

Albany Institute of History & Art

Nina Saunders Derby Collection

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Nina Saunders Derby Collection

Call Number: MG 227

Creator:

Inclusive Dates: c.1860-1952

Bulk Dates: 1942, 1946

Abstract: The collection contains photographs, programs, correspondence, and materials related to the life of Nina Saunders Derby.

Quantity: 1 Box, 5 Folders

Administrative Information

Custodial History: Dennis Holtzman

Preferred Citation: Nina Saunders Derby Collection Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: LIB.2011.7

Accession Date: April 12, 2011

Processing Information:

Processed by Linnea Moosmann

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use:

Index Term

Persons:

Cobb, Joseph F., Rev.
Derby, Horace Babcock, 1840-1908
Derby, Florence Requa
Derby, Levi Lathrop, 1811-1891
Derby, Mary Augusta
Derby, Nina Saunders, c. 1890-1952
Doty, Cornelia, b.1826
Doty, Lewis, 1791-1828
Goffe, E. Louise
Palmer, Mary Grace
Palmer, William Fillmore
Requa, Carrie (Caroline)
Requa, William H., 1822-1872
Saunders, Esther, 1812-1889
Tracy, Edwin Avery
Van Auken, Edna, 1890-1920
Winship, Laurence T.

Organizations

Albany Evening Journal
The Frankfurt Register
Tarrytown Press Record
Times Union
Trinity Reformed Church – Amsterdam, N.Y.
The Utica Observer

Subjects

Elocutionists
Performance
Recitations
Wedding

Places

Connecticut - Norwich
New York – Albany
New York – Amsterdam
Massachusetts - Worcester

Document Types

Correspondence
Photographs
Programs
Scrapbooks

Biography of Nina Saunders Derby

Nina Saunders Derby (c. 1890-1952) was an elocutionist who lived and worked in Albany until 1910. Nina worked as a clerk in a number of civil service offices during which time she performed as an elocutionist, “impersonator, monologist, and musical recitationist”. Nina performed at a number of churches and reception halls as a solo act and as part of the “Van-Der-Gof Trio” which included Miss Edna Van Auken, a vocalist who worked as a music teacher, and Miss E. Louise Goffe, an instrumentalist who worked as a stenographer. In 1910, she moved to New York City. Two years later, on September 10, 1912 she married William Fillmore Palmer of New York City at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Avery Tracy in Norwich, Connecticut. After her marriage to William Palmer, there is evidence Nina continued to affiliate herself with theater and entertainment. In 1923, she was mentioned in Theater Magazine as Social Director of a production. In 1932, a radio sketch titled “installment 1” was copyrighted February 23rd by a Mrs. Nina Saunders Derby Palmer. Little else is known about Nina’s life other than she moved to Florida around the time of her death (c. 1952).

Scope and Contents of the Records

The collection contains family photographs of Nina Saunders Derby’s family, home, and life events as well as a number of programs from her performances. The collection also includes Nina Derby’s wedding souvenir book and a few pieces of correspondence.

Organization of the Records

Folders 1-3 Contain all photographs of Nina Saunders Derby, her family, and her family events. The folder also contains Tintypes and a Sketch. **Folder 4 is a small box**, which contains a glass print of Horace B. Derby. Folder 5 contains programs and pictures from performances as well as miscellaneous correspondence.

Related Material

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Call # [MG 227]

Collection Title [Nina Saunders Derby Collection]

Box #	Folder #	Item #.	Title / Description
1	1	1-16	Family Photographs (<i>years unknown unless otherwise stated</i>)
1	1	1	Photo of William H. Requa, Nina's Grandfather Mother's side
1	1	2	Photo of Levi L. Derby Nina's Grandfather Father's side
1	1	3	Photo of Cornelia A. Doty, Nina's Grandmother Mother's side
1	1	4	Photo of Lewis Doty, Nina's Great-Grandfather Mother's side
1	1	5	Photo of a child Mary A. Derby, Nina's Mother
1	1	6	Photo of Mary A. Derby, Nina's Mother, "1874" printed on the back
1	1	7-9	Photos of Horace B. Derby, Nina's Father
1	1	10 & 11	Photos of Florence R. Derby, Nina's Sister
1	1	12	Photo "Will" inscribed on the back, could be a child William F. Palmer?
1	1	13 & 14	Photos of the "Tracy Home" owned by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin A. Tracy, Nina's uncle & aunt in Norwich, Connecticut
1	1	15 & 16	Photos of Nina's home in Florida, item 16 "1952" inscribed on the front
1	1	17	Tintype of Florence Derby as a child
1	2	1-10	Photos of Nina Saunders Derby
1	2	11 & 12	Photo postcards of Nina and Florence Derby

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1	2	13 – 16	Cards of Nina Saunders Derby
1	2	17	Ink sketch of Nina Saunders Derby dated 1914
1	2	18	Tintype of Nina S. and her mother Mrs. Horace B. Derby
1	3	1	<i>The Bridal Souvenir</i> from Nina Saunders Derby's wedding to William Fillmore Palmer, 1912
1	3	2	"Panel Art Print" Photo booklet, "Indian Stead, Profile Like, Mount Liberty – Summit and Spring House 1942"
1	3	3	"Panel Art Print" Photo booklet, "Indian Stead, Our Cottage and Beaver Lake 1946"
1	4	1	(Folder 4 is a small box) print of Horace B. Derby on glass
1	5	1 & 2	Pictures of The Van-Der-Gof Trio, Edna Van Aken, Nina Saunders Derby, and E. Louise Goffe
1	5	3 & 4	printed Van-Der-Gor Trio programs
1	5	5 & 6	program covers printed with image of Nina Saunders Derby
1	5	7 & 8	programs for Nina Saunders Derby, c. 1907
1	5	9 & 10	pictures of Nina Saunders Derby in costume as Nara from "Cherry Blossoms"
1	5	11	photograph, "cast of 'Maneuvers of Jane'" inscribed on back
1	5	12	drawing, to Nina from Florence Derby, dated April 12, 1925
1	5	13 & 14	sketches similar to item 12
1	5	15 A	thank you card
1	5	15 B	typed list of names found inside item 15A