

Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2018086263>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019003>

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia

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Collection Summary

Title: Edward S. Crocker and Lispenard Seabury Crocker Papers

Span Dates: 1892-2003

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1923-1941)

ID No.: MSS86263

Creator: Crocker, Edward S., II, 1896-1968

Creator: Crocker, Lispenard Seabury, 1902-1984

Extent: 3,800 items

Extent: 12 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 5 linear feet

Extent: 9 digital files (2.8 GB)

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2018086263>

Summary: Foreign service officer and his wife. Correspondence, films, photographs, memoranda from Tokyo Embassy prior to bombing of Pearl Harbor, and other papers related to postings, 1924-1941, in El Salvador, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, and Sweden, and family matters in New England and New York.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Crocker family.

Crocker, Edward S., II, 1896-1968.

Crocker, Lispenard Seabury, 1902-1984. Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker papers.

Crocker, Marion A., 1867-

Green, Lispenard Crocker, 1924--approximately 1996.

Green, Marshall.

Seabury family.

Seabury, Katharine Emerson Hovey, 1876-1971.

Seabury, William Marston, 1878-1949.

Street, Julian, 1879-1947--Correspondence.

Organizations

Kōkyo (Tokyo, Japan)

Princeton University--Students.

United States. Embassy (Japan)

United States. Navy.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Europe.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Japan.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Latin America.

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.

Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945.

World War, 1914-1918.

World War, 1939-1945--Japan.

World War, 1939-1945--United States.

World War, 1939-1945.

Places

Europe--Description and travel.

Europe--Foreign relations--United States.
Japan--Foreign relations--United States.
Japan--History--1926-1945.
Japan--History--February Incident, 1936 (February 26)
Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.
Maine--Social life and customs.
New England--Social life and customs.
New York (State)--Social life and customs.
United States--Foreign relations--Europe.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.

Titles

Edward S. Crocker II papers
Lispenard Seabury Crocker papers

Occupations

Foreign service officers' spouses.
Foreign service officers.

Provenance

The papers of Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker, foreign service officer and his wife, were given to the Library of Congress by Edward C. Green in 2018.

Transfers

Five film canisters have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Digital Format

Digital files were received as part of the papers of Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker. Reference copies were created from the original digital media. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or Digital ID number, Edward S. Crocker II and Lispenard Seabury Crocker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Edward S. Crocker II

Date	Event
1895, Dec. 20	Born, Fitchburg, Mass.
1914-1920	Student, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., with leave of absence for military service in WWI. Received a B.A.
1917-1919	Served in U.S. Navy, commissioned an Ensign in June 1918, stationed in France and Holland
1921	Worked in the family papermill, Fitchburg, Mass.
1922	Student, Columbia Law School, New York, N.Y. Entered Diplomatic Service
1923	Married Lispenard Seabury
1923-1924	Diplomatic secretary, U.S. Legation, San Salvador, El Salvador
1924	Birth of daughter, Lispenard ("Lisa")
1924-1925	Diplomatic secretary, U.S. Legation, Warsaw, Poland
1925-1926	Diplomatic secretary, U.S. Embassy, Rome, Italy
1925	Birth of daughter, Katharine ("Kay"), born April, died October
1927-1929	Diplomatic secretary, U.S. Embassy, Budapest, Hungary
1929-1933	Chargé d'affaires, U.S. Embassy, Stockholm, Sweden
1934-1941	First secretary, U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, Japan
1941-1942	Received the official declaration of war from the government of Japan; along with other embassy officials, held captive on embassy grounds until prisoner exchange in August 1942
1942-1944	Deputy Chief of Mission, Portugal
1945-1947	Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Warsaw, Poland
1948-1952	Ambassador, Iraq
1953	Deputy Commandant, Air War College, Montgomery, Ala.
1954	Deputy Commandant, Naval War College, Newport, R.I. Retired after suffering a stroke, moved to New York, N.Y.
1968, Apr. 6	Died, New York, N.Y.

