

Louise Lawrence Meigs Photograph Collection, c. 1887-1916

A Finding Aid to the Collection in
the Bronxville History Center, Village of Bronxville,
at the Bronxville Public Library

Prepared by Raymond H. Geselbracht
Bronxville, New York
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Administrative Information

Title: Louise Lawrence Meigs Photograph Collection

Dates: c. 1887-1916

Volume: About 1,200 photographs

Access: Open

Copyright: Copyright is assumed to remain with the creators of the photographs or their heirs unless copyright law provides otherwise.

Donated by Mrs. Franklin S. Whitehouse, Jr. (widow of Louise Lawrence Meig's grandson), May 1986

Processed by Raymond H. Geselbracht

Biographical Sketch—Louise Lawrence Meigs

Louise Adele Lawrence was born 25, 1871, in Montreal, Canada. She was the eldest child of William Van Duzer Lawrence and Sarah Lawrence. She graduated from Vassar College in 1891. In 1897, she married Ferris Meigs. They had three children—Lucia, born in 1898, Margery, born in 1900, and Hester, born in 1904. The Meigs family divided their time between their homes in Bronxville, Daytona, Florida, and Big Wolf Lake in the Adirondacks. Louise Meigs was active in the affairs of the Reformed Church of Bronxville, Lawrence Hospital, the family real estate business, Vassar College, and Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona, Florida. She died on August 19, 1965.

Collection Description

The photographs in the Louise Lawrence Meigs Photograph Collection depict primarily Meigs family members and friends and the places they lived in and visited. Many of the photographs depict scenes in the Adirondack Mountains; Bronxville is also a frequent subject; and New York City, Washington, DC (including photographs of the 1909 inaugural parade), rural England, and William Van Duzer Lawrence's vacation home near New Castle, New Hampshire, are also depicted. William Van Duzer Lawrence and Sarah Lawrence are in only a few photographs; Louise Meigs and her three daughters, Lucia, Margery, and Hester, appear more often. Dudley and Arthur Lawrence are in a few photographs, as are a number of other people, some identified in captions, some not.

Albums numbered 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19A, and 21A are present in the collection. The location of the other albums that the number sequence suggests once existed—extending up to album 29 and including an unknown number of lettered albums—is not known. Two of the albums—7 and 19A—include a substantial number of captions; some of the captions in album 7 and most of those in album 19A are probably in Louise Meigs’s handwriting. The photographs in the albums are numbered, apparently to provide numbers for glass lantern slides that were made from some of the photographs. Thirty-one of these glass slides are present in this collection, some from albums in the collection and some from missing albums. All of the slides present in the collection probably show 42 Prescott Avenue; some show Louise Meigs’s children, one or two probably show Louise Meigs.

Series Description

Box 1-3 Photograph Album File, 1887-1916

Ten numbered photograph albums kept probably by Louise Lawrence Meigs (1871-1965), the daughter of William Van Duzer Lawrence and Sarah Lawrence. Only albums number 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19A, and 21A are present. Also present are 31 glass lantern slides copied from photographs in the albums—some from albums not present in this collection. Photographs relate primarily to the family and friends of Louise Lawrence Meigs and the places they lived in and visited, including prominently Bronxville and the Adirondack Mountains.

Folder Title List

Photograph Album File, c. 1887-1916

Box 1

- Photograph Album, Volume 4, c. 1889 [Country scenes, woodland scenes, lake scenes, unidentified people in camping scenes; woman and woman with child; lumberyard with railroad tracks; rushing water, logging train.] (99 photographs)
- Photograph Album, Volume 5, c. 1887 and c. 1903 [Sawmill, logging; house interior; winter scenes; Republican headquarters building; stone house, children,

lake scenes; men in formal portraits; a decorated hall; sign "Football Champions, 1887"; 42 Prescott; two children, probably Lucia and Margery Meigs.] (87 photographs)

