Robert J. Mielke Collection

Date: 1872 – 2007
Volume: 14 boxes
Creator: Robert J. Mielke
Location: Library Basement 11L, B-2
Accession numbers 2010.105; 2011.21
Updated by ET for additional Mielke collection acquisitions 5/2016

Scope Note
This collection contains papers, photographs and documents from the Mielke family, from the estate of Robert J. Mielke (1938-2007). Items relate to Robert J. Mielke; William Mielke (father); Ethel Van Aernam Yates Mielke (mother); James R. Yates (father of Ethel V.A. Yates Mielke, and Civil War Veteran); Emil E. Dettbarn (second cousin of William Mielke; includes immigration papers and other documents from Germany); Frances Yates Herron (sister of James R. Yates) and Nelson Yates Herron (son of Frances); Ralph and Florence VanAernam Turner (Florence was daughter of Park W. VanAernam); Drees family photographs (unknown family connection); concert programs from 1920s-1940s and Zion Lutheran Church programs and bulletins from 1920-1952, from the collection of William Mielke.

Biographical Notes:

Robert J. Mielke (1938-2007)
Robert J. Mielke was born March 24, 1938, in Schenectady, NY. to William Mielke and Ethel Van Aernam Yates Mielke. He was a lifelong area resident, and a graduate of Nott Terrace High School, Class of 1956. He earned his AB from Union College, followed by his masters in history from the University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently earned his MLS from SUNY Albany School of Library Science, and his certificate in Accounting from Siena College.

Robert taught history at the Concordia Teachers’ College in Seward, Nebraska, and at Ballston Spa High School. He was a cataloger at RPI Library, and later at Schenectady Public Schools Federal Project. In 1973 he was employed by the Fort Plain Central School District as the High School librarian until his retirement in 2000. During his tenure at Fort Plain, Robert was active in the Fort Plain Teachers’ Association and many aspects of the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery School Library System.

A lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church, Robert was the church archivist and the church librarian, as well leader of their book group. He was enrolled in the Crossways Bible Study and was a member of the Hardy Perennials group at Zion. As an alumni of Union College, he was chairman of the Steering Committee for UCALL (Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning), treasurer of the Union College Club of Schenectady, a member of the Union Alumni Council and the Terrace Council. He served as secretary of the Upper Montgomery Retired Teachers’ Association, and was a part-time evaluator of teacher exams and videos for National Evaluation Systems. Robert was very interested and well-versed in local history, so very naturally was a member of the Schenectady County Historical Society.
Throughout his life Robert was an avid gardener. He also enjoyed listening to music, attending musicals, opera, and concerts (note the influence of his father, William, whose collection of concert programs is contained in this collection). He loved fishing with his friends and spending restful, quality time at his camp in the Adirondacks, and with his cat, Prism. He was a man of gentle, kind and friendly nature.

At the time of his death on May 28, 2007, he was betrothed to Evelyn M. Thode. His funeral service was held on June 2, 2007 at Zion Lutheran Church, followed by burial in Zion Lutheran Cemetery on Albany Street, Schenectady, NY.

**William Mielke** (1903-1985)
William Mielke, father of Robert J. Mielke, was born in Schenectady, NY. He attended Horace Mann Elementary School in Schenectady, and was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church. He was a machinist at General Electric, retiring in 1968. A violinist, he taught violin, and often performed violin solos at Zion Lutheran Church. He and his family attended many concerts throughout the years, leaving the quantity of concert programs found in this collection.

The house at 883 Stark Avenue was built by William in 1950, with some assistance from young son Robert; William also built the family camp at Friends Lake in 1945. He was executor of the Emil E. Dettbarn estate (Emil Dettbarn was William Mielke’s second cousin); hence the Dettbarn papers. Mr. Mielke is buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Schenectady, NY.

**Ethel Van Aernam Yates Mielke** (1905-2000)
She was Robert J. Mielke’s mother, descended from a branch of the noted Yates family of Schenectady. She graduated from Excelsior High School in Schenectady in 1924, and Albany Business College, with Shorthand certification, in 1925. For a time she was secretary for the Standard Oil Company of New York, Albany, NY. She is buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Schenectady, NY.

**Park W. Van Aernam** (1842-1918)
Robert J. Mielke’s maternal great grandfather. Mr. Van Aernam enlisted as a Private, Co A 134 Regt NYS Vol, 1Aug1862 during the Civil War. He married Mary Jane Truman (1842-1930). Park W. and Mary Jane are buried in Park View Cemetery in Schenectady, NY. Interesting items from the family Bible are located in Box 7, Folder 1.

**Maud M. Van Aernam Yates** (1875-1950)
The daughter of Park W. VanAernam, Maud married James R. Yates on Wednesday, June 9th, 1897, at 637 Terrace Place, Schenectady, NY. She is buried in Park View Cemetery, Lot 85, section D.

**James R. Yates** (1876-1967)
Robert J. Mielke Collection

Robert J. Mielke’s maternal grandfather, James R. Yates married Maud M. Van Aernam on Wednesday, June 9th, 1897, at 637 Terrace Place, Schenectady, NY. He was a member of Woodlawn Reformed Church and is buried in Park View Cemetery, Schenectady, NY.

For Yates family information dating back to 1664, see Frances Yates Herron, Box 7, Folder 10

**Frances Amelia Yates Herron** (1893-1975)
*see Biographical Notes, Box 5, Folder A for additional Herron information

**Emil E. Dettbarn** (1888 -1977)
Emil E. Dettbarn was born in Abtshagen, Germany Sept. 21, 1887, the son of Wilhelm Dettbarn, b. 7/11/1855 and Johanna Kruger Dettbarn, b. 6/6/1853. He was educated in Germany, and became a naturalized citizen of the USA on Nov. 14, 1919 at age 32. He retired from GE in 1952, where he worked in the shipping department. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and the first resident of the Good Samaritan Home in Delmar; also was a member of the GE Quarter Century Club, and of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Mr. Dettbarn was a second cousin of William Mielke. He died in Schenectady on Dec. 7, 1977, and is buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Schenectady, NY.
Sisters of Emil Dettbarn are named in documents in the Dettbarn papers: (1) Agnes Dettbarn Willner, d. July 9, 1972, Germany (Agnes’ issue: Alma Willner Grazikowske, Herta Willner Mews); (2) Margaret Dettbarn Luttschwager, Germany (Margaret’s issue: Wilna, Erich, Luzi Luttschwager Marschall, Konrad)
Cousins deceased at time: Albert Heck, d. May 10, 1977

**Genealogy:** For additional Mielke, Yates, VanAernam family genealogy, see Box 5, Folder A

**Related Collections**

SCHS Library, 32 Washington St.:
- Digital copy of 1800s family photo album – Pearson computer external drive; see library collections/SCHS family photos file. **Box 13:** original photos and tin types from this album.
- Lithograph: “Picture of Easel-Shaped Monument” - Civil War memorial lithograph, conserved; contains hand-written military record of Park W. Van Aernam, including all Civil War battles in which he fought, and discharge record, 1895 [Library map cabinet, drawer 3]
• Ethel Van Aernam Yates – Albany Business College Shorthand diploma, May 9, 1925
  [housed with diplomas, below library map cabinet]

SCHS Museum, 32 Washington St.:
• Music rack – William Mielke, Director, Schenectady, NY – accessioned in 2008 to SCHS
  Museum Collection
• Silver polish, Park W. Van Aernam – in custody of the Museum curator
• Square dance dresses, two, from Ethel Mielke

Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Junction, NY:
Cider press – accessioned in 2008 for the Mabee Farm Collection

Series
1. Emil E. Dettbarn items; Drees family photos
2. Emil E. Dettbarn - photographs, slides, correspondence
3. Emil E. Dettbarn - papers
4. Church and Concert programs (collection of William Mielke)
5. Robert J. Mielke
6. William S. Mielke; Ethel VanAernam Yates Mielke
7. Maternal relatives of Robert J. Mielke
8. Paternal relatives of Robert J. Mielke; friends of Mielke family; local cities and villages; map
   collection
9. Items relating to 883 Stark Ave, Niskayuna, NY; and GE Federal Credit Union #1411
10. William and Ethel Mielke - correspondence, postcards, calling cards
11. Emil E. Dettbarn - correspondence, postcards
12. Mielke family - photographs and slides
13. VanAernam/Yates family album photographs and tin types; Mielke family photographs and
    negatives
14. Oversize items - Mielke family and friends; other
15. Ethel Yates Albany Business College certificate
16. Civil War Memorial lithograph

Box List

Box 1 – Emil E. Dettbarn; Drees Family
Book from funeral, in separate box, 1977
Blueprints for house at 853 Chrisler Ave; Otto Frank, architect, See Box 5, folder 7 – mortgage
for Chrisler Ave.
Book: The New American Citizen (2010.105.11)
Book: Studies in English (2010.105.12)
Book: English for Foreigners (2010.105.13)

