

## **Guide to the Arthur F. Stickney Minstrel Show Papers, 1898-1963**

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Arthur F. Stickney Minstrel Show Papers, 1898-1963

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

1992.009

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

**Creator:**

Stickney, Arthur F., 1900-1970

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.42 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Arthur Stickney Minstrel Show Papers is a collection of minstrel show programs, skits, gags, verses, music, and show rolls from 1898 to 1963, including a catalog of costumes.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Arthur F. Stickney Papers were a gift from Northfield Used Furniture and Collectibles in Northfield, NH, on January 29, 1992.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in March 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish material from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Arthur F. Stickney Minstrel Show Papers, 1992.009. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Arthur Francis Stickney, the first child of John F. and Beatrice L. (Ashland) Stickney, was born on February 23, 1900 at Concord, NH. His siblings were Clifton Howard, born February 17, 1901; Grace Beatrice, born May 26, 1905; Ashland, born July 7, 1907, died September 6, 1907; Dorothy Ethelyn, born September 11, 1908, Forrest R., born February 14, 1911; and Ruth Helen, born November 17, 1915. Arthur's mother at Concord died on January 19, 1944 and his father died there January 10, 1957.

Arthur was eighteen and working as a job pressman at Rumford Press when he registered for the WWI draft in 1918. He was 5' 3", had blue eyes and brown hair. At Penacook on April 12, 1925 he married Ursula Wright, daughter of William and Fannie (Gage) Wright. Ursula was born at Boscawen on September 30, 1902. They had at least two children: William A. and Lois J.

Arthur worked as a pressman at Rumford Printing until his retirement in 1970. He was well known for his involvement in minstrel shows put on to benefit local organizations.

Arthur died at Concord on September 17, 1970, and Ursula died on September 22, 1988. They are buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Penacook, NH.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Arthur F. Stickney Minstrel Show Papers is a collection of minstrel show programs, skits, gags, verses, music, and show rolls from 1898 to 1963, including a catalog of costumes. These papers reflect the popularity of minstrel shows as entertainment for Old Home Days, churches, the Grange, and other local and small town groups as late as the early 1960s. There are black face skits and racially disparaging gags about various groups including African Americans and Native Americans.

The papers include documentation of shows performed before live audiences, including detailed show rolls for each performer. There are also skits written specifically for radio. Also included are two folders of personal and family papers.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by subject.

Contents List

**Box 1**

- Folder 1      Personal papers, 1905-1947
- Folder 2      Family papers, 1944-1959
- Folder 3      Typed programs, undated
- Folder 4      Typed programs, Bow, NH, 1961-1963
- Folder 5      Typed programs, Boscawen Old Home Day, 1962
- Folder 6      Radio skits, undated
- Folder 7      Black face skits, undated
- Folder 8      Skits for specific groups, undated
- Folder 9      Booking Office skit, undated
- Folder 10     Skits, undated
- Folder 11     Verses, gags, songs, etc. from notebook, undated
- Folder 12     Numbered gags and stories from notebook, undated
- Folder 13     Songs, undated
- Folder 14     Gags and miscellaneous, 1958, undated
- Envelope 15   Show rolls, 1956-1961, undated
- Folder 16     Printed programs, Concord Area, 1926-1962
- Folder 17     Haverly's Minstrels, Chicago, IL, 1898, undated
- Folder 18     Hooker & Howe, costumers' catalog, Haverhill, MA, undated

**Separated Materials:**

The following thirty photographs have been moved to the Photograph Collection:  
Arthur Stickney [2 photographs]

Concord area flood, 1927 and 1938 [9 photographs]  
Minstrel Show 7" x 9.5" [1 photograph]  
Minstrel Show photographs 4" x 5" or smaller [15 photographs]  
Rumford Field Day 8" x 10", 1924 September 6 [1 photograph]  
Rumford Press Outing 9" x 15", 1923 September 8 [1 photograph]  
Winter scene with horses and buildings 3" x 4.5" [1 photograph]

Some of these photographs can be found in the following subjects:

Concord, New Hampshire: Floods  
Concord, New Hampshire: Schools, Rumford  
People - Stickney  
Oversized Photographs Box "D" - Groups of People, Business

## Subject Terms

### **People:**

Stickney, Arthur F., 1900-1970

### **Organizations:**

Haverly's Minstrels  
Hooker-Howe Costume Company

### **Subjects:**

African Americans  
Blackface entertainers  
Indians of North America  
Minstrel shows  
Theater

### **Locations:**

Boscawen, NH  
Bow, NH  
Chicago, IL  
Concord, NH  
Haverhill, MA

### **Occupations:**

Entertainers