

Albany Institute of History & Art
Library

MG 9

Harder and Glass Family Collection

1898-1972

X lin. ft., X boxes

Series I. American Legion Material
Series II. Wendell Willkie Material
Series III. Black Sox Papers
Series IV. Family Papers
Series V. Photographs

March 1995

Biographical Note

The Harders were an African-American family originally from Kinderhook N.Y. who moved to Albany N.Y. about 1907. James A. Harder (1876-1924) was a chauffeur. His son, James H. Harder (or James A. Harder Jr.), born July 15, 1896, (died 1972?) served in World War I from September 25, 1918 to June 23, 1919 and was instrumental in the establishment of an African-American post of the Albany County American Legion. He served as Commander of the Private Walter Dixon Post 966 beginning in 1924. The Glass Family were African Americans related to the Harders by a marriage that probably occurred in the early 1930's. Harold L. Glass is probably James A. Harder's grandson. Harold L. Glass served a European tour in the Navy from 1950-1952 and documented his experience in a photo album.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is arranged in five series: I. American Legion Material; II. Wendell Willkie Material; III. Albany Black Sox Baseball Team; IV. Family Papers; V. Photographs.

The papers relate to the work of James H. Harder as the Commander of the Private Walter Dixon American Legion Post, and his involvement in Albany New York politics.

Series I concerns the American Legion, and primarily relates to the Private Walter Dixon Post 966 chartered in October of 1924 and canceled September 19, 1937. Included in the papers are: letters documenting James H. Harder's efforts to secure veterans benefits for the family of Edward Jessie and Frank Marcley, hand written notes, bills for Memorial Day celebrations, lists of Albany County delegates, drafts for Veterans Relief Bills, Army discharge papers, welfare forms, head stone applications and civil service applications. Also in the collection: New York State Veterans Law pamphlets of 1930 and 1932; "American Legion Monthly" August 1932; and a composition book containing clippings regarding the Private Walter Dixon Post.

Series II holds political papers concentrating on the 1940 Presidential election of Wendell Willkie and his support in the African American community. The papers relating to the Willkie campaign include flyers, sheet music, pamphlets, Albany newspaper clippings and letters. Other political papers document the Democratic Party and Republican Party platforms and their areas of geographic support.

Materials in Series III concern the Albany Black Sox Team (part of the Twilight League), and include a photo of the Albany Black Sox team of 1937 and related Black Sox team papers including player contracts, team notes and player averages.

Series IV holds Harder family papers, including postcards, one complete with World War II censor mark, stamp, and postmark, and James Harder's chauffeur's license.

The bulk of the Harder and Glass Family Collection consists of portraits of the Harder family and their associates dating approximately between 1900-1930. The

images are in various formats including silver gelatin prints, tintypes and real photo portrait postcards.

Harold L. Glass' photo album, entitled "H. L.. Glass" (1952-1953) includes photos of navy personnel, friends, German and English tourist attractions and sites on various European military bases. The photographs of England and Germany include views of Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey, The Houses of Parliament and the German attraction Kronberg Castle. Other views are of military sites including the Gateway Service Club and Scott Air Force Base. The album contains captions and dates by H. L. Glass.

Miscellaneous unidentified items in the collection include four hand tinted photographs, two of a young girl and two of women; two charcoal enhanced photoprints, one portrait of an African American boy and girl, and one of a young man; foreign currency; a child's drawing; Mary Jackson's high school diploma; a geography book; group and individual portrait photos from the 1960's and 1970's probably relating to the Harder or Glass Families and friends.

Albany, NY and regional photographers include Lynch Studios, Medallion Studio, Coates and Arax Studio. Some photographs have captions, some are inscribed, some are dated, and some are damaged. Damage includes insect remains, fading, tears, folds, mold and water.

An inventory of the photographs is as follows:

- 8 photographic prints: tintypes; 10 x 6 cm and smaller.
- 4 photographic prints: hand colored; 25 x 19 cm and smaller.
- 22 photographic prints on postcards: b&w; 15 x 9 cm and smaller.
- 4 photomechanical prints: b&w and color; 14 x 9 cm and smaller.
- 58 photographic prints: silver gelatin, b&w; 25 x 20 cm and smaller.
- 1 photographic print mounted on board with glass: charcoal enhanced; 26 x 50 cm.
- 1 photographic print mounted on cardboard: charcoal enhanced; 25 x 20 cm.
- 1 album (178 photographic prints): b&w, some color; 24 x 26 cm and smaller.

Box Folder

Series I. American Legion Material

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | American Legion papers and photocopied clippings |
| | 2 | American Legion original clippings |
| | 3 | American Legion papers and forms |
| | 4 | American Legion Monthly |
| | 5 | Misc. books, American Legion |
| | 6 | Misc. books, Veterans Laws |
| | 7 | Misc. Books, American Legion |

WPA & The Negro

13th Annual National Convention of the American Legion

Manual for Post Service Officers

The New York State American Legion 7th Annual Convention

The New York State Veterans Laws 1932

The New York State Veterans Laws 1950

Roberts Rules of Order

An Aid in the Study of Geography

Public Welfare Law

Service, For God and Country

Series II. Wendell Willkie Material

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| | 8 | Papers and photocopied clippings |
| | 9 | Original clippings |

Series III. Albany Black Sox Baseball Team

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| | 10 | Papers and ephemera |
| | 11 | Team photograph |

Series IV. Family Papers

Box Folder

12 Family Papers

Series V. Photographs

Miscellaneous family photographs

3 13 Tintypes

14 Real photo postcards

15-19 Miscellaneous photographic prints

Miscellaneous photographic prints
See: Box 4, folder 26

20 Photographic prints, hand colored

21 Miscellaneous framed photographic prints

Harold L. Glass photographs

22 Friends and family

23 Travel photographic prints

24 Army photographic prints

25 Photograph album 1952-1953