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**Manuscript Group 203  
Lucius Waterman Robinson Family Photograph Collection**

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**Lucius Waterman Robinson Family Photograph Collection; Manuscript Group 203  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Special Collections and University Archives  
1 Box; 1 Linear Foot**

**Biographical Note**



Lucius Waterman Robinson, Sr., and  
his wife Ruth DeMoss Robinson

Lucius Waterman Robinson (LWR), Sr. (September 19, 1855-August 15, 1935) and his wife Ruth DeMoss Robinson (December 14, 1860-January 20, 1939) were married on September 9, 1880 in Coshocton, Ohio. L. W. Robinson, Sr., a Mayflower descendant and a Yale University graduate, was the President of the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal & Iron Company (R&PC&I – later R&P) from 1899 until 1919 (see [Manuscript Group 51](#) and [Manuscript Group 94](#)). Their son was Lucius W. Robinson (LWR), Jr. (March 22, 1893-September 28, 1952) married Harriet Virginia Maxwell Overton Robinson (October 31, 1897-February 6, 1975) on June 28, 1917. Harriet Virginia Maxwell Overton was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and she was the daughter of Jesse Maxwell Overton (1863-1922) and Saidee Williams Overton (1871-1963). LWR Jr. was born in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, while his father's company was still headquartered in Jefferson County.

Lucius Waterman Robinson, Sr. was the President of the R&PC&I (later R&P Coal) for 20 years. During his presidency, the company expanded its bituminous coal mining operations into Indiana County, Pennsylvania. LWR Sr. purchased large tracts of land in White

Township and Blacklick Township in Indiana County. In 1899, R&PC&I transferred its headquarters from Jefferson County to Indiana, Pennsylvania. In 1900, electricity and electric haulage systems were installed by R&PC&I in the coal mines in Walston, Florence, Adrian, London, Sykesville, Trout Run, Eleanora, and Helvetia, Pennsylvania. In 1907, the electric haulage system used at the Yatesboro Mines was considered by mining engineers to be state-of-the-art technology. As R&P President, Robinson oversaw the completion of the R&P Office building on Church Street in Indiana, Pennsylvania in 1919. In 1927, R&PC&I consolidated with the Jefferson & Clearfield Coal & Iron Company (J&CC&I) and became known as the Rochester & Pittsburgh (R&P) Coal Company. For more information about R&P, see [Manuscript Group 51](#) and [Manuscript Group 94](#) for company information, photographs about R&P, and the business correspondence associated with LWR Sr.

As R&P expanded its business operations in Indiana County, Lucius Waterman Robinson, Sr. of

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Rochester, New York, purchased the Valley View Farm (property was surveyed in the 1890s) in White Township, Indiana, Pennsylvania as a summer residence. LWR Sr. and his wife Ruth DeMoss Robinson also owned a winter home called Avenida in Jupiter Island, Florida. They later moved to Rochester, New York, where they built a house at 850 East Avenue, next door to George Eastman's house. LWR Jr. and his wife moved to Indiana shortly after they were married in 1917. They and their four daughters (Virginia, Ruth, Sarah, and Lucia) spent their summers in the connecting house on the Farm. After 1923, the LWR Jr. family including their four daughters, spent the summer months on the farm, in the airy white painted house with blue shutters. LWR Sr. and his wife and other family members enjoyed summer visits in the connected house. The curved driveway was lined with Lombardy Poplar trees. Sometime in the 1930s, Valley View Farm became known as Suffield Farm, the name Suffield had appeared in the original land grant. LWR Jr. (Lou) and eldest daughter Virginia participated in fox hunting. The Indiana Hunt was established in 1928 by LWR Jr. and William Jack from Indiana. It continued until 1936. Members of other Western Pennsylvania hunts, such as Pittsburgh, Rolling Rock, Fox Chapel, and Sewickley, came to ride with the Indiana Hunt in a Joint Meet, once a season. It was a big event, LWR Jr. became MFH (Master of Foxhounds) in 1931. The hounds were kept in a kennel across a field at the edge of the woods well back from the stable and barn. V. C. Lewis was the groom at the stable. LWR Jr. owned two thoroughbred [steeplechase](#) horses, Our Manager and Parma, and the horses boarded with the trainer R. G. Woolfe. Susie Todd wrote *Foxhunting in Western Pennsylvania* (2003) which contained a chapter on the history of the Indiana Hunt with a photograph of the Indiana Hunt Team at the Rolling Rock Horse Show. The horses in the farm stable were hunters which included Last Penny, a large hunter who, according to Ruth Robinson Warner, "never refused a jump." Some horses were bred at the farm during World War Two. These were draft horses bred for farm work. LWR Jr. speculated that there would be a demand for draft horses in Europe after the war. These were the only Robinson horses shown at the Indiana County Fair in 1944. The Robinson family owned the Suffield Farm until the property was sold in 1947.



