

M470 Andrews Opera Company. Papers, 1842-1976.
1 microfilm reel. Originals in the Minnesota Historical Society and loaned by Cornelia Andrews DuBois, Minneapolis.

Published and unpublished articles about the opera company, a family record book, and three scrapbooks. The majority were loaned for microfilming by Cornelia Andrews DuBois; the originals of one article and one scrapbook are held by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Related papers: Additional articles and clippings on the company, texts of plays performed by it, and miscellany; and family data and a manuscript article about the company in the Albert B. Sweet and Family Papers. See the card catalog for their location.

12,351

INTRODUCTION

This microfilm edition contains papers relating to the Andrews Opera Company, which was founded by the family of John Redding Andrews, a Methodist minister who left Russellville, Illinois, in 1865 to settle in St. Peter, Minnesota, with his wife and children.

The Andrews Opera Company started as a traveling family vocal troupe in 1875. The family added a cornet band and Swiss bells to their performances before emerging as an opera company in 1884. The company pioneered in producing grand opera in English. Their performances, which were moderately priced, were seen primarily in small towns and cities throughout the Midwest, but the troupe toured also in the Southwest, East, and South.

The troupe disbanded in 1901. One company member speculated that this was due, in part, to the fact that large chain companies were gaining control of the major theaters throughout the country, which made many concert halls unavailable to independent organizations like that of the Andrews.

This microfilm edition contains published and unpublished articles about the opera company, a family record book, and scrapbooks. They are described in greater detail in the Roll List and on the targets which precede them on the film.

ROLL LIST

Published Articles.

DuBois, Cornelia Andrews. "Operatic Pioneers: The Story of the Andrews Family." Minnesota History Vol. 33, No. 8 (Winter 1953): 317-325.

DuBois, Cornelia Andrews. "Opera on Wheels." Gopher Reader 1958: 119-121.

DuBois, Cornelia Andrews. "The Andrews Family: Minnesota's Operatic Pioneers." Showcase Vol. 7, No. 3 (Nov. 5 - Nov. 23, 1975): 100-103.

DuBois, Cornelia Andrews. "The Andrews: The Saga of a Pioneering Family Who Barnstormed with Opera Through America's Hinterlands." Opera News Vol. 40, No. 23 (June 1976): 19-21.

Unpublished Articles.

DuBois, Cornelia Andrews. "From Band Wagon to Opera House: The Story of the Andrews Family." ca. 1977.

Schultz, Ferdinand Peter. "The Andrews Family: Up From the Frontier in Music and Opera." ca. 1941. Minnesota Historical Society holds the original.

Volumes.

Volume 1. Family Record Book, 1842-1893.

Genealogical and biographical information on various members of the Andrews family. Compiled by John Redding Andrews and his son, John Wesley Andrews.

Volume 2. Scrapbook, 1879-1901.

Volume 3. Scrapbook, 1888-1932.

Volume 4. Scrapbook, 1889-1952.

Volumes 2 - 4 contain newspaper clippings, programs, photographs, and other memorabilia pertaining to the concert tours of the Andrews Family Opera Company [Troupe]. Many of the clippings contain biographical information as well as reviews of performances. Volumes 2 and 3 were compiled by Florence Andrews Clayton; volume 4 was compiled by Nellie Andrews Hazelrigg. Minnesota Historical Society holds the original of volume 4.

ORIGINAL MATERIALS

Box 1.

144.C.19.5B

Microfilmed Originals:

Schultz, Ferdinand Peter. "The Andrews Family: Up From the Frontier in Music and Opera," ca. 1941. 38 pp. , typed. Acc. no. 6745
Formerly cataloged as FF613.7/.S387

Scrapbook of Clippings by Nellie Andrews Hazelrigg: Andrews Opera Company, Boston Lyrics, and Boston Ideals and Andrews family clippings, 1889-1952. Acc. no. 12,351
Volume 4 of the microfilmed papers.
Clippings are encased in acetate, but in very poor physical condition.

Materials Not Microfilmed:

"Singing Wheels: The Story of Florence Andrews Clayton, Prima Donna Contralto of the Andrews Opera Company," by Cornelia Andrews DuBois, undated. 253 pp. , typed carbon copy. Acc. no. 12,351

Copies of newspaper clippings about the troupe, book reviews of the opera written by Cornelia Andrews DuBois, plays put on by the company, and miscellany. Acc. no. 12,917. 1 folder.

"From Band Wagon to Opera House: The Story of the Andrews Family," Chapter 1, by Cornelia Andrews DuBois, undated. 11 pages, typed.

"Early Music in Minnesota." Pamphlet published apparently for the Minnesota Territorial Centennial by Northwestern National Life Insurance Company. 20 pp.

2 printed opera librettos: "Iolanthe" and "Erminie."

Printed drama: "Box and Cox."

4 playbills.

Data on Andrews family and troupe: pp. 46-53 of "Stepping Stones," LeSueur County Historical Society, 1976. Photocopy.

"Guthrie on the Road Again," Picture Magazine, March 1974. Photocopy.

Photocopied newspaper and magazine clippings, 1974-1980. 10 items.