

**McLean County Museum of History**

**George Weldon Funk Collection**

Processed by  
Brandon Henry  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1912 to 1926, mostly the years of WWI
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift of granddaughter Megan Riley in August 2022
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also: Funk Family Collection, Funk Brothers Seed Company Collection

## Brief History

George Weldon Funk was born to a prominent family in McLean, Illinois on October 30, 1895. His great-grandfather, Isaac Funk, had carved out an area for the family, aptly naming it Funk's Grove. While his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather (Isaac George Funk, George Washington Funk, and Isaac Funk, respectively) had amassed acreages for agricultural and animal husbandry purposes, George Weldon Funk pursued other interests early in life, eventually returning to the family farm after spending much of his life outside of Illinois.

Following his graduation from Lawrenceville, New Jersey, Preparatory School, Funk was swept up in the tide of WWI. Funk enlisted in the United States Army and showed advanced math and chemistry proficiency. The knowledge of these disciplines served him well as he was mustered into the 333<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Field Artillery Squadron, serving within the Battery D division and attaining the rank of Lieutenant.

Funk garnered information about wartime tactics while serving within the division, increasing his aptitude in mathematics. He applied this knowledge to his various other proficiencies at Princeton University, graduating in 1919. He remained on the East Coast of the United States, finding success at a paper mill in Watertown, New York.

In 1930, Funk returned to the family farm to pursue the profession that his family was known for. Raising a variety of fruits and vegetables, he continued to reside on his family's farm but took a position as a radio engineer for WJBC in Bloomington, Illinois, from 1941 to 1947. At the age of fifty-nine, Funk married Elizabeth Nicholson on August 2, 1954, and together they tended the farm and enjoyed the company of their brothers and sisters, a niece, and a nephew.

On February 7, 1982, at the age of eighty-six, Funk died at St. Joseph's Medical Center, Bloomington, Illinois. While perhaps not as well-remembered as his ancestors, he had an illustrious Army career and continued the Funk's Grove family legacy.

## Scope

The collection contains a variety of material from 1912 to 1926—biographical information, materials from Princeton University, military documents, military notebooks which include equations for artillery shell chemical compositions and firing trajectory calculations, unidentified photos, bank statements, checks written to various individuals and business firms, registration cards, a yearbook of officers and military personnel of the 333<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Artillery division, a membership book for the New York Mason's Lodges, and various personal and business correspondence.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Biographical: 1918-1925

- 1.1 Automobile insurance card issued through Maryland Casualty Company to Funk at Newton Falls, New York, for a 1922 Dodge Roadster.
- 1.2 Vehicle registration card from the Motor Vehicle Bureau, Albany, New York, dated June 5, 1922, for a 1922 Dodge R8T registered to George Weldon Funk.
- 1.3 State of Illinois 1923 plate registration card for Funk's 1922 Dodge R8T.
- 1.4 Vehicle registration card from the Motor Vehicle Bureau, Albany, New York, dated February 11, 1924, for Funk's 1922 Dodge Roadster.
- 1.5 New York State Income Tax worksheet for 1923, 4 pp.
- 1.6 Handwritten sales note for various building materials and specifications, source unknown, October 23, 1923.
- 1.7 "Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite," booklet printed by Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States (N.M.J.U.S.A.), which lists members of the Valley of Watertown, New York Lodge, 1925.
- 1.8 Twenty-one (21) personal checks written by Funk to various individuals, businesses, etc. May 1922 to March 1925.
- 1.9 Bank statement from the Jefferson County National Bank of Watertown, New York, November 12, 1924, to March 26, 1925.
- 1.10 Proof of sale for an E.S. Evans and Company security to Funk for \$678.75 on January 25, 1925, by John Burnham & Company Inc., Chicago, Illinois.
- 1.11 Advertising booklet for Princess Zoraida, "world-renowned Egyptian psychic," Miami, Florida, date unknown, 4 pp.
- 1.12 Correspondence from W.I. Dalton of Newton, Massachusetts to Funk requesting a loan of fifty dollars, date unknown, 2 pp.
- 1.13 Correspondence from Funk, Kissimmee Lake Park Developers, Miami, Florida, to unknown recipient (Dear Folks) about a possible oil boom near Lake Okeechobee. Date unknown, 2 pp.
- 1.14 Correspondence from Jacob Funk, Bloomington, Illinois, to his cousin Ike regarding an order of fireworks, date unknown, 2 pp.
- 1.15 Correspondence from "Brother Mac" to unknown recipient regarding recent happenings on the homestead, date unknown, 4 pp.
- 1.16 "George Weldon Funk," *Pantagraph*, February 8, 1982. (obituary)

### Folder 2: Photos

- 2.1 Photo labeled, Wanakena Road at Flat Rock, undated, shows a man leaning on a post.
- 2.2 Photo labeled Benson Mines, September 7, 1924, shows a woman and a man holding a suitcase against the backdrop of a car.
- 2.3 Photos (3), undated, location unknown, people unknown.