Valley View Farm (Suffield Farm) in 1930 (Indiana, Pennsylvania)

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### Scope and Content Note

This collection contains photographs and pages from photograph albums and scrapbooks that belonged to the Lucius Waterman Robinson (LWR) Sr., and his family. LWR Sr., was the President of the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal & Iron Company (R&PC&I) from 1899 to 1919. The photographs date from approximately 1880 to 1947 and most of the collection contains professional photographs of the Valley View Farm (Suffield Farm) house and grounds. The collection of photographs includes portraits of family members including LWR Sr. (1855-1935) and his wife Ruth DeMoss Robinson, their son LWR Jr. and his wife Harriet Overton Robinson. The collection contains photographs of the Valley View Farm (Suffield Farm) in White Township, Indiana, Pennsylvania that was purchased by LWR Sr., after his company moved its headquarters to Indiana. After the deaths of LWR Sr., and his wife Ruth DeMoss Robinson, the farm remained in the family for several years before it was sold in 1947. The property later became a senior care facility called Claypoole Manor.

### Provenance

This collection was donated by Ruth Robinson Warner, daughter of Lucius Waterman Robinson, Jr., and granddaughter of LWR Sr., who was the President of the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal & Iron Company (R&PC&I) from 1899 to 1919. In 1927, R&PC&I consolidated with the Jefferson & Clearfield Coal & Iron Company (J&CC&I) and became known as the Rochester & Pittsburgh (R&P) Coal Company, see [Manuscript Group 51](#) and [Manuscript Group 94](#) for company information and photographs about R&P and business correspondence of LWR Sr. (1855-1935).



Lucius Waterman Robinson, Sr.; and Lucius Waterman Robinson, Jr. in Rochester, New York

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### Restrictions

None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).



Valley View Farm: Original house before stone addition, late 1920s-early 1930s

### Processor

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on April 5, 2017.

### Content List

#### Box 1 (2 folders of photographs and 1 photograph album)

#### Folder 1: Photographs (small to 8x10) identified by Ruth Robinson Warner

1. Lucius Waterman Robinson, Sr. (1855-1935), and his wife Ruth DeMoss Robinson (1860-1939), formal portrait, circa 1880 (as seen above)
2. LWR Sr., and his wife Ruth DeMoss Robinson, riding in a carriage on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, September 9, 1930
3. Photographs of Lucius Waterman Robinson, Jr. (1893-1952)
  - a. Formal Portrait
  - b. Father and Son: LWR, Jr. and Sr.
  - c. LWR Jr. in an open automobile, Rochester, New York, ca. 1910s
  - d. LWR Jr. standing with unidentified man