Lispenard Seabury Crocker

Date	Event
1902, Apr. 1	Born
1923	Married Edward S. Crocker II (died 1968)
1923-1924	Stationed with her husband at their first overseas post, San Salvador, El Salvador
1924	Returned to New York, N.Y., for the birth of her daughter, Lispenard ("Lisa"), born March 25 Rejoined her husband in May at his new post, Warsaw, Poland
1925	In anticipation of the birth of her second child, she moved to Neuilly, Paris, in March to a pension near the American Hospital. Katharine ("Kay") born April 22 After a difficult delivery affecting the health of both mother and baby, she moved to Switzerland with the two children, a nurse, and her sister, rather than join Edward at his new post, thus avoiding the summer heat of Rome Moved to Italy in September Death of daughter Katharine ("Kay"), October 16

1926	Due to personal health problems, spent time in both the U.S. and at a sanatorium in Val-Mont, Switzerland. Returned to Rome, Italy, in November
1927-1929	Stationed in Budapest, Hungary
1929-1933	Stationed in Stockholm, Sweden
1934-1941	Stationed in Tokyo, Japan. Returned to the U.S. in spring of 1941
1943-1954	Accompanied her husband in his assignments to Lisbon, Warsaw, Baghdad, the Air War College, Montgomery, Ala., and the Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1954-1984	Lived in New York, N.Y., and Kittery Point, Maine
1984, April 19	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward S. Crocker II (1895-1968) and Lispenard Seabury Crocker (1902-1984) span the years 1892-2003, with the bulk of the material dating from 1923 to 1941. The collection documents the career and family life of a foreign service officer and his wife at multiple postings in Europe and Latin America, culminating with his work at the embassy in Tokyo 1934-1941. The papers are arranged into the following series: [Digital Files](#), [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Miscellany](#), [Photographs](#), [United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan](#), and [Oversize](#).

Two decades of family letters, home films, and photographs capture the private life of the Crockers while serving at postings in San Salvador, Warsaw, Rome, Budapest, Stockholm, and Tokyo. The papers document their marriage, the birth of two children while abroad and the death of one, the social life of the diplomatic corps, and the financial contributions of family to support the diplomatic life of the Crockers. After leaving Tokyo in 1942, Crocker had further postings in Lisbon, Warsaw, and served as ambassador to Iraq (1948-1952), but there is very little material in the collection dating after 1941. The papers focus on Edward and Lispenard, but other prominent family members include her parents, Katharine Emerson Hovey Seabury and William Marston Seabury, his mother, Marion Crocker, and their daughter, Lispenard ("Lisa") Crocker, who married the future ambassador and assistant secretary of state, Marshall Green, in 1942. The papers include a folder of correspondence, some photographs, and film footage of Marshall Green.

The Crockers were in Japan from 1934-1941/1942 where Edward served as first secretary at the American embassy. The papers include two volumes of 1941 memoranda of conversations of embassy officials and the ambassador with Japanese officials. Their time in Japan is documented throughout the papers and include letters with firsthand accounts of events during the attempted coup of February 1936, letters home discussing the invasion of China, photographs, and letters and clippings documenting social events within the diplomatic corps and at the Imperial Palace. Edward Crocker was the American official who accepted the declaration of war from the government of Japan on December 8, 1941. He, along with the other embassy staff, were then held captive inside the embassy compound for six months. Edward Crocker's descriptions of these events along with the memoranda are in the United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan series.

The papers are organized into seven series:

The [Digital Files](#) consist of motion pictures, primarily ones made by the Crockers with a home camera, but also include several newsreels. The original films were digitized on September 27, 2008 by the donor, stored on a DVD, and organized into seven "chapters." Each chapter runs about an hour in length, except the last which is thirty-three minutes long. Each chapter includes several or many individual films. The chapter descriptions have estimated dates for the original films and a skeletal contents description. A partial listing of contents was provided by the donor and is in box 1 of the paper collection.

[Family Correspondence](#) is the largest series and is primarily composed of letters written by Edward and Lispenard to their parents and to each other while serving abroad at various embassies and legations. The correspondence is organized by the name of the family member who wrote the letter. Edward's correspondence begins with letters from his college days at Princeton University and during his service in the U.S. Navy in Europe during World War I. In addition to letters about his various foreign service posts, he also writes frequently about family vacations in rural Maine. Lispenard's letters begin with her youthful European travels followed by her courtship and marriage to Edward Crocker.

[General Correspondence](#) contains both professional and non-family personal correspondence. The State Department folders include both official letters and letters from colleagues at various embassy and consulate postings and is often personal in nature. This series also has a folder of letters from the writer Julian Street, a friend of Edward Crocker.

