

Guide to the Berg Family Papers, 1852-1968

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Manuscripts Division

at the South Caroliniana Library – University of South Carolina
<http://www.sc.edu/library/socar/mnscrpts/findaids.html>

Author: Berg family.

Extent:

1.25 linear feet (1 carton)

5 bound volumes

1 oversize folder

Most materials stored offsite; advance notice required.

BACKGROUND:

Gustavus Theodore Berg (1823-1905), an architect and draftsman, married Caroline “Carrie” Muller (1837-1906) of Columbia, South Carolina, 22 Jun 1858. They had eight children, seven of whom survived into adulthood. Mr. Berg served as an assistant to both John R. Niernsee and Francis (Frank) McHenry Niernsee during their involvement in the building of the South Carolina State House. He designed Ebenezer Lutheran Church, currently used as the chapel; the Masonic Temple and Fire House that once stood on the corner of Main and Washington Streets; the Robertson-Hutchinson House; and the north wing of the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum during the years 1867-1882.

SUMMARY:

The Berg Family Papers include personal correspondence; business documents; baptism, confirmation, marriage services, registers provided by funeral homes; diplomas ranging from kindergarten through post-graduate college; religious tracts; genealogical charts; and

magazines such as *The Horseless Age*, 1902, *Parks' Floral Magazine*, 1918, *Motorboating*, 1920, and *Radio News*, 1927. Pamphlets among the papers vary widely in subject matter- religion to building boats and pilot rules for certain inland waters of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

The bound volumes include autograph books dated 1852 and 1882 and poems translated from German, 1856-1895. The oversize folder holds a warranty deed (1887), diplomas (1891, 1928), a certificate of confirmation (1873), and a circus handbill dated 1916. A rubber stamp bearing the name A.H. Berg is also included.

Oversize materials, ca. 1873-1928, consist of certificates; awards; diplomas, dated June 1891, of Miss Clara Berg, issued by the Columbia City Schools, and another diploma, dated 1928, from University of South Carolina issued to Miss Clara Berg; and broadside, 1916, promoting appearance by "Ye Mammoth Circus Aggregation," that would perform in two rings at the Y.M.C.A. building on Sumter St. in Columbia, S.C., featuring clowns, magicians, "Pretty Dolly Dimples the fat girl," Prof. Watchemavitch, Skinnylegs-Zoaves, "Congress of Freaks and Monstrocities," etc., to be followed by a "grand concert" of "refined vaudeville acts."

Accession Number: 14078

Contents List of the Berg Family Papers

Folder List:

1. 20 Jul 1855-19 Apr 1874
2. 6 Aug 1874-19 May 1893
3. 14 May 1901-17 Jan 1919
4. 1923-16 Jul 1937
5. 29 Nov 1937-8 May 1959
6. Undated
7. Berg Family Genealogy, undated
8. Pamphlets, 9 Apr 1883-1915
9. Pamphlets, 1917-1938
10. Pamphlets, 1940-1953, undated

11. Leaflet [ca. 1913?] re Hand-V-Bottom Motor Boat Designs (New Bedford, Mass.)
12. Magazines, Piano Book, 11 Jun 1902-Oct 1930, 1968, undated
13. Diplomas, 1928, 1929, 1939

Bound Volumes

1. *Autograph book*, 1852
2. *Poems translated from German, 1856-1895*
3. *Autograph book*, 1882
4. *Garnet and Black* annual, 1925
5. *In Memoriam*, Oscar Henry Berg, Sr., Oct 1954

Oversize Folder

1. Confirmation Certificate, 25 Mar 1873
2. Warranty Deed, 15 Mar 1887
3. Columbia City Schools diploma, 12 Jun 1891
4. Circus Handbill, 5-6 May 1916
5. University of South Carolina diploma, 13 Jun 1928
6. *Current events: The National School Newspaper* (2 issues Apr. and May 1937)