

The Timothy J. and Eva Mae Mahoney Papers
Collection ID: CHC034

**Donated to the
Cambridge Historical Commission
by Eva Mae Mahoney
2011**

2 boxes

Prepared by
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Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Biography

Timothy J. Mahoney was born June 21st, 1896. He was the son of Irish immigrants. As a young man, he worked as a delivery boy for a local grocery store. He was known to have a wonderful – and wicked – sense of humor.

In April, 1918, Mahoney enlisted in the United States Infantry. He went to France, serving as a messenger for the 77th Division, which earned the nickname, the Lost Battalion, after they were cut off and surrounded by German troops for six days in October, 1918. During this time, the unit endured heavy fire from both sides and suffered heavy casualties. He would not speak of these events to anyone in his family. Mahoney continued to serve in the military before being wounded on Armistice Day and was honorably discharge in May, 1919.

After returning from the war, Mahoney married Eva Casey (1903-1976). In 1922, Eva gave birth to the couple's only child, daughter Eva Mae Mahoney. At this time, they lived on Pleasant Street, in Pilgrim Hill. Soon after Eva's birth, the family moved, first to Somerville, when Mahoney got a job at a Ford plant. From there, they moved to Belmont, MA briefly, and then to Watertown. In 1930, the family moved into an apartment on Wendell Street in Cambridge and Mahoney would live there for the rest of his life.

Following his work at the Ford plant, Mahoney would go on to work as the meat manager at Hawk's Market. Eventually, Mahoney would open his own grocery store on Walden Street. Over the years, he cultivated a reputation of being a well-liked man and a purveyor of excellent cuts of meat, providing high quality customer service to his customers. Around the holidays, people would come from around to buy their food from him.

The American Legion also played a major role of Mahoney's later life. He was initially involved with Post 27 in Cambridge, MA. During this time, he sat on numerous committees and took leaderships roles within the Post. Eventually, Mahoney rose through the ranks and became the Post Commander of his local post. However, he did not stop there. Later on, Mahoney was elected to the Middlesex County Council of the American Legion.

Mahoney also worked with Selective Service System, serving as a Reemployment Committeeman on the local Massachusetts board. He was in this position from 1943 to 1947. This position garnered him continued respect amongst the community, as well as citations from Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, as well as the Director of the Selective Services System.

Mahoney died in December of 1948.

Following his death, Eva Mae Mahoney and her mother would go on to own and operate a boarding house for Harvard students. Eva never married and never had children. She currently resides in senior apartments in Cambridge.

Scope and Content

The primary focus of this collection is Timothy J. Mahoney (1896-1948), a Cambridge businessman and a member of the American Legion. He is also Eva Mahoney's father. This collection is made up of government-issued documents, photographs, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, and books. While the main focus of the collection is Timothy Mahoney, Eva Mahoney is also represented through the items in the collection.

Access Restrictions

None

Series

Series I – Personal Life

Timothy Mahoney's life and Eva Mahoney's childhood are reflected in this series through assorted photographs and memorabilia.

Photographs of Timothy represent him in various aspects of his life. He is seen as a young man, both in a more candid photograph and in a posed photograph. Additionally, his work as a grocer is represented in this collection. Timothy had worked at Hawks' Market as the meat manager, before opening up his own grocery store on Walden Street.

Eva is also represented in this collection, as a student and as a dancer. During her youth, she studied dance intensively and had been a student of Caroline Brine, a dance instructor who was well-known through the area and had several dance studios in the greater Boston area. Eva had been a student of hers for several years.

Series II – Military Service

This collection contains a variety of items, including photographs, books, and documents. Two items in particular, a gold-fronted New Testament bible and Mahoney's service record, are especially fragile and should be handled with care.

World War I played a major role in Timothy Mahoney's life. Not only did he live through the end of this war on the front line, Mahoney was a member of the "Lost Battalion." The horrors that he faced would stay with him, though he would never speak of his experiences with the "Lost Battalion" to anyone in his family.

Series III – Selective Service System

This series is made up of several documents, all of which represent the high points of Timothy Mahoney's tenure with the Selective Service System.

After the United States joined the Allies in World War II, Timothy Mahoney gave his time and energy to aid the Selective Service System, a governmental organization that maintained the information on men potentially subject to military conscription. His major role with this organization was a reemployment committeeman to the local Massachusetts board, helping

returning veterans with transitioning back into civilian life. This work would earn him several citations and the Selective Service Medal.

Series IV – American Legion

In this series, there are a number of photographs and memorabilia, particularly from the later part of Timothy Mahoney's career with the American Legion. These items represent his presence and activity with the Cambridge Post No. 27, as well as his campaigns for elected positions within the organizations, events he attended, and the committees he participated in.

Timothy's role within the Cambridge community was aided by his continued involvement with the American Legion. Over the course of his career with the Legion, Mahoney served on a number of committees, was elected as commander of Cambridge Post 27, and went on to serve as a delegate to the Middlesex County Council, representing the American Legion. He was also heavily involved with the Sons of the Legion group.

After his death, the Middlesex County Council would pass a resolution to honor his involvement with the Legion. This resolution is a part of the collection.

Series V – Newspaper Clippings

This series contains photocopies of a number of scrapbooked newspaper clippings. The original clippings are extremely fragile and degraded. The clippings in this series represent all aspects of Timothy Mahoney's life – his personal life, his grocery store, his work with the American Legion, and World War I and the Lost Battalion.