The [Miscellany](#) series draws together biographical material, printed matter, and writings. Of note is the self-published book produced by Lispenard ("Lisa") Green in 1985. Transcripts of many of the letters in these papers as well as additional biographical information can be found in her book. The news clippings file pertains to both the Crocker and the Seabury families.

The [Photographs](#) series has folders of loose photographs organized by place or person and original photograph albums. Most of the photographs and albums are annotated.

The [United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan](#) series holds documents relating to embassy events in the lead up to and directly following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. In addition to the two volumes of 1941 embassy memoranda concerning conversations with Japanese officials, the series includes a copy of an eight-page "diary" by Edward Crocker for December 8, 1941 and a description of living conditions during his incarceration.

The [Oversize](#) series houses those photographs and photograph albums removed from the Photograph series that required oversize containers.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Digital Files, 1928-1960](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1900-1967](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1923-2003](#)
- [Miscellany, 1895-1985](#)
- [Photographs, 1892-1954](#)
- [United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan, 1941-1942](#)
- [Oversize, 1913-1942](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

Digital Files, 1928-1960

The Digital Files consist of motion pictures, primarily ones made by the Crockers with a home camera, but also include several newsreels. The original films were digitized on September 27, 2008 by the donor, stored on a DVD, and organized into seven "chapters." Each chapter runs about an hour in length, except the last which is thirty-three minutes long. Each chapter includes several or many individual films. The chapter descriptions have estimated dates for the original films and a skeletal contents description. A partial listing of contents was provided by the donor and is in box 1 of the paper collection.

Material types include digital files created by the donor from home movies and newsreels and a contents list.

Arranged as received.

BOX 1-7

Family Correspondence, 1900-1967

Family Correspondence is the largest series and is primarily composed of letters written by Edward and Lispenard to their parents and to each other while serving abroad at various embassies and legations. The correspondence is organized by the name of the family member who wrote the letter. Edward's correspondence begins with letters from his college days at Princeton and during his service in U.S. Navy in Europe during World War I. In addition to letters about his various foreign service posts, he also writes frequently about family vacations in rural Maine. Lispenard's letters begin with her youthful European travels followed by her courtship and marriage to Edward Crocker.

Material types include correspondence with some photographs as attachments.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.

BOX 7

General Correspondence, 1923-2003

General Correspondence contains both professional and non-family personal correspondence.

The State Department folders include both official letters and letters from colleagues at various embassy and consulate postings and is often personal in nature. This series also has a folder of letters from the writer Julian Street, a friend of Edward Crocker.

Arranged alphabetically into sets of personal, State Department, and Julian Street correspondence, and chronologically therein.

BOX 7-8

Miscellany, 1895-1985

The Miscellany series draws together biographical material, printed matter, and writings. Of note is the self-published book produced by Lispenard ("Lisa") Green in 1985. Transcripts of many of the letters in these papers as well as additional biographical information can be found in her book. The news clippings file pertains to both the Crocker and the Seabury families.

Material types include biographical material, writings, printed matter, news clippings, correspondence, and photographs.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject matter.

BOX 8-11

Photographs, 1892-1954

The Photographs series has folders of loose photographs organized by place or person and original photograph albums. Most of the photographs and albums are annotated.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or name of location and albums are unarranged.

BOX 11-12

United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan, 1941-1942

The United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan series holds documents relating to embassy events in the lead up to and directly following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. In addition to the two volumes of 1941 embassy memoranda concerning conversations with Japanese officials, the series includes a copy of an eight-page "diary" by Edward Crocker for December 8, 1941 and a description of living conditions during his incarceration.

Material types include memoranda and writings.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX OV 1-OV 2

