

ABBY AND WILL CSAPLAR LAKE GEORGE COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creators:** Abby Hoge Csaplar and Will Csaplar
- Title:** Abby and Will Csaplar Lake George Collection
- Dates:**
- Abstract:** Abby Hoge Csaplar and Will Csaplar spent 20 years collecting images and artifacts illustrating the history of Lake George, NY, and in particular the Silver Bay Association on the lake.
- Quantity:** 19.25 cubic feet (8,000+ items)
- Identification:** Photographs; ephemera; postcards; stereo views

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Abby Hoge and Will Csaplar were born in New York City. They met the summer of 1956 while working at the Silver Bay (YMCA) Association conference center on Lake George, New York. Abby had just graduated from Colby Junior College and would go on to Syracuse University. Will was entering his senior year at Columbia College and would go on to get a master's degree from Columbia Graduate School of Business with emphasis in Finance and Accounting. They were married in 1958, as Will went on three years active duty as an officer in the Coast Guard Reserve, from which he retired 25 years later with the rank of Captain.

Abby, while raising their three special needs children, worked helping the blind and elderly communities. Will became a senior financial manager in a major worldwide manufacturing corporation. After an early retirement, Will became a Financial Management Consultant, travelling worldwide for almost 20 years. He specialized in Financial and Accounting systems to provide data needed to make better operating decisions.

After all three children graduated from college, Abby and Will were able to devote the time and money to be collectors. They decided to collect Silver Bay history (later expanded to include Lake George), as well as other areas and types of collectable

materials. For over 20 years they would attend shows (postcard, paper, stamp, photography, antique, etc.) and auctions for about two weekends per month (often two different shows in a weekend). They visited all the Middle Atlantic and New England states many times, as well as Ohio. During this time they made many valuable contacts, many of whom effectively became their pickers.

In most cases the collections were focused on learning the history of the collectable. Seven books have already (as of 2014) used their materials as references at no cost to the author.

When it became time to donate the material, Abby and Will set up the following criteria:

1. Ability to maintain the material (technical expertise, space, temperature, humidity, etc.)
2. Primary objective of the receiving institution is similar to the donator's
3. Availability to be accessed by a researcher at little or no cost
4. Proximity to the collection topic
5. Solvency of the receiving institution for the longer term.

The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library was chosen from several regional candidates as it was the best match to this collection.

Abby Csaplar died December 14, 2017 at her home in Worcester, Massachusetts. She was 82 years old.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The Collection measures approximately 19+ cubic feet, currently housed in 42 boxes.

The Lake George portion includes:

- 17 boxes of postcards
- 6 boxes of stereo views by Stoddard and other photographers
- 4 boxes of publications
- 3 boxes of ephemera
- 1 box of maps

The Silver Bay portion includes:

- 2 boxes of postcards/menu cards
- 1 carton of artifacts and souvenirs
- 1 box of oversize photos
- 1 box of photos and photo albums + some CDs
- 3 boxes of publications/brochures etc.
- 1 box of photos and slides
- 1 box of cards (stationary)

INDEX TERMS

Places: Lake George, Warren, New York
Silver Bay Association, Hague, Warren, New York

Subjects: Lake George, Warren, New York
Silver Bay Association, Hague, Warren, New York

Important People: Abby Hoge Csaplar and Will Csaplar

Form/Genre: Photographs; postcards; ephemera; souvenir artifacts; maps;
stereo views

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Abby and Will Csaplar Collection
The Folklife Center at
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Abby and Will Csaplar donated their collections of images and other items of Lake George and of the Silver Bay Association in several stages in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Negotiations relative to the donations began in the summer of 2011.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Joseph Legault (2013), Tisha Dolton (2014), and Erica Wolfe Burke (2018). Scans of some items from the collection were made by Kevin Rogan. A searchable item-level database is in process. Not completely processed as of September 2018.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Inventories have been prepared and will be included here at a later date, after some further processing.

Selected items from this collection can be seen at
<https://nyheritage.org/collections/abby-and-will-csaplar-lake-george-collection>.

The Csaplar collection of Columbia University post cards is located in the Archives of Columbia University.