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Collection 501
Yardley-Beers Family Collection
1888-1946

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Biographies

Sarah McKim Yardley (1876-1946) was born in North Carolina on September 30, 1876 to Ellen Mulvaney and William Buckman Yardley. Sarah was a relative of James Miller McKim, noted abolitionist and leader of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society. In 1895 Sarah graduated from New York's Sandy Hill Union School. She married Louis G. Beers on June 7, 1904 in a ceremony held at Trinity Church in Sharon Springs, New York. The next year Sarah and Louis broke ground on land that became their 900 West State Street property in the Cadwalader section of Trenton. In 1913 they had a child, Yardley. Sarah was a member of The Contemporary Club, Colonial Dames, the Old Barracks Association, and an officer in the Broad Seal Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was also a member of All Saints Church, which is currently part of the Trinity Cathedral Complex located at 801 W. State Street in Trenton. On February 20, 1946 Sarah Yardley Beers died in Mercer Hospital after a brief illness.

Louis Gilbert Beers (1862-1935) was born in Connecticut on March 9, 1862 to Louisa Gilbert and William Woolsey Beers. Both Louisa and William were from Connecticut. Louis attended Wilton Academy in Connecticut and Williston Academy in Massachusetts. In 1900 he came to Trenton and worked as a sales manager for the New Jersey Wire Cloth Company and stayed with the company after it was acquired by John A. Roebling's Sons Company. In 1909 Louis founded The Cadwalader Association, a group dedicated to the maintenance of the Cadwalader neighborhood of Trenton and later served as president. The association was the first of its kind in Trenton. Additionally, Louis was a member of The Trenton Historical Society, The National

Society of Sons of the American Revolution, and the Engineers Club. On January 31, 1935 Louis Gilbert Beers suffered a fatal heart attack while at home.

Yardley Beers (1913-2005) was born in Pennsylvania on April 2, 1913. He was the son of Sarah Yardley Beers and Louis Gilbert Beers. He attended Philips Academy in Massachusetts, Yale, and Princeton where he received his PhD. On May 12, 1945 in a ceremony held in Cornwall, Connecticut, he married Dorothy Norton Sands. They had two children, Deborah Yardley Beers and David Jerome Beers. During World War II, Yardley worked on radar receivers at MIT's Radiation Lab. After the war ended he became a professor of physics at New York University. In 1951 he moved to Boulder, Colorado where he worked at the National Bureau of Standards. Yardley Beers died on October 1, 2005.

Scope and Content

The Yardley-Beers Family collection covers the years 1888 to 1946 and contains books, newspaper and magazine clippings, ephemera, correspondence, personal and organizational notes, photographs, and miscellaneous items primarily related to the Beers family in Trenton, N.J. Records also include clippings, ephemera, and photographs related to Sarah's Yardley relatives in Delaware and Pennsylvania. An application to the New Jersey Society of the Colonial Dames of America found in this collection links the Yardley Family to Mahlon Stacy through marriage. It was from Mahlon Stacy that William Trent purchased the territory that became Trenton.

A strength of this collection are the records related to the personal, domestic, and social lives of the Beers family in Trenton. Of those records the letter written by Yardley Beers to Carl Briant is unique in significance because it gives a summary of the Beers' lives in Trenton. Clippings and ephemera describe the Beers family's social activities in Trenton, the extent to which Sarah and Louis traveled internationally, and Louis's involvement in the Cadwalader Association, a neighborhood improvement organization and the first of its kind in Trenton. Many of the photographs depict the Beers family and their domestic employees in and around their 900 West State Street home. Letters from Louis to Sarah, often written during periods of convalescence for one or the other, comprise most of the correspondence.

Note: The New York Public Library possesses a collection titled "Sarah Yardley Beers Family Papers". The Winterthur Library houses a collection titled "Yardley Family Papers". Both those collections and the collection possessed by the Trenton Free Public Library collection were donated by Deborah Yardley Beers-Jones.

This collection is divided into six series. The series are contained in ten folders in three boxes.

Series Description

This collection is divided into six series. Enough material can be found in this collection that is attributable to one member of the Beers family and not the others. For that reason, the collection is partly divided into three series specific to Sarah, Louis, and Yardley.