Box 1A – Drees Family photographs
Folder 1, late 19th century – mid-20th century
Photographs with some identification, which include the following information:

- Group of 7 photographs from Philippines; Uncle Will Drees; June 12, 1932 - Sept. 1932
- Wm F Wild
- Paton (Taton?) Crook; Died Oct. 29, 1902
- Rev. Geo. Drees - 3 photographs, at 3 different ages
- Walther & Elizabeth
- Miss Jones, Mr. Richardson, Mr. M ? - in an office? Philippines?
- The Dettbarn Family
- Kitty, Carl & Henry
- August & Bertha (Philippines)
- Louis W. Heydenrich (great-grandfather)
- Iris (?) wedding; sent by Aunt Mary
- Asher & the bear
- Esher Minna Carolina Haushalli
- Tante Hilda, Uncle Ernst, Mamme (sp?)
- Euicle (sp?) (male)
- Dot 1922
- Mrs. Van Denburgh
- W.F. Drees
- Uncle Will Drees Sept. 1932
- Papa, Geo Klaumer (sp?), Adolph, Andrew, Rockman (tin-type)

Folder 2, late 19th century – mid-20th century
Photographs with no identification

Folder 3, late 19th century – mid-20th century
Photographs with no identification

Box 2 - Emil E. Dettbarn – Slides; Photographs; Correspondence
Folder 1, 1972-1977
Slides of Emil E. Dettbarn

2/17/1975 - opening of Good Samaritan Home, Madison Ave, Albany; Emil Dettbarn, first resident, cutting ribbon; Mrs. Fox, head nurse.

Pictures of Emil Dettbarn
Pictures of interior of rooms at Good Samaritan

Folder 2, 1956-1974
Photographs, letters (German and English)
Letter on legal pad sheet; mentions Bill Mielke
Letter dated Sept. 15, 1974 to “My Dear Uncle Emil”; some family names listed; from niece Herta Mews (sp?); mentions William Mielke
Black-outlined funeral/mourning card (German); Charlotte Berner geb.Willner, 16.2.1911 - 4.1.1969
Photographs: 1 wedding photograph with writing; 16 smaller photographs; one with mother and 2 children
Letters in German to “dear brother” and “uncle”; sorted chronologically when possible; envelopes, when available are placed on top of letter
Many envelopes contain German postage stamps
Folder 3, 1963-1970
Letters, mostly in German
Some photographs, with letters/envelopes, German postage stamps
Folder 4, 1929-1966
Letter, in German, dated 3.9.(19)58
Deutsches Reich (booklet) - Reise-Pass 8 April 1913
Photos from Dettbarn family; some dated, some with names; many or most are in Germany; weddings; photographs are apparently those sent to Mr. Dettbarn in Schenectady from relatives in Germany. Someone reading German could decipher the written notes on photos, and the letters
Post card - Italian Swiss Colony Winery, San Francisco, July 29, 1952

Box 3 – Emil E. Dettbarn papers
Folder 1, 1907-1974
Social Security card
Last Will and Testament - Emil E. Dettbarn, April 9, 1973
Last Will and Testament - Emil E. Dettbarn, Sept. 5, 1972 (William Mielke, second cousin; Heck family, second cousins)
Last Will and Testament - Emil E. Dettbarn, April 14, 1971 (brother Albert Dettbarn; sister Agnes Dettbarn; sister Margareta Dettbarn Luttshwager; deceased brother Walter Dettbarn
Last Will and Testament - Emil E. Dettbarn, Sept. 12, 1952
Codicil to Last Will and Testament, Nov. 1, 1976
Obituary of Edward Weber, his attorney
German document Geburts Zengnifg(?) 21 Jan 1907(?)
Meister Prufung cabinet-maker certificate Germany 1907
Certificate of Naturalization (Age 32) 14 Nov 1919
newspaper article: Emil Dettbarn, GE shipper, retires (n.d.)
newspaper article: 2/17/1975 Emil Dettbarn first resident of Good Samaritan Home
newspaper article: 8/18/1974 about Good Samaritan Home
blue pamphlet about Good Samaritan Home
blue envelope with cemetery lot information, Zion Lutheran Cemetery
list - contents of safe 10/19/1976
Schenectady Trust
  • letter - 12/22/1944
  • Assignment of Life Insurance Policy as Collateral 6/15/1944
  • 2 checks - June 15, 1944 ($600); Sept 15, 1944 ($200)
  • statement of borrower - $600
  • release of assignment
Death notice card - Agnes Dettbarn Willner (sister) 9 July 1972
Death notice card - Walter Dettbarn (brother) 27 Sept 1967
Magdelena B. Pross
  • obituary, April 19, 1974
  • probate notice of Last Will and Testament w/envelope 4/22/1974
  • power of Attorney (Magdelena B. Pross to Emil E. Dettbarn) 31 Dec 1962
  • letters from MBP to Emil E. Dettbarn, 1956-1959

Folder 2, 1887-1977
Obituaries; Memorial Gift card for Immanuel Lutheran Church
Two photos of Emil E. Dettbarn
Hand-written pages (2) by William Mielke w/information for funeral home
Hand-written page (5/25/1967) w/names and addresses of relatives in Germany
Two copies of death certificate (12/7/1977)
Letter to Mr. Ham (attorney) from Irene Heck w/information about Heck relatives and connection to Emil Dettbarn (April 10, 1978)
County of Schenectady Surrogate’s Court (April 1978) affirms information in Irene Heck’s letter
Letter to Mr. Ham from William Mielke (9/27/1978); German information regarding death of Albert Wilhelm Otto Dettbarn (1885-1978); letter to Mr. Ham
Hand-written notes from William Mielke to Mr. Ham
Schenectady Granite and Marble Works receipt for Emil E. Dettbarn (1887-1977) for cemetery granite marker
Emil Dettbarn official family tree
Immanuel Lutheran Church letter listing contributors to the Memorial Fund in memory of Emil Dettbarn (January 18, 1978)
Letter to Raymond P. Ham from Hildegard Brandis (niece in Germany) w/family information
Folder 3, 1973-1977
Correspondence from relatives in Germany; many envelopes with German stamps
Folder 4, 1976-1980
Correspondence from relatives in Germany; death notices; Christmas cards; many envelopes with German stamps
Envelope with pictures of brother Albert (age 91) and niece Hildegard (age 50); Emil ready for excursion train; Herta in Germany; pencil drawing by Hildegard; obituary; death notices.

Folder 5, 1959
Glossy photographs and newspaper photo/article of St. Paul Lutheran Dart Bowling team regaining trophy (stoneware jug) from Emanuel Lutheran team of Schenectady
Folder 6, 1933-1977
Zion Lutheran Benefit Society, receipt books, 1945-1975
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners: Constitution and Laws; 5 dues and assessment books (1933-1975); quarterly work cards, postcard notices of meetings
Folder 7, 1925-1932
Mont Pleasant Shooting Club membership card, Aug. 26, 1943
Department of Public Instruction, Schenectady, N.Y., Evening School Report Card, 1911-1912
Bond - Emil. E. Dettbarn to Charles F. Glindmyer, July 21st, 1925 - $3500.00
Mortgage – Emil E. Dettbarn to Charles F. Glindmyer, July 21st, 1925 – Chrissler Ave (see Box 1, Blueprints for this house)
Contract to Convey – Grand Boulevard Estates, Inc. to Emil E. Dettbarn, June 4, 1932
Folder 8, 1909-1918
1906, 1907 German certificates
German passport, 1909
Notice of Enrollment Under Military Law, 1917
Registration Certificate, June 1917
Alien Registration Card, Feb. 16, 1918
United States passport, May, 1921
War Ration Book No. 3
Permit to continue to reside within ½ mile radius from, and be employed within General Electric
Folder 9, 1923-1959
Correspondence and other items relating to various Lutheran churches
Folder 10, 1872-1966
Dettbarn family vital records from Zion Lutheran Church; includes Dettbarn, Hanke, Lohr,
Schairer, Post, Klapper, Tressman