**Folder 3: Princeton University: 1915-1920**

- 3.1 "Princeton Hand Book," dated 1915. Includes list of clubs, map of campus, photos of iconic buildings, etc. 160 pp.
- 3.2 Envelope (empty) postmarked February 27, 1920, from Princeton University to Mr. G.W. Funk, McLean Illinois.
- 3.3 "The Griswold," undated brochure for the Griswold Hotel in New London, Connecticut. 16 pp.

**Folder 4: Military I: 1914-1918**

- 4.1 "The Keystone Memorandum Book No. 14, Contains notes on constructing a water wheel and various rooms for artillery battery encampments. 50 pp.
- 4.2 Collection of 27 undated photos, locations unknown, in a green sleeve marked "Johnson Photo Goods Co." Photos show various military training activities, ships, and camps.
- 4.3 Orders with envelopes granting permission to Lieutenant George Weldon Funk of the 333<sup>rd</sup> F.A., to visit Chartres, dated December 8, 1918.
- 4.4 Correspondence, date unknown, from unknown sender to "Weldon" asking how the "yellowbellies," are holding up in his area. 2 pp.
- 4.5 "Funk Chemistry," worksheet that lists chemical compounds, date unknown. 8 pp.
- 4.6 Chemistry worksheet outlining the process of creating crystallized iodine and various calculations. 2pp.
- 4.7 "Special Lesson," date unknown, lists chemistry questions for a quiz.
- 4.8 Answer sheet for exam on "Materiel" completed by Funk on which he scored "95 – Excellent," date unknown. 4 pp.
- 4.9 "Battery Positions," date unknown, provides information on the logistics of using battery guns. 6 pp.

**Folder 5: Military II: 1914-1918**

- 5.1 Brown notebook used by Funk during his time in the Army containing artillery commands, line of sight equations, trajectory determination, and composition of various shells. Date unknown. 50 pp.
- 5.2 Brown notebook with green binding used by Funk during his time in the Army containing football plays to use, possibly for a game between Camp Grand and Camp Custer on December 1, 1917. 32 pp.
- 5.3 Undated black notebook labeled "Property of George W. Funk," a repair manual for military and other vehicles. 120 pp.
- 5.4 Program for "Camp Grant vs. Camp Custer: Benefit Football Game," at Stagg Field, University of Chicago, December 1, 1917. 32 pp.
- 5.5 "*The Blackhawk Howitzer*," published by the 333<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Field Artillery Squadron, Chicago, Illinois. Contains batteries and officers within each division. 61 pp.
- 5.6 "Officers Battery D," photocopy of page twenty-three from "*The Black Hawk Howitzer*." George Weldon Funk is listed as a Lieutenant.

**Folder 6: Job Correspondence: 1921-1925**

- 6.1 Letter with envelope from A.C. Sinclair, T.M. Sinclair & Company Ltd., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Funk at Princeton University confirming the company received his application, March 13, 1920.
- 6.2 Letter with envelope from H.D. Eliason, Newton Falls Paper Company, New York, New York, to Frank L. Moore, Newton Falls Paper Company, recommending Funk for a job at the mill, January 27, 1921.
- 6.3 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from Jefferson County National Bank, Watertown, New York, September 14, 1924.
- 6.4 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from Electro Bleaching Gas Company, New York, New York, September 16, 1924.
- 6.5 Letter with envelope from E.E. Pumpelly, American Adding Machine Company, Chicago, Illinois, to Chester Jones, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, regarding Funk's visit to set up a new advertising connection, January 15, 1925.
- 6.6 Letter from Frank W. Adams, Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York to Funk at Newton Falls Paper Company, Newton Falls, New York, regarding a required payment of \$10.00 to the Princeton University Class of 1919 Memorial Fund, June 5, 1925.
- 6.7 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, New York, New York, June 5, 1925.
- 6.8 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from Allied Paper Mills, Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 3, 1925.
- 6.9 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from The River Paper Company, Appleton, Wisconsin, August 3, 1925.
- 6.10 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from Detroit Sulphite Pulp & Paper Company, Detroit, Michigan, August 4, 1925.
- 6.11 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from Neenah Paper Company, Neenah, Wisconsin, August 4, 1925.
- 6.12 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from unknown sender, August 22, 1925.
- 6.13 Letter with envelope from George P. Berkey, Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co., Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, to Funk, McLean, Illinois, stating that there are no openings at the company, August 19, 1925.
- 6.14 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from unknown sender in New York, 1925.
- 6.15 Envelope addressed to Funk, McLean, Illinois, from Kissimmee Lake Park Developers, Inc., Miami, Florida, April 9, 1926.