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4. Photograph Postcards
  - a. Ruth DeMoss Robinson standing with her son LWR Jr. (postcard printed at Atlantic City, New Jersey)
  - b. LWR Sr. at mine operation, postcard sent by Louise M. Iselin, postmarked New Rochelle, New York, October 9, 1911
5. Harriet Overton Robinson (1897-1975) formal portrait
6. LWR Jr. formal portrait
7. Lucius Waterman Robinson, Jr.
  - a. LWR Jr. jumping on Last Penny in a Western Pennsylvania horse show in the late 1930s
8. Photographs of Lucius Waterman Robinson, Jr. and his wife Harriet Overton Robinson (2) including a close-up of LWR Jr. at the Rolling Rock Steeplechase in 1944
9. Pages from Scrapbook kept by Ruth Robinson Warner with photographs of Valley View Farm (Suffield Farm) in Indiana, Pennsylvania, 1920s-1940s (her original descriptions of each photograph from the scrapbook are listed below, please note that “Meme” refers to Ruth Warner’s grandmother Ruth DeMoss Robinson and “Mommie” refers to her mother Harriet Overton Robinson)
  - a. Main House, 1923; Meme’s House; view showing both houses
  - b. The sunporch connecting Meme’s house; our house showing front porch; our entrance; end of Meme’s house
  - c. Views of both houses; where the driveway meet the farm road; looking down the driveway
  - d. Garage – notice unplanted pine hill; postcard “Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year – Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Waterman Robinson, Jr.”; Buddy Smith in front of Meme’s entrance; Mommie and Auntie (on horseback)
  - e. Virginia (on pony), Mommie and Pete Taylor (Virginia Robinson was born in 1920; Pete Taylor was a member of the farmer’s family); Pine hill still unplanted; old steps in the circle
  - f. The sign near the entrance; the entrance; looking up the driveway; the farm; view from the garage
  - g. Morning glories on the garage fence; weather vane on roof of new wing; view from top of hill; view from the top of the pine hill looking towards Indiana; looking across to the Normal School farm
  - h. Bill Farceur as a colt (at barn half-door); (cat) on the springhouse porch; Sally and Lucia, the springhouse; X marks the house, notice to the change in the pine hill; Oscar Vernon – stallion; mare and colt
  - i. County Fair – Summer of 1944, Billy Farceur and “Web” – Wilbur Bell, farm manager; one of the mares and me (Ruth Robinson Warner); Web, Sam & Bill holding the mares; Oscar and Junior (horses)
  - j. Newspaper Article (photocopy): *Indiana Evening Gazette*, “Four Gold Medal Yearlings were exhibited yesterday by Suffield Farms, owner L. W. Robinson, Jr.; Manager, Wilbur “Web” Bell,” August 22, 1945, (these yearlings were shown as colts at the 1944 Indiana County Fair)
10. Farm Houses, Valley View Farm (Suffield Farm)

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- a. Entrance Door from walkway
  - b. Back of house from lawn, 1940s (color 5x7 print)
11. Photographs from the Estate Sale of Suffield Farm and scenic views, May 1947 (36, 3x4 prints)



Lucius Waterman Robinson, Jr. (1893-1952) jumping on Last Penny in a Western Pennsylvania horse show (late 1930s)

**Folder 2: Oversized Photographs of the Farm (1923-1947) identified by Ruth Robinson Warner**

1. Valley View Farm (Suffield Farm): early photographs, built in 1923, two houses connected (14 prints)
2. Valley View Farm (Suffield Farm), 1930, house on left was summer home of Lucius Waterman Robinson, Sr. and Ruth DeMoss Robinson of Rochester, New York. House on right was summer house of LWR Jr. and Harriet Overton Robinson and their daughters Virginia, Sarah, Ruth, and Lucia

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3. Exterior view of farmhouse, later stone addition with library, pre-1937 (12 prints)
4. Exterior view, walk to Rock Garden (7 prints)
5. Later change to the house: after the deaths of Lucius Waterman Robinson, Sr. (1855-1935) and Ruth DeMoss Robinson (1860-1939), addition on right was torn down and a guest wing was added in 1940
6. Interior view of farmhouse, downstairs, no photograph of entrance hall (7 prints)



Entrance to the Farm, circa 1930, Indiana, Pennsylvania





Valley View Farm (later Suffield Farm) terrace view of valley (Indiana, Pennsylvania), early 1930s

**Item 3: Photograph Album (Farm in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania) early 1900s**