Box 4 – Church and Concert programs - collection of William Mielke; Civil War items - Park W. VanAernam
Church and Concert programs – William Mielke
Folder 1, Concerts (Schenectady) Civic Music Association, 1930s-1940s
Contains many concerts given by world-renowned musicians (Heifetz, Horowitz, Friedman,
Isaac Stern, Marian Anderson, others). Most of the programs are from the Civic Music
Association; many are undated; some contain flyers about up-coming concerts. Some programs
from the Schenectady Choral Society and the Schenectady Civic Symphony Orchestra.
Folder 2, Concerts, Schenectady-Albany, 1920s-1930s
Famous musicians
Concerts of the Schubert Club of Schenectady, N.Y.
Union College concerts
Boston Symphony concerts
Folder 3, Concerts, Schenectady, misc. organizations, 1920s-1930s
Programs from various local churches
Folder 4, Zion Lutheran Church: organ rededication; church dedication; various church
organizations, 1920-1943
Organ rededication, October 1929; organ recitals
Church dedication; rededication; anniversary services
Searchlight Bowling League, April 1, 1933 – William Mielke, conductor, Searchlight Orchestra
Other bowling league materials
Choral Society
Lutheran Fellowship
Zion Young People’s Society; Feb. 1924 – William Mielke, orchestra leader
Men’s Social Club of Zion
Walther League
Folder 5, Zion Lutheran Church: bulletins, 1922-1952
Many list William Mielke as violin soloist
April 6, 1952 – Robert Mielke’s confirmation

Civil War items – Park W. VanAernam
Folder 6, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A. document, Jan. 1 1896
Document of appointment of C.W.R. VanArnam as Seargent [sic] of Guard for Schenectady
County
Folder 7, envelope addressed to Park W. Van Aernam, 1860
Robert J. Mielke Collection

Folder 8, envelope addressed to Park W. Van Aernam; contained Gettysburg: The Pictures and the Story, 1913
Folder 9, Gettysburg: The Pictures and the Story, 1913

Box 5 – ROBERT J. MIELKE (1938-2007) papers
Folder A – Notes and Information re: Mielke family
Folder 1 – Early years: Birth, baptismal, and confirmation certificates; photos; more:
Birth certificate, March 24, 1938 - Baby Book with information, including birth announcement
Folder 2 – Van Antwerp School years – various certificates and organizations:
Two report cards - Commencement program, June 19, 1953 - Certificate from Van Antwerp School, June 19, 1953 (entitles admission to Senior High School) - National Y.M.C.A Progressive Aquatic Tests, test sheets #3 and #4, w/Fish Club card (Apr. 27, 1949) and Minnow Club card (Sept. 28, 1948) - Awards of Merit from Schenectady Automobile Club, Inc. for School Boy Patrol, 1948-1949 and 1949-1950 - University of the State of New York SED Preliminary Certificate for Regents preliminary examinations, June 19, 1952 - Van Antwerp Class Prophecy, 1953 - Class picture in front of school (RJM row 5, 2nd from right) - letter from class of 1953 reunion committee
Folder 3 – Nott Terrace High School, Schenectady, NY:
RJM name cards - senior picture - graduation photos w/cap & gown - S.S.N.S. Cub Reporter card - Nott Terrace HS Student Activities card w/stamps - Press Card for Nott Terrace Tribune - 3 report cards - letter re: election of Robert Mielke to Nott Terrace Guard Reserves, Feb 1, 1954 - letter from Stanley Solomon, Adviser, Terrace Tribune - 2 copies of Terrace Tribune - Commencement programs, June 23, 1956 - diploma, in hard folder, w/graduation announcement - 2 varsity letters - reports: Ancient and Modern Greece, and The Crusades - Newspaper articles: regents scholarships; Miss Posson, history teacher (1986); Nott Terrace Variety Show relived (2004) - cards of congratulations (one from Mrs.J. Yazum: son was victim of violent crime; marker in Central Park Rose Garden)
Folder 4 – Nott Terrace High School Reunions:
Folder 5 – Education and Employment: Union College; Siena College; Concordia Teachers College; RPI; Niskayuna Public Schools; Schenectady Public Schools:
Union College: photos, military uniform - graduation photos, cap & gown - senior pictures - copies of newspaper Dean’s List, 1959 and 1960 - copies of newspaper articles with graduation pictures of Union graduates, 1960 - 1960 reunion photo - alumni photo: alumni event at Mohawk Golf Club
Note: many RJM materials relating to Union College are housed in Special Collections at the Schaffer Library at Union College, including his original diplomas from Union College and post graduate work; copies are included in this collection. Union College Garnet Yearbooks, 1958 and 1960, are housed elsewhere in the SCHS library.
Siena College: newspaper Dean’s List articles, 1972 and 1973
Concordia Teachers College: record of enrollment form - photo of RJM, Instructor in History, from Tower (yearbook) - letter regarding copy of Tower - letter of thanks for service at Concordia, with guest list, 1965

RPI: appointment letters re: cataloger, Special Department in RPI Libraries, 1966

Niskayuna Public School: appointment letters, salary notices, 1967

Schenectady Public Schools: appointment, 1968 - Annual Directory of Officers and Teachers of City School District of the City of Schenectady

Robert J. Mielke - resume

Folder 6 – University of Pennsylvania:
Graduation photos - copies of newspaper graduation notice and graduation photo (same one as Union College senior photo) - Commencement invitations for June 5, 1961 and for May 21, 1962 - copy of diploma (May 21, 1962) [original is in Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College]

Folder 7 – Certificates and Diplomas:
• National Geographic Society - original member certificate - Jan. 1, 1954, in original envelope, with information about NGS (he continued to receive this all his life)
• Union College Bachelor of Arts diploma - 1960 (original is in Schaffer Library, Union College)
• University of the State of New York Permanent Certificate as teacher of social studies - 1964
• SUNY Albany MLS diploma - 1966 (original is in Schaffer Library at Union College)
• University of the State of New York - Extension of Certificate (Provisional); teacher of social studies extended to include service as a school librarian - 1967
• University of the State of New York - Public Librarian’s Professional Certificate - 1969
• University of the State of New York - Public School Teacher Certificate; permanent; Library Media Specialist - 1977
• New York State Education Department and The Effective Schools Consortia Network - certificate for Summer Principals’ Academy - 1989 (framed-at back of folder)
• Niskayuna Adult Education Department - Certificate of Completion for Introduction to WorkPerfect 5.1 - May 15, 1991
• New York State United Teachers - Leadership Achievement certificate for new local presidents of NYSUT - July 16, 1991

Folder 8 – Fort Plain Central School:

Folder 8a – Fort Plain Central School: Retirement book w/letters from, and photos of, colleagues; retirement cards

Folder 9 – Memberships, selective service, Concordia, correspondence, more:
RJM letter-writing paper - selective service cards and letters - Schenectady County Historical Society membership cards and letters - Schenectady County Public Library card - NYSUT card - NYSHA membership cards - Board of Elections registration card, Oct. 10, 1959 - fishing licenses - Concordia Historical Institute membership cards - copy of The Broadcaster
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from Concordia Teachers College, 1975 - Concordia Seminary Chorus Epiphany service, 2003
- driver licenses - letter and photos (Frank Taormina) - 6 postcards - other correspondence

Folder 10 – Obituaries: U Albany magazine w/obituary - other obituaries - photos of RJM’s cat, Prism

Folder 11 – Photos:
Baby picture - 3 copies
March, 1940 - age 2 - 3 copies
1946 - age 8
1949 - age 10
Zion Lutheran Church confirmation - 1952
High School graduation - 1956
photos from Fort Plain school - 1992
photos from Zion church book - 1996
photos from Fort Plain school - 1998
photo of RJM and Evelyn Thode - Union College, 2006

Robert Mielke - Funeral book – in white box within Box 5; contains: bulletins from funeral service - floral cards - obituaries - clergy record card - funeral notes - funeral cards

