

Albany Institute of History & Art  
Library

MG 13

Menges Family Collection  
1898-1944

June 1995

## **Menges Family**

### **Household Collection, 1898-1944**

.5 lin. ft

Organized in Five Series: 1. Household receipts 2. Renovation and Construction Receipts 3. Tax Receipts 4. Legal Papers 5. Personal Correspondence

### **Biography/History Note**

George and Anna Menges, while living at 68 Bassett Street, Albany, N.Y., accumulated years worth of common household papers. The following history of their routine life was deduced from the papers in the collection.

Prior to the Menges' living at 68 Bassett Street, the house was owned by John and Catharine Rothaupt. John and Catharine Rothaupt were the parents of Anna, Dora and Julia.

Anna married George Menges in (April?) 1885. According to the Albany City Directory of 1900, George Menges' name is listed as living in a house at 561 1/2 Clinton Avenue. He is a carpenter.

Their names are both listed in the Albany City Directory of 1902 as living at 68 Bassett Street, where George is again listed as a carpenter and Anna as a grocer.

After the deaths of John and Catharine Rothaupt, (John deceased Oct. 3, 1869 and Catharine deceased May 20, 1898), Anna and Dora sold the Bassett Street property to George Menges for fifteen hundred dollars for the entire property. The agreement to this sale, which is in the collection, is not dated but is accompanied by three deeds, dated July 12, 1907, agreeing also to the sale of property adjacent to 68 Bassett Street. This property belonged to the children of Julia (Rothaupt)Dorr, (deceased May 20, 1900), John and Catharine Dorr. Deeds are in the names of Dora C. Rothaupt, John and Catharine Dorr and Christian Dorr their father.

In 1910 a two-story addition is built on to the 68 Bassett Street house. The collection includes instructions for building the addition.

In 1910 George and Anna celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Many of the congratulatory items saved were dated April 1910, which may have been the month of their wedding.

Charles and Caroline Rothaupt, Aunt and Uncle of Anna, Dora and Julia, resided at 78 Cherry Street. (Their name is listed in the Albany City Directory at 70 Cherry Street until 1890 and from then on it is listed at 78 Cherry Street).

On March 4, 1903 George Menges and a Charles F. Schiffendecker, witness a statement made by Caroline Rothaupt, of Albany, N.Y. She declares George Menges executor of her estate. This is accompanied by statements citing her beneficiaries.

An Article of Agreement made on March 10, 1921 between Anna and George Menges and Abraham Meyers describes the sale of 78 Cherry Street to Abraham Meyers for eighteen hundred dollars as of April 1, 1921. How George and Anna Menges originally acquired 78 Cherry Street is not known, however this collection holds many receipts for work done at 78 Cherry Street in the name of George and Anna Menges.

In 1921 George Menges dies. This information is based on a list of funeral expenses from Louis F. Dascher, Funeral Director and Embalmer, dated December 6, 1921.

In 1931, Dora C. Rothaupt comes to live with her sister at 68 Bassett Street until her death in 1936. The collection contains receipts and other documents in the name of Dora C. Rothaupt. Dora is listed at this address as of 1931 in the Albany City Directory. She is also listed as a saleswoman at 47 North Pearl Street.

There is no record of the actual date of death of Mrs. Anna G. Menges in this collection. There are records of time spent in the Albany Hospital on New Scotland Avenue, for unknown reasons, in 1941 or 1942. A woman by the name of Mrs. E. B. Shaper acts as her comptroller on some documents. The last item to date is a receipt for Industrial policies and Premium receipt books to be surrendered with proofs of death, received from Mrs. Shaper, dated January 26, 1944.

According to the Albany City Directory, 68 Bassett Street was last owned by Mrs. Anna G. Menges in 1942. The house remained vacant thereafter until 1947.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection consists of an assortment of receipts, notes, letters and other household documents dated between 1898 and 1944 from the home of George and Anna Menges at 68 Bassett Street, Albany, New York. The items collected document personal relationships, property ownership, building renovations and additions, household expenditures, taxes and death in the Menges and Rothaupt families. The contents of the collection are divided into five series: household receipts, renovation and construction receipts, personal correspondence, legal papers, and tax receipts.

