

Inventory of the

Sabin-Van Arsdale
Aurora, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 32

INTRODUCTION

Charles F. Andrews donated the records of Jay Horace Sabin and William Henry Van Arsdale to the Northern Illinois University Archives in 1966. J. Joseph Bauxar, University Archivist, transferred the records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in May 1978. An addendum was added to the collection on April 25, 2008 by Geneve Harris.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. Items relating to the Columbian Exposition have been restricted for preservation purposes. Copies are available for research.

Linear feet of shelf space: 4.75
Number of containers: 7
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 32

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Sabin-Van Arsdale Collection consists of 845 photographs, a small amount of correspondence, diaries and school work, surveyor's notebooks, tour books, and other printed material. The photographs depict western mining and manufacturing operations, landscape and scenery from Europe and the United States dating from the early twentieth century, and portraits and candid shots of relatives and friends of the Sabin and Van Arsdale families. Also found in the collection are souvenir and costume books from several European countries collected by Van Arsdale during his extensive travels.

Among the printed materials are books on surveying, merit rolls and other publications from the New York Free Academy, and by-laws and catalogs from the Columbia College School of Mines. Smaller portions of the collection include Aurora YMCA posters and information and the Circus Fans of America.

Of special interest in the collection is the folder containing wanted notices for criminals in the Ogle and Lee County area. Approximately 250 postcards from Europe and the Middle East were transferred to the Postcard Collection (RC 199).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Jay Horace Sabin, son of Dwight Mays Sabin (U.S. Congressman from Minnesota, 1882-1886) was born in Stillwater, Minnesota in 1875. He graduated from Northwestern University in the late 1890's and became a surveyor of Winnebago County. He is known to have lived in the Illinois area (Chicago) until 1954 although his death date is at this date unknown.

William Henry Van Arsdale was the step father of Jay Horace Sabin. He was born in New York City in January 1846. Van Arsdale attended and graduated from the New York City Free Academy and the Columbia School of Mines. He married Katherine Hillman. In 1883 he became the first vice-president of the new Aurora Smelting and Refining Company, Aurora, Illinois which later became the Chicago and Aurora Smelting and Refining Company. Van Arsdale was also president of the Aurora YMCA from 1886-[1905?].

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Architecture
Aurora (Ill.)
Aurora Daily Beacon News
Chicago (Ill.)
Circus Fans Association of America
Electricity
Exhibit
Lee County
Mineral industries
Ogle County (Ill.)
Photograph albums
Photographs
Sabin, Jay
Tintypes
Trucks
Van Arsdale, Henry
Winnebago County (Ill.)
World's Columbian Exposition (1893: Chicago, Ill.)
Young Men's Christian associations. Posters.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Sabin Correspondence, 1907-1954
	2	Sabin Diploma, 1904, see also oversize drawer 3, folder 5
	3	Sabin Notes, 1899, n.d.
	4	Surveyor Blueprints, 1939
	5	Van Arsdale Notes and Addresses, 1856-1857, 1865
	6	Van Arsdale Tours, n.d.
	7	Aurora YMCA, 1886-1905
	8	Religious Material, 1885-1913
	9	Circus Fans of America, 1956-1960
	10	Letters To and From Northern Illinois Area, 1872-1879
	11	Wanted Notices from Criminals, 1874-1879
	<u>ENVELOPE</u>	
		Biographical Photographs:
	1	Dwight Mays Sabin (2)
	2a	William Henry Van Arsdale (9)
	2b	Jay Sabin, n.d. (2)
	2c	Alice Louis Sabin Brink Knox, n.d. (2)
	3-6	Identified Biographical (39)
	7-17	Unidentified Biographical (204)
	18-19	Unidentified Individual Candid Photos (36)
	20-21	Unidentified Group Portraits (27)
	22-23	Group Candid Photos (49)
	24-25	Tintypes (10)
	26a	Sabin Ranch (9)
	26b	Van Arsdale home, Benton & Root, Aurora, n.d. (15)
		Geographical Photographs:
	27-28	Europe, England (35)
2	1-15	Europe, England (6), France (12), Germany (44), Holland (3), Italy (14), Switzerland (39)
	16-18	Mexico (30)
	19-26	United States, California (32), Colorado (9), Illinois (5), Massachusetts (8), South Dakota (6), Wyoming (1), Far Western U.S. (5)
		Miscellaneous Photographs:
	27-28	Mining, Manufacturing (23)
	29-31a	Unidentified Architecture (35)

