Register to The South Before the War Company Papers

MSS 87

Compiled by Ana Bentancur
1996-2007

120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu
https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale University Music Library
120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu
https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections

CALL NUMBER: MSS 87

CREATOR: South Before the War Company

TITLE: The South Before the War Company Papers

DATES: 1895–1899

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials chiefly in English.

SUMMARY: Music and other materials from the touring minstrel show The South Before the War

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0087

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0087.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The South Before the War Company Papers were established in the Music Library of Yale University by Marguerite S. Megaw in 1981.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the Special Collections staff to schedule an appointment.

Some of the materials may be stored at the Library’s off-campus shelving facility, so researchers should allow at least two business days to have the appropriate boxes paged.
Conditions Governing Use

The South Before the War Company Papers are the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

Preferred Citation


Biographical / Historical

The South Before the War Company was a minstrel show owned and managed by Herman Wallum (alias Harry Martell) that toured the United States in the late 1890s (and possibly before and after that time as well). The musical show performed by the Company was also named The South Before the War, and the company-owned parlor car bore the same name.

Although minstrel shows were perhaps the most popular genre of musical theater in America during the late 19th century, few are as thoroughly documented as The South Before the War. These papers provide an important glimpse into the musical practices and social attitudes of that era.

Scope and Contents

The South Before the War Company Papers include scripts, orchestral parts, published and unpublished sheet music, and other ephemera. Unfortunately, there is no list of musical numbers used in the show, and it is difficult to judