

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the Vander Veer and Craig Family Papers

### Collection Summary

**Collection Title:** Vander Veer and Craig Family Papers

**Call Number:** MG-148

**Creator:** Vander Veer and Craig Families

**Inclusive Dates:** May 14, 1850 - February 22, 1922

**Bulk Dates:** June, 19 1889 - October 26, 1899 and April 6, 1900 - October 24, 1914

**Abstract:** Various Correspondences related to the genealogy of the family and personal communications between various family members. There are also a few newspaper clippings and family photographs.

**Quantity:** 2.5 linear inches (1 box containing eleven folders)

### Administrative Information

**Custodial History:** This collection was purchased from Dennis Holzman in December of 2005.

**Preferred Citation:** Vander Veer Family Papers, MG 148. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

**Acquisition Information:**

Accession #: LIB. 2008.029

Accession Date: December, 2005

**Processing Information:**

Processed by Brendan Peabody; completed on April 27, 2010.

### 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.

<b>Index Term</b>
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**Persons**

Craig, Esther (Vander Veer)  
Craig, John  
Craig, Marion M.  
Vander Veer, Abraham H.  
Vander Veer, Albert  
Vander Veer, Garrett  
Vander Veer, James N.

**Organizations**

Albany First Presbyterian Church  
Albany Times Union  
New York Volunteers. 115th Regiment  
New York Volunteers. 66th Regiment  
The Knickerbocker Press  
State Education Department: The University of the State of New York

**Subjects**

Auxiliary Sciences of History-Genealogy  
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865

**Places**

Kentucky- Frankfurt  
Massachusetts- Boxford  
Nebraska- Davenport  
New Jersey- Dover  
New Jersey- Freehold  
New Jersey- Manalapan  
New Jersey- Somerville  
New Jersey- New Brunswick  
New Jersey-Trenton  
New York- Albany  
New York- Amsterdam  
New York- Brooklyn  
New York- Cobleskill  
New York- Fultonville  
New York- Lisha Kill  
New York- Montgomery County  
New York- Oswego  
New York- Rochester  
New York- Root

New York- Schenectady  
New York- Slingerlands  
Pennsylvania- Allentown  
South Carolina- Beaufort  
South Carolina- Fort Wagner  
South Carolina- Hilton Head

### **Document Types**

Bulletin  
Correspondences  
Newspaper Articles  
Photographs  
Programs

### **Titles**

None

## **Biographies of the Vander Veer Family**

**Abraham H. Vander Veer** was the eighth son of Garret and Rachel (Couwenhoven) Vander Veer. He was born in the town of Root, Montgomery county, New York, June 18, 1804, and died August 19, 1888. He was the father of ten children, among them are Albert and Garrett Vander Veer, and Esther (Vander Veer) Craig .

**Albert Vander Veer** was born in Root, New York on July 10, 1841, the seventh child of Abraham and Sarah (Martin) Vander Veer. At the age of nineteen, he began to study medicine with the local physician Dr. Simeon Snow, whose daughter Margaret he later married on June 5, 1867. When the Civil War broke out, Vander Veer was attending Albany Medical College but withdrew to volunteer for the Army medical division. His first post was the Ira Harris Hospital in Albany. In May 1862, he was assigned to complete his medical training at Columbian College Hospital, now George Washington University, in Washington D.C. where he had enrolled as one of the first hundred medical cadets called to Civil War service by the surgeon general.

Upon completing his requisite coursework for his medical degree, Vander Veer was assigned to the 66<sup>th</sup> Regimental New York Volunteers as Assistant Surgeon. In June 1864, at the age of 24, Vander Veer became one of the youngest regimental surgeons of the war. During his time with the 66<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Vander Veer was engaged in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg.

After the war, Vander Veer continued his education with post-graduate courses at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York and a tour of the medical colleges and hospitals of Europe. Upon returning to Albany, he opened a private practice on Jay Street and took up residence at the corner of State and Eagle Streets.

Vander Veer's experiences in private practice led to an interest in public health issues; he served on Albany's first Board of Health and Water Board, fighting for closed city sewers, clean drinking water, and other sanitary improvements. He was also one of the major lobbyists behind the construction of the Albany Hospital.

