

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the
Blasie Family Collection

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Blasie Family Collection

Call Number: MG 213

Creator: William Blasie and Henry Blasie

Inclusive Dates: 1860s to 1950s

Bulk Dates: 1880s-1900, 1945

Abstract: A collection of materials owned by Henry M. Blasie and relating to the Blasie family. William Blasie, Henry's father and a Captain in the Civil War was the original owner of most of the collection.

Quantity: 2 Boxes, 21 items

Administrative Information

Custodial History:

Preferred Citation: Blasie Family Collection, MG 213. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #:

Accession Date:

Processing Information:

Processed by Alyson Mazzone; completed on January 20, 2011.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons

Blasie, William; Gilronan, Catherine; Blasie, Isabella; Blasie, William; Blasie, John; Blasie, Catharine Eva; Blasie, George Fisher; Blasie, Mary Ann; Blasie, Elvira; Blasie, Joseph Fisher; Blasie, Grace Louise; Blasie, Louise Cowell; Blasie, Henry Mareness; Housemann, Helen; Thompson, Reuben; TOBACCO

Organizations

Albany Jackson Corps; Albany Burgesses Corps; Lew Benedict post of the Grand Army of the Republic; Albany Steuben Cadets; Washington Masonic Lodge

Subjects

United States History: Civil War; Family Records; City Directory; Albany Jackson Corps; Albany Burgesses Corps; Lew Benedict post of the Grand Army of the Republic; Albany Steuben Cadets; Washington Masonic Lodge

Places

Albany, NY-New York State; North Carolina

Document Types

Scrapbooks; Photographs; Photography Albums; Papers; News Clippings

Titles

Hoffman's Directory 1845-6,

Biography/History of

William Blasie, an Albany native served in the American Civil War in the 43rd New York Volunteers. He was captured by Confederate forces and imprisoned. He later became a 1st Lieutenant and was granted a leave of absence for his imprisonment.

Blasie was born in Albany, NY on January 22, 1840. His occupation listed in the 1859 Albany Directory is hairdresser. He married Catharine Gilronan and had ten children; Isabella (b.1861 d.1934), William (b.1862 d.1905), John (b.1866 d.1868), Catharine Eva (b.1867), George Fisher (b.1869 d.1943), Mary Ann (b.1872), Elvira (b.1874 d.1899), Joseph Fisher (b.1876 d.1937), Grace Louise (b.1878 d.1879), Louise Cowell (b.1881), and Henry Mereness (b.1884 d.1954).

Following the war, William Blasie was actively involved in several military organizations in Albany, including the Albany Jackson Corps, the Albany Burgesses Corps, the Lew Benedict post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was Commandant of the Albany

Steuben Cadets. He also was a Master Mason of the Washington Masonic Lodge in 1877, 1878, 1881, 1882.

Scope and Contents of the Records/Papers/Collection

The collection is predominately family materials relating to William Blasie, his wife Catharine, and their 10 children. In addition, photographs and papers associated with William Blasie's son Henry, his wife Helen Housemann and her family are also found in the collection.

Primary formats in this collection are photographs, and papers, but also includes scrapbooks and a book.

Of special note are the materials relating to William Blasie's role in the Civil War. The Hoffman Directory contains an inscription by William Blasie written as he returns from a POW camp in the south.

Organization of the Records/Papers/Collection

The collection is housed in two boxes.

Box 1:

- William and Catharine Blasie Photographic Scrapbook
- Hoffman's Albany Directory 1845-6
- Folder 1: Materials originating from William Blasie
- Folder 2: Materials originating from Henry M. Blasie
- Folder 3: Loose photographs of Blasie family members

Box 2:

- Blasie Family Record
- William Blasie Scrapbook

Related Material

William Blasie objects in the Albany Institute of History and Art's museum collection

Accession Number: 2006.028.0001-Man's walking Cane

2006.028.0002-Masonic Past Master's Jewel

2006.028.0003-Commemorative Tray from Albany Jackson's Corps

2006.028.0004-Pitcher

Separated Materials

Other Finding Aids

Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection
--

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

Series 1. Series Title [title]

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1		William and Catharine Blasie Photographic Scrapbook / Over 70 photographs. A corresponding inventory listing each photograph is found in the front.
1		Hoffman's Albany Directory 1845-6/ Written on the inside cover <i>"This book was found by me at Wilmington, N.C. on March 1st 1865, (in a telegraph office) while I was on my way home from Rebel prisons. William Blasie"</i>
1	1	1. Nuace Mounting Corners 2. Bureau of Vital Statistics of the City of Albany, N.Y. A Certified Transcript from the Registrar of Births 171 for Harry Mareness Blasie. 3. Albany Cemetery Association Deed given to William Blasie
1	2	1. Return envelope for Reuben R. Thompson, Editor, TOBACCO 2. Oct 18, 1945 letter to Mr. Reuben R. Thompson from H. M. Blasie 3. Oct. 17, 1945 letter to Mr. Blasie from Reuben R. Thompson.
1	3	1. Tin type photograph possibly of George and Joseph Blasie 2. Tin type photograph possibly of Isabella Blasie 3. Tin type photograph of a group of men and women. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Blasie are located center right and center middle, Mrs. Blasie's sister-Mrs. Mary Slauson is front left. 4. Tin type photograph possible of Wm Blasie Sen. 5. Tin type photograph possibly of Wm Blasie Sen. and child. 6. Tin type photograph possibly of George Blasie in sailor suit. 7. Photograph of young girl possibly Catherine Blasie 8. Photograph of Jamie Middleforo at 16 months in 1893 9. Photograph of unknown woman in a black hat (found with scrapbook). 10. Large group photograph of Hausmann family- Helen Hausmann (Henry) Blasie is standing in the center. Her parents are sitting in the middle with Bill and Janet at their knees (found with scrapbook). 11. Newspaper clipping of Captain William Blasie in an envelope (found in scrapbook)
2		Blasie Family Record/ A chart listing William Blasie, his wife Catharine and their children. Includes date and place of birth, some death dates are listed on the bottom.
2		Scrapbook/ A scrapbook of newspaper clippings, and programs relating to William Blasie's army career and organizations he belonged to.