

Albany Institute of History & Art  
Library

**PC 4**

**Prentice Family Collection**

1885-1890

.2 lin. ft., 1 box

- Series I. Prentice Family
- Series II. Mount Hope Estate
- Series III. Normans Kill and Kenwood
- Series IV. Miscellaneous

January 1999

## Biographical Note

The photographer whose work comprises this collection was William Kelly Prentice, born in 1871. He was a grandson of Ezra Parmalee Prentice, the builder of Mount Hope farm, where most of the pictures were made. William Kelly Prentice was in his teens when he made these pictures during the period 1885 to 1890, according to his daughter, Mrs. Xaver von Erdberg (the former Joan Prentice) who donated the collection to the Albany Institute in 1981. William Kelly Prentice published a biography of his father and family history, *Eight Generations, the Ancestry, Education, and Life of William Packer Prentice* (1947).

Ezra Parmalee Prentice (1797-1876) came to Albany in 1826 and entered the fur trading business, from which he retired in 1840 with what he described as a "reasonable competence." He later became president of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, and president of the Commercial Bank of Albany. In 1834, Prentice and his brother John purchased the 100-acre Mount Hope farm from Col. Solomon Van Rensselaer. A year later, they built a wooden house for their parents and their two unmarried sisters. By 1840, Ezra bought out his brother's share and soon constructed the 59 by 64 foot mansion and several outbuildings atop Mount Hope. The entrance to Mount Hope from Kenwood Road (now South Pearl Street) was marked by two imposing lions on pedestals at the gate. The mansion burned in 1950, but the lions survive, guarding the entrance to another Mount Hope Farm outside Williamstown, Mass. Albany's Mount Hope farm is now the site of the Mount Hope townhouse development up the hill, and the Ezra Prentice Homes, a public low-rent housing project, along South Pearl Street.

## Scope and Content Note

The Mount Hope collection spans the period from 1885 to 1890 and primarily contains photographs relating to the Prentice farm and family life. The collection of seventy-three paper prints is divided into four series: Prentice Family; Mount Hope; Normans Kill and Kenwood; Miscellaneous.

Series I. PRENTICE FAMILY, contains photographs of varying quality of many family members, generally identified on the verso by first name and relationship.

Series II. MOUNT HOPE ESTATE holds landscapes of the farm, including lawn statuary and the entrance gate lions, exterior and interior views of the mansion.

Series III. NORMANS KILL AND KENWOOD, has views of the Normans Kill gorge south of the city of Albany and of Kenwood to the west of the gorge, including photos of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad, and the Hack mill and its power dam.

Series IV. MISCELLANEOUS, is arranged in four subseries: Lebanon Shaker Village, with a group of visitors, a panorama, and a view of the flower gardens; Albany Rural Cemetery, with views of a funeral procession, the Prentice family lot, and a statue *Angel of the Sepulchre* (on the Roberts Lenox Banks lot) by Albany sculptor Erastus Dow Palmer; Rhinecliff, with views of the Hutton House, the Hudson River, and the meadows at Grassmere; and Miscellaneous views, with a photographs made at Cooperstown and at the Corning farm.

**Series I. PRENTICE FAMILY**

1	1	Sam Auchincloss (a woman not otherwise identified)	ca. 1885-90
	2	Sam Auchincloss (a separate pose)	1885-90
	3	Aunt Shal, Aunt Helen, Aunt Liz, Grandmother Kelly	1885-90
	4	Mrs. Henry Green, Lena Prentice, Mary Vanderpoel, Theodore Janeway ca. 1890	
	5	Leslie MacCready, Lena Prentice, Effie Choate, Arietta Prentice	1885-90
	6	Effie Choate, Arietta Prentice, Leslie MacCready, Lena Prentice	1885-90
	7	The Prentice family out for a formal ride	ca. 1885-90
	8	Katie in Aunt Jessie's phaeton	ca. 1885-90
	9	A nutting expedition: Paul, Arietta, Ezra Prentice, Tom Simons	ca. 1887
	10	Kelly Prentice jumping Varita (?)	ca. 1888
	11	Trumbull Kelly and Tom Simons in costume	1885-90
	12	On side of south knoll: Nellie and Jessie Prentice, T.C.J.	ca. 1888
	13	At old tennis court: May Ketchum, Florrie and Lena Prentice	ca. 1888
	14	In the swing: cousin Jessie Prentice (of Brooklyn)	ca. 1888
	15	Lena Prentice, Theodore Janeway, Helen Watts, Daisy Vanderpoel	ca. 1888
	16	Helen Watts, Theodore Janeway, Parmalee, Lena and William Prentice	ca. 1888
	17	Lena Prentice, Theodore Janeway, Helen Watts, Daisy Vanderpoel	ca 1888

