

# INDIAN CAMP AT SARATOGA SPRINGS: BEADED WHIMSEY SOUVENIRS

## OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

<b>Repository:</b>	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
<b>Creator:</b>	unknown
<b>Title:</b>	Indian Camp at Saratoga Springs: Beaded Whimsey Souvenirs
<b>Dates:</b>	1884 to 1903
<b>Quantity:</b>	7 items
<b>Identification:</b>	Folk Art

## NOTE

Indian Camps, sometimes called encampments, were located on the fringes of resorts in the northeastern United States during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, where Native Americans would make and sell souvenirs to tourists. Saratoga Springs had a seasonal Indian Camp of Abenaki and Iroquois peoples at least as early as 1848 through the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Each summer it would reform, moving around the city, sometimes at two competing sites. The souvenirs sold at the Indian Camps were often adaptations of traditional arts including baskets, moccasins, beaded whimseys, birchbark canoes, and wooden bows. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a carnival with “innocent, outdoor amusements” was added to the craft sales and demonstrations, complete with bowling alleys, shooting galleries, croquet, photo galleries, ice cream and candy, rides and shows.

## INDEX TERMS

<b>Topics:</b>	Souvenirs Indian Camps Tourist attractions
<b>Places:</b>	Saratoga Springs, Saratoga, New York
<b>Form/Genre:</b>	realia

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Preferred Citation:** Indian Camp at Saratoga Springs: Beaded whimsy souvenirs  
Folklife Center  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** 7 pieces purchased from Minnie Bolster, a collector of all things Saratoga, in 2015.

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

1. Beaded whimsy souvenir, pin cushion "SARATOGA 1884"  
11 inches across, 8 lobes, red material, white beads.
2. Beaded whimsy souvenir, match stick holder, "SARATOGA 1901"  
5 inches x 8 inches, yellow material, brown and other colored beads.
3. Beaded whimsy souvenir, match stick holder, "SARATOGA 1902"  
5 inches x 8 inches, brown material, white and other colored beads.
4. Beaded whimsy souvenir, pin cushion "SARATOGA 1903"  
6 inches across, 6 lobes, red material, white and other colored beads
5. Beaded whimsy souvenir, frame "SARATOGA 1903"  
8 inches x 12 inches, yellow material, multicolored beads
6. Beaded whimsy souvenir, coaster "SARATOGA"  
7 inches across, 6 lobes, green material, white beads
7. Beaded whimsy souvenir, boot (?pin cushion)  
4 ½ inches tall, pink material, multicolored beads

Note: for more information, see "Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism" by Todd DeGarmo, *New York Folklore Society Newsletter*, Volume 14, No. 2, Summer 1993.