

Len and Elaine Bard Gift

Repository

Dutchess County Historical Society
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Accession Number

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Date Completed

2026, July, 11

Creators

Charles J. Cooke (1888-1973)
James A. Farley (1888-1976)
Hamilton Fish III (1888-1991)
John L. McCrea (1891-1990)
Oakleigh Thorne (1866-1948)
Peter H. Troy, Sr. (1868-1958)
Peter Franklin Troy, Jr. (1907-1974)

Extent

ca. 0.208 linear ft.

Dates

Inclusive: 1913-1962
Bulk: 1940-1953

Conditions Governing Access

No Restrictions, regular copyright permissions apply.

Languages

English

Scope and Content

The collection consists of miscellaneous ephemera and memorabilia from community societies in Poughkeepsie, along with correspondence and paper materials related to the Troy family. The box includes paper pamphlets and member-distributed materials from the New York State Council of Parks, the Putnam Hill Chronicle, Poughkeepsie Garden Club, the Dutchess County Society, and the Red Hook Garden Club. There are photographs and a manuscript relating to the subject of rowing in the Hudson Valley.

Relating specifically to the Troy family, the collection holds correspondence from father, Peter Troy, and son, Peter Franklin Troy. The letters discuss local politics in the Democratic Party, and the expansion of the Red Hook Telephone Co. following IBM's move to Poughkeepsie.

Additional miscellaneous items include correspondence to James Farley expressing dissatisfaction with the 1940 Pony Express stamp and one architectural sketch of building development in Poughkeepsie.

Historical Note

Peter H. Troy, Sr. (1868-1958) held roles in business, societies and politics in Poughkeepsie, New York. Peter H. Troy married Mathilda Troy (1866-1940), having four children; Almira Warner (1898-1978), Frances Dee Troy (1903-1970), Helen Taylor Troy (1900-1978), and Peter Franklyn Troy (1907-1974). The family remained between Poughkeepsie and Red Hook.

Peter H. Troy was the founder of the Red Hook Telephone Co., date of establishment unknown. By 1914, the Red Hook Telephone Company covered the Hyde Park county line to Columbia county, as well as assumed responsibility over the Western Union Telegraph Office. It can be assumed he retired from the Western Union Telegraph Office when he retired from his other business ventures in 1942. By the 1950s, company correspondence was conducted through Peter Franklyn Troy, and in 1970, the Red Hook Telephone Company was purchased by the Continental Telephone Company.

Peter H. Troy was associated with investment firms from 1883 to 1942, working for both Eastman, Dillon & Co. and Merrill Lynch, E.A. Pierce & Cassatt. He was a delegate in the National Democratic Conventions, hosting President Roosevelt in Hyde Park after his nomination for President, and served as chairman of the Poughkeepsie Planning board from 1929 to 1958.

Connecting to the rowing material of the collection, Peter H. Troy was an official host for Poughkeepsie Intercollegiate Regattas in the area from 1900 to the 1940s. The Poughkeepsie Regatta was held annually from 1895 to 1949 on a four-mile stretch of river in front of Marist University, serving as the championship regatta of the United States Intercollegiate Rowing Association. Poughkeepsie would go on to build infrastructure to accommodate the event in 'Regatta Row,' with fundraising efforts made by Peter H. Troy and other community members. The Poughkeepsie Intercollegiate Regatta hosted Cornell University (pictured in collection), Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, Yale University, University of Wisconsin, Syracuse University, Georgetown University, the United States Naval Academy,

Stanford University, the University of Washington, the University of California, MIT, Rutgers University and Princeton University.

Provenance

The Collection was donated to the Dutchess County Historical Society by Mr. Len and Mrs. Elaine Bard in the fall of 1998.

Subject Headings

Sports - Rowing

Sports - Cornell University

Politics - Poughkeepsie Democratic Party

Collectables - Stamps

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<http://www.loc.gov/copyright/title17/>.