Box 6 – WILLIAM S. MIELKE; ETHEL VAN AERNAM YATES MIELKE (parents of RJM)
William S. Mielke:
Folder 1 – William Mielke - Birth and death certificates, various cards and letters:
William Mielke birth certificate, May 17, 1903 - cards from Robert Mielke, son; some made by Robert - card from Ethel - “letter” from niece Marilyn - holiday postcards (1925-1930) - cards: birthday, Christmas, Easter, New Year’s (1925-1926) - [in plastic sheets: Bond Clothes note pad with addresses; souvenir of tour of United States Capitol, 1951; National Academy of Music, Carnegie Hall; “William Mielke, Violinist”; William Mielke; “William Mielke” name cards; WM address labels; GE pay stub; Ethel V.A. Yates name card; various business cards] - newspaper ad for “William Mielke – Teacher of Violin” - Department of Public Instruction Schenectady, NY Division of Evening Schools, 1918-1919 for course in Shop Math - confirmation paper (in German); also hand-written prayer - death certificates - card from Zion - obituaries
Folder 2 – William Mielke - Licenses; many and various other items:
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company envelope w/two 3c stamps, 1936 - ink blotter - report of accident witnessed by Wm Mielke, w/newspaper account of accident, 1936 - Western Union telegram, 1928 - GE travel: Hotel Van Orman envelope w/train tickets - GE Quarter Century Club letters, 1953 and 1954 - Haubner’s News Room envelope with: chauffeur licenses, 1928, 1929, 1930; car registrations; passenger car registrations; {R.S. Connor, Jeweler, 340 State Street, receipt for diamond ring (“Dia .47 213.98 - guaranteed white and perfect”)}, Feb 15, 1930; military training commission card; pistol permits; hunting, trapping, fishing licenses, 1927-1933; Dept. of Public Instruction, Schenectady, NY, 2 cards from Division of Evening Schools, March 21, 1923 - small notebook pages containing journal of work record at GE - vehicle and boat registrations
Folder 2A – William Mielke - Music-related items:
articles - local orchestra personnel lists (1928) includes names, addresses, phone, and
instrument played - lists of some of the music portfolios owned by WSM - folder labeled
“William Mielke”. [“Wells Orchestra”, and “Frank Wells” are written on some of the actual
orchestra music used by William Mielke – not in SCHS collection]
*Zeuch 1929 organ recital: 2 larger posters are located in Box 14
[William Mielke’s collection of church and concert programs - Box 4, Folders 1-5]
Folder 3 – William Mielke - Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery papers, property transfer:
Photos of William/Ethel/Robert’s gravestone at Zion Lutheran Cemetery - Zion Lutheran
Cemetery: paid $20.00 for grave 3-iv-A, June 14, 1934 - Zion Lutheran Cemetery Perpetual
Care Certificate for Lot No. 236, owned by Mrs. Ida Mielke, April 12, 1948 - Mohawk National
Bank checks for lots and perpetual care, 1947 and 1948 - information on lots 236 and 357A &B
- envelope contains Perpetual Care Certificate/receipts for Lot 357A (ZLC), owned by William
Mielke - K & A Memorials papers - Batesville Casket papers
Papers from property transfer at Wm’s death: map of 883 Stark Ave, 1985 county tax bill, real
estate appraisal, property description, will, letters testamentary, Griswold Funeral Home papers
Folder 4 – William Mielke - Materials relating to General Electric and WM’s employment there:
GE postcard - retirement party photos (1968) - Local 301 membership small booklets (2)
w/colored stamps - GW Works News - some small blueprints - 3 small notebooks w/work
notes
GE – related items from William Mielke:
Binder: GE Federal Credit Union #1411 – Liquidation – Box 9
Slides: GE Quarter Century Club - Box 12C
Folder 5 – William Mielke - Photos:
Playing violin (1979)
Collection of small photos of 1920s-1940s in the Adirondacks (in photo pages)
Picture of William Mielke’s Zion Lutheran Church confirmation class
Young man - White Studio (larger size)
Young man - White Studio
w/men’s group (WSM back row, 2nd from right)
w/band and instruments (WSM back on left, w/violin) (2 copies)
w/violin, by piano (framed)
Funeral book – William Mielke: in white box within Box 6; contains obituaries, floral cards
William Mielke: Mailing tube from National Academy of Music w/1-1/2 cent stamp
William Mielke – Related oversize items:
National Academy of Music certificate of membership in the Extension Department – Box 14
(see also NAM card in William S. Mielke, Box 6, Folder 1)
Horace Mann Elementary School Certificate, Jan 28, 1918 – Box 14
Confirmation certificate, Zion Lutheran Church, April 1, - Box 14
William & Ethel Mielke:
Folder 6 – William & Ethel – photos of William & Ethel (4 copies) – also photos of William &
Ethel w/Vivian & James Rowland (White Studio)
Folder 7 – William & Ethel - Wedding certificate and articles, photos, honeymoon:
Wedding certificate book, Sept. 28, 1935 - letter from Van Curler Hotel re: wedding reception,
dated Sept 26, 1935 - Hotel Statler and other Boston information from honeymoon - Gazette,
Sept 30, 1935: marriage license listed for Wm and Ethel (p.13, bottom of column 5) - calling cards: Ethel Yates, Mr. and Mrs. William Mielke - “Hotel Van Curler The Tap Room” stirring stick - newspaper article from Crippen Open House, 2/5/1973 - WSM & EYM social security cards - two photos (could be wedding photos?)
Folder 8 - 922 Delamont Ave rental; Land purchase - Stark Ave:
Photo of 922 Delamont Ave, a former family residence - Daily Gazette article (2 Jul 1991) relates to homes in Delamont Ave area - rent receipts for 922 Delamont Ave - lease from Ida Mielke to William Mielke, 1949 - mortgage agreements with Old Ladies Home - amortization schedules - envelope w/letters re: mortgage - assessment cards from Town of Niskayuna - Lulu Smith to William and Ethel, agreement to purchase property on Stark Ave - letter re: 922 Delamont garage lease, June 1, 1950 - Sunday Gazette article re: Home for the Ladies, Jan. 27, 2008 - Stark Ave property map - deed transfer of 883 Stark Ave from Ethel to Robert, Sept. 27, 1990 - photos of 883 Stark Ave
Folder 8A – William & Ethel: Correspondence (see also Box 10, Correspondence, Post cards)
Folder 9 – William & Ethel: Maroon book with household information, addresses, receipts, interesting recipes; more
Folder 10 – William & Ethel – Family information:
  Blue spiral notebook: birthdays, anniversaries, appointments
  Black 7x10 notebook: recipes, some w/source; menus; early household purchases
Folder 11 – William & Ethel – Family information: GE 1965 Log Book w/addresses and more
Folder 12 – William & Ethel – Round and square dancing:
  Square dance and round dance flyers, letters and more
Related square dance items:
  Dresses, Ethel’s (2): in the SCHS Museum on Washington Street
  Slides from dance banquets – Box 13C
  [Recordings of square dance and round dance sessions were not selected for acquisition]
Folder 13 – William & Ethel – Pictures of honeymoon, includes photo of Hotel Statler room
Folder 14 – Ethel Yates Mielke - Certificates, other items;
  Birth certificate, July 23, 1905 - “Baby’s Diary” book, includes family names - hand cut-out, 5 years of age - blonde hair, cut on June 28, 1911 - Excelsior High School The Annual, 1924 (2 copies) - confirmation certificate, Zion Lutheran Church, April 8, 1936 - obituaries - death certificate - driver licenses
Folder 15 – Ethel Yates Mielke: Excelsior School “The Annual” 1924 Yearbook
Folder 16 – Ethel Yates Mielke - Cards and other items:
  Hand-written name card: L. Preston Hamilton, 115 St Street - cards from Robert (homemade and other), William, and her parents - postcards sent from Park Avenue Hotel to Ethel and to James (Ethel’s father), from Ethel’s mother Maud - Valentine postcard - postcard w/leather canoe attached - 1939 Corlaker Chapter Treasure Book, Ethel Mielke listed on p. 5
Folder 17 – Ethel Yates Mielke - Photos; blonde hair:
  Photos, 1909, 1912, 1914, baby photos; with parents, grandparents; house at 12 Chiswell Street - blonde hair in envelope
Folder 18 – Ethel Yates Mielke - Photos: as a young lady, graduation, w/Vivian Yates; more
Funeral book – Ethel Yates Mielke: in white box within Box 7; contains floral cards, funeral
cards, acknowledgement notes
Ethel Mielke - Related oversize items:
Excelsior High School graduation class photo, with names on back – Box 14
Brown background w/white silhouette bust of Ethel Mielke – Box 14
Excelsior High School diploma, June 24, 1924; 16” x 21”; w/gold seal – Box 14

*Albany Business College diploma, May 9, 1925; w/gold seal, red & gray ribbons - housed in
map case in SCHS library, with diplomas

Box 7 – MATERNAL RELATIVES of Robert J. Mielke
Folder 1 – Park W. VanAernam (Great-Grandfather of RJM) – Photos; other items - Also,
ephemera which was inserted in the large family Bible (Bible not included in SCHS collection)
Photos of 4 generations of VanAernams, including Grandma (MaryJane) VanAernam, and
pictures of Ethel Truman VanAernam

These papers were found in the family Bible [Phinney Cooperstown Bible; no information was
actually written in the Bible]: papers with family records - poem: “Never Mind” - card:
“These Things Do Not” - Western Union Telegraph Co. envelope to Mrs. Clark (Park) W.
VanAernam, 638 Terrace Place - Western Union message, dated Apr 14, 1897: Mother dead
funeral friday ten am, Alvah Truman [Mrs. Park W. Van Aernam was Mary Jane Truman,]
- music: “Swing! Ring! Sabbath Bells”, Schenectady, N.Y. - Children’s Day programs:
Anniversary Greetings - On to Victory; and Dike Builders, June 10, 1894 - bulletin from First
Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, N.Y., Jan. 28, 1894 - “Memorial Service for the Unknown
Dead” - “Under the Search-Light” address delivered March 5, 1914, with excerpts from “The
Confederate Veteran” (1913 dates)

Postcard: Lookout Mountain, Tenn.; from Park W. to James R. Yates; Park W. signed his name
in the “Big Book” at the (Civil) War Museum - 1910; from a visit to commemorate his
participation in the Civil War; also included - a copy of a similar postcard found on-line, with
legible print
Park W. Van Aernam – related items:
• Civil War memorial document - housed in map case in SCHS library
• Photos from Civil War era family photo album; includes Civil War reunion picture of PWVA -
Box 13
• Civil War reunion photo – Park W. VanAernam, seated, middle right – Box 14
• Folders 6-9, Box 4 – relating to the Civil War
• VanAernam’s Champion Silver Lustre, Schenectady, NY. Park W. VanAernam’s name is on
the box. Located in SCHS library on Washington Ave.