The household receipts describe the conversion from coal to oil heating with bills for delivery of coal from R. B. Rock Coal and Ice from 1907 until 1937 and an invoice describing the installation of an oil burner on December 31, 1936 by John C.

Manifold, Plumbing and Heating and oil delivery by Standard Oil of New York. The invoice from John C. Manifold also describes the installation of a radiator and a hot water boiler in 1936.

The house at 68 Bassett Street underwent many changes between the years 1905 and 1936. Detailed receipts describe building and maintenance work of twelve different laborers over this thirty-year period. Receipts from Joseph O. Stapf, Plumbing and Roofing, span almost twenty years from the installation of eighty square feet of tin roof in 1910 to periodic plumbing maintenance until 1938. In 1910 a two-story frame addition was constructed by William L. Geotze, Carpenter and Builder. Materials for renovations were supplied by Welsh and Grey Lumber through the years of 1910 and 1935. From 1905 until 1925 wallpapering services were bought from J. G. & F Held. Various other laborers made alterations at 68 Bassett Street and 78 Cherry Street.

Personal correspondence can be found in the form of a letter from a friend of Anna Menges in So. Bethlehem dated Feb. 7, 1900. There are congratulatory letters, telegrams and gift tags for the celebration of George and Anna's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in 1910. A hand written receipt on a scrap of paper notes the purchase of a piano for the sum of seventy-five dollars on Sept. 3, 1912. Doctor visits, church envelops, a wedding clipping, rent receipts, a list of deposits and disbursements and a letter to Dora C. Rothaupt from Capitol City Lodge No. 440 are dated between 1900 to 1942.

The legal papers include deeds of property which tell how 68 Bassett Street was acquired by Anna and George Menges. The collection contains family wills, bankbooks and insurance policies. These documents describe members of the Menges and Rothaupt families and their relationship to George and Anna Menges. Funerals are recorded by receipts from Louis F. Dascher, Funeral Director and Embalmer; the collection contains lists of expenses for three burials dating 1912, 1921, and 1925.

Tax records retained show payments made to the City of Albany for water rents, street improvements and city taxes from 1898 to 1939. Payments received by the city, paid to the Bureau of Water, from 1898-99 and water rents for 1904 came from John Rothaupt. He also paid for street repairs from 1901 to 1906. Water rents and city taxes from 1930 to 1939 were kept in the name of Anna G. Menges for payment on 68 Bassett Street. Water rents and city taxes for 1926 to 1939 were kept by Dora C. Rothaupt for payments on 11 Bohl Avenue. Dora also paid for street improvements made at 11 Bohl Avenue during the year of 1926. Her relationship to this address is not known. The address is not listed in the Albany City Directory during this time.

Many of the individual items which make up this collection may appear initially to be of no consequence. The pieces alone do not hold much information. Articles such as receipts and bills

are thrown away in many homes over the years. Collectively, however, the items document over forty years of an average family household in the city of Albany from 1898 to 1944.

## Container List - Manuscript Material

Box	Folder	
1	1	Household Receipts  A) R. B. Rock Coal and Ice 1907-1938 B) Standard Oil Co. of New York, Sept. 1937 - Apr. 1939 C) Hoy & Co., Jan. 1937 D) John C. Manifold, 1936
	2	Renovations and Construction Receipts  A) J. G. and F. Held, 1905-1925 B) Wm. L. Goetze, June 1910-Sept. 1910 C) Welsh and Grey Lumber, 1910-1935 D) Joseph O. Stapf, 1910-1938 E) Various Laborers, 1906-1936
	3	Personal Correspondence  A) Personal Correspondence 1900-1942
	4	Legal Papers  A) Wills 1903-1938 B) Deeds 1907-1921 C) Bankbooks and Investments 1900-1937 D) Insurance 1934-1941 E) Funeral 1912-1925
	5	Tax Receipts  A) City of Albany for Water Rents, 1904, 1926-1939 B) City of Albany, Bureau of Water 1898-99, 1933 C) City of Albany for Street Improvements 1901-1906, 1926 D) Albany County Taxes, 1925-1938

## **Detail of individual items in the collection.**

### **HOUSEHOLD RECEIPTS**

- Deliveries of coal from R. B. Rock, dealer in Coal and Ice, office: Cherry St. and Dongan. Receipts are also titled R. B. Rock, D. & H. Lackawanna Anthracite Coal, 145 Dongan Ave., Est. 1885, and R. B. Rock, Established 1885, Dongan & Cherry St., Albany, N.Y.. Receipts date from 1907 through 1938.
- John C. Manifold, Dr., Plumbing and Heating, 46 Bertha Street. Receipt dated Dec. 31, 1936. Accompanied with a paid receipt from Hoy & Co., Inc., 39-41 Columbia Street, Albany, N.Y., and a letter containing a certificate of approval by the New York State Fire Insurance Rating Organization for installation of an oil burner at 68 Bassett Street. Also included with this are receipts from the Standard Oil of New York division of Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc., Albany, N.Y.. Bills made out Mrs. Menges and E.B. Shaper, Emp. Franklin and Bassett Streets, Albany, N.Y..

### **RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION RECEIPTS**

- Bought of J. G. & F. Held, Retail Dealers and Jobbers, 79 Hamilton Street. These receipts for the sale and estimates of wall paper are dated 1905 through 1925. These receipts also read, Bought of J. G. & F. Held, Wall Paper and Room Mouldings, Retail Dealers and Jobbers, and the painting, paperhanging and tinting is also added. Finally J. G. Held, Paperhanging, Painting and Tinting, 79 Hamilton Street.
- To William L. Goetze, Dr., Carpenter and Builder, Jobbing Promptly Attended To, Estimates cheerfully furnished, 52 Plum Street. For work done at 78 Cherry Street and 68 Bassett Street. Both paid for by Menges. Also included an agreement to build a two-story frame addition at 68 Bassett Street and other carpentry for seven hundred dollars. Work done from June 1910 through Sept. 1910.
- Welsh & Grey, Lumber, Timber, Lath and Shingles, 70 and 72 Fourth Avenue, Albany, N.Y.. Receipts date from June 1910 through May 1935. Receipts also read To Welsh and Grey, Dr., Lumber Dealers, and The Welsh & Grey Lumber Co., Lumber, Timber, Lath, and Shingles, Sash, Doors, Blinds, 66 to 72 Fourth Avenue, Albany, N.Y., and Welsh & Grey Lumber Corporation, Lumber, Sash, Doors, Nails, Shingles, Roofing, Wall Boards., 62 to 72 Fourth Avenue, Albany, N.Y.. Work done at Bassett Street.
- Joseph O. Stapf, Dr., Plumbing and Roofing, Repairing given prompt attention, 144 Broad Street. Receipts date from 1910 through 1933. Receipts are also titled Joseph O. Stapf, Dr., Plumbing, Roofing and Heating, 3 Third Avenue, cor. Clinton Street., and 25 Third Ave., cor. Clinton Street. Work done at Cherry Street and Bassett Street.

