

ADDISON BEECHER COLVIN SCRAPBOOKS: A Guide to the Collection

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Addison Beecher Colvin
- Title:** Addison Beecher Colvin Scrapbooks
- Dates:** 1894-1936.
- Abstract:** These scrapbooks compiled by Addison Beecher Colvin (1858-1939) document his varied career as Republican Party politician, Glens Falls newspaper publisher, banker, businessman civic leader, and golf enthusiast. Four volumes concern the Warren County Centennial in 1913. Some material pertains to World War I, particularly support for the war in Glens Falls.
- Quantity:** 3 cubic feet (6 boxes, 20 volumes)
- Identification Number:** Archives & Manuscripts: Scrapbooks

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Addison Beecher Colvin was born in Glens Falls in 1858, the son of Ann Cowles and Hiram K. Colvin of Glen Street. Addison Colvin was educated at the Glens Falls Academy up to the age of fourteen. He married Marie Louise Hees in 1883. They had three daughters, two of whom died before him. Colvin died in Glens Falls in 1939. The third daughter who survived him was Mrs. Frank A. Whipple. A resident of Glens Falls, Colvin contributed to the business and social life of the community in numerous ways.

Colvin is described in memorials at the time of his death as an upstate New York banker and industrialist. He was, as well, a Glens Falls newspaper publisher, businessman, civic leader, active member of the Republican Party, and New York State Treasurer from 1894-1898.

His earliest business venture was his investment in printing equipment. At eighteen Colvin began publication of the *Glens Falls Times* in 1879. In the 1890's Colvin arranged for the consolidation of the Glens Falls Times and the Glens Falls Printing Company. The two businesses were combined as the Glens Falls Publishing Company. He was the editor of the paper until he sold it in 1925 to the *Post-Star*. He contributed regularly to his own paper and wrote several items he self-published through his printing company: a journal of his trip to Europe in 1906 titled: *Dad, Mother, and the Girls*; two commemorative publications about Glens Falls: *The County Centennial*, and *The Empire City*, and two novels he published under the pseudonym Harvester Hiram: *Lumberman Lew: a story* and *Stray Steps*.

Colvin built the Glens Falls Times Building in 1882—the first home of the newspaper and printing business in Glens Falls. In 1902 he built the Colvin Building in downtown Glens Falls. Colvin employed the modern technology of his day in his business efforts. According to Colvin's account, his building on Glen Street had the first telephone and the first electric power in Glens Falls. It is certain he was among the first Glens Falls businessmen willing to invest in modern technology. His interest in employing new and modern approaches to business carried to his interest in the telegraph. He organized the Glens Falls Police and Messenger Service that provided communication in the city before the telephone and fire alarm system was in place. He was involved with others in establishing early rail service between towns neighboring Glens Falls. He was one of the principal promoters of the Hudson Valley Railway, an electric railway that took the place of the horse cars that formerly ran between Glens Falls and Fort Edward. Under Colvin's leadership the Hudson Valley line was extended to Troy, Warrensburg, Saratoga, and Greenwich.

Colvin took an active interest in politics in the period 1887 – 1898. He was nominated on the Republican ticket and elected New York State Treasurer in 1893. He was a delegate to the Republican Convention in St. Louis in 1896. While he was State Treasurer, Colvin acquired local railways in partnership with other upstate New York businessmen. These small rail lines were later sold to the Utica and Mohawk Railroad and the Delaware and Hudson Railroad.

Colvin was a director of numerous local banks, including the Argyle bank, the Sandy Hill bank, and the Glens Falls Trust Company. He was a participant and, later in his life, a leader of numerous Glens Falls civic organizations. He had an interest in Glens Falls fire fighting in the 1880's. He was associated with the MacDonald Hook & Ladder Company and the Glens Falls Fire Department. Colvin was a founder of the Empire Theater and Real Estate Company. He was an avid golfer, and a founding member of the Glens Falls Country Club.

