

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. MSS B78

Date processed: October, 1988

- I. Title Vera Bartholomew MacPherson Collection, 1882-1985
- II. The papers of Vera Bartholomew MacPherson
deposited in the Library on Jan. 27, 1987, by Mrs. Jean Kelly Morris
In converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: six inches
Approximate number of items: 302
- IV. Restrictions: none
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of -----
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note:

See Page I - Biographical note.

VIII. Analysis:

See Page I - Guide to the Collection.

Vera Bartholomew MacPherson Collection, 1882-1985
MSS B78

Biographical Note

Born in New Haven, Conn. and educated in the city's Dwight School and New Haven High School, Vera Bartholomew MacPherson (1899-1985) was descended from one of Connecticut's early settlers, Lt. William Bartholomew (d.1697). A memoir from her friend and executrix of her will, Mrs. Jean Kelly Morris, traces Vera Bartholomew's early interest in the theater and the possibility that the prominent actress Laurette Taylor observed her in a New Haven production and urged her to make the stage her occupation. Vera Bartholomew took the stage name Helen Blair and toured with various stock companies. In 1923, she married C. Douglas MacPherson (1893-1936). It is probable that her father's illness brought her back to New Haven where she worked in Crowley's Department Store for many years. She lived her final years in a Shelton, Conn. nursing home. Both she and her husband are buried in New Haven's Evergreen Cemetery. Vera MacPherson was the daughter of New Haven native George Henry Bartholomew (1858-1942) and Ohio-born Effie Canfield (1866-1951).

Guide to the Collection

This collection is divided into three sections. Series I contains genealogical documents relating to the Bartholomew family. Series II includes photographs of Vera Bartholomew MacPherson, both as a child and later as an actress. Series III highlights the career of the actress found in newspaper reviews and playbills.

Throughout the collection, numbering 156 photographs, 26 genealogical documents and 30 newspaper clippings, there is information about the family of George Bartholomew as well as his mother's family, the Scrantons.

REGISTER TO THE VERA BARTHOLOMEW
MACPHERSON COLLECTION
SERIES I
BARTHOLOMEW GENEALOGY AND MARRIAGE RECORDS
1882-1985

<u>BOX 1</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Items</u>
	<u>Genealogy Documents</u>		23
Folder A	1. Genealogy of the Bartholomew family (c.1569-1959)	n.d.	
	2. Bartholomew family crest	n.d.	
	3. Pages from Scranton family register. Scrantons settled in Guilford, Conn. about 1639.	n.d.	
	4. Pages labeled <u>Family Record</u> including <u>The Troy Letter</u> , a newspaper descrip- tion of the first Bartholomew family reunion held in Stony Creek, Conn. on August 10, 1882. Four hundred guests from 14 states and Canada celebrated with a gigantic clambake. A second reunion was held in 1883. Call for the family meeting was signed by Francis C. Bar- tholomew, president of the association.	1882-1883	
	5. Initiation documents into the Wooster Lodge 79, Free and Accepted Masons, for George Bartholomew.	1902	
	6. A memoir about Vera Bartholomew MacPherson, detailing her early interest in the theater and stage appearances, written by Jean Kelly Morris; Vera Bartholomew MacPherson's final letter to her friends and a report to Mrs. MacPherson's friends written by Mrs. Morris after the funeral.	1985	

MSS B78

Marriage Documents

Folder B	Marriage documents including the wedding certificate of George H. Bartholomew and Effie Canfield - unique because the document contains photographs of both the bride and groom, dated May 12, 1886. Also included in this folder are the marriage license, announcements, vows and sermon for Vera Bartholomew and her husband.	1886, 1923	6
----------	--	------------	---

SERIES II
PHOTOGRAPHS
1891-1927

Folder C	Childhood photographs, Vera Bartholomew	1891	10
Folder D	Family photographs, some in New Haven and some on the Canfield farm in Ohio. Many unidentified.	n.d.	82
Folder E	Informal photographs, taken on theatrical tour.	n.d.	7
Folder F	Theater programs and photographs	1915-1927	27
Folder G	Studio photographs, Helen Blair	n.d.	19
Folder H	Studio photographs, C. Douglas MacPherson	n.d.	5
Folder I	Photographs, Mrs. George Bartholomew	n.d.	6

SERIES III
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
1920-1928

Folder J	Newspaper clippings re: Helen Blair's theatrical appearances	1920-1928	30
----------	--	-----------	----