Container List

Box 1

Folder	Contents	Date
1999.0004.001	Paperback booklet, 'New York State Parks and Highways,' by the New York State Council of Parks, 1928	1928
1999.0004.002	Photograph, Cornell Rowing House, by Steenson & Van Vlack, Poughkeepsie, NY	ND
1999.0004.003	Photograph, man with megaphone during rowing race on Hudson River	ND
1999.0004.004	Book, typed and unbound copy, 'A Century of Rowing at Poughkeepsie, 1837-1937,' 31 pages. Author unknown. Includes excerpts from local publications	ND
1999.0004.005	Plot plan showing location of proposed war memorial building at Eastman Park, City of Poughkeepsie, New York. By architect Charles J. Cooke	ND

1999.0004.006	Paperback booklet, 'The Putnam Hall Chronicle,' Poughkeepsie, NY, April, 1913. Includes anti-suffrage moral story, 'A Woman's Right.' Editor-in-chief, Katharine Judson	1913
1999.0004.007	Paperback booklet, 'The Putnam Hall Chronicle,' Poughkeepsie, NY, March, 1918. Editor-in-chief, Elaine Wolf	1918
1999.0004.008	Program, Poughkeepsie Garden Club, 1941. Includes paper insert, 'Their Business is Blooming' by Frank J. Taylor, Reader's Digest, 1953 and Memo paper of Frances Dee Troy	1941, 1953
1999.0004.009	Dutchess County Area Girl Scout Council Annual Report, April 1961-April 1962. Includes note written by President Buhler W. Kauffman	1962
1999.0004.010	1999.0004.010.001, program for the 41st Annual Dinner of the Dutchess County Society in the City of New York, held at Hotel Astor on February 5, 1938 1999.0004.010.002, envelope sent to Peter H. Troy from the Dutchess County Society in the City of New York, January, 1938 1999.0004.010.003, envelope addressed to Mr. James E. Winchester, Treasurer of the Dutchess County Society, Fifth Avenue Bank, 530 Fifth Avenue, New York City 1999.0004.010.004, blank RSVP and payment card for Annual Dinner of the Dutchess County Society, 1938	1938
1999.0004.011	Program for Red Hook Garden Club est. 1942 for the year 1945	1945
1999.0004.012	Card, Riverview Baseball Schedule for the season of 1915	1915
1999.0004.013	Typed letter to Peter Troy, Poughkeepsie NY from Oakleigh Thorne, Santa Barbara CA, April 19, 1940	1940
1999.0004.014	Typed letter to Peter Troy, Sr., Poughkeepsie NY, from John L. McCrea, Naval Aide to the President and Captain of the U.S. Navy regarding naval application of Peter Troy, Jr. April 16, 1942	1942
1999.0004.015	1999.0004.015.001, letter to Peter Troy, Poughkeepsie NY, from James A. Farley, NY, regarding endorsement for Attorney General Bennett. October 15, 1942 1999.0004.015.002, letter to Peter Troy, Poughkeepsie NY, from James A. Farley, NY, November 10, 1942 1999.0004.015.003, letter to Peter Troy, Poughkeepsie NY, from James A. Farley, NY, relating to Farley's election as State Chairman. November 27, 1942	1942-1943

	1999.0004.015.004, letter to Peter Troy, Poughkeepsie NY, from James A. Farley, NY, asking for financial assistance for the Democratic State Committee, September 13, 1943	
1999.0004.016	Letter to Postmaster General James A. Farley from Charles E. Perkins, Santa Barbara CA, on the topic of an incorrectly drawn horse stamp. April 16, 1940.	1940
1999.0004.017	Letter to Peter H. Troy, Poughkeepsie NY, from Hamilton Fish, on Christmas seasonal letterpaper from the House of Representatives, mention of the war. December 18, 1942.	1942
1999.0004.018	1999.0004.018.001, first page of typed report from Peter F. Troy, traffic manager, copied to Maurice Troy, plant chief and Frances D. Troy, treasurer. Heading reads "Outlook for our territory- Northern Dutchess Co." September 6, 1951. Details prospective development plan for telephone company cabling to account for the moving of IBM headquarters to Poughkeepsie. 1999.0004.018.002, second page of typed report by Peter F. Troy regarding development and telephone cabling. September 6, 1951.	1951