



Gremms-Doolittle Library  
Schenectady County Historical Society  
32 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305  
(518) 374-0263  
librarian@schist.org

## **Guide to the Schenectady Liederkrantz Records, ca. 1880-2005** **(2006.2.10)**

Creator: Schenectady Liederkrantz

Accession Number: 2006.2.10

Extent: 5 cubic feet (8 boxes)

Source: Unknown (Schenectady Liederkrantz), ca. November 2005.

Inclusive Dates: ca. 1880-2005

Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted, except for access to payroll information, which is restricted until 75 years from the date of creation. The box and folder listing portion of this finding aid indicates which materials are restricted. Please contact the Librarian/Archivist if you have any questions about access to this collection.

Abstract: The collection is comprised of the records of Schenectady Liederkrantz, a German-American singing club and social organization founded in Schenectady in 1871.

### Scope and Content Note:

The collection is comprised of the records of Schenectady Liederkrantz, a German-American singing club and social organization founded in 1871 and disbanded in 2005. Materials in the collection include meeting minutes, sheet music, membership records, financial records, newsletters, photographs, event programs, audio-visual materials, plaques and awards, and ephemera.

The collection includes over 600 applications for membership in Schenectady Liederkrantz, dated from 1931 to 1992, arranged alphabetically. Information contained on the membership applications includes date of application, name, age, birthplace, occupation, residence, signature of applicant, name of person who has recommended the applicant, and signatures of those who reviewed the application. Later applications also include whether the applicant is a United States citizen. The collection also includes notecard records of members and their dues payments. Newspaper death notices accompany some of the notecards for deceased members.

Photographs in the collection range in date from ca. 1880s to ca. 1980s, with the bulk of the photographs dated from ca. 1880-1920. The collection includes several group photographs, as well as numerous photographs of individual members of the group taken circa 1880s and 1901. Few of the photographs in the collection are identified.

Sheet music in the collection includes a variety of handwritten sheet music, printed sheet music, and bound books of sheet music compiled or used by Schenectady Liederkrantz. Most of the sheet music in the collection is dated between 1889-1918.

Financial records in the collection date from 1954-1984 and consist primarily of payroll records. Financial records list the organization's stewards, recording secretaries, financial secretaries, and treasurers. Only the earnings of the organization's stewards are included in these records. The financial records also include some financial ledgers showing income and expenditures for the organization.

Audio-visual materials in the collection date primarily from the 1950s and 1960s and include footage of the organization's events.

#### Organization History:

Schenectady Liederkrantz, a German men's singing group, was founded in 1871 with thirty-six charter members. The organization's first meeting was held at John Haubner's tavern at 716 State Street. Its first president was John Bernardi. The group met at various private homes and saloons in the area around State Street and Albany Street in Schenectady during its early years, including George Hennemann's saloon on State Street near the Arsenal and Peter Marx's tavern at 769 State Street. By 1910, the group had established its Liederkrantz Hall at 749-757 Albany Street, alongside Nicholas Sartoris' Liederkrantz Café, and had begun a ladies' auxiliary. In 1924, the Liederkrantz moved into their new building at 302 Schenectady Street, remaining there for over fifty years until the group relocated its headquarters to Niskayuna at 850 Middle Street in 1978.

In addition to local musical events, the Schenectady Liederkrantz participated in regional singing competitions with German singing groups from other areas of the state during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. These events, organized in various area cities by the Central New York Saengerbund, were held over three days. The Saengerfests generally included a mass chorus, concerts, competitions, parades, and parties or picnics.

Throughout the years, the group's emphasis on its purpose as a singing group faded. By the mid-twentieth century, the group had ceased to function as a singing group and was purely social and fraternal in nature. The group's hall served as a space for fellowship and as a gathering place for its members and their families. The Liederkrantz held parties, clambakes, picnics, dances, pool and pinochle tournaments, skits, holiday celebrations, and other events for its membership. The organization also held open houses for the public in celebration of German-American history and culture. The group's membership declined throughout the 1990s; the Schenectady Liederkrantz disbanded in 2005.

#### Condition Note:

Materials in this collection are generally in good condition. Some sheet music and oversized items in the collection are brittle and/or torn and should be handled with care. A few of the photographs and oversized materials in the collection are torn or have been damaged by water.

#### Related/Separated Materials:

The following book was removed from the collection and slated for disposition:

Jenkins, Thornton. *Collar and Daniell's First Year Latin*. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1918.

The following objects were removed from the collection and transferred to the SCHS Museum:

Metal goblet with lid – Engraved with Schenectady Liederkrantz, from Troy Sangerbund, August 24, 1896.

