

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Harder and Glass Family Papers

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Harder and Glass Family Papers

Call Number: MG 9

Creator: Harder and Glass Families

Inclusive Dates: 1898-1972

Bulk Dates: 1900-1930

Abstract: A collection of the Harder and Glass family papers and photographs.

Quantity: 3 boxes; 12.5 linear inches

Administrative Information

Custodial History: Purchased from Hourglass Antiques, 14 Central Avenue, Albany, New York, 12210.

Preferred Citation: Harder and Glass Family Papers, MG 9. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: 1994.43

Accession Date: 28 August 1992

Processing Information:

Processed by unknown; completed on 1994 (preliminary, item-level inventory)

Processed by Evelyn D. Trebilcock; completed on 1995 (first finding aid)

Processed by Adam Kutryb; completed on July 2008(second finding aid)

Restrictions

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

Glass, Harold
Harder, James
Jackson, Mary
Willkie, Wendell

Organizations

Albany Black Sox
American Legion

Subjects

Veterans
Presidential Candidates
Baseball
Family history

Places

Albany, N.Y.
Germany
England

Document Types

Letters
Notes
Bills
Newspaper clippings
Flyers
Sheet music
Pamphlets
Photographs
Postcards

Titles

The New Deal

Biography of the Harder and Glass Families

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 Contents of the Papers

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 Marcey, hand written notes, bills for Memorial Day celebrations, lists of Albany County delegates, drafts for Veterans Relief Bills, Army discharge papers, welfare forms, headstone 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 Kronborg 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 photo prints, 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.

Organization of the Papers

This collection is contained in three boxes. The first box contains Series 1, 2, and 3. Box 2 has Series 4 and Box 3 contains Series 5.

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.

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.

Related Material

BU 445 Dorr Family Papers: Contain correspondence of the Harder family

Separated Materials

Two plastic frames and two charcoal enhanced photographic prints were transferred to the Curatorial Department on 20 April 1995.

Other Finding Aids

A preliminary, item-level inventory (1994) and the first finding aid (1995) are in the control file, along with other previous finding aids.

Detailed Description of the Papers

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

Series # 1: American Legion Material

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Papers and photocopied newspaper clippings
1	2	Scrapbook
1	3	Newspaper clippings
1	4	Papers and forms
1	5	American Legion Monthly
1	6	Books: American Legion
1	7	Books: New York State Veterans Laws

Series #2: Wendell Willkie Material

1	8	Ephemera, correspondence, and other papers clippings
1	9	Newspaper clippings (photocopies and originals)

Series #3: Albany Black Sox Baseball Team

1	10	Papers
1	11	Photograph

Series 4: Personal and Other Material, Family Papers

2	12	Photographic prints; hand colored
2	13	Books: Geography, Rules of Order, Public Welfare, WPA, Service for God and Country
2	14	Travel Photos
2	15	Misc framed photographic prints
2	16	H.L. Glass Family & Friends Photos
2	17-21	Photographic prints

Series 5: Family Photographs

3	22	Photographic prints
---	----	---------------------

3	23	Tintypes
3	24	Real Photo postcards
3	25	Family Papers