Series I. Sarah Yardley Beers Papers (1891-1935)

This series consists of an application, certificates, correspondence, ephemera, and meeting minutes acquired by Sarah Yardley Beers. The application for membership to The New Jersey Society of the Colonial Dames of America belonged to a relative of Sarah's named Margaret Elizabeth Yardley. The genealogical section of the application links the Yardley family to Mahlon Stacy through marriage. It was from Mahlon Stacy the elder's son, also named Mahlon Stacy, that William Trent purchased the land that became Trenton, NJ. The books include a bible, two scrapbooks, a novel by Charles Dickens, a book on arithmetic, and a register for the New Jersey Society of The Colonial Dames of America. Most of the certificates and ephemera in this series concern Sarah's time at Sandy Hill High School. Passenger lists in which Sarah and Yardley were listed are included. The majority of correspondence in this series are letters written by Louis Beers to Sarah. Note that two letters attached to photographs of Sarah can be found in the Photographs series. Meeting minutes are from the 11th Annual Meeting of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Series II. Louis Gilbert Beers Papers (1904-1935)

This series consists of ephemera, financial documents, an inventory, a map, and personal notes belonging to Louis Gilbert Beers. These records speak to Louis's personal life in Trenton and is useful in understanding his hobbies and interests. The ephemera are mainly passenger lists that document Louis's travels. Marketing material for Cadwalader Place and a manual for the Cadwalader Association are included. A 1926 invitation from New Jersey Governor A. Harry Moore to Louis to review a parade of troops from the United States Armed Forces is included. Financial documents include a ledger of securities transactions, an agreement for the purchase of a lot in Cadwalader Place, a release of liens for work completed on that property, and a blank book of delivery receipts. The inventory of the contents of 900 West State Street was prepared in 1931. The personal notes are genealogical and the only source of information in the collection regarding Louis's ancestors.

Series III. Yardley Beers Papers (1956-1985)

This series includes a single piece of correspondence from Yardley Beers to Carl Briant. The 10-page, single-spaced, typed letter is the longest and most detailed narrative of the Beers family in the collection. In the letter, completed January 1985, an adult Yardley shares remembrance of the changing physical and social environments in which he found himself as a youth. He also contrasts the social lives of his parents. Readers of the letter will likely come to a greater

understanding of various records in the collection and the collection as a whole. Also included in this series is a 1956 passenger list from the S.S. Orsova.

Series IV. Clippings (1908-1993)

Some of the clippings in this series cover various social events hosted by Sarah as well as her death. Other clippings are concerned with Sarah’s kin in Delaware and Pennsylvania. The newspaper clippings concerning Cadwalader Place and a map of the area were gifts from Yardley Beers to Carl Briant whose family came to occupy 900 West Street sometime after the Beers and with whom Yardley became closely acquainted. Other newspaper clippings document various events that took place at 900 West State Street, Louis’s involvement with the Cadwalader Association, and his domestic travels. Magazine clippings document Louis’s interest in gardening. Note that the photograph of Louis holding his garden cabinet, which appears in *The Garden Magazine*, also appears in the Photographs series.

Series V. Photographs (1888-1935)

A series of photographs featuring members of the Beers family, their employees, and their home at 900 West State Street. Also included are photographs of various family members from Sarah’s side of the family. A large group photograph that includes Sarah alongside some of the most notable women from Mercer County is also included. This series also contains negatives.

Series VI. Books

This series contains seven books and two scrapbooks.

Container List

Series I. Sarah Yardley Beers Papers				
Box	/	Folder	/	Content
1	/	1	/	Application of Membership (Margaret Yardley) - The New Jersey Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1895
1	/	1	/	Certificate of Confirmation, 1891
1	/	1	/	Preliminary or Preacademic Certificate, 1892
1	/	1	/	30 Count Certificate, 1893
1	/	1	/	Class Day program - Sandy Hill High School, 1895
1	/	1	/	Class Day program - Millersville State Normal School, 1889
1	/	1	/	Commencement Program - Sandy Hill High School, 1895

1	/	1	/	Certificate of Pedigree - Cocker Spaniel, 1937
1	/	2	/	Correspondence, 1899-1935
1	/	3	/	Minutes - 11th Annual Meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs of The State of New Jersey
1	/	4	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Washington, 1935
1	/	4	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Washington, 1935 (Beers missing from list)
1	/	4	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Harding, 1935
1	/	4	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Harding, 1935
1	/	4	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Orsova, 1956
Series II. Louis G. Beers Papers				
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Paris, 1897
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - R.M.S. Lucania, 1897
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Menominee, 1899
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Furst Bismark, 1899
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Furst Bismark, 1900
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Furst Bismark, 1900
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - P.M.S.S. City of Peking, 1900
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Republic, 1904
1	/	5	/	List of Passengers - S.S. Bermudian, 1906
1	/	5	/	Menu - Prinzessin Victoria Luise, 1902
1	/	5	/	Menu - Express-Steamer Deutschland, 1904
1	/	6	/	Brochure - Cadwalader Place (The best part of Trenton to live in.)
1	/	6	/	Brochure - Cadwalader Place Illustrated
1	/	6	/	Manuel of the Cadwalader Association, 1909-1913
1	/	6	/	Agreement between John L. and Richard M. Cadwalader, Executors of Thomas Cadwalader, deceased, and Louis G. Beers (2), 1904

