



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Peter Marks Minstrelsy Collection

NMAH.AC.1328

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

2015

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Personal Papers, 1800-1909, undated	4
Series 2: Professional Materials, 1849-1915; undated	6

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Peter Marks Minstrelsy Collection
Date:	1800-1915; undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1328
Creator:	Jessee, Mark (Donor) Marks, Peter, 1843-1883 (Creator)
Extent:	3 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents Marks's years as a harpist on the Midwestern minstrel circuit. It primarily consists of sheet music and song books, theater programs, posters announcing minstrel shows, newspaper articles, and personal papers.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives Center in 2014, by Mark Jessee in honor of the Archie and Camille Jessee Family.

Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Subject Categories: Theater, NMAH.AC0060

John B. Rogers Producing Company Collection, NMAH.AC0245

Hazen Collection of Band Photographs and Ephemera, NMAH.AC0253

Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 3: African-American Music, NMAH.AC0300

Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 11: Entertainment, NMAH.AC0300

Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 4: Songwriters, NMAH.AC0300
Ernie Smith Jazz Film Collection, NMAH.AC0491

Donald J. Stubblebine Collection of Musical Theater and Motion Picture Music and Ephemera, NMAH.AC1211

Hooker-Howe Company Papers, NMAH.AC1475

Henry "Buddy" Graf and George Cahill Vaudeville and Burlesque Collections, NMAH.AC1484

B. Thomas Smith Minstrel Show Posters, NMAH.AC1490

Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections, Smithsonian Institution

Ralph Rinzler Papers and Audio Recordings, CFCH.RINZ

Smithsonian Folklife Festival records: 2002 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, CFCH.SFF.2002

Monitor Records Business Records, CFCH.MONI

Moses and Frances Asch Collection, CFCH.ASCH

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2015.

Preferred Citation

Peter Marks Minstrelsy Collection, 1800-1915, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Peter Matthew Marks was born February 21, 1843 to parents William Augustus Marks and Anne Mooney (Marks) in Ireland. He grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio learning to play piano, harp, and guitar. Marks performed with various minstrel troupes in and around Cincinnati, Ohio. During the war, he served as a member of the Ohio militia for one month before leaving to continue his music career. Peter Marks met and married Mary "Emma" McKittrick. He ultimately left the minstrel circuit and went on to become a professor at the Cincinnati College of Music. He died in 1883.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains the personal and professional papers of musician Peter Marks dating primarily from the mid to late nineteenth century. These materials provide valuable insight into life before and after the Civil War mainly through correspondence and other primary sources documenting domestic activities. The materials also document how a musician was able to make a living teaching music and performing in classical music concerts, as well as, with minstrel troupes.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1800s-1909; undated

Series 2: Professional Materials, 1849-1915; undated

Subseries 2.1, Playbills, Programs, Posters, and Advertisements, 1863-1879; undated

Subseries 2.2, Sheet Music, 1843-1901; undated

Subseries 2.3, Publications, 1849-1915; undated

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Harpists
- Minstrel music
- Minstrel shows
- Music teachers
- Theater

Types of Materials:

- Articles -- 19th century
- Posters -- 19th century
- Sheet music -- 19th century
- Songbooks -- 19th century
- Theater programs -- 19th century

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1800-1909, undated

Scope and Contents: Consists of the personal papers of Peter Marks including school books, correspondence, agreements, magazine articles, enlistment papers, photographs, receipts, poetry, business card, sign and advertisements for private music lessons, and a burial plot certificate. There are a few materials relating to Mark's wife Mary "Emma" McKittrick primarily her correspondence with Burlingame relatives on her mother's side of the family. In addition, there are music and school books that belonged to his son Eugene. Marks's mother Anne Mooney Marks has a small amount of material including photographs, poetry, letters and a burial plot certificate. There is relatively no information relating to his father William Augustus Marks or his son Ralph. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1	School books, 1800s
Box 3, Folder 1	Correspondence, Anne and Peter Marks, 1836 April 17
Box 1, Folder 2	Poetry, 1838
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, George Burlingame, 1838-1842
Box 6, Folder 1	Correspondence, George Burlingame, 1838-1842
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, Ruth Burlingame with children, 1839
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, Emma Marks with Nathan Burlingame, 1857-1870
Box 3, Folder 2	Guitar book, Peter and Eugene Marks, 1858
Box 1, Folder 5	Collegiate Institute of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1861
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1863-1878
Box 1, Folder 6	Agreements, 1865-1869
Box 1, Folder 7	Invitation, 1866
Box 1, Folder 8	Appearances, 1866
Box 1, Folder 9	Philadelphia Musical Association, 1868-1869
Box 6, Folder 2	Magazine articles, 1876
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, Peter Marks, 1876-1878