## VARIOUS LABORERS

- McClelland & Kindt, Dr., Carpenters and Builders, Hardwood Floors a Specialty, 133 Madison Avenue. July and August 1906. Work done at 68 Bassett Street.
- H. C. & E. S. Whitbeck, Dr., Plumbing, Roofing, and Heating. For work at 68 Bassett Street dated Sept. 12, 1906.
- John C. Heidrich, Dr., Mason and Builder, Office 116 Fourth Avenue. For repairs at Bassett Street. Receipt dated Oct. 24, 1910.
- To Samuel Purrott, Dr., Jobbing and Contracting Carpenter, Stair Building, Etc. Estimates furnished., 112 Franklin Street. For work at 68 Bassett Street. Receipt dated Oct. 24, 1911.
- To Charles F. Vageline, Dr., House and Sign Painter. Paid June 5, 1931.
- McCann Bros., Contracting and Jobbers, 244-246 South Pearl Street., Cor. Arch Street. Plumbing, Heating, Roofing, Metal Cornices, Skylights, and Steel Ceilings. For work at 68 Bassett Street. Receipt dated Aug. 31, 1928.
- To Adam Roos, Dr., Practical Plumber, Roofer, Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron Worker, Drainage a specialty, particular attention paid to roof repairs and painting. , 93 Broad St., Cor. Fourth Avenue. Receipts dated March 1, 1933 and June 1, 1933. For work at 68 Bassett Street.
- Peter McCabe, Builders' Supplies, Sand, Gravel, Crushed Stone, Helderberg Cement, and Colonial Paints., Broadway and So. Ferry Street., Albany, N.Y. For 68 Bassett Street, dated Oct. 3, 1934.

## TAX RECEIPTS

- Bureau of Water, 25 Quackenbush Street, Albany, N.Y.. Payments made by John Rothaupt dated 1898, 1899, and 1900 for 68 Bassett Street, (also mentions store on Franklin but no more info about a store is found). Receipt dated Sept. 1, 1933, paid by Anna Menges for 68 Bassett Street.
- City of Albany, Dr. for various Street improvements, date from 1901- 1926. Bohl Avenue improvement dated 1926 paid by Dora C. Rothaupt. No more information on Bohl Avenue is found. Receipts dated 1901 through 1906 for street improvements on Bassett Street, payments made by John Rothaupt.
- To the County of Albany, Dr., for taxes. Receipts date 1926 through 1939 for payments made by Dora C. Rothaupt on 11 Bohl



Avenue, Albany, N.Y.. Payments made for 68 Bassett Street in 1904, by John Rothaupt, and 1930-1939 by Anna Menges.

- To the City of Albany, Dr., for Water Rents. Payments made by Dora Rothaupt from 1926 through 1939 for 11 Bohl Avenue. Payments made by John Rothaupt in 1904 for 68 Bassett Street and Anna G. Menges for 68 Bassett Street from 1926 through 1939.

## **LEGAL PAPERS**

### WILLS

- Last Will and Testament of Caroline Rothaupt, March 4, 1903. Naming George Menges executor. She includes a list of small sums given to George Rothaupt, Jr., Frederick Rothaupt and John Harris Rothaupt.

- Albany County Surrogate's Court, In the Matter of the Last Will and Testament of Dora C. Rothaupt, granted and recorded April 21, 1936. Naming Anna Menges as executrix.

- Letter to Miriam Albee Schindler, Atty & counselor at Law, 93 State Street, Suite 12, Albany, N.Y. listing services rendered for Estate of Dora C. Rothaupt.

- Will of Wilhelmina B. Gaylord, unknown relationship, dated Nov. 21, 1938. List names of interested parties, Anna G. Menges listed.

### DEEDS

- Three Deeds in the names of Dora C. Rothaupt, Christian Dorr and his children, John and Catharine Dorr. Describing the sale of a piece of property at the corner of Franklin and Bassett Streets to George Menges on July 12, 1907. A letter accompanies the deeds and describes their relationship to one another and describes the sale.

- An Article of Agreement made between Anna G. Menges and George Menges and Abraham Meyers for the sale of 78 Cherry Street.

### BANKBOOKS AND INVESTMENTS

- A letter from Great States Securities Co., Inc., 79 Chapel Street, Albany, N.Y. acknowledging her subscription for 6 shares of the Preferred & Common Stock of Central N.Y. Mtg. Homebuilding Co., Inc.,

- Letter from New York Mortgage Corp., Pine and Chapel Streets, Albany, N.Y.. to Dora C. Rothaupt notifying her of a stockholders meeting and a financial statement showing condition of the company as of Dec. 31, 1936. Also there is a financial statement from 1934.

- Two Savings Bank Books in the name of Dora C. Rothaupt, Albany

Savings Bank from 1915, and Williamsburgh Savings Bank 1900-1933.