Folder 2 – Florence VanAernam (Great-aunt of RJM; daughter of Park W. VanAernam)
& William Churchill - Papers:
Deed for property in Town of Rotterdam, to William and Florence Churchill 12 June 1912 -
Summons and Complaint 1 Nov 1913 - envelope w/ petition for divorce 6 May 1914, divorce
papers 30 Aug 1926, related letters written by Florence - Insurance policy for William
Churchill - Sanders/Clute Referee’s Deed 6 Nov 1908 - Clute/Churchill Land Contract 2 May
Robert J. Mielke Collection


Folder 3 – Florence Van Aernam Turner & Ralph Turner - papers, correspondence, cards, obituaries:
Ralph N. Turner/Florence L. Churchill: wedding book/certificate 15 Nov 1931 w/guests; wedding card
Ralph Turner birth certificate: 9 Feb 1884, Plattsburgh, New York
Envelope w/Ralph N. Turner obituary notices, County Clerk’s office receipt 15 May 1947
Ralph Turner death certificate April 11, 1947
Today and Tomorrow booklet from Baxter Funeral Home
Assortment of vintage sympathy cards - funeral floral cards

Folder 4 – Maud VanAernam Yates (Grandmother of RJM; daughter of Park W. VanAernam) - Photos - Funeral book - obituary - communicant book - other:
Wedding invitation - wedding certificate (Maud & James, 9 June, 1897) - wedding photo - photos of Maud - photo of Maud and James - book: Plain Words to a Young Communicant; insert in book is First Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, N.Y. bulletin from Dec. 3, 1893 - Memorial Record book for Maud M. Yates Oct. 11, 1950 contains names of family members attending funeral; obituary - receipts from funeral flowers and Griswold Funeral Home - copy of framed picture, which was inscribed on the back: “To Maud From James, June 7, 1926”
Maud VanAernam Yates/James R. Yates – Wedding picture – Box 14

Folder 5 – James R. Yates (Grandfather of RJM) - obituary - photos - articles - Woodlawn Reformed Church - correspondence - Park View Cemetery - Griswold Funeral Home, Inc. - obituaries:
Photos of JRY’s photo album
Photos of JRY at various stages of life - articles: JRY promoted to superintendent of money order department at Schenectady Post Office (n.d.); Senior Citizens Cited (1966) - Woodlawn Reformed Church: articles about 35th anniversary plans, new JR Yates room in church (1961), burning mortgage (1965); bulletin from June 30, 1940 - correspondence: March 28, 1898 Dear Uncle, re: father dying, wants Aunt Hattie to come, signed James R. Yates - postcard: Lichtenstein, shoppers club postcard from Camp Cosco to JR Yates (1910?); - letter from Libby, McNeill & Libby, with prayer - Park View Cemetery: Deed to Ralph Turner and James R. Yates (Section D, Lot 85); receipts for payment of lot, sodding lot - Albany Art Memorials design and billing for monument; receipts - Griswold Funeral Home receipt and flowers receipt - obituaries (Oct 25, 1967) - will, and other legal papers - card w/menu from Many Glacier Hotel, from JRY’s travels - traveling notes from various trips (see also slide collection)
Folder 6 – James R. Yates - Yates family records - photos - correspondence - articles:
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Memoranda - copied from family Bible [this Bible is missing - not available]
Found in Bible: Certificate of Marriage for Frank Yates and Amelia Morenus, 20 Oct 1874 - Public School No. 21 certificate, Dora Yates, Feb 14, 1890 - obituary for Amelia Yates
Other Yates items: [photos: Aunt Libby and Uncle Albert; Frank and Amelia’s grave monument (Scotia Reformed Church Cemetery); Frank and Amelia Yates, also the negative; Clare, 1908; grandmother Morenus] - typed biography of James R. Yates, Oct. 8, 1956 - correspondence - articles - plastic ruler, The Maccabees, with which he had insurance (was secretary/treasurer 1946) - postcard: Lichtenstein, shoppers club
Folder 7 – James R. Yates - Yates genealogy - Yates family notes - Yates family crest - various articles:
Binder, small – James R. Yates:
Looseleaf binder, 7 1/4” x 10” - “My travels during “1951” “1952” “1953” “1962” - typed journal of travels to L.A., Florida, more; mentions relatives he visited along the way; list of slides.
Folder 8 – Vivian Yates Rowland (Aunt of RJM; daughter of James and Maud Yates) - newspaper wedding picture - James R. Rowland ordination bulletin 6 Apr 1957; also ordination invitation/announcement - obituary for Rev. James Rowland - correspondence from Vivian, and from Betty (wife of Clayton, Vivian’s son) w/photos of Clayton, Betty, Vivian and Douglas (Vivian’s son)
Folder 10 – Frances Yates Herron (Great-aunt of RJM; sister of James R. Yates) - DAR application and worksheet, for which supporting materials include: Yates genealogy - articles and notes - birth certificate, death certificate, obituaries (Dec 20, 1975)
Folder 11 - Frances Yates Herron - Items from family Bible: obituaries; church bulletin; Herron family record; Herron family scrapbook:
Bible, dated Dec. 25, 1949 – Frances Yates Herron; Bible contains family records and inserts
Herron family scrapbook

Page list:
1. Letter from Van Antwerp School, Sept. 26, 1933 – Mrs. Herron donated victrola
   Post card – Brant lake NY
   A&P article, Oct. 20, 1921, w/photo of baby Nelson Yates Herron after diet of A&P Wheat Farina
2. Greeting cards; newspaper article re: 9th birthday party for Nelson Herron
3. Handmade valentine; card for mother; newspaper birth announcement for Nelson
4. State St. Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, NY Children’s Day June 13, 1926
5. Photo; other papers
6. State St. Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, NY Children’s Day June 18, 1933
7. West High School commencement announcement, Eastman Theatre
8. Theta Tau, Sigma Chapter, Ohio State Univ. Mother’s Day invitation, May 14, 1939
9. Western Union telegram; change of address card
13. Congratulations note
15. Wedding invitation: Frances A. Yates to Lyman B. Herron, Nov. 11, 1914
   Society notice of the wedding includes many Yates names
16. Rev. Chauncey B. Magill, pastor of State Street Presbyterian Church, Schenectady
17. “Rev. C.B. Magill Found Dead as Service Waits”
18. State Street Presbyterian Church newspaper article
20. 24 - Grand Court Order of the Amaranth, Inc., May, 1928; St. George’s Court notices
   and papers
25. Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute – Convocation announcement
   Nelson Herron newspaper notices
   Loose articles in scrapbook:
   Newspaper article w/photo – 50th anniv of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman B. Herron
   Other articles
Frances Yates Herron - Slides - see Box 12C; Box 12D

Joseph W. Armstrong, distant cousin of RJM - This folder is located in Special Collections at
Schaffer Library, Union College. Contents of the folder at Union College: photo of JWA by his
elaborate Eastlake bookcase - photos of his home - article about his retirement as long-time copy
editor of Schenectady Gazette - obituaries for JWA and wife Christine Armstrong - photo of
JWA and wife Christine - funeral/service bulletin - correspondence between JWA and RJM,
with interesting book discussions
Note: Robert Mielke’s maternal great-grandfather, Frank Yates,
was a brother of Joe Armstrong’s grandmother - this information is from an Armstrong letter in the above collection,

Box 8 - PATERNAL RELATIVES of Robert J. Mielke; FRIENDS of Mielke family; Local
Cities & Villages; MAP collection
Folder 1 – Otto W. Mielke & Ida Dettbarn Mielke (Grandparents of RJM) - (German document:
small brown book, possibly passport? dated 1888; DOB 18 April 1868) - Mielke genealogy
information - obituaries for Otto (Dec. 2, 1946) and Ida (Sept. 17, 1953) - photos of Otto and
Ida’s headstone and flat stones at Zion Lutheran Cemetery Schenectady - photos of Ida, Otto,
William, Ethel & Robert Mielke and children - obituaries of interest to family
Folder 2 – Walter Karl Reinhold Mielke & Susan H. Yoder Mielke (Walter: paternal half-uncle
of RJM; son of Otto W. Mielke and Minna Rohlhoff, Otto’s first wife)
[Information told by Kenneth Mielke, Walter’s son, to Evelyn Thode, in 2014: Walter was born
in Schenectady; left after WWI. Took a course at GE; went to Ohio. Married Sue Yoder Dec.
13, 1919. Sue (Susie) was head cook at a nursing home; she knew Burl Ives.]
Mielke family genealogy - copy of Walter Mielke’s birth certificate 7 July 1894 - 26-page
copy of records from Zion Lutheran Church, Schenectady, NY - correspondence - photo of
Walter and Sue Mielke - other photos - cards - items regarding Sue Mielke’s 100th birthday
- Sue Mielke funeral notes