Related Materials

- Interview with Eva Mahoney – this interview was conducted by Sarah Boyer in May of 2011, after Eva had contacted the Commission about donating items to the Commission. The interview provides context to the collection, more information on Timothy Mahoney, and a brief biography of Eva Mahoney. The recording is in the holdings of the Cambridge Historical Commission and can be accessed on-site.
- The Lost Battalion of World War I – the history of this battalion can be found through various web resources. Timothy's experiences as a surviving member of the Lost Battalion had a profound effect on him and he would never speak of it to his family.

Folder List

<u>Box 1</u> <u>Series</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Item(s)</u>
I	1	Program of the Spring Showing Dance Recital of Caroline Brine and her pupils on June 19 th , 1938 at Brattle Hall in Harvard Square
II	2	Yankee Doings, Vol. LXXVII, No. 5 (September-October 1996)
II	3	New Testament Bible
III	4	Certificate of Service to Timothy J. Mahoney for services as a Reemployment Committeeman in the Selective Service System of the United States from March 29 th , 1943 to March 31 st , 1947
IV	5	Campaign memorabilia – “Tim” Mahoney For Vice-Commander – 3 items
IV	6	Program for the Armistice Victory Ball of Cambridge Post No. 27, held at the Legion Hall on Thursday, November 11 th , 1937
IV	7	Invitation to the Installation of Officers on Thursday, October 5 th , 1939
IV	8	Program for the Middlesex County Council Meeting held on Sunday, October 1 st , 1944
IV	9	Letter announcing Timothy J. Mahoney’s candidacy for Commander of Cambridge Post 27 at the elections held on Thursday, September 21 st , 1939
IV	10	Official Ballot for the Cambridge Post 27 Election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention, held on Thursday, June 6, 1940
IV	11	Resolution of the Middlesex County Council of the American Legion, memorializing Timothy J. Mahoney after his death, dated January 16 th , 1949
V	12	52 nd Infantry Brigade, October, 1917 – 2 articles and photographs, October 1917
V	13	Cher Ami – 1 article, 1938
V	14	American Legion; Clover Club; State Department; Hawks’ Market – 6 articles/photographs, (N.D.)
V	15	Local Cambridge events; American Legion; Hawks’ Market – 5 articles/photographs, 1940
V	16	American Legion; Mahoney’s Market; Column – 5 articles/photographs, (N.D.)
V	17	American Legion – 1 article, (N.D.)
V	18	American Legion; Clover Club – 4 photographs, (N.D.)
V	19	Local Cambridge events; American Legions; Clover Club; Hawks’ Market – 4 articles/photographs, 1940s
V	20	American Legion; Clover Club; Local Cambridge events – 4 articles/photographs, 1947
V	21	American Legion; Clover Club; Lost Battalion; Mahoney’s Market; Local Cambridge events – 15 articles/photographs, (N.D.)
V	22	American Legion – 1 article, (N.D.)

- V 23 American Legion – 1 article, (N.D.)
 V 24 American Legion – 1 article, (N.D.)

Box 2

<u>Series</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Item(s)</u>
I	1	Photograph of a young Eva Mae Mahoney, (N.D.)
I	2	Photograph of the Agassiz School, Class of 1937
I	3	Photograph of Timothy J. Mahoney, Eva Mahoney, and Eva Mae Mahoney at a New Year's Eve Ball, (N.D.)
I	4	Photograph of a young Timothy J. Mahoney, (N.D.)
I	5	Posed photograph of Timothy J. Mahoney, (N.D.)
I	6	Photograph of the Ginter Co. of Boston (a market), (N.D.)
I	7	Poster of the Spring Showing Dance Recital of Caroline Brine and her pupils on June 19 th , 1938 at Brattle Hall in Harvard Square
II	8	Photograph of Timothy J. Mahoney in his World War I uniform, c. 1918-1919
II	9	Timothy J. Mahoney's World War 1 service record, c. 1918-1919
III	10	Certificate of Appointment of Timothy J. Mahoney as a Reemployment Committeeman to Local Board No. 48 Massachusetts on March 29 th , 1943
III	11	Certificate of Appreciation to Timothy J. Mahoney for services in administrating the Selective Service System for one year (signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt), 1944
III	12	Certificate of Appreciation to Timothy J. Mahoney for services in administrating the Selective Service System for two years (signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt), 1945
III	13	Certificate of Appreciation to Timothy J. Mahoney for services in administrating the Selective Service System for three years (signed by Harry S. Truman), 1946
III	14	Certificate of Merit for the Selective Service Medal, given in the name of the Congress of the United States, to Timothy J. Mahoney (signed by Harry S. Truman), (N.D.)
IV	15	2 photographs of Timothy J. Mahoney in his American Legion uniform (at different ages), (N.D.)
IV	16	2 photographs of Timothy J. Mahoney with the Sons of the American Legion, (N.D.)
IV	17	5 photographs of Timothy J. Mahoney with groups of American Legions members at various Legion functions, (N.D.)
IV	18	Photograph of the American Legion Annual Get-Together, 1946
IV	19	Photograph of the Mayor's Dinner to the American Legion, 1945
IV	20	Photograph of the Testimonial Dinner to Andrew P. Carroll, 1942
IV	21	Photograph of the American Legion Drill Team, (N.D.)
IV	22	Photograph of the American Legion Post 27 Junior Band, (N.D.)
IV	23	Photograph of a group dinner at Pilgrim Church in Cambridge, (N.D.)

Library

Series

II

Item(s)

History of the Seventy-Seventh Division, August 25th, 1917 to November 11th, 1918, edited by Julius Ochs Adler

Return to CHC Collections home:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections>