

George W. Pearson Scrapbooks Scope and Contents Note

George W. Pearson Scrapbooks were donated to the Local History Department. Scrapbook #1 has news articles and letters dealing with Pearson's involvement in Theodore Roosevelt's election campaign of 1904. Other items deal with various aspects of Toledo's history. A number of Grove Patterson's "Way of the World" columns are included. Scrapbook #2 contains newspaper clippings about Toledo in general. Scrapbook #3 contains newspaper clippings about East Toledo. Scrapbook #4 has articles about Toledo history, as well as three series about houses, boats and newspaper editors in Northwest Ohio. Scrapbook #5 is a collection of congratulatory letters to Pearson after it was announced that the Metro Park in East Toledo would be named after Pearson. Scrapbook #6 contains letters sent to Pearson after he published *The Transition*, a history of Toledo from 1900 to 1940.

The original scrapbooks are very fragile and have been scanned and copied. These copies are open for use by patrons; the original volumes are closed to use. The index is based on the scanned copies; therefore page numbers may differ from earlier index entries for Scrapbook #2 in the department's Name Index.

An additional folder contains a small collection of letters and essays written by Pearson in 1951.

George W. Pearson Scrapbooks Biographical Notes

George Wilkinson Pearson was born in Covington, Ohio in January 1870 to Richard and Mary Pearson. The family moved to Van Wert County while he was a young child. He graduated from Van Wert High School and served as a correspondent for the *Blade* during his senior year. He attended Ohio Wesleyan University for two years, taught school near Grover Hill for two years, and then worked at the Solar Refinery in Lima, Ohio. While there he attended Lima Business College. When he moved back to Van Wert, he worked as a railroad messenger and baggageman, but also set type and worked as a reporter for the *Daily Bulletin*. Pearson moved to Toledo in February 1893 and worked as a reporter for the *Toledo News* for three months. He then began working for the *Toledo Blade* on May 15, 1893 as a reporter. With the exception of the years 1920-1922 when he served the East Toledo Community Y.M.C.A. as executive secretary, he remained at the *Blade* until he retired in 1947. He married Blanche Dippery on March 24, 1895 in Van Wert, Ohio. They had two sons, R. Kenneth and Eugene. She died April 16, 1951; and Pearson died May 23, 1955.

Pearson began covering East Side events for the *Blade* in 1900, moved to a house he built on St. Louis Street the next year, and became very active in East Toledo affairs. He was involved in efforts to pave Front Street, widen Main Street, build Waite High School and the High Level Bridge, along with grade separations for Main Street and East Broadway, helped found the East Toledo Community Y.M.C.A., taught Sunday School and served as Sunday School superintendent for Second Congregational Church, directed the Newsboys Bugle Corps, served as a trustee of the Toledo Public Library for nineteen years, served on the boards of the Toledo Council of Churches and the Toledo Sunday School Association, and was active in the East Toledo Club, East Toledo Exchange Club and the East Side Commercial Club. In 1934, his work on behalf of saving the area known as the Bank Lands was honored by naming the new park established by the Toledo Metropolitan Park Board as Pearson Park.

George W. Pearson Scrapbooks Inventory

- Box 1 Original scrapbooks (Do not use)
- Box 2 Scrapbooks (Scanned copies for use)
Scrapbook 1
Scrapbook 2
Scrapbook 3
Scrapbook 4
Scrapbook 5
Scrapbook 6
- Folder 1 Certificate for serving on Board of Trustees, Toledo Public
Library, 1922-1941
Correspondence, September-December 1951
Essays, n.d.
Envelope, wooden nickel and wooden dime