Vander Veer was also concerned with qualifications for practicing physicians. He therefore worked to create legislation designed to create state-wide standards for medical practitioners. In the later part of his life, he was a member of the regulatory commissions he helped to create, serving first as Vice-Chancellor of the State Board of Regents in 1915 and then as Chancellor in May of 1921.

As part of his commitment to medical education, Vander Veer also served as a professor, and later the dean, at Albany Medical College from 1896 to 1905. He was also an active member of several professional organizations, and was elected President of the American Surgeons Association in 1905 and President of the American Medical Association in 1916. Vander Veer was honored for his achievements as a surgeon, educator, and pioneer of public health by being granted membership within the French Legion of Honor.

Apart from his professional pursuits, Vander Veer was a family man; he had six children, three of whom survived to adulthood. Each of his three sons, Edgar, James, and Albert Jr., became physicians. Vander Veer was also interested in his Dutch Heritage and an active member of the Holland Society of New York. He was awarded the Order of Orange-Nassau by the Queen of Holland. Vander Veer lived a full life, succumbing at the age of 89 on December 19, 1929.

**Garret Vander Veer** was born on August 8, 1836, the fifth child of Abraham and Sarah (Martin) Vander Veer. He was married to Margaret Kline on December 18, 1861 and they had one son, John, who died at an early age. Garrett joined the army and was commissioned as captain of Company A in the 115th New York Volunteers. Over the course of his career, he was stationed at various island forts along the South Carolina coast. He was shot four times at the battle of Olustee, Florida, but refused to be removed for treatment until the battle was over. He was then transported to Beaufort, South Carolina where he died of his wounds on February 24, 1864. At the time of his death he was a newly promoted lieutenant-colonel.

**Esther (Vander Veer) Craig** was born on January 14, 1830, second child of Abraham and Sarah (Martin) Vander Veer. She was married on June 10, 1852 to John Craig. She had six children, four of whom survived into adulthood.

**Marion Mead Craig** is the fifth child and fourth daughter of John and Esther (Vander Veer) Craig. She is the niece of Albert Vander Veer.

**James N. Vander Veer** is the second child of Dr. Albert and Margaret E. (Snow) Vander Veer, and was born December 12, 1877. He is a graduate of Albany Medical College, MD., 1903. He was a distinguished surgeon and widely known urological specialist. He was chief of surgical staff of the Albany Hospital, attending surgeon at the South End Dispensary and Home of the Friendless, and consulting surgeon of The House of the Good Shepherd. He married, December 3, 1908, Ada, daughter of Thomas and Cornelia (Quadland) Holt; and had one son, Adrian Holt, born November 4, 1909. He died May 15, 1937 (at the age of 59), after suffering from a heart ailment for about a year.

### Scope and Contents of the Vander Veer Family Papers

This collection consists of a series of personal and genealogy related correspondences between members of the Vander Veer and Craig families. In addition there are a few photographs of various members of the Vander Veer family. There are also newspaper clippings, (a vast majority of which are obituaries) and other miscellaneous objects.

### Organization of the Vander Veer Family Papers

These papers are organized chronologically by subject matter, with the exception of folder eleven which contains miscellaneous undated manuscripts.

### Related Material

The following materials in the Library's holdings are related to the Vander Veer Family Papers:

**Adirondack Mountains Camps, VF – Subject – Camps – NY – Adirondack Mountains.**

Contains the essay “A History of the Vander Veer Camp” by Grace Vander Veer McDonough.

**Albany Medical College, VF – Subject – Albany Medical College (Albany, N.Y.).**

Contains a photograph of the faculty, including Dr. Albert Vander Veer, and students of the Albany Medical College in 1884.

**Vander Veer Family, VF – Biography – Vander Veer Family.**

Contains a 1927 article from the Knickerbocker Press on the life of Dr. Albert Vander Veer.

**Separated Materials**

None

### Other Finding Aids

**Albert Vander Veer Papers, DB 560.**

This collection is composed of the personal papers of Albany physician Albert Vander Veer, including his journals, diaries, scrapbooks, certificates, personal correspondence, playbills, transportation timetables, and various newspaper clippings. The collection also contains papers concerning Vander Veer's life as a physician, public health advocate, and educator after the Civil War until his death in 1929. Vander Veer's papers also include genealogical information on the Vander Veer family as well as an assortment of other

materials belonging to Vander Veer's sons, Albert Jr., Edgar, and James, and papers associated with the Wooster and Brown families.