Folder 3 - Family of Kenneth Mielke (b. 3 Nov 1922; son of Walter & Susan Mielke) - [mother
of Kenneth’s children is first wife, Norma ____; Kenneth married Mary____ in 1981) -
correspondence - cards - photos
Folder 4 – Ruth Mielke Gustafson Aldrich (daughter of Otto W. & Ida Mielke - materials from
Ruth Mielke’s family include: [photos: Ruth’s children, daughter Kay’s wedding, farm] - cards
- family correspondence - articles - Ashland Berry Farm materials - Epiphany Lutheran Church Week of Dedication booklet - cancelled checks from William Mielke family to Ruth and family

Folder 5 – Otto E. Mielke (Uncle of RJM; son of Otto W. & Ida Mielke) - items from Otto E. Mielke’s family include: photos - cards - family correspondence - postcard: “Notwithstanding”, from Greenfield Center - cancelled checks from William Mielke family

Folder 6 – Hilda Mielke Plusch (Aunt of RJM; daughter of Otto W. & Ida Mielke) - materials from Hilda Mielke Plusch’s family include: photos - wedding photos - cards - family correspondence - cancelled checks for various family members from William Mielke family - 50th anniversary article for Mr. & Mrs. Alexander J. Plusch - obituary for Almerin A. Plusch (father of Hilda Mielke’s husband Al Plusch)

Hilda Mielke & Almerin Plush – wedding picture; William Mielke is behind bride and groom

Folder 7 - Almerin Plusch family (son of Hilda Mielke Plusch)

Emil Dettbarn (Paternal cousin of RJM)

See Box 1; Box 2; Box 3; Box 12 for documents, correspondence, post cards and more information about Emil Dettbarn.

FRIENDS of William & Ethel MIELKE

Note: In addition to friends included here, other close friends were Clarence and Eleise Bodenstab; Alice & Paul Peletier, and Henry & Catherine Primmer. See Photos and Slides for pictures of many of William and Ethel’s friends.

Folder 8 – Christison, Alexander & Gladys - neighbors from Friends Lake: correspondence, obituaries

Folder 9 – Tubbs, Francis A. and Maybelle


Folder 10 – Horstman, Emma; Quellhorst, William - various papers

FRIENDS of Robert J. Mielke:

Folder 11 – Thomas, Dave - colleague from Fort Plain High School: correspondence

Folder 12 – Trimmer, Robert W. - classmate from Nott Terrace High School: clippings, 9 postcards from Bob Trimmer to Bob Mielke - correspondence, photos, obituary for Charles Trimmer, father of Robert Trimmer

Folder 13 – Sylvester, Harold J. - colleague from Concordia Teachers College: correspondence - cards - photos

Folder 14 - Zinn, John: correspondence and research regarding Dettbarn genealogy

LOCAL CITIES AND VILLAGES

Folder 15 - Albany, NY: articles and information regarding Cherry Hill; articles about Yates House (Governor Yates is mentioned in Yates genealogy); article about Christmas Past in Albany; regarding Fort Craillo: article; also a booklet entitled “Souvenir of the Old Dutch Mansion, Riverside Avenue, Greenbush, N. Y.”

Folder 17 - Glenville, NY: Historical Gleanings from Old-Time Maps and Deeds (report, 1928) - Glenville - Past and Present, Sesquicentennial Celebration, August 16-22, 1970


Town of Niskayuna Transfer Station cards - 2

Town of Niskayuna Land Fill tipping fee coupon

Mohawk Drama Festival Magazine, Union College, July 23, 1940

Mohawk National Bank 1807-1957 Sesqui-Centennial book

The Schenectady Gazette Goes to Press

[Things Human by Daniel J. O’Connor, Schenectady author; signed – housed in library collection]

Folder 19 - Scotia, NY:

(1904-1954) Scotia’s Golden Jubilee wooden nickel (2)

An Overview of Scotia and Glenville History as Told by the Spirit of Alexander L. Glen

“Dutch Touch” article on Holland House

Glen Sanders: postcard -

Glen Sanders Story

A Chronological History of the Glen-Sanders Family Mansion and Collection 1973

Various copies and articles

MAP COLLECTION - various maps from the past: local and New York State

Folder 20 – Maps - Albany, Schenectady, Troy, #1A

Folder 21 – Maps - Albany, Schenectady, Troy, #1B

Folder 22 – Maps – Fulton, Montgomery Counties

Folder 23 – Maps – New York State, #1A

Folder 24 – Maps – New York State, #1B

Box 9 - Relating to 883 STARK AVE; G.E. Federal Credit Union #1411

Folder 1 – Stark Avenue lot, surveys, etc.; neighbors and homes on Stark Avenue (Original address was 10 Stark Avenue)

Folder 2 – Town of Niskayuna – Assessment

Folder 3 – House and property

Folder 4 – Property maps

Folder 5 – Garage construction, building receipts

Folder 6 – House construction

Folder 7 – House information

Folder 8 – House receipts, mortgage, etc.

Booklets – Wiring

Binder and Ledger – personal notations of building project (883 Stark Avenue)

G.E. Federal Credit Union #1411: Binder (1953-1958); (Oct 1958 - June 1959: liquidation)

Includes: application cards w/DOB to 1934; names and numbers of shares held; financial & statistical reports; ledger accounts. William Mielke was treasurer of the union.
Box 10 – William and Ethel Mielke - Correspondence, Postcards, Calling Cards

Correspondence: Folders 1-6
This collection contains many letters and cards, most of which still include their stamped envelopes. Genealogical information can be gathered from wedding and graduation invitations, in addition to the family “news” written in the large quantity of letters (and on the postal cards, below), from both the Yates relatives and the Mielke relatives.

Postcards: Folders 1 & 2
Postcards from the Adirondacks, various cities and many more places
Postal cards, with letters written on the back

Calling Cards: Folders 1 & 2
34 fancy name cards (or Valentines?) - from about the 1920s, since William’s sister, Hilda, is included in the group, and she was born in 1908

Box 11 - Emil E. Dettbarn– Correspondence, Postcards
The Emil Dettbarn correspondence collection contains:
- 1921 correspondence re: his trip to Germany
- German correspondence
- correspondence 1916 - 1940s
- greeting cards 1920s -1970s
- correspondence from Margaret (Magdelena B. Pross) [more in Group 1, Box 5 at SCHS]
- cards from Margaret (Magdelena B. Pross)
- cards and notes from Frances X. Gruber

Correspondence: Folders 1 & 2
Correspondence: Folders 3 – 3D (from Margaret)
Correspondence: Folders 4 – 4C (German)

The Emil Dettbarn postcard collection contains 106 postcards (1910s -1920s). Subjects:
Schenectady; Adirondacks; Lake George; Saratoga; Featherstonhaugh Mansion; DC; various states; holidays; 36 of the total are German postcards

Postcards: Folders 1 & 1A (German)
Postcards: Folder 2 (from Margaret)
Postcards: Folder 3 (Assorted)

Box 12 – PHOTOGRAPHS; SLIDES - Mielke family

Box 12A and Box 12B – PHOTOGRAPHS:
Early 1900s to 2006. Mielke family, friends, travels; Schenectady, Albany, Friends Lake camp.
Early 1900s outings in the Adirondacks: some with dates, initials on the back of the photos, or captions. Outings at Mariaville Lake, Saratoga Lake, Schroon Lake, Friends Lake, Lake George, Potterkill Falls, Black Mountain. Much more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Subject Details</th>
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<p>| 12A | 1 | Mielke, William and Friends – Camping (1920s-1930s) | This folder contains photos of camping in the mountains: tents, campsites, lakes, canoeing, giant fish caught – enjoying the outdoors; initials on back of many photos | Adirondacks: Mileaway Beach; Sabbath Day Point; Deer Leap; Black Mt and Vicars Island; Rockhurst Camp |
| 12A | 2 | Mielke, William and Friends – Camping (1920s-1930s) | This folder contains photos of camping in the mountains: cabins, tents, swimming, boating, canoeing, tour boat, lakes; initials on back of many photos | Vicars Island and Black Mt; Tower on Black Mt; Two cabins on Black Mt; Fred Ossenfort; Al Plusch; William Mielke |
| 12A | 3 | Mielke, William – Camping &amp; Outings (1920s-1930s) | This folder contains photos of camping, outings at various lakes, musicians (Waterbury) | Mariaville Lake; Pilot Knob Mt; Potterkill Falls; Lake George steamboat; Camp at Saratoga Lake; Rube Orchestra |
| 12A | 4 | Mielke, William – Various subjects (1920s-1930s) | This folder contains photos of unidentified family groups and individuals, cars and a coal truck of the era, young men, horse and buggy w/couple, more | Early stone house; Coal truck; Cars; Horse and buggy; Niagara Falls |
| 12A | 5 | Mielke, William – Family &amp; more (1922-1926) | This folder contains photos of a locomotive, city views, unidentified individuals, various outings (see Details, right) | Lake George, Rainbow Bch; Rustic Bridge, Decoration Day; Old Mohawk Trail; Ethel Yates, William Mielke, Hilda Mielke, Al Plusch; Hazel Van Aernam |
| 12A | 6 | Mielke, William – Family &amp; friends (1927-1929) | This folder contains photos of outings at various lakes; cabins, group photos | Caroga Lake, Oneida Lake, Pine Lake, Mariaville Lake; Ethel Yates, William Mielke, Hilda Mielke, Al Plusch, Vivian Yates, Mr.&amp;Mrs. James Yates, Dora Chase |</p>
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<tr>
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<th>Mielke, William – Outings (1930-1931)</th>
<th>This folder contains photos of various outings (see Details, right)</th>
<th>Saratoga Racetrack; White Mtns, NH; Montreal, St. Anne de Beaupre; Watkins Glen; Lake George; William Mielke, Ethel Yates, Hilda Mielke, Al Plusch</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family; outings (1932-1933)</td>
<td>This folder contains photos of family gatherings, outings, vehicles, picnics (clam bake, Chiswell St, Schenectady), snow</td>
<td>Hartford, Ct – Rose Sunday; DC; Saratoga Race Track; Port of Albany; Lake George</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family; outings (1933)</td>
<td>Photos of Central Park, Schenectady; various relatives (Al &amp; Hilda Plusch family); outings (see Details)</td>
<td>Lake George; Caroga Lake; Canada Lake; Old Mohawk Trail; Bennington, VT;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family; outings (1934)</td>
<td>This folder contains photos of picnics, Al Plusch’s family, William w/ Ethel Yates; Vivian Yates (Chiswell St., Schenectady)</td>
<td>Sacandaga Reservoir; Mohawk Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family; outings (1935)</td>
<td>This folder contains photos of William w/ Ethel Yates; vehicle; trips and outings; Aunt Mathilds’s dinner party</td>
<td>Great Falls, Va; Lake George; Dam at Cooper’s Cave, Glens Falls”; James R. Yates; Vivian Yates</td>
</tr>
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<td>11</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family; outings (1936)</td>
<td>This folder contains photos of Wm &amp; Ethel’s “2nd Honeymoon”; group at beach</td>
<td>Plymouth Rock, Providence, RI; Springfield, MA; Atlantic Beach</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family outings (1937)</td>
<td>Family w/dog; at the beach; ocean views</td>
<td>Saratoga Spa; Manchester, Conn; coast of Maine cabin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family (1938)</td>
<td>Birth of Robert James Mielke – baby pictures; Wm &amp; Ethel Mielke</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Central Park; James/Maud Yates;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family (1939)</td>
<td>Family photos: Robert, Wm &amp; Ethel</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Central Park; Saratoga Spa</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family (1940)</td>
<td>Robert Mielke, baby pictures – wagon, tricycle, garden</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family (1941)</td>
<td>Mielke family – outings at lakes</td>
<td>Saratoga Park; Schroon Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Local outings (1920s-1948)</td>
<td>Baseball at Central Park; family at Central Park; Soap Box Derby, Fehr Ave; Lock 8, Mohawk River; State Capitol; Washington Park; Port of Albany; Saratoga Racetrack</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Albany, NY; Saratoga, NY</td>
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<td>12A</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family (1942-1943)</td>
<td>Robert Mielke, childhood; w/parents; Robert Bodenstab; vehicle</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Friends Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family &amp; Friends (1944)</td>
<td>Mielkes; cousins; Bodenstabs; building lot at lake; birthday party</td>
<td>Friends Lake, Chestertown, NY; Schenectady, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family &amp; Friends (1945)</td>
<td>Fishing, swimming, building the camp</td>
<td>Friends Lake, Chestertown, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Mielke, Willliam – Family (1946)</td>
<td>Wm, Ethel, Robert: home; new camp</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Friends Lake, Chestertown; Fort Ticonderoga</td>
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<td>12A</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family (1947)</td>
<td>Family at camp; playhouse at camp; outing at Thatcher Park</td>
<td>Friends Lake, Chestertown; 922 Delamont Ave, Sch’dy; Lake George</td>
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<td>Mielke, William – Family (1948)</td>
<td>Family at camp – fishing, swimming; gardening at home; snow at Delamont Ave</td>
<td>Friends Lake; Schenectady, NY. Mielke family; Ida Dettbarn; Mielke cousins</td>
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<td>12A</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family (1950, 1952)</td>
<td>Family at home (Stark Ave) and at the lake; family group at lake</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Friends Lake, Chestertown</td>
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<td>12A</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Family visits in DC (1933-1953)</td>
<td>Mielke family w/Al &amp; Hilda Mielke Plusch family; also Ida Dettbarn Mielke</td>
<td>Annapolis; Washington, DC – many locations and historical places</td>
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<td>Mielke, William – Family (1953)</td>
<td>Robert at home (Stark Ave); family at camp; family outings</td>
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<td>Mielke, William – Family (1955)</td>
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<td>12B</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Various early photos (c 1925)</td>
<td>Unknown family; unknown river/road; (German?) soldier; machinist in shop; “Webus” (1925) – large group of men w/names</td>
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<td>Mielke, William – Family (1961-1980)</td>
<td>Wm Mielke &amp; siblings; Wm &amp; Ethel, 40th and 45th anniv; Wm playing violin; Robert Mielke (1952 confirmation &amp; more); Aunt Frances; Aunt Florence</td>
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<td>12B</td>
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<td>Mielke, William – Vehicles (1941-1995)</td>
<td>Photos of family vehicles</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Friends Lake, Chestertown</td>
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<td>12B</td>
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<td>Mielke, Robert – Christmas (1931-2000)</td>
<td>Photos of Christmas trees and Robert’s gifts over the years</td>
<td>922 Delamont Ave and 883 Stark Ave, Schenectady, NY</td>
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<td>12B</td>
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<td>Mielke, Robert – Pets (1936-2002)</td>
<td>Mielke family pets</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Mielke, William – Camp (1955-1973)</td>
<td>The family camp, inside &amp; out: Wm, Ethel, Robert; relatives; the lake, fishing, dock, boats</td>
<td>206 Hill Park Road, Friends Lake, Chestertown, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>12B</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert - Camp (1995-2006)</td>
<td>The family camp: outside views; original wood stove; winter (sledding, skating); old dock/boat; new dock; Evelyn Thode w/new boat</td>
<td>206 Hill Park Road, Friends Lake, Chestertown, NY</td>
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<td>12B</td>
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<td>Mielke, William - Adirondacks (1958-2001)</td>
<td>Family outings in the Adirondacks; winter fishing (Lewey Lake)</td>
<td>Boris River; Frontier Town; Lake George (Minnie-Ha-Ha); Chestertown school &amp; churches; Warrensburg (Oscar’s); North Creek depot and train ride</td>
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<td>12B</td>
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<td>Mielke, William – Local outings (1961-1973)</td>
<td>Family &amp; friends: outings in the Adirondacks and Catskill area, and Union College, Schenectady</td>
<td>Warrensburg (Fish hatchery &amp; Pack Forest); Catskill Game Farm; Mielkes; Tubbs’; Hughes</td>
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<td>12B 11</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert – Mielke relatives (1954-2001)</td>
<td>Wm, Ethel, Robert w/Wm’s sister Ruth Gustafson &amp; family; Allen (Wm’s sister Hilda’s son) &amp; Sally Plusch</td>
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<td>12B 12</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert – Mielke relatives (1982-1995)</td>
<td>Wm, Ethel, Robert w/Sue Mielke and family (Walter’s wife)</td>
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<td>12B 13</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert – Mielke relatives (1941-1995)</td>
<td>Wm, Ethel, Robert w/Walter Mielke &amp; family; Walter’s home, grave, and descendants</td>
<td>Wheeler, IL</td>
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<td>12B 14</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert – Mielke relatives (1999)</td>
<td>Sue Mielke’s 100th birthday gathering; home and buildings; Sue’s family; Walter’s grave; Robert attended</td>
<td>Wheeler, IL</td>
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<td>12B 16</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert – Family friends (1981-2000)</td>
<td>Mielke family w/Sue Mielke; Frank &amp; Maybelle Tubbs; Clarence &amp; Eliese Bodenstab; Robert &amp; Myrna Bodenstab</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Friends Lake</td>
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<td>12B 17</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert – Family friends (1960-1982)</td>
<td>The Rendalls; John &amp; Mildred Hughes; Nellie &amp; Art Hammond; Pat Murphy; Alice &amp; Paul Pelletier; Catherine &amp; Henry Primmer</td>
<td>Various locations</td>
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<td>12B 18</td>
<td>Mielke, Robert – Family friends (1977-1997)</td>
<td>Mielke family; Alex &amp; Gladys Christison (neighbors at camp); Frank &amp; Maybelle Tubbs</td>
<td>Friends Lake; Schenectady, NY</td>
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Box 12C and Box 12D - SLIDES:
1950 - 1980. Mielke family and friends; activities at home on Stark Avenue, Schenectady, NY, and Friends Lake, Chestertown, NY; Frances Yates Herron’s family

