unidentified; photograph albums; and oversized photos.

Within each series, materials are arranged by document type and then chronologically.

**Donor:** James M. Goode from the estate of Helen Wardman, 1986; James Austin (small collection of photos), 1986.

**Size:** 3.4 cubic feet (8 containers; 1 oversize folder)

**Restrictions:** none

**Related Materials:**

Vertical file on Harry Wardman

James M. Goode research collections on apartments and architects (MS 366 and MS 384)

Berk, Sally L. *The Richest Crop: The Rowhouses of Harry Wardman, Washington, D.C. Developer* (thesis)

CHS 10970: Panoramic photograph of a reception of the Republican National Committee at the South front of the White House, 1923 (removed from MS 382)

CHS 10997: Panoramic photograph of the members of the Hamilton Bond sales force in front of Wardman Park Hotel, August 15, 1928 (removed from MS 382)

## Container List

### Series I: Correspondence and Personal Papers

#### Container 1

**Folder 1:** Correspondence to Lillian Wardman from Helen, 1916-1928. Includes a letter to “Baby” Helen from Millah Marshall, August 20, 1910.

**Folder 2:** Correspondence to Lillian Wardman, 1919-1927. Includes letters, written in French, from Taco? (Taro?) to Lillian, including a handwritten translation in English for one of the letters.

**Folder 3:** Helen Wardman’s school records, 1917-1928. Includes an illustrated booklet from the Florentine School for Girls, Florence, Italy, 1924-1925.

**Folder 4:** Correspondence to Lillian Wardman, February-June 1927. Letters are primarily from Harry Wardman, including a letter he wrote to Helen, April 8, 1927. Also included in this folder is a letter Harry wrote requesting two dozen boxes of champagne, March 11, 1927; one letter from Taco (Taro), March, 1927; letters in reference to Lillian’s presentation to the English Court at Buckingham Palace, and letters from the National Republican Committee.

**Folder 5:** Correspondence to Lillian Wardman from Harry Wardman, July-November 1927.

**Folder 6:** Correspondence to Lillian Wardman, January-October 1928. Letters from Harry Wardman and others, as well as telegrams and notes in reference to Lillian’s injury in a car accident, August 1928.

**Folder 7:** Correspondence to Lillian Wardman, May-July, 1929. All letters are from Harry Wardman, including a letter dated June 7, 1929 referencing forty thousand dollars that was being sent to Lillian.

**Folder 8:** Correspondence to Lillian Wardman from Harry Wardman, August - September 1929.

**Folder 9:** Correspondence, undated, to Lillian Wardman, including a letter from Harry asking Lillian about wine she was to send and references to his car.

**Folder 10:** Correspondence to Harry Wardman, January, 1925-October 1928, and undated letters from Helen Wardman (child’s handwriting). Includes a letter from the Legation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Washington, D.C., February 1927 requesting 15 cases of whiskey, and letters in reference to his business.

## Series II: Financial Accounts

### Container 2

**Folder 11:** Bills, receipts, and statements, including a receipt from Gordon's gin, December 1925.

**Folder 12:** Bills and business-related materials, 1927-1928, including Helen's account of August 23, 1928.

**Folder 13:** Bills and receipts, April-September 1929.

**Folder 14:** Financial accounts, 1926-1929, primarily from Hooper & Co. referring to a Rolls Royce. Contains sketches of a proposed footrest for Hooper Sendanca Cabriolet, December 1927 and canceled checks, 1928.

**Folder 15:** Lillian Wardman's statements of accounts, 1927-1928 and canceled checks, 1928.

**Folder 16:** Lillian Wardman's statements from Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 1926-1928 (London office).

**Folder 17:** Lillian Wardman's statements from Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 1927-1928 (Paris office). Also contains book of deposits, 1927.

## Series III: Medical Records and Memorabilia

**Folder 18:** Lillian Wardman's medical reports and treatment, France, October 1926 and September 1927; Washington DC, December 1927-January 1929. Also contains medical reports for Helen, November 18, 1927.

**Folder 19:** Memorabilia, consisting of marriage certificate, Harry to Lillian, January 1908; Helen's cards and invitations, 1911; White Star Line Booklet and Lillian's passport, 1921 (Helen included in photo); Harry's passport, 1925; a guest list from the Helen Ray Hagner Social Bureau, Inc. for the Roebing / Hagner wedding, 1930; Alice Wardman's wedding invitation.

**Folder 20:** Newspaper clippings about Helen, 1914-1926.

**Folder 21:** Newspaper clippings, 1920-1932. Contains a story from the *Public Ledger* (Philadelphia), January 1921, about Harry Wardman, entitled, "The Man Who's Rebuilding Washington--Tells His Story." Also contains clippings about Lillian and Harry's auto accident.

**Folder 22:** Baby book for Patricia Dale Potter, 1929.

### **Series IV: Photographs**

#### **Container 3**

**Folder 23:** Portraits of Harry Wardman as both a young and mature man (silhouette included).

**Folder 24:** Photos of Harry Wardman in group pictures, ca.1916.

**Folder 25:** Photos of Harry Wardman in large groups; other persons not identified.

**Folder 26:** Photos, primarily Lillian, some with Harry; others unidentified.

**Folder 27:** Photos of Lillian, ca. 1920s and Lillian with groups; other persons unidentified.

**Folder 28:** Large photos of Lillian and Lillian with groups.

**Folder 29:** Photos of Lillian and with groups (others unidentified); photo postcards: Lillian, Frank, Martha, Charles W. Hastley, Nelly and others unidentified.