**Correspondence 1863-1865, Albert Vander Veer, MS 2100.**

Five ALS and two letters concerning Vander Veer's tenure as assistant surgeon and regiment surgeon of the Sixty-Sixth Regiment New York Volunteers during the Civil War. Vander Veer's recipient is an unidentified Albany, N.Y. friend.

<b>Detailed Description of the Vander Veer Papers/Collection</b>
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The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

**Series # [ # ] . Series Title** Vander Veer Family Papers

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
2	1	#1-14 Civil War Letters written by Albert, and Garrett Vander Veer or John Craig: <b>October 8, 1857- October 2, 1864</b>
2	2	#15-19 Vander Veer Family Photographs Photographs such as: Garrett Vander Veer in Civil War uniform, photograph featuring Albert Vander Veer, his wife and children , Katherine Vander Veer and other various photographs of members of the Vander Veer Family
2	3	#20-47 Miscellaneous Papers concerning the Vander Veer and Craig Families Newspaper Clippings (featuring the obituaries of various family members and a wedding announcement), a Church Program and a State University of New York (State Education Department) School Bulletin.
2	4	# 48-59 Vander Veer/ Craig Family Genealogy and Personal Correspondences <b>May 14, 1850- July 8, 1887</b> Almost all the correspondences are addressed to Esther (Vander Veer) Craig, from various family members (such as her brother, Dr. Albert Vander Veer and her cousin, Mary Ann Martin) and various friends. There is one correspondence that is addressed to her father Abraham H. Vander Veer from her brother, William Vander Veer.
2	5	#60-73 Vander Veer/Craig Family Genealogy and Personal Correspondence: <b>June 19, 1889-August 30, 1895</b> Albert Vander Veer received various correspondences answering questions he had related to his family genealogy. He also received a correspondence from H.E. Vander Veer (of Davenport, Nebraska) to inquire about possibly being related to the Albany area Vander Veers. In addition there are personal correspondences addressed to Marion Mead Craig and Esther (Vander Veer) Craig from family and friends or from those responding to their questions about their family history.

- 2            6            # 74-84 Vander Veer/Craig Family Genealogy and Personal Correspondence: **September 11, 1895-October 19, 1896**  
 These correspondences are addressed to Marion Mead Craig responding to her requests for information on her family history and one correspondence to Esther Craig from one of her siblings.
- 2            7            # 85-93 Vander Veer/ Craig Family Genealogy Correspondence **January 11, 1897- October 26, 1899**  
 These correspondences are addressed to either Marion Mead or Minnie Craig from various family members such as Dr. Albert Vander Veer, William Vander Veer, and those responding to requests for genealogical information about their family.
- 2            8            #94-105 Vander Veer/ Craig Family Genealogy Correspondence **April 6, 1900-April 23, 1901**  
 All these correspondences are addressed to Marion Mead Craig, from either family members and friends (such as James N. Vander Veer) or those responding to her request for more information on her family (genealogy).
- 2            9            #105-115 Vander Veer/ Craig Family Genealogy Correspondence and Personal Correspondence **November 14, 1902-October 24, 1914**  
 These correspondences are addressed to Dr. Albert Vander Veer or Marion Mead Craig regarding information about their family histories. Specifically Albert Vander Veer received a letter from a potential relative in Frankfurt, Kentucky. There is a rough draft and final draft of a correspondence from someone from Monmouth County, New Jersey to Marion Mead Craig
- 2            10            #116-125 Vander Veer/ Craig Family Genealogy Correspondence and Personal Correspondence **January 21, 1921- February 22, 1922**  
 These correspondences are addressed to or from, either Dr. James N. Vander Veer or Marion Mead Craig, from such places as “Private Home and School for Nervous and Backward Children, Niagara County Clerk’s Office, Lewis County Clerk’s Office and the “Chambers of Milton carter County Judge and Surrogate of Lewis County, Lowville, New York.
- 2            11            #126- 145 Miscellaneous Vander Veer/Craig Family Genealogy and Personal Correspondence **Undated Envelopes and Manuscripts**  
 Contains envelopes addressed to Dr. James N. Vander Veer, Esther Craig, “Miss Marion Mead Craig”, correspondences written by Marion Mead Craig, two blank envelopes, and half of a torn letter addressed to Marion Mead Craig.