

**Polly Apperson Estate collection**  
**Description and finding aid**

*Ephemera, documents and photographs relating to the Apperson, Merrill and Ryder families of Norwalk, Connecticut, through the mid-twentieth century .*

Two boxes (.5 linear foot)

Collection donated to Norwalk Museum, sometime after 1993

Processed by Paul Keroack, 2015

**Acquisition:** The Apperson Estate collection was received by the Norwalk Public Library from the Norwalk Museum during the restructuring of the Museum in 2013.

**Access:** There are no restrictions to items in this collection.

**Permission to Publish:** Requests for permission to publish from the collection should be made to the Norwalk History Room.

**Copyright:** Norwalk Public Library does not hold the copyright on the materials in the collection.

**Introduction and scope of collection**

Polly Merrill Apperson, 1910-1993, was the daughter of Frank and Clara (Ryder) Merrill. She married and was later divorced from Van Doren Apperson. She was employed as a physical education instructor and coach at Norwalk High School for 32 years. She was also active in many local organizations.

**Box 1**

**Folder 1**

Photostat of resume (CV) of Polly Merrill Apperson, ca. 1955.

Photocopy of her Hour obituary, April 16, 1993, p. 47, added 2015 by Norwalk History Room.

**Folder 2**

2 booklets:

“Little known facts about bundling in the New World,” by A. Monroe Aurand, 1938, 31 p.

“The Building of Norwalk, 1651-1901,” copy of publication by Augustus F. Beard.

### **Folder 3**

Holiday Coin Card, Rebekah Lodge, inscribed on reverse, Maryette Casalone, Oct. 7, 1965, with envelope, addressed to Mrs. Casalone, Fleetwood Park Road, Bethel CT, from Cloris E. Bertrune, 7 Nash Place, Norwalk CT

### **Folder 4**

The following items relating to the Order of the Eastern Star, Ophir, Chapter 52, East Norwalk, Conn., originally in a manila envelope, with name on it of Mrs. Maryette Casalone, 9 Fleetwood Park, Bethel CT:

By-laws, booklet, 2 copies

Stated meetings, 1926, leaflet, 2 copies

4 photographs, groups of members, 1920s, 1930s, 1950s

Certificate of shares, Partrick Varnish Co., issued to Mabel R. Osborne, 1924

Clipping from New York Times, Rotogravure Picture Section, Westchester-Connecticut, Sun. Aug. 5, 1929, "Furthering Sororial Interests in a Verdant Grove: Sisters and Guest of Ophir Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Norwalk, gathered for an outing."

"Notes from the East," five mimeographed sheets of news and announcements dated Sept.-Dec. 1980.

### **Envelope 1**

Scrapbook of pasted obituaries, verse, news clippings and some photographs pasted on pages of a lined notebook, 7 x 8.5 inches, many pages blank, pertaining to the Apperson, Merrill, Ryder and Street families.

### **Envelope 2**

Black leather-covered diary, 3 x 6 in; identified in pencil on envelope as belonging to Frances Ryder.

Two small envelopes addressed to Mrs. C.E. Ryder, Norwalk CT. One contains child's note to "Dear Granda."

Photograph, carte-de-visit(?) of young woman; stamped on reverse, Whitney, Photographer, Norwalk, Conn. Note in pencil on outer envelope says, Daisy, mother of Charles Merrill and Daisy Atherton.

**Separate item 1**

Photograph under glass, in velvet-lined box, 4 x 3 in., of a young man, seated on rocks.

**Separate item 2**

"Log of the Eleventh Annual Cruise of the Neptune Yacht Club, of Norwalk, Conn., August, 1877," (cover title), booklet, 74 p.

**Separate item 3**

Autograph album, 3 x 6 in., "Polly Merrill, Xmas, 1924"

**Separate item 4**

White leather-covered booklet, 6 x 8 in., with marriage information of William Wilton Apperson and Clara Pauline Van Doren, 2 December 1903, East Norwalk, entered into a preprinted format. Later pages have written information on Mr. Apperson's 1922 death, and the 1911 birth of son Van Doren Apperson.

**Box 2**

Metal coffin plate (?) for "Elijah L. Ryder, died Feb. 11th, 1865, aged 58 yr, 6 mos.,"

Metal coffin plate (?) for Hannah Ryder, died April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1854, aged 46 years," in envelope

Norwalk Hour clipping, "Candidate Frank H. Merrill," Nov ?, ca. 1920s.

**Photographs &c. in envelopes**

Envelope containing small photographs of clippings, letters and photograph, 6 x 6

Glass plate negative and print, interior of Silvermine church, in 6 x 6 envelope

Negatives and print, "scenes around 11 Hawkins Avenue, in the early 1920s," in envelope

"House at 128 East Ave.," numerous small snapshots, exteriors and family, Rev. Dewitt T. Van Doren (re 1915 directory), in 6 x 9 envelope

"House at 130 Silvermine Ave.,"; family snapshots, negatives and prints, and two 4 x 6 portrait photographs in 6 x 9 envelope.

Family snapshots, negatives and prints, and two 4 x 6 portrait photographs in 6 x 9 envelope

"Silver Lake Ice Co., ice house, men cutting ice, wagon w/ advertising, Frank H. Merrill, Pres.," small photographs in 6 x 9 envelope

"father, Frank H. Merrill," 8- portrait photographs on cards, in 6 x 9 envelope

"Daisy Ryder Atherton, aunt of Polly, d. March 26, 1915; Rev. Warren Atherton," 6- 4 x 6 photographs on cards, 2 notes, 1- 2 x 4 photograph, in 6 x 9 envelope

"Clara Ryder Merrill," 4 x 7 photograph on card, in 6 x 9 envelope

"Mary J. Street (?), 1825-1909, widow of Charles G. Street," 5- 2 x 4 photographs, including tin-type and print in small envelope, in 6 x 9 envelope

Numerous small photographs and negatives (some rolled) in 6 x 9 envelope

**Stand-alone photographs**

4- 4 x 6 portrait photographs of children on cards, 3 identified as "Grandma and Polly,"

7- approx. 6 x 8 photographs on cards

3- 8 x 10 photographs on cards

3- approx. 8 x 10 portrait photographs on cards with circular paper matting, by E.T. Whitney & Whitney & Beckwith

1- 20<sup>th</sup> c. 8 x 10 portrait photograph mounted within paper enclosure

5 – 20<sup>th</sup> c. approx. 8 x 10 portrait photographs