- Photograph Album, Volume 7, 1902-1903 [Lawrence family members, including William Van Duzer Lawrence, Sarah Lawrence, Dudley Lawrence, Arthur Lawrence, Louisa Lawrence Meigs, Lucia and Margery Meigs, Kate Bidwell, Miss Smith; vacation scenes, primarily at Lake Placid, New York, and in the vicinity of New Castle, New Hampshire; also some scenes in Bronxville. Album includes some captions.] (176 photographs)
- Photograph Album, Volume 9, 1906 [Houses, grounds, shrubs, trees; Kate Bidwell, Virginia Arthur, Dudley Lawrence family; entry gate and estate; scenes in Florida (?); Hester Meigs and probably her sisters Margery and Lucia; boats, a lake.] (134 photographs)

Box 2

- Photograph Album, Volume 10, 1906-1907 [Adirondacks scenes--Saint Regis Lakes, Paul Smith's, Lake Wilburt; unidentified people in canoe, car, the woods, in family groups; estate grounds, houses; landscape scenes, lake scenes; Louise Lawrence Meigs and her children (Hester, Margery, Lucia); the University of Virginia, Monticello; Lawrence Park, including 42 Prescott; Canadian scenes.] (188 photographs)
- Photograph Album, Volume 11, 1907-1908 [New York City scenes; Meigs house at 42 Prescott; Louise Lawrence Meigs and her three daughters in woods scenes; countryside scenes; Adirondacks scenes; two photos showing William Van Duzer Lawrence and Louise Lawrence Meigs in front of a cabin.] (102 photographs)
- Photograph Album, Volume 13, c.1908-1909 [Wilderness scenes; woman and man with fish; woman and children in Lawrence Park; three Meigs daughters; parade scenes in New York City?; large white house in woods; old man and old woman in wheelchair; village scenes; New York City, including Brooklyn as seen from a high place in Manhattan; Washington, DC at time of 1909 presidential inauguration, including inaugural parade.] (108 photographs)
- Photograph Album, Volume 15, c. 1910 [Scenes probably in England; William Van Duzer Lawrence, Sarah Lawrence, and Louise Meigs with her daughters Lucia and Margery—all on a ship at sea; Adirondacks scenes; Bronxville scenes, including 42 Prescott; Washington, DC scenes.] (98 photographs)
- Photograph Album, Volume 19A, July 1912-June 1913 [Adirondacks scenes, Raquette River, Long Lake, Ampersand Mountain, Rock Pond, Stag Head; people in canoe, with rifle, camping, hiking, ice skating; many photographs showing Louise, Lucia, Margery, and Hester Meigs; Dudley Lawrence and Adele

Charlton with baby Elizabeth; Carl Tucker children in buggy; E. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Bates, Walter Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lyford; views from 2 Rector Street, New York City; Delhi, New York (street scene and cemetery plot); Bronxville scenes, Hotel Gramatan in distance, through winter woods.] (108 photographs)

- Photograph Album, Volume 21A, October 1915-July 1916 [Lucia Meigs and others, winter scenes in the Adirondacks; horse-drawn sled, building a log cabin; football stadium; Lawrence Park scenes, Arcade Block; Florida (?) scenes.] (108 photographs)
- Photograph Album, Loose Pages [the Reformed Church, railroad station, Lawrence Hospital, Pondfield underpass, Village Hall, Gramatan Bank.] (8 photographs)

Box 3

- Thirty-one glass lantern slides copied from photographs from the albums — 15 slides from albums present in this collection, and the remainder probably all from missing albums. Twenty-three of the slides are numbered by album and photograph number: 5/41, 5/43, 5/44, 5/46, 5/76, 7/12?, 8/193?, 9E/6, 9E/14, 10/51, 10/52, 11/3, 11/5, 13/38, 13/41, 13/59, 13/94, 13/96, 14/93, 20/103, 22/45, 28/1, 29/19. The remaining eight slides are not numbered.