

Albany Institute of History & Art
Library

C 500

MARY PALMER CALVERLEY BYRNE-IVY PAPERS

1832-1953

2 lin. ft., 4 boxes

- Series I. Correspondence (1875-1928)
- Series II. Legal and Financial Papers (1889-1917)
- Series III. Personal Papers and Ephemera (1832-1953)
- Series IV. Photographs (1868-ca. 1930)

April 1997

Biographical Note

Mary Palmer Calverley Byrne-Ivy was a singer, pianist and voice teacher. She was born May 12, 1870, in New Jersey to Susan E. Hand (1833-1886) and Charles Calverley (1833-1914). Calverley was a well-known artist who had work as an assistant in the studio of the noted sculptor Erastus Dow Palmer in Albany, New York, from 1859 to 1861.

Mary Calverley, who was known as "Daisy," attended Kenwood Academy in Albany where she received piano and voice lessons. In 1888, she moved to New York City and there pursued professional voice lessons. While living in New York City, she met and later married Frank Byrne-Ivy; they settled in Essex Fells, New Jersey. Little is know about Frank Byrne-Ivy except that he was employed with the New York Car Advertising Company.

According to a biographical statement in one of her recital programs, Mary Byrne-Ivy sang for several seasons with the Bostonians under the name of Mary Palmer and later joined the American Opera under Henry W. Savage. She mainly devoted herself to concert and oratorio work, as well as giving private voice and piano lessons.

Her date and place of death are unknown.

Scope and Content Note

The Mary Palmer Calverley Byrne-Ivy Papers spans the period from 1832-1953 and primarily contains documents relating to her personal and family life. The collection is divided into four series: CORRESPONDENCE; LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PAPERS; PERSONAL PAPERS AND EPHEMERA; and PHOTOGRAPHS. The papers, along with several fine art objects, were given to the Albany Institute of History and Art in 1971 by Elizabeth E. Baker.

Series I. CORRESPONDENCE contains letters from family and friends, including a small group of childhood birthday cards and notes to Mary from her father Charles Calverley. Also in the series are a number of letters from New York socialite Elizabeth Cochran Bowen. Correspondence from other friends includes several letters from John Crawford Burns, Kate Burns, and Ida Hill, as well as a folder of single letters from others. Family correspondence consists of a folder of letters from Charles and Jessie Byrne written while on a trip to Europe in 1925, and one from various Ivy and Byrne family members. One folder of letters and memos relates to Frank Byrne-Ivy's professional life, and contains information on business matters at the New York City Car Advertising Company.

Series II. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PAPERS primarily contains correspondence, legal documents, and receipts relating to the purchase of property in Essex Fells, New Jersey, by Frank and Mary Byrne-Ivy, as well as estimates and receipts for the construction and furnishing of their home there. Other financial records include a domestic expense account book budgeting carfare, clothing and living for November 1900-November 1901. Also found in this series are papers relating to the settlement of the estate Mary Byrne-Ivy's mother, Susan E. Calverley.

Series III. PERSONAL PAPERS AND EPHEMERA includes a notebook and journal kept by Mary Byrne-Ivy during her years at Kenwood Academy in which she refers to her voice and piano lessons. Two folders hold ephemera that document performance activities of both Mary Byrne-Ivy (her recital programs and notes) and Frank Byrne-Ivy (the Essex Fells Club

minstrel shows). One folder of invitations and menus connects Charles Calverley to various art clubs and associations in New York City as well as an invitation, engraved on celluloid, to the unveiling of his monument of Robert Burns in Washington Park, Albany (see also photographs of the monument in Series IV). Series III ends with a folder of miscellaneous newspaper clippings and a group of Spanish-language documents relating to 19th-century land transfers in Texas; their relationship to the Byrne-Ivy or Calverley families is unknown.

Series IV. PHOTOGRAPHS consists primarily of portraits of Calverley and Byrne-Ivy family members, friends and associates. The photographs are arranged in alphabetical order by sitter (when identified) followed by unidentified portraits, groups, buildings, and outdoor scenes; oversize items appear last on the list as they are housed in Box 4. Included among the portraits are important images of sculptor Charles Calverley and the interior of his New York studio, and portraits of his contemporaries Palmer, Boughton, Hartley, and Hunt. Works of art by Calverley and other sculptors, and a photograph of Albany's renowned art store, Annesley's, are found in this series as well. Family members include the mother and sister of Charles Calverley, Elizabeth Chalton Calverley (1803-1895), and Elizabeth Calverley (1836-1906), as well as childhood photographs of Mary Calverley Byrne-Ivy. Identified portraits of men include theatrical personalities Henry Irving, Ross David and Jack Peachey; identified women include Maude Pearson, Grace Reale, Agnes Delaporte, and Maud Ulmer.