1	/	6	/	Release of Liens to Louis G. Beers, 1905
1	/	6	/	Map - Plan of Cadwalader Place Part 1. The Manor, 1890
1	/	7	/	Invitation to Louis Beers from Governor A. Harry Moore, 1926
1	/	8	/	Genealogical Notes of Louis G. Beers
1	/	8	/	Personal ledger of Louis G. Beers, securities transactions
1	/	8	/	Inventory of the contents of 900 West State St by Louis G. Beers
1	/	8	/	Blank notepad belonging to Louis G. Beers
Series III. Yardley Beers Papers				
1	/	2	/	Correspondence from Yardley Beers to Carl Briant, 1/14/1985
Series IV. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings				
1	/	9	/	Clippings - Sarah Yardley Beers, July, 1908 and 1909
1	/	9	/	Clippings - The Beers Family, 1906, 1915, 1916
1	/	9	/	Clippings - The Beers Family, 1910 (x2)
1	/	9	/	Clippings - The Beers Family, 1906
1	/	9	/	Clippings - The Beers Family, 1922
1	/	9	/	Clippings - The Beers Family, 1927
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>The Sunday Times (Trenton)</i> - The Beers Family, 1931
1	/	9	/	Clippings - The Beers Family, 1934 (original + photocopy)
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>The Times (Trenton)</i> - The Beers Family, 1993
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>The New York Times</i> - Sarah Yardley Beers, 1946
1	/	9	/	Clippings - Sarah Yardley Beers, 1946
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>The Garden Magazine</i> - Louis G. Beers, 1909, 1910
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>The New York Sun</i> - James Miller McKim, 1936

1	/	9	/	Clippings - Reverend J.L. McKim
1	/	9	/	Clippings - Henry G. Villard
1	/	9	/	Clippings - Magazine article - J.L. McK. Yardley
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser</i> - The Cadwallader Family, 1926
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser</i> - The Yardley Family, 1933
1	/	9	/	Clippings - <i>Trenton Evening Times</i> , 1964
Series V. Photographs				
2	/	1	/	Louis G. Beers and homemade garden cabinet
2	/	1	/	Sarah and Louis Beers silver anniversary, 1929
2	/	1	/	Bessie Brown, 1941
2	/	1	/	Roland Snowdon, 1923
2	/	1	/	Sarah, Louis, 900 W. State Street., Living room
2	/	1	/	"Nana" (Grandmother)
2	/	1	/	Various group and individual photos of Beers family members
2	/	1	/	Sarah and Louis Beers at Lake Placid Club, 1931
2	/	1	/	Sarah Beers, Helen Yardley, and Belle Richardson
2	/	1	/	Workers and 900 West State Street under construction
2	/	1	/	Various 900 West State Street
2	/	1	/	Various unidentified
2	/	6	/	Negatives
2	/	2	/	Yardley Beers at home + Beers Family living room, January 1927
2	/	3	/	Louis G. Beers and Beers Family photos, December 1927
2	/	4	/	Sarah Yardley Beers, 1932
2	/	4	/	Young boy

2	/	5	/	Cara Yardley
2	/	5	/	T.W. Yardley
2	/	5	/	Charles B. Yardley
2	/	5	/	Samuel Yardley
2	/	5	/	Graham Yardley
2	/	5	/	James Cluttick
3		1	/	Party at Mrs. Horace Tobias (see photo copy for list of names)
Series VI. Books				
4	/		/	<i>Red Letter Testament and Psalms</i>
4	/		/	<i>Brooks' New Normal Mental Arithmetic, 1873</i> – Edward Brooks
4	/		/	<i>The Cricket on the Hearth, 1900</i> – Charles Dickens
4	/		/	<i>The Pampas and Andes: One Thousand Miles Walk Across South America, 1868</i> – Nathaniel H. Bishop
4	/		/	<i>An Old New England Town: Sketches of Life, Scenery, Character, 1895</i> – Frank Samuel Child
4	/		/	<i>Register of the New Jersey Society of The Colonial Dames of America, 1892-1928</i> – compiled by Arthur Adams
4	/		/	<i>The Social Record of New Jersey, 1927</i>
3	/		/	Scrapbook - “Choice Scraps”
3	/		/	Scrapbook - “Cupid’s Proverbs A Wedding Book”