

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the Blasie Family Papers

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### Summary Information

**Repository**

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

**Creator**

William and Henry Blasie

**Title**

Blasie Family Papers

**Identifier**

MG 213

**Date**

1860s - 1950s

**Physical Description**

2 boxes

**Physical Location**

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

**Language of the Material**

English

**Abstract**

The Blasie Family Papers are a collection of materials owned by Henry M. Blasie and relating to the Blasie family. William Blasie, Henry's father and a Captain in the Civil War, was the original owner of most of the collection.

The collection consists of news clippings, photo albums, photographs, and scrapbooks.

## **Preferred Citation**

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Blasie Family Papers, 1860s-1950s, MG 213. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

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## **Conditions Governing Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access**

None

### **Copyright**

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the Albany Institute of History & Art Library will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Archivist/Librarian.

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: unidentified

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## **Processing Information**

Processed by A. Mazzone, January 2011; finding aid updated by H. Cox, June 2021.

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## **Biographical/Historical**

William Blasie was born in Albany, New York, on January 22, 1840. His occupation listed in the 1859 Albany Directory is hairdresser. He married Catharine Gilronan and had ten children; Isabella (1861 - 1934), William (1862 - 1905), John (1866 - 1868), Catharine Eva (1867 - ?), George Fisher (1869 - 1943), Mary Ann (1872 - ?), Elvira (1874 - 1899), Joseph Fisher (1876 - 1937), Grace Louise (1878 - 1879), Louise Cowell (1881 - ?), and Henry Mereness (1884 - 1954).

Blasie, an Albany native, served in the American Civil War in the 43rd New York Volunteers. He was captured by Confederate forces and imprisoned. He later became a 1st Lieutenant and was granted a leave of absence for his imprisonment.

Following the war, William Blasie was actively involved in several military organizations in Albany, including the Albany Jackson Corps, the Albany Burgesses Corps, the Lew Benedict post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was Commandant of the Albany Steuben Cadets. He also was a Master Mason of the Washington Masonic Lodge in 1877, 1878, 1881, and 1882.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection predominantly consists of family materials relating to William Blasie, his wife Catharine, and their ten children. In addition, photographs and papers associated with William Blasie's son Henry, his wife Helen Housemann, and her family are also found in the collection. Primary formats in this collection are photographs, and papers, but also includes scrapbooks and a book. Also included are materials relating to William Blasie's role in the Civil War. The Hoffman Directory contains an inscription by William Blasie written when he returned from a prisoner of war camp in the south.

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## Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
William and Catharine Blasie Photographic Scrapbook. A corresponding inventory listing each photograph is found in the front Hoffman's Albany Directory 1845-1846/ Written on the inside cover "This book was found by me at Wilmington, N.C. on March 1st 1865, (in a telegraph office) while I was on my way home from Rebel prisons. William Blasie"	1	
Nuace Mounting Corners; Bureau of Vital Statistics of the City of Albany, New York; A Certified Transcript from the Registrar of Births 171 for Harry Mareness Blasie; Albany Cemetery Association Deed given to William Blasie		1
Return envelope for Reuben R. Thompson, Editor, TOBACCO; Letter to Mr. Reuben R. Thompson from H.M. Blasie, Oct 18, 1945; Letter to Mr. Blasie from Reuben R. Thompson, Oct. 17, 1945		2
Tintype photograph possibly of George and Joseph Blasie; Tintype photograph possibly of Isabella Blasie;		3

Tintype photograph of a group of men and women. Mr. and Mrs. William Blasie are located center right and center middle, Mrs. Blasie's sister, Mrs. Mary Slauson, is front left;

Tintype photograph possible of William Blasie Sr;

Tintype photograph possibly of William Blasie Sr. and child;

Tintype photograph possibly of George Blasie in sailor suit;

Photograph of young girl possibly Catherine Blasie;

Photograph of Jamie Middleforo at 16 months in 1893;

Photograph of unknown woman in a black hat (found with scrapbook);

Large group photograph of Hausmann family- Helen Hausmann (Henry) Blasie is standing in the center. Her parents are sitting in the middle with

Bill and Janet at their knees (found with scrapbook);

Newspaper clipping of Captain William Blasie in an envelope (found in scrapbook)

Blasie Family Record, A chart listing William Blasie, his wife Catharine, and their children. Includes date and place of birth, some death dates are listed on the bottom

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Scrapbook, A scrapbook of newspaper clippings, and programs relating to William Blasie's army career and organizations he belonged to