Box Folder

Series I. CORRESPONDENCE

1	1	Byrne, Charles and Jessie	1925-26
	2-3	Bowen, Elizabeth Cochran	1903-17, n.d.
	4-5	Burns, John Crawford	1915-23, n.d.
	6	Burns, Kate	1916, n.d.
	7	Byrne and Ivy families	1905-19, n.d.
	8	Calverley, Charles	1875, n.d.
	9	Hill, Ida	1925, n.d.
	10	Miscellaneous correspondents	1906-28, n.d.
	11	Frank Byrne-Ivy's business correspondence	1909-14, n.d.

Series II. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL FILES

12	Booraem, L.V.	1910-13
13	Brussel & Beebe	1912-13
14	Drexel Estate	1911-16
15	Wendell & Treat	1910-11
16	Young, Milton W.	1910-11
17	Contracts for utilities	1910-11
18	Deeds	1917
19	Estimates and invoices for fixtures and furnishings	1911-14
20	Household expenses and cancelled checks	1900-24
21	Susan Hand Calverley estate	1889, 1899

Box Folder

Series III. PERSONAL PAPERS AND EPHEMERA

Byrne Ivy, Frank

2	22	Advertising Men's League of New York	1914
	23	Essex Fells Club minstrel show programs	1906-08

Byrne-Ivy, Mary Palmer Calverley

24	Journal and notebook	1887-90
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Recital poster
See: Box 4, folder 65

25	Recital programs and notes	1906-16, n.d.
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Calverley, Charles

26	Invitations and menus	1880-89, n.d.
27	Miscellaneous personal papers	1889, 1919, n.d.
28	Newspaper clippings	1935, 1953, n.d.
29	Texas land documents	1832-54

Series IV. PHOTOGRAPHS

30	Byrne-Ivy, Frank (5 prints)	1885-88, n.d.
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Byrne-Ivy, Mary Palmer Calverley

31	Childhood portraits (10 prints)	1872, n.d.
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32	Portraits (6 prints)	1894, n.d.
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Calverley, Charles

33	Portrait as a young man, ambrotype	ca. 1850
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34	Portraits (9 prints)	1875-88, n.d.
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Box Folder

Series IV. PHOTOGRAPHS (con't.)

Calverley, Charles (con't.)

[2]	35	Interior of New York studio (3 prints)	1884, n.d.
	36	Sculptures (15 prints) See also: Box 4, folder 64	1863, 1872, n.d.
	37	Calverley, Elizabeth (1 print)	n.d.
	38	Calverley, Elizabeth Chalton (1 ambrotype, 2 prints)	n.d.
	39	Calverley, Susan Hand (5 prints) See also: Box 2, folder 31	n.d.
	40	Hand family members (6 prints)	1882, n.d.
	41	Palmer, Erastus Dow, and family (4 prints)	1868, n.d.
3	42	Children, identified (5 prints)	n.d.
	43	Men, identified (8 prints)	1891, n.d.
	44	Women, identified (13 prints)	1888-92, n.d.
	45	Children, unidentified (14 prints)	1869-70, n.d.
	46	Couple, unidentified (2 prints)	ca. 1920
	47	Men, unidentified (17 prints)	n.d.
	48	Women, unidentified (23 prints)	1871, n.d.
	49	Groups, Point Pleasant, NJ (6 prints)	1889 Aug
3	50	Groups, identified and unidentified (8 prints)	1925, n.d.
	51	Artists, identified [Boughton, Hart, Hartley, Hunt, Ogden, Thorwaldsen] (7 prints)	1890, n.d.
	52	Works of art by Bouguereau, Hartley, Palmer, Thompson (6 prints)	1860, n.d.

Box Folder

Series IV. PHOTOGRAPHS (con't.)

[3]	53	Annesley's Art Store, Albany, NY (1 print)	ca. 1855
	54	Building, unidentified (1 print)	n.d.
	55	Essex Fells, NJ, and other sites (14 prints, 1 negative)	n.d.
	56	Houses, unidentified (34 prints)	n.d.
	57	Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, NY (2 prints)	n.d.
	58	Outdoor scenes, Europe (3 prints)	ca. 1880
	59	Outdoor scenes, unidentified (11 prints)	n.d.
4	60	Interior of a home, unidentified (5 prints)ca. 1870	
	61	Child, unidentified (1 print)	n.d.
	62	School group, Albany, unidentified (1 print)	n.d.
	63	Portrait bust, unidentified subject and sculptor (1 print)	ca. 1875
	64	Robert Burns memorial by Calverley (4 prints)	ca. 1889

OVERSIZE**From Series III. PERSONAL PAPERS AND EPHEMERA**

65	Byrne-Ivy, Mary: recital poster	1904 Sep 7
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