Painting of building at 302 Schenectady Street

Schenectady Liederkrantz – 1971 [100<sup>th</sup> anniversary] blue ceramic stein

Schenectady Liederkrantz – 1996 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary clear glass stein

Schenectady Liederkrantz embossing stamp

Schenectady Liederkrantz black and gold enamel pins (84)

Schenectady Liederkrantz gold-colored pin

Schenectady Liederkrantz SLK black plastic tokens (3)

Schenectady Liederkrantz SLK metal tokens (approximately 150)

Wooden gavel

Wooden gavel – painted black

Wooden voting box or game with white marbles and black wooden cubes

Finding Aid Created By/Date: Melissa Tacke, 23 September 2011

Item/Box/Folder Listing:

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
1	1	Applications for membership, 1931-1992 – Ad-CI
1	2	Applications for membership, 1931-1992 – Co-G
1	3	Applications for membership, 1931-1992 – H-Ma
1	4	Applications for membership, 1931-1992 – Mc-Ra
1	5	Applications for membership, 1931-1992 – Re-Z
2	1	Photographs – Individual photographs – ca. 1880 [1 of 2]
2	2	Photographs – Individual photographs – ca. 1880 [2 of 2]
2	3	Photographs – Collected individual photographs – ca. 1901 [some ID'd]
2	4	Photographs – Individual photographs – ca. 1901 [1 of 3]
2	5	Photographs – Individual photographs – ca. 1901 [2 of 3]
2	6	Photographs – Individual photographs – ca. 1901 [3 of 3]
2	7	Photographs – Miscellaneous – Early to mid-1900s [1 of 2]
2	8	Photographs – Miscellaneous – Early to mid-1900s [2 of 2]
2	9	Photographs – Miscellaneous – Mid to late 1900s
2	10	Photographs – Printing plate – 302 Schenectady Street property – n.d.
2	11	Badges – ca. 1910
3	1	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Bass I
3	2	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Bass I [printed spine]
3	3	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Bass II
3	4	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Bass II
3	5	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Tenor I
3	6	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Tenor I
3	7	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Tenor I [printed spine]

3	8	Sheet music – Handwritten – Bound – Tenor II [printed spine]
3	9	Sheet music – Handwritten – “Grablieder” booklets
3	10	Sheet music – Bound songbooks – Bass I
3	11	Sheet music – Bound songbooks – Bass II
3	12	Sheet music – Bound songbooks – Tenor I
3	13	Sheet music – Bound songbooks – Tenor II
3	14	Sheet music – Printed – “Am Brunnelein im Walde” – C. Kromer – 1914
3	15	Sheet music – Printed – “Daheim, Daheim ist doch Daheim” – C. Kuhnhold – 1901
3	16	Sheet music – Printed – “Das ist der Tag des Herrn” – C. Kreuzer – n.d.
3	17	Sheet music – Printed – “Deep River” – H.T. Burleigh – 1917
3	18	Sheet music – Printed – “Evening Bells” – C. Fischer – 1927
3	19	Sheet music – Printed – “Festgesang” – J. Scheu – n.d.
3	20	Sheet music – Printed – “Fest-Lieder des Central New York Saengerbundes” – 1908
3	21	Sheet music – Printed – “Fest-Chore des Central New York Saengerbundes” – 1911
3	22	Sheet music – Printed – “Fest-Gesange des Central New York Saengerbundes” – 1913
3	23	Sheet music – Printed – “Fest-Gesange des Central New York Saengerbundes” – 1917
3	24	Sheet music – Printed – “Good Night” – D. Buck – 1903
3	25	Sheet music – Printed – “Gute Nacht” – 1901
3	26	Sheet music – Printed – “Gut’ Nacht, Ihr Blumen” – J. Witt – n.d.
3	27	Sheet music – Printed – “Hans und Grete” – J. Lorenz – n.d.
3	28	Sheet music – Printed – “In Blauer Nacht” – F. Abt – 1911
3	29	Sheet music – Printed – “Liederkranz fur Sonntags Schulen und Jugend Vereine” – 1898
4	1	Sheet music – Printed – “Der Lindenbaum” – F. Schubert – n.d.
4	2	Sheet music – Printed – “Mammy Lou” – J.M. Cartwright – 1902
4	3	Sheet music – Printed – Miscellaneous and incomplete – n.d.
4	4	Sheet music – Printed – Mitch Miller – ca. 1960
4	5	Sheet music – Printed – “Die Nacht” – F. Schubert – 1889
4	6	Sheet music – Printed – “Noch sind die Tage fur Rosen” – M. Spicker – 1888
4	7	Sheet music – Printed – “O Lieb so Lang Du Lieben Kannst” – n.d.
4	8	Sheet music – Printed – “Sabbatfeier” – n.d.
4	9	Sheet music – Printed – “Schneider’s Band” – A.J. Mundy – 1892
4	10	Sheet music – Printed – “Die Soldatenbraut” – W. Speidel – 1896
4	11	Sheet music – Printed – “Standard Church Music” – G. Schirmer – n.d.
4	12	Sheet music – Printed – “Die Stille Wasserrose” – F. Abt – 1903
4	13	Sheet music – Printed – “The Vacant Chair” – H. Johnson – 1919
4	14	Sheet music – Printed – “Vereinsgruss” – H. Buhr – n.d.
4	15	Sheet music – Printed – “Die Zechers Kehle” – J. Schulz-Weida – 1903
4	16	Dues – record of yearly membership dues paid – 1968-1985