Oversize, 1913-1942

The Oversize series houses large photographs and photograph albums removed from the Photographs series.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<p>Digital Files, 1928-1960</p> <p>The Digital Files consist of motion pictures, primarily ones made by the Crockers with a home camera, but also include several newsreels. The original films were digitized on September 27, 2008 by the donor, stored on a DVD, and organized into seven "chapters." Each chapter runs about an hour in length, except the last which is thirty-three minutes long. Each chapter includes several or many individual films. The chapter descriptions have estimated dates for the original films and a skeletal contents description. A partial listing of contents was provided by the donor and is in box 1 of the paper collection.</p> <p>Material types include digital files created by the donor from home movies and newsreels and a contents list.</p> <p>Arranged as received.</p>
DF	Films: "Crocker Family Archives," 1928-1960
	Digital ID: mss86263_171_001
DF	Chapter 1: Maine (Lake Musquash), Sweden, Norway, Rome, Budapest, Japan, 1928-1934
DF	Chapter 2: Hungary and Sweden, 1928-1932
DF	Chapter 3: Stockholm, Tokyo, trip to China, Honolulu, 1933-1936
DF	Chapter 4: Japan, ocean travel and global tourist footage, newsreel of zeppelin world trip, 1936-1937
DF	Chapter 5: Iraq, 1948-1952
DF	Chapter 6: New England, New York City, diplomatic activities of Marshall Green, 1928, 1950, 1960
DF	Chapter 7: Japan, sinking of the <i>USS Panay</i> , Marshall Green, Iraq, Gerrish Island, D.C., 1937-1960?
BOX 1	Partial list of film contents made by Lispenard Crocker Green ("Lisa"), undated
BOX 1-7	<p>Family Correspondence, 1900-1967</p> <p>Family Correspondence is the largest series and is primarily composed of letters written by Edward and Lispenard to their parents and to each other while serving abroad at various embassies and legations. The correspondence is organized by the name of the family member who wrote the letter. Edward's correspondence begins with letters from his college days at Princeton and during his service in U.S. Navy in Europe during World War I. In addition to letters about his various foreign service posts, he also writes frequently about family vacations in rural Maine. Lispenard's letters begin with her youthful European travels followed by her courtship and marriage to Edward Crocker.</p> <p>Material types include correspondence with some photographs as attachments.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 1	Crocker, Edward S., II
BOX 1	1900-1931 (12 folders)
BOX 2	1932-1941 (9 folders)
BOX 2	Crocker, Lispenard Seabury

Family Correspondence, 1900-1967

Container	Contents
BOX 2	1921-Sept. 1923 (7 folders)
BOX 3	Oct. 1923-May 1925 (12 folders)
BOX 4	June 1925-Dec. 1926 (10 folders)
BOX 5	1927-1934 (13 folders)
BOX 6	1935-1938 (6 folders)
BOX 6	Crocker, Marion, 1924-1929, undated
BOX 6	Green, Lispenard ("Lisa") Crocker, 1931-1938 (3 folders)
BOX 6	Green, Marshall, 1946-1950, 1967
BOX 6	Miscellaneous, 1909, 1923-1929, 1937-1938 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Seabury, Katharine Emerson Hovey
BOX 6	1921-1928 (3 folders)
BOX 7	1929-1938 (3 folders)
BOX 7	Seabury, William Marston, 1935-1938
BOX 7	General Correspondence, 1923-2003 General Correspondence contains both professional and non-family personal correspondence. The State Department folders include both official letters and letters from colleagues at various embassy and consulate postings and is often personal in nature. This series also has a folder of letters from the writer Julian Street, a friend of Edward Crocker. Arranged alphabetically into sets of personal, State Department, and Julian Street correspondence, and chronologically therein.
BOX 7	Personal, 1928-1937, 1952, 1980, 2003, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	State Department, 1923-1933 (3 folders)
BOX 7	Street, Julian, 1928-1935
BOX 7-8	Miscellany, 1895-1985 The Miscellany series draws together biographical material, printed matter, and writings. Of note is the self-published book produced by Lispenard ("Lisa") Green in 1985. Transcripts of many of the letters in these papers as well as additional biographical information can be found in her book. The news clippings file pertains to both the Crocker and the Seabury families. Material types include biographical material, writings, printed matter, news clippings, correspondence, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject matter.
BOX 7	Biographical material and vital records, 1895, 1902, 1913-1923, 1934, 1941, undated
BOX 7	A Foreign Service Marriage, self-published book by Lispenard Green, 1985