Box 6, Folder 3	Travel advertisement, 1876, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	College of Music of Cincinnati, 1878
Box 1, Folder 12	Business card and postcard, 1880
Box 1, Folder 13	Cincinnati Normal School, commencement exercise program, 1881
Box 1, Folder 14	Receipt for burial plot, Peter Marks, 1883
Box 1, Folder 15	School book, Eugene Marks, 1884
Box 1, Folder 16	Poem written by Anne Marks on the anniversary of the death of Peter Marks, 1885
Box 1, Folder 17	Enlistment paper, Peter Marks, 1909
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs, Peter and Anne Marks, undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Poetry, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Advertisement Silver Palace, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Artwork for advertisement for harp lessons, Buffalo, New York and Ludow, Kentucky, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Miscellaneous, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Professional Materials, 1849-1915; undated

Scope and Contents: Materials provide a glimpse into minstrelsy as a popular nineteenth century American form of entertainment. These promotional materials were created or used by Peter Marks over the course of his music career. The series is divided into three subseries. Subseries 2.1 is playbills, programs, posters and advertisements dating from 1863-1879 with some undated material. Subseries 2.2 consists of sheet music dating primarily from 1843-1901. Subseries 2.3 contains publications dating from 1849-1915.

Subseries 2.1: Playbills, Programs, Posters, and Advertisements, 1863-1879; undated

Scope and Contents: Materials document the career of harpist Peter Marks as he performed for various minstrel troupes in the mid-1800s primarily through newspaper, placards, and promotional materials. These materials were created by the various troupes that Marks performed with and are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the troupe.

Box 1, Folder 24	Allen, Delehanty and Hengler's Minstrels, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Allen, Delehanty and Hengler's Minstrels, undated
Box 6, Folder 4	Allen, Delehanty and Hengler's Minstrels, undated
Box 6, Folder 2	Apollo Minstrels, 1864
Box 1, Folder 23	Arlington's Minstrels, undated
Box 1, Folder 24	Arlington, Kelly and Len's Minstrels, undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Barnum and Page's Minstrels, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Bishop's Minstrels, 1865
Box 1, Folder 26	Bishop's Cumberland Minstrels, 1865
Box 1, Folder 27	Bishop's Cumberland Minstrels, 1865
	Bishop's Cumberland Minstrels, 1865
Box 6, Folder 6	Bishop's Cumberland Minstrels, 1865
Box 1, Folder 28	Bishop's Cumberland Minstrels, undated
Box 1, Folder 29	Bishop's Cumberland Minstrels, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Bishop's Varieties, undated
Box 8, Folder 2	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and Donniker's Minstrels, 1865; undated

Box 1, Folder 31	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and Donniker's Minstrels, 1865-1866; undated
Map-folder 1	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and Donniker's Minstrels, 1865-1866
Box 1, Folder 32	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and Donniker's Minstrels, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and Donniker's Minstrels, undated
	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and LaRue's Minstrels, 1865
	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and LaRue's Minstrels, undated
Map-folder 2	Burgess, Pendergast, Hughes and LaRue's Minstrels, undated
Map-folder 3	Carncross and Dixey's Minstrels, 1863-1870
Box 3, Folder 5	Carncross and Dixey's Minstrels, 1868 January 1
Box 2, Folder 2	Carncross and Dixey's Minstrels, undated
	Delehanty and Hengler's Minstrels, undated
	Duprez and Benedict's Minstrels, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Duprez and Benedict's Minstrels, undated
Map-folder 4	Duprez and Benedict's Minstrels, undated
Box 6, Folder 7	Emerson, Allen and Manning's Minstrels, 1869
	Emerson, Allen and Manning's Minstrels, undated
Box 1, Folder ?	Emerson and Manning's Minstrels, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Emerson and Manning's Minstrels, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Emerson and Manning's Minstrels, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Emerson and Manning's Minstrels, undated
Map-folder 5	Everson and Manley's Minstrels, undated
Box 6, Folder 8	Emmet's, J. K., Minstrels, 1873; undated
Box 2, Folder 21	Fifth Orchestra, 1865-1879
Box 2, Folder 7	Galaxy Club, undated