4	17	Election registration book – 1962-1993
4	18	Miscellaneous – 1908-1979 & n.d.
4	19	Financial ledger – 1971
4	20	Financial ledger – 1972
4	21	Financial ledger – 1973
4	22	Financial ledger – 1974
4	23	Financial ledger – 1975
4	24	Financial ledger – ca. 180
4	25	Miscellaneous financial records – 1977-1984
4	26	Payroll and earnings record – 1954, 1955 [restricted]
4	27	Payroll and earnings record – 1956, 1957 [restricted]
4	28	Payroll and earnings record – 1958, 1959 [restricted]
4	29	Payroll and earnings record – 1960, 1968 [restricted]
4	30	Payroll and earnings record – 1961, 1969 [restricted]
4	31	Payroll and earnings record – 1962, 1963 [restricted]
4	32	Payroll and earnings record – 1964, 1965 [restricted]
4	33	Payroll and earnings record – 1966, 1967 [restricted]
4	34	Payroll and earnings record – 1972 [restricted]
4	35	Payroll and earnings record – 1975 [restricted]
4	36	Payroll and earnings record – 1976 [restricted]
4	37	Payroll and earnings record – 1977 [restricted]
4	38	Payroll and earnings record – 1978 [restricted]
4	39	Payroll and earnings record – 1983 [restricted]
4	40	Payroll and earnings record – 1984 [restricted]
5	N/A	Minutes – Board of Officers – 1941-1949
5	N/A	Minutes – Board of Officers – 1949-1962
5	N/A	Minutes – Board of Officers – 1963-1978
5	N/A	Minutes – General membership meetings – 1936-1941
5	N/A	Minutes – General membership meetings – 1953-1959
5	N/A	Minutes – General membership meetings – 1959-1965
5	N/A	Membership – Individual member notecard records, ca. 1940s-ca. 1990s
6	1	Constitution and By-laws – 1894-1988
6	2	Facility – Permits and tax stamps – 1946-1978 [see box 5 for oversized]
6	3	Life member certificates – n.d.
6	4	Newsletters – 1977-1982
6	5	Newsletters – 1983-1988
6	6	Newsletters – n.d. [ca. 1977-1987]
6	7	Newsletters – 1989-1991
6	8	Newsletters – 1992-1997
6	9	Newsletters – 1998-2004
6	10	Programs – Anniversaries – 1951-1996
6	11	Programs/Ephemera – Miscellaneous events – 1917-1991
6	12	Ritual – n.d.
7	N/A	Plaques – 1981-2002 & n.d.
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Indoor picnic 1953 – Part I [8 mm film]

7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Indoor picnic 1953 – Part II [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Indoor picnic, 1 March 1953 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Ladies’ Day 1953 – Part I [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Kids’ Christmas Party 1961 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – 90th Anniversary (1961), 1964, Ted Walker (1968) [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Outer Space Skit 1961 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Skunk Holler Skit 1962 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Ladies’ Fashion Show 1963 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Ladies’ Fashion Show 1963 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Dress Rehearsal 1964 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Halloween 1964 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Party 1964 [8 mm film]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Ladies’ Show 1965 – Indoor picnic [8 mm film][1 of 2]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Ladies’ Show 1965 – Indoor picnic [8 mm film][2 of 2]
7	N/A	Audio-visual materials – Ladies’ Show 1965 – TV Production [8 mm film]
7	N/A	“Memories” – n.d. [VHS tape][1 of 2]
7	N/A	“Memories” – n.d. [VHS tape][2 of 2]
7	N/A	Liederkranz 1 – n.d. [DVD]
7	N/A	Liederkranz 2 – n.d. [DVD]
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Group photograph at picnic – ca. 1890
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Certificate from first Central New York Saengerbunde Saengerfest – 1898 [in German]
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Certificate from second Central New York Saengerbunde Saengerfest – 1901 [in German]
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Duplicate photograph of collected individual photographs [same as box 2, folder 3][2 copies] – ca. 1901
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Certificate from third Central New York Saengerbunde Saengerfest – 1903 [in German]
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Certificate from sixth Central New York Saengerbunde Saengerfest – 1911 [in German]
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Reproduction of photograph of George W. Sauerborn with waffle cart – ca. 1912
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Schenectady Liederkranz Midnight Roll – 1917-1918 [water damaged]
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Group photograph – ca. 1920
8	N/A	Oversized materials – House rules – 1938
8	N/A	Oversized materials – Honor roll of members who served in World War II – ca. 1945