Sources: Obituary, Post-Star, June 1936 and *Glens Falls, The "Empire City"* (1908), Crandall Library, Center for Folklife, Biographical file.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

This collection of scrapbooks of newspaper clippings was compiled by Addison Beecher Colvin. The bulk of the scrapbooks are dated 1894-1898 and report Colvin's activities while State Treasurer, his activities relating to the Republican Party in New York State, election campaigns, and meetings of the New York Press Association.

The four scrapbooks for 1895 include several articles reporting Colvin's support of the Delaware and Hudson's application to extend a railway line through a part of the New York State Forest Preserve; reports of the New York State Press Association's annual meeting at Lake George; the reports of the New York State Republican Party Convention at Saratoga in September 1895, along with election campaign and voting results.

Scrapbooks for 1897 concern the election of Thomas C. Platt as U.S. Senator from New York. The following year, 1898, includes accounts of the Republican Party State Convention at Saratoga where the party nominated Theodore Roosevelt as its candidate for Governor. Related clippings report on Addison B. Colvin's unsuccessful bid at that Convention to be named the Republican Party candidate for State Comptroller.

Clippings after 1900 are less about state politics and focus more on Colvin's activities in the Glens Falls, particularly, the Glens Falls Trust Company and his interests in golfing. Four volumes for 1913 document the Warren County Centennial, November 9, 1912 – August 28, 1913, of which Colvin was Chairman. There are a significant number of clippings about World War I and information on the support in Glens Falls of the U.S. Military Forces. In the 1920's the clippings concern Colvin's government service, first as Deputy State Fuel Commissioner of Warren County in 1922 during a coal shortage, and later under Governor Alfred E. Smith as a member of the New York State Reconstruction Commission charged with devising a plan to revise New York State government.

One of the Warren County Centennial scrapbooks, number 20, consists of newspaper clippings pasted into a publication of the Delaware & Hudson [Railway] Co., 1908-1909. The publication lists shippers by category of product in the areas in New York and Pennsylvania served by the railroad. Most of the text is not covered by newsprint. Included in the collection is a letter addressed to Colvin by William A. Wait of Glens Falls National Bank dated 1896 about the Republican Party's position on financial policy; a list of Colvin's trophies and recognition received by Colvin; newspaper articles on the Thieriot wedding, obituaries by Colvin published in the *Post Star*, including one for Henry Crandall, and several published short commentaries by Colvin, including: three articles: on Glens Falls in the 1930's, about President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and a travel memoir.

Articles for these scrapbooks were collected from various newspapers throughout New York State.

ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

- Volume 1 January, 1894 -January, 1895
- Volume 2 January - June, 1895
- Volume 3 June - July, 1895
- Volume 4 July -September, 1895
- Volume 5 September - November, 1895
- Volume 6 October, 1895 - July, 1896
- Volume 7 August, 1896 - January, 1897
- Volume 8 January - October, 1897
- Volume 9 July, 1897 - February, 1898
- Volume 10 January - September, 1898
- Volume 11 September, 1898 - May, 1900
- Volume 12 1897 - 1902
- Volume 13 1906 (With a few 1897 clippings at end of volume)
- Volume 14 1917 - 1922
- Volume 15 1926 - 1927
- Volume 16 1928 – 1936
- Volumes 17-20 Warren County Centennial, 1913.

INDEX TERMS

- Topics:** Electioneering—New York (State)—History.
Golf—History—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
Railroads—New York (State)
World War, 1914-1918—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
- Places:** Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Commerce—1865-1950.
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—History—Sources.
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Politics and government—1865-1950.
New York (State)—Newspapers—1865-1950.
New York (State)—Politics and government—1865-1950.
Warren County (N.Y.)—Centennial celebrations, 1913.
Warren County (N.Y.)—Politics and government—1865-1950.
- Organizations:** Delaware and Hudson Company.
Glens Falls Trust Company (Glens Falls, N.Y.)
New York Press Association.
New York State. Reconstruction Commission.
New York State. Treasurer.
Republican Party (N.Y.)
- Important People:** Colvin, Addison, 1858-1939.
- Forms/Genre:** Scrapbooks.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Addison Beecher Colvin Scrapbooks,
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information:

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ADDISON COLVIN SCRAPBOOKS

Volume 1: January, 1894 - January, 1895.