#### INSURANCE

- Continental Insurance Company, 80 Maiden Lane, New York, (Edward J. Poole & Co., Insurance, Home Savings Bank Building, 11 North Pearl Street, Albany, N.Y.), for Anna G. Menges at 68 Bassett Street, for Standard Fire Insurance Policy. Two three year policies dating April 11, 1934 and April 11, 1937.

- Boston Insurance Co. for Standard Fire Insurance at 68 Bassett Street, (E. J. Dignum & Sons, Inc., Agents, 11 Steuben Street, Albany, N.Y.). Three year policy dating Oct. 15, 1938 through Oct. 15, 1941.

- Premium receipt book from Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Madison Ave., New York City. Name of Theodore Menges from 1924 to 1926.

- Note from Prudential Insurance Co. of America, Home Office, Newark, N.J.. States approval for payment of life insurance to unknown party.

- Incomplete Death Claim from Home Life Insurance Co. No. 256 Broadway, New York. Statement No. 2, for attending physician.

- Receipt for Industrial Policies and Premium receipt books when surrendered with proofs of death. Signed by Mrs. Shaper.

#### FUNERALS

- To Louis F. Dascher, Dr., Funeral Director and Embalmer, 77 Broad Street, Cor. Alexander. Name of Mr. George Menges dated June 6, 1912. Name of Mrs. George Menges dated Dec. 6, 1921. Name of Mrs. Anna Menges and Mrs. Wm. Eck. dated Jan. 28, 1925. All list expenses.

#### **PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE**

- George and Anna Menges celebrate 25th wedding anniversary in 1910. Collection includes several tags from anniversary gifts, two Western Union telegrams sending congratulations, and a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Franz from Brooklyn congratulating.

- A personal letter from Eda K. Niver from So. Bethlehem, dated Feb. 7, 1900.

- A note of receipt from Mrs. Thos. Ermis(?) dated Sept. 3, 1912. Received of Mrs. Geo. Menges the sum of seventy-five dollars for piano.

- Note listing disbursements and deposits made June 8, 1936.

- Newspaper clipping announcing a wedding Coulson-Howerwas in Albany. No date. States that a Miss Dorothy V. Menges will be bridesmaid. Relation unknown.

- A card from the Fourth Reformed Church, Albany, N.Y., from the Envelope System for Support of Church, dated 12/1/1935. In account with Mrs. Anna Menges. Amount pledged to the church and mission per month. Signed by Comptroller, E.B. Shaper.

- A letter addressed to Mrs. E.B. Shaper, 10 Gardner Terrace, Delmar, New York from Albany Hospital, New Scotland Avenue, Albany, N.Y.. Letter dated Jan. 20, 1942, (although, envelop is stamped by post office Jan. 20, 1941). Letter is billing Mrs. Shaper for time Anna Menges spent in the hospital.

- Three receipts from the office of William Rausch, Jr., M.D., 324 Madison Avenue, Albany, N.Y., (not dated). One for Mr. George Menges, one for Mrs. Menges for Mary Ketzen and one for Mrs. Anna G. Menges and Mary Ketzen, (the latter two addressed as 960 Madison Avenue).

- A receipt dated Sept. 14, 1939 for Mrs. Anna Menges from Richard M. Cox, sixteen for eye exam and bifocal glasses.

- Rent receipt dated Jan. 3, 1924 received of Mrs. Geo. Menges. Fifty one dollars for commission on sale of Lot no. 1 New Scotland Avenue. Signed by a M J O'Heaney, (?).

- Rent receipt dated July 1, 1920 received of Geo Menges, Two-hundred and forty dollars in full for the lot no. 1 New Scotland Heights. Signed by Chas. Van Schoick.

- Letter dated May 21, 1931 to Miss Rothaupt from Capitol City Lodge No. 440, Odd Fellows Temple, 46-48 Beaver Street, Albany, N.Y. The letter expresses thanks and is signed by Ernest J. Steinbach, Recording secretary.