**Folder 30:** Portraits of Lillian Wardman, early 1900-1920.

**Folder 31:** Portraits of Lillian; one with unidentified person; includes her presentation to the English court.

**Folder 32:** Portraits and other photos of Helen Wardman, from baby to early childhood.

**Folder 33:** Photos of Helen Wardman, early childhood; alone and with unidentified people (one identified as Sydney Smith).

**Folder 34:** Photos of Helen Wardman, ca.1916-1923; one photo postcard from "Pipo;" other people in photos unidentified.

**Folder 35:** Large photos and portraits of Helen Wardman as a child; "Rappie" (poodle) in some pictures and portraits.

## Container 4

**Folder 36:** Photos; two photo postcards: Helen Wardman c.1926-1930s, teen years to adult.

**Folder 37:** Portraits of Helen Wardman, teen years to adult; others unidentified; one international Newsreel photo identifying Helen as “of Washington Social Circles”; silhouette of Helen.

**Folder 38:** Photos of Harry and Lillian Wardman. ca. early 1900s-1920s; 4 photo postcards; other individuals unidentified.

**Folder 39:** Portraits of Harry Wardman and Helen, ca. 1910-1920s; Helen at various life stages, and other unidentified individuals.

**Folder 40:** Portraits of Lillian Wardman and Helen, ca. 1910-1930; one photo postcard.

**Folder 41:** Photos of Harry Wardman, Lillian and Helen, ca. 1913-1920s; other individuals not identified; 6 photo postcards, ca.1926.

**Folder 42:** Portraits of Count Naselli and Helen ca.1936; Naselli house in Mexico.

**Folder 43:** Photos of the exterior of the Wardman house at 2640 Connecticut Ave., NW (at Woodley Rd.); 2 photo postcards; one negative; ca.1910-1929.

**Folder 44:** Large photos of the interior of the Wardman house at 2640 Connecticut Ave., NW, c.1910-1929.

**Folder 45:** Large photos of the exterior of the Wardman house on Observatory Circle, ca 1930.

**Folder 46:** Photos of Wardman hotels: Berkeley (London) may not be Wardman built, Carlton Hotel, Park Lane (London), ca. 1920s, Wardman Park, one article with pictures reprinted from “The Monthly Pictorial” dated July 1925 concerning the Berkeley Hotel (London) and its General Manager Cav. Clement Bich.

**Folder 47:** Large photo of the British Embassy building groundbreaking on Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC, 1929.

**Folder 48:** Portrait of Alice Wardman, ca. 1912-1916; Wardman house, ca.1908 at 2432 Columbia Road, Washington, D.C. (demolished), people in photo were identified as Harry Wardman, Alice, and Lillian.

**Folder 49:** Portraits, consisting of Sally Berk's photos for Wardman Thesis, Berk; Sally Lichtenstein "The Richest Crop: The Rowhouses of Harry Wardman (1872-1938), Washington DC Developer," M.A., George Washington University, 1990. Contains: photo of Harry Wardman, ca.1887; group photo with Harry Wardman ca.1889 (others unidentified); Harry Wardman and unidentified men, ca. 1889; portrait of Harry Wardman, ca.1910; Harry Wardman and Helen, ca.1911; Family photos at Alice Wardman's wedding, June 1, 1916; 2 photos of a Rolls Royce c.1906; portrait of Harry Wardman, Lillian, and Helen, ca. 1926 (probably 2640 Woodley Road); portrait of Lillian Wardman dressed for presentation to the Court of St. James, 1926; Harry Wardman, ca.1930; Helen's wedding day, ca. 1935.

### **Container 5**

**Folder 50:** Portraits of Wardman Associates (identified), 1910-1940, most dated.

**Folder 51:** Large photos; portraits: Wardman Associates- identified but undated; one holiday card with photo included.

**Folder 52:** Photos of the Wardman family's associates and friends, unidentified and undated.

**Folder 53:** Portraits, unidentified and undated.

**Folder 54:** Photos, unidentified and undated.

**Folder 55:** Photos, unidentified and undated.

### **Container 6**

**Folder 56:** "Travel" photos, unidentified.

**Folder 57:** Pictures of Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, baseball monument, parade float, and 1921 paintings by Pipo and one painting perhaps by Helen Wardman.

**Folder 58:** Postcards from Europe and Mexico.

### **Container 7**

**Folder 59:** Photograph album, including scenes of Wardman family and unidentified people at 2640 Connecticut Ave.

**Folder 60:** Photograph album 2, including scenes of Wardman family and unidentified people at their home at 2640 Connecticut Avenue, and at various resorts; postcards from various resorts.

**Folder 61:** Photograph album, including Lillian Wardman and unidentified friends (perhaps prior to her marriage).

**Folder 62:** Photograph album: "A London Wedding," ca.1930; Helen Wardman was a bridesmaid; other people unidentified.

**Folder 63:** Wedding album, unidentified.

**Folder 64, oversize:** Rolls-Royce automobile certificate, 1927.

**Container 8:** Oversized photographs of family and friends, some signed and dated; also included, one radiograph (x-ray).