<u>BOX</u>	<u>ENVELOPE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
2	31b	Identified Architecture, Memorial Hall NWA, n.d. (2)	
	32	Identified Landscape (4)	
	33	Unidentified Landscape (72)	
	34	Trains (8)	
	35	Schroon Lake (1)	
	36	Animals (2)	
	37	Miscellaneous Identified Photographs (8)	
3	1	Oversize Photographs, Identified Biographical Photographs (2)	
	2	Unidentified Group Biographical Portraits (6)	
	3	Unidentified Group Candid Photos (9)	
	<u>FOLDER</u>		
	1	Individual Biographical Portraits (5)	
	2-3	Group Biographical Portraits (7)	
	4-5	Architectural Photographs (7)	
	6	Alice Sabin Fortunes Book, n.d.	
		Court Cases:	
	7	Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson vs. Wm. H. Van Arsdale, 1874	
	8	San Felipe Mining Co. et al vs. M.W. Belshaw et al, 1874- 1875	
	9	Columbian Album, Chicago World Exposition, Parts 1-3, 1893 [originals restricted]	
	10	Columbia College School of Mines, By-laws and Catalogs, 1864-1869	
	11	New York Free Academy, Annual Registers, (1860-1865)	
	12	New York Free Academy, Merit Rolls, 1861-1865; Monthly, May 1861; Annual Report, 1863	
	13	An Art Souvenir of Northwestern University, 1896	
	14	The North Western, May 7, 1898	
	15	Alpha Delta Phi Songbook, n.d.	
	16	College of the City of New York, Historical Cabinet, 1874	
	17	South Park Commissioners Annual Report, 1912	
	18	Gill's Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon, 1891	
	19	Tire Brochures, n.d.	
	20	Mitchell's Ancient Atlas, 1863; Merchants, Mechanics, and Travellers' Atlas and Geography, 1865	
	21-22	Guide Books, (1877-1917)	
	23-26	Souvenir Books	
		Jay Sabin's:	
4	1	Chemical Notes, n.d.	
	2	Contracting Engineer Notebook, n.d.	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
4	3	Field Engineering Handbook, 1904	
	4	Literature Notebook, n.d.	
	5	Surveyor's Book, Resurvey Notes Normantown to Aurora, 0 to 509	
	6	Surveyor's Book, Topographical and Right of Way Notes from Dyer to Porter, Indiana	
	7	Diaries, 1947, 1953	
		<u>ENVELOPE</u>	
5	1	Work Receipts, 1926-1929	
	1-25	Lantern Slides of Mining Work, n.d.	
	1 volume	Photograph Album, n.d.	
		<u>FOLDER</u>	
Oversize Drawer 3	11	Diploma - Jay Sabin, 1904 Certificate of Engineering - Jay Sabin, 1916 Wanted Notice for John N. Taylor and Robert Taylor, November 24, 1879 Photographs: (5) Dwight Mays Sabin, n.d. Northwestern University Baseball Team, 1901 Tech Baseball Team, n.d. Naples Panorama, n.d. Sabin Ranch, n.d.	
	12	Photograph: Madison Gun Club, June 17, 1915 Circus Article/ Photograph and Poster, 1956, 1960 (2) City of Aurora Map, 1882	
Drawer 12	10-12	Drawings and Township Maps, #22N-25N, #40N-42N (44) Evergreen Cemetery, 1936 Oakwood Cemetery, 1884 South Beloit, Illinois Perryville, Illinois Polo, Illinois Byron, Illinois, 1928	
Drawer 13	7-9	American Wagon Company/White Motor Company, Truck Design Drawings, 1932-1930 (30)	
	10	DeKalb Country Camp-Fire and Reunion Association, Annual Reunion & Campfire, 1908 Patrons of Husbandry Certificates, 1909, 1930, 1937 (3) Grand Army of the Republic Posters, ca. 1908 (2)	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
		Stark County News, 12th Annual Reunion of the 112th Ills. Vol., September 20, 1877	
		<u>ADDENDUM</u>	
6	1	Dwight Mays Sabin, Genealogy	
	2	Jay Sabin and M. Louis Hard Wedding Invitation, September 19, 1872	
	3	Jay Horace Sabin and Alice Hanlon Marriage Service, September 30, 1901	
	4	Alice Louise Sabin Baby Book, August 30, 1902- December 25, 1904	
		Correspondence:	
	5	To Alice from Mother, n.d.	
	6	To Alice from Grandparents, (1912-1922, n.d.)	
	7	Photographs: (17)	
		William Henry Van Arsdale, n.d. (3)	
		M. Louis Van Arsdale, Biloxi, February 1929 (1)	
		Martha Louise Hard Sabin Van Arsdale, n.d. (1)	
		Horace A. Sabin, n.d. (1)	
		J.H. Sabin's Cabin, Byron, Illinois, 1930 (2)	
		Jay Horace Sabin, n.d. (3)	
		Jay and Alice Louise Sabin, n.d. (1)	
		Mrs. L.E. Hard and Alice Sabin, n.d. (1)	
		Alice (Hanlon) Sabin, n.d. (3)	
		Mr./Mrs. Jay Horace Sabin, Mr./Mrs. Wm. Van Arsdale, Alice Louise Sabin, n.d. (1)	
	8	Newspaper Clippings:	
		Eight Cavalry Reunion, n.d.	
		Mrs. M. Louise Van Arsdale Obituary, February 20, 1934	
	9	Poem, "A Greeting from my Dollies," n.d.	
	10	Chicago and Aurora Smelting and Refining Company Business Card, n.d.	
7	1	Prints: Chicago Works, Main Works in Aurora, Works at Leadville, Colorado, n.d.	
	2	Scrapbook of Van Arsdale Home in Aurora, Illinois (Interior and Exterior) including Warranty Deed, March 25, 1902	