Miscellany, 1895-1985

Container	Contents
BOX 8	Keller, Helen, correspondence and photograph, 1938-1942
BOX 8	News clippings concerning Crocker and Seabury families, 1924-1941, 1951, undated
BOX 8	Printed matter
BOX 8	Japan, circa 1937-1946, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Miscellaneous, 1923, 1939-1953, 1985, undated
BOX 8	Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1938
BOX 8	Robinson, Douglas, "Mussolini," 1926
BOX 8	Sweden, 1929-1942, 1952-1953, undated
BOX 8	Writings by Lisenard Seabury Crocker, 1917, 1936-1942
BOX 8-11	Photographs, 1892-1954 The Photographs series has folders of loose photographs organized by place or person and original photograph albums. Most of the photographs and albums are annotated. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or name of location and albums are unarranged.
BOX 8	California, 1924, 1934
BOX 8	Crocker, Edward S., II, 1897, 1918-circa 1950
BOX 8	Crocker, Edward, Lisenard, and Lisa, 1924-1954
BOX 8	Crocker, Katharine ("Kay"), 1925
BOX 8	Crocker, Lisenard Seabury, 1923-1940, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	El Salvador, 1923
BOX 8	Green, Lisenard ("Lisa") Crocker, 1924-circa 1942 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Green, Marshall
BOX 9	Family photographs, 1943-1945, undated
BOX 9	Portraits, circa 1935-circa 1940
BOX 9	Hawaii, 1892, 1934-1937
BOX 9	Hungary, 1927-1929
BOX 9	Iraq, 1949-1950
BOX 9	Italy, 1925-1926
BOX 9	Japan, 1934-1940 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Maine
BOX 9	Camp Musquash, Topsfield, 1911
BOX 9	General, 1907, 1924-1926, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Miscellaneous and unidentified, 1923-1941, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 9	Miscellaneous family photographs, 1897-1914, 1924-1928, 1939-1943, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders)
BOX 9	Photograph album #1: "Edward Savage Crocker, Odds and Ends," 1896-1928
BOX 10	Photograph album #2: Crocker family photographs, 1896-1932
BOX 10	Photograph album #3: Seabury family photographs, circa 1902-1931
BOX 10	Photograph album #4-#5: Travel photographs from Europe, sailing and beach photographs in New England, and the Boston Aero Meet, 1911

Photographs, 1892-1954

Container	Contents
BOX 11	Photograph album #6: Travel to Turkey, Greece, and Italy; camping and hunting in Maine, 1913-1914
BOX 11	Photograph album #7: Crocker, Burbank & Company, paper mill #1 combination cylinder and fourdrinier machine, 1920-1921
BOX 11	Photograph album #8: St. Mark's School memory book, Southborough, Mass., 1910 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 11	Photograph albums #9-#11, <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 11	Poland, 1924-1925
BOX 11	Portugal, circa 1944
BOX 11	St. Mark's School, Southborough, Mass., circa 1905
BOX 11	Sweden, 1929-1933 (2 folders)
BOX 11-12	United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan, 1941-1942 The United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan series holds documents relating to embassy events in the lead up to and directly following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. In addition to the two volumes of 1941 embassy memoranda concerning conversations with Japanese officials, the series includes a copy of an eight-page "diary" by Edward Crocker for December 8, 1941 and a description of living conditions during his incarceration. Material types include memoranda and writings. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 11	Diary entry by Edward S. Crocker for December 8, 1941
BOX 11	"Food During Incarceration of Tokyo Embassy Personnel, Dec. 8, 1941-June 6, 1942," undated
BOX 11	Memoranda of 1941 Embassy conversations with Japanese officials
BOX 11	Book I
BOX 11	Jan. 8-July 8, 1941 (2 folders)
BOX 12	July 16-Oct. 7, 1941
BOX 12	Book II, Aug. 18-Nov. 24, 1941 (4 folders)
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1913-1942 The Oversize series houses large photographs and photograph albums removed from the Photographs series. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Photographs Miscellaneous and unidentified
BOX OV 1	Lindbergh, Charles and Anne Murrow, in Sweden, 1932 (Container 9)
BOX OV 1	Sanger, Margaret, 1939 (Container 9)
	Miscellaneous family photographs
BOX OV 1	Four generations, circa 1942 (Container 9)
BOX OV 1	Photograph album #8: St. Mark's School memory book, Southborough, Mass., 1910 (Container 11)
BOX OV 1	Photograph album #9: California and Hawaii, 1908-1930 (Container 11)
BOX OV 2	Photograph album #10: Family and friends from foreign service in Poland, Italy, and Hungary; ocean travel, Maine, and Paris, 1924-circa 1929 (Container 11)

Oversize, 1913-1942

Container

Contents

BOX OV 2

Photograph album #11: California, State of Washington, Maine, 1927-1934 (Container 11)