Box 2, Folder 4	Gardner's, Charley, Minstrels, 1864
Box 6, Folder 10	Gardner's, Charley, Minstrels, 1864
Box 8, Folder 3	Gardner's, Charley, Minstrels, undated
	Gardner's, Charley, Minstrels, undated
Map-folder 6	Gardner's, Charley, Minstrels, undated
Box 8, Folder 4	Graus, Jules, Opera Company, undated
Box 8, Folder 5	Harmonia, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Knoxville Bowery, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Madame English Opera House, 1866
Box 2, Folder 10	Magnolia Minstrels, 1863
Box 2, Folder 11	Monitor Campbell Minstrels, 1863
Box 6, Folder 9	Monitor Campbell Minstrels, 1863
Box 8, Folder 6	Monitor Campbell Minstrels, 1863
Box 2, Folder 12	Newcomb and Arlington Minstrels, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Peak Family, undated
Box 6, Folder 11	Sandford Opera Troupe, 1863
Box 2, Folder 14	Sandford Opera Troupe, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Sands and Herbert's Minstrels, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	Shelby's Adelphi, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Simmons and Slocum's Minstrels, undated
Box 2, Folder 18	Tosso, Professor, 1874-1878
Box 2, Folder 20	Walnut Street Theatre, 1870
Box 2, Folder 20	Wicks, V. A., Minstrels, 1865

1.15: Carncross and Dixey's Minstrels, 1868

Subseries 2.2: Sheet Music, 1843-1901; undated

Scope and Contents: Consists of the music collected by Marks throughout his career. The materials are arranged in alphabetical order by the title of the song.

Box 3, Folder 7	Titles, B, 1881
Box 3, Folder 8	Titles, C, 1899-1901
Box 3, Folder 9	Titles, D, 1883
Box 3, Folder 10	Titles, F, 1879
Box 3, Folder 11	Titles, G, 1881
Box 3, Folder 12	Titles, H, 1871
Box 3, Folder 13	Titles, I, 1859-1979
Box 3, Folder 14	Titles, J, 1864
Box 3, Folder 15	Titles, L, 1849-1865
Box 3, Folder 16	Titles, M, 1856
Box 3, Folder 17	Titles, M, 1869
Box 4, Folder 1	Titles, Musical Treasures, 1874
Box 4, Folder 2	Titles, N, 1872-1895
Box 4, Folder 3	Titles, O, 1875
Box 4, Folder 4	Titles, P, 1860-1874
Box 4, Folder 5	Titles, P, 1867; undated
Box 4, Folder 6	Titles, R, 1843
Box 2, Folder 7	2.2: Titles, S, 1852-1869
Box 4, Folder 8	Titles, S, 1866-1884
Box 4, Folder 10	2.21: Titles, T, 1869

2.21: Titles, V, 1872

Box 4, Folder 11	2.23: Titles, W, 1869
------------------	-----------------------

Subseries 2.3: Publications, 1849-1915, undated

Scope and Contents: Includes instructional material for piano and violin. There are a number of books relating to playing classical music. In addition there are to chorus books and a biography about Mary A. English. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder 22	Opera Chorus Book, 1849
Box 5, Folder 3	Weber Opera Chorus Book, 1849
Box 2, Folder 23	Mary A. English Biography, 1864
Box 2, Folder 24	Howe's New Concertina, 1868
Box 7, Folder 1	The Evening Program, 1869
Box 7, Folder 2	The Evening Program, 1869
Box 7, Folder 3	The Evening Program, 1870
Box 2, Folder 25	Carl Czerny, 1888
Box 5, Folder 1	Piano Book, 1894
Box 5, Folder 4	Bach Little Preludes, 1915
Box 5, Folder 2	3.7: Precepts and Examples for the Harp, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	Moore's Irish Melodies, undated
Box 2, Folder 26	3.8: Violin Method, undated
Box 5, Folder 5	Violin Method, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)