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<td>1968-1980</td>
<td>Wm, Ethel, Robert Mielke: at home, and traveling</td>
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<td>1967-1980</td>
<td>Wm, Ethel, Robert Mielke: Christmas at home</td>
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<td>1-9, 10-18, 19-25</td>
<td>1968-1971, 1975</td>
<td>Wm, Ethel Square Dance costumes; NESQD Conv. Round Dance Convention Wm, Ethel 40th anniversary with Tubbs family</td>
<td>Schenectady, NY; Springfield, MA; Blue Creek School Schenectady, NY</td>
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<td>12C</td>
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<td>1-20</td>
<td>1969-1979</td>
<td>Mielke residence</td>
<td>883 Stark Ave., Schenectady, NY</td>
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<td>1968-1973</td>
<td>Mielke camp; fishing; new porch</td>
<td>Friends Lake, Chestertown, NY</td>
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<td>1-23</td>
<td>1968-1975</td>
<td>Mielkes at camp: winter; lake; geese</td>
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<td>1967-1977</td>
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<td>1959-1975</td>
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<td>Columbia, SC; Friends Lake; Schenectady, NY</td>
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<td>1968-1971</td>
<td>Walter Mielke family; William &amp; Otto Mielke</td>
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<td>1-21</td>
<td>1972-1980</td>
<td>Mielkes; Sue Mielke; Alex &amp; Gladys Christison</td>
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<td>1-21</td>
<td>1968-1979</td>
<td>Wm Mielke’s siblings &amp; families: Ruth Mielke &amp; Hilda Mielke</td>
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<td>1958-1964</td>
<td>Mielke relatives: Frances Yates Herron’s family; Nelson Herron’s family; 40th anniversary</td>
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<td>1961-1968</td>
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<td>1962-1971</td>
<td>Herron family</td>
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<td>1961-1963</td>
<td>Herron family at Becker’s Hotel, 4th Lake</td>
<td>Party; fun night; church</td>
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<td>12C</td>
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<td>1-6 7-13</td>
<td>1950s-1960s</td>
<td>JR Yates’ slides: Central Park; Jewish Temple. Stockade buildings (7-13)</td>
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<td>1958</td>
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<td>GE Quarter Century Club outing</td>
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<td>Central Park Rose garden</td>
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<td>1971-1972</td>
<td>South Mall construction phases</td>
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<td>Thatcher Park; Dunn Mem. Bridge; Capitol; Education Bldg.;</td>
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<td>1976-1979</td>
<td>Mall and city views; Wm, Ethel, Robert, Susie Mielke</td>
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<td>Mielkes w/ Art &amp; Nellie Hammond</td>
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<td>1968-1978</td>
<td>Mielkes and card club: Catherine &amp; Henry Primmer; Maybelle &amp; Frank Tubbs</td>
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<td>1-11 1958-1960</td>
<td>Frances Yates Herron; 51 Eastholm; St. George’s Court; Pat Murphy’s; Ed &amp; Evelyn</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>1-7 1958-1960</td>
<td>Nelson Herron’s family; their church; Frances Yates Herron w/ Joe &amp; Chris Armstrong; Herron grandchildren</td>
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<td>Paul &amp; Janice; reception</td>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
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<td>1-22 1959-1960</td>
<td>Frances Herron at Becker’s Hotel, 4th Lake</td>
<td>Adirondacks</td>
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**BOX 13 – PHOTOGRAPHS and NEGATIVES**

PHOTOGRAPHS and TIN TYPES from VanAERNAM/YATES family photograph album of the 1800s –1920s
Folder A – Photographs from VanAernam/Yates family album
Folder B – Tin Types from VanAernam/Yates family album
PHOTOGRAPHS and NEGATIVES - MIELKE family
Folder C – Photos – Various unknown individuals; Niagara Falls
Soldier in (German?) uniform; gentlemen’s group w/ curtains in back; lady with bonnet; young lady; young man; woman
Zion Lutheran Church: Basketball team* (1910-1911); orchestra; Sunday School room
*Large copy of this photograph is in Box 15
NEGATIVES
Folder 1 – Family & Friends, 1900s-1930s
Folder 2 – Adirondacks, 1920s-1930s; Washington, DC, 1950s
Folder 3 – Family, 1940s-1950s
Folder 4 – Family, 1930s-1950s
Folder 5 - Family – Home & Lake
Folder 6 – Robert Mielke, baby pictures; family
Folder 7 - Family
Folder 8 - Famil
Folder 9 – Family
Folder 10 – Negatives in strips
Folder 11 – Negatives in strips

**BOX 14 – OVERSIZE ITEMS**
William S. Mielke (Box 6):
Confirmation certificate, Zion Lutheran Church, April 1, 1917
Horace Mann Elementary School Certificate, Jan 28, 1918
National Academy of Music certificate of membership in the Extension Department March 10, 1926 (see also NAM card in William S. Mielke, Box 6, Folder 1)
William Zeuch 1929 organ recital; Wm Mielke, violinist

Ethel Yates Mielke (Box 6):
Excelsior High School diploma
Excelsior High School graduation photograph; names of classmates on back of photograph
Silhouette bust of Ethel Mielke, on brown background

Park W. VanAernam (Box 7):
Civil War reunion – Park W. VanAernam, seated, middle right

James R. Yates (Box 7): photograph as a young man
James R. Yates & Maud Van Aernam (Box 7): Wedding photo, 1897

Walter Ossenfort & Lillian Springer - Wedding photo, 1923; group photo with identification

Zion Lutheran Church - L.A.C. basketball team, 1910-1911 (small copy of this photo in Box 13, Folder C; also photo of Zion orchestra and Sunday School room in same folder)

Large group of men outside (church?)
Large group outside w/beer mugs

This Finding Aid for the Robert J. Mielke Collection was created by Evelyn Thode between 2007 and 2016, during the process of collecting, sorting and organizing the quantity of materials relating to the Mielke, Yates and VanAernam families.

ADDENDUM: These items were not accepted for inclusion in the Mielke Collection; in 2016 they were still in the custody of Evelyn Thode.

CASSETTE TAPES - Recorded by William Mielke, mostly in the 1970s-1981
These cassette tapes provide interesting detail, oral history, social customs and issues of their era; such as doctors speaking directly, and at length, with the patient or patient’s family. The conversations are generally polite and respectful, and a bit on the formal side. The tapes give insight about the family and friends, dancing groups, and even a few radio ads and programs.

Personal tapes:

• Conversations regarding Emil Dettbarn and other relatives: various lawyers, doctors, nursing homes, nurses, undertakers; concerning surgeries and medical issues, hospital stays, placement in nursing homes, funeral plans, etc.
• Many conversations (William and Ethel, mostly, but Robert appears occasionally) with Susie Mielke, Vivian Yates Rowland, several other relatives and friends. Some genealogy information was gathered here; there was mention of a fire at 924 Delamont Ave, which was next door to an earlier Mielke residence at 922 Delamont; much more
• New Year’s Eve party - Guy Lombardo on radio (or TV?)
• Radio - Hank Coons, gardening questions
• Radio - WGY “Ethical Dimensions” program w/Surrogate Court re: Wills, Estates, etc.

Round and Square Dancing tapes:
• Eight pages of details of the dance classes and practice sessions, written by William Mielke - they include dates, tape numbers, and all music from each session. Written on the back of “Schenectady G.E.A.&M. Employees Federal Credit Union No. 4111” stationery.
• One page of Evelyn’s notes about the tapes
• Round and Square Dance tapes, mostly from 1972 - recorded by Wm Mielke, with music and calling, at group sessions. Probably the dancers individually recorded these sessions, as a few comments on the tapes are: “Needles on”, and “Those of you who are recording”; listings of music in the recordings is included.
• Square Dance flyers and other dancing materials are located in Box 6, Folder 12. Ethel’s square dance dresses are located in the SCHS Museum on Washington Street.