**Series II. MOUNT HOPE ESTATE**

2	18	Lilies in bloom at Mount Hope arboretum	ca. 1885-90
	19	Curved driveway and statue	ca. 1888
	20	Two-horse rig and jogging cart on road near statue	ca. 1888
	21	John Flanery working alongside greenhouses	ca. 1885-90
	22	Statue of Discobolus	ca. 1885-90
	23	Paths approaching house	ca. 1885-90
	24	The Main House and outbuildings	ca. 1885-90
	25	Discobolus and two houses	ca. 1885-90
	26	The main house at Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	27	Landscape of Mount Hope amid fields, with hills in background	ca. 1885-90
	28	Barns and fences at Mount Hope Farm	ca. 1885-90

**Series II. MOUNT HOPE, continued**

2	29	View from Mount Hope house toward Hudson River	ca. 1885-90
	30	Part of flower garden at Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	31	Cows on south side of south knoll, Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	32	Drive from entrance at Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	33	Rig drives along entranceway at Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	34	Walking path to gate, north side, looking east	ca. 1885-90
	35	View from Mount Hope (two copies)	ca. 1885-90
	36	View of Hudson River from Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	37	Another view of Hudson River from Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	38	"Saloon" in Mount Hope house	ca. 1885-90
	39	Drawing room at Mount Hope	ca. 1885-90
	40	Lions guarding main entrance at South Pearl Street	ca. 1885-90
	41	Wider view of lions at main entrance	ca. 1885-90
	42	Tavern lot and north pasture, Mount Hope farm	ca. 1885-90

**Series III. NORMANS KILL & KENWOOD**

3	43	Normans Kill west of Kenwood	ca. 1885-90
	44	Looking toward dam on Normans Kill, west of Kenwood	ca. 1885-90
	45	Another view of Normans Kill, west of Kenwood	ca. 1885-90
	46	Thumbnail view of Normans Kill, west of Kenwood	ca. 1885-90
	47	Pool along the Normans Kill (?)	ca. 1885-90
	48	Normans Kill east of Kenwood	ca. 1885-90
	49	Kenwood and mills along the Normans Kill, with railroad tracks	ca. 1885-90
	50	Dam on the Normans Kill at Kenwood mill	ca. 1885-90
	51	View from D&H. Railroad on Normans Kill, looking east	ca. 1885-90
	52	View to east from Kenwood, along the Normans Kill	ca. 1885-90
	53	A quiet pool on the Normans Kill, west of Kenwood	ca. 1885-90
	54	A rocky shore of the Normans Kill	ca. 1885-90
	55	Fallen trees, left by flood, on the Normans Kill	ca. 1885-90
	56	The Normans Kill and a bridge in far background	ca. 1885-90
	57	A sylvan view of Norman Kill	ca. 1885-90

**Series IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

Arranged in four subseries: Lebanon Shaker Village; Albany Rural Cemetery; Grasmere (Rhinecliff); Miscellaneous.

Lebanon Shaker Village

4	58	Broad view of Lebanon (NY) Shaker Village	ca. 1885-90
	59	Interior of large room	ca. 1885-90
	60	Part of flower garden	ca. 1885-90
	61	Women in garden outside building	ca. 1885-90

Albany Rural Cemetery

	62	Funeral procession at graveside	ca. 1885-90
	63	<i>Angel of the Sepulchre</i> , by E.D. Palmer	ca. 1885
	64	The Prentice family plot	ca. 1885-90

Grasmere, Rhinecliff

	65.	The Hutton house at Grasmere (two prints)	ca. 1890
	66	Fields with trees (probably Grasmere), tinted print	ca. 1890
	67	View of Hudson River (probably Grasmere)	ca. 1890
	68	View of Hudson River through trees, Grasmere	ca. 1890
	69	The Huttons at Grasmere: Aunt "Shal", Grandmother Kelly, Aunt Helen, Aunt Liz	ca. 1890

Miscellaneous

	70	Sylvan view, Cooperstown	ca. 1890
	71	Entry drive and buildings, Kenwood, Corning farm	ca. 1890