Volume 2: January - June, 1895.

Includes several articles reporting Colvin's support of the Delaware and Hudson's application to extend a railway line through a part of the New York State Forest Preserve.

Volume 3: June - July, 1895

Includes reports of the New York State Press Association's annual meeting at Lake George.

Volume 4: July - September, 1895

Includes reports of the New York State Press Association's annual meeting at Lake George, the Republican State League Convention at Binghamton, and the New York State Republican Party Convention at Saratoga.

Volume 5: September - November, 1895

Mostly reports of the New York State Republican Party Convention at Saratoga in September. Also includes reports of the election campaign and the voting results.

Volume 6: October, 1895 - July, 1896

Volume 7: August, 1896 - January, 1897

Volume 8: January - October, 1897

Many reports concerning the election of Thomas C. Platt as Senator from New York.

Volume 9: July, 1897 - February, 1898

Volume 10: January - September, 1898

Includes reports of the Republican Party State Convention at Saratoga which nominated Theodore Roosevelt as its candidate for Governor.

Volume 11: September, 1898 - May, 1900

Includes reports of the Republican Party State Convention at Saratoga which nominated Theodore Roosevelt as its candidate for Governor, along with Addison B. Colvin's unsuccessful bid at that Convention to be named the Republican Party candidate for State Comptroller.

Volume 12: 1897 – 1902

Volume 13: 1906 (with a few 1897 clippings at end of volume)

Volume 14: 1917 - 1922

Includes reports of support of the military effort in World War I by Glens Falls and the surrounding communities. Also there are reports of golfing activities. There are also reports of Colvin's membership in the New York State Reconstruction Commission and of his support of Gov. Alfred E. Smith's efforts to revise State government. There are also reports concerning the Glens Falls Trust Company and Colvin's work as Deputy State Fuel Commissioner of Warren County when the supply of anthracite coal was low in 1922.

Volume 15: 1926 - 1927**Volume 16: 1928 - 1936****Warren County Centennial, 1913. 4 volumes.**

Newspaper clippings, November 9, 1912 - August 28, 1913 about Warren County Centennial Celebration, held August 3 -9, 1913. Addison Colvin was Chairman of the Centennial celebration.

Volume 17: Warren County Centennial, No. 1.

November 9, 1912 - July 11, 1913.

Volume 18: Warren County Centennial, No. 2.

July 17 - August 6, 1913.

Volume 19: Warren County Centennial, No. 3.

August 6 - 11, 1913.

Volume 20: Warren County Centennial, No. 4.

August 9 - 16, 1913.

NOTE: Clippings in this volume are placed in a publication of the Delaware & Hudson [Railway] Co., 1908-1909. The publication lists shippers by category of product in the areas in New York and Pennsylvania served by the railroad. Most of the text is not covered by newspaper clippings.

Additional Papers:

Letter to Addison Colvin from William A. Wait, Cashier, Glens Falls National Bank, June 10, 1896. Endorses Republican Party money policies just prior to the 1896 Republican National Convention in St. Louis.

1906 Trip to Europe: "Dad" Mother and the Girls -- Observations.

Printed volume for Private Circulation Only.

Diary and observations of family trip, July 16 to November 6, to England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

NOTE: The following Colvin materials were the gift of Ann Center, April 10, 1990.

Depression Philosophy Roosevelt Relentless Rebellion: Tart Talk Treating Today's Threatening Travesty. Addison B. Colvin, Commentator. [1935]

Contains Colvin's observations on the Depression, defense of Republican policies, and attack on the policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Colvin Trophies. Typescript. 2 pp. Mostly a list of photographs owned by Addison B. Colvin.

Article by Colvin concerning the wedding of Nellie Meredith Little to Albert Thieriot, June 188-.

Obituaries and memorials written by Colvin, published in the *Post-Star*, 1930's. Includes a tribute to Henry Crandall.

Commentary by Colvin on Glens Falls affairs, published in the *Post-Star*, 1930's. Includes his opposition to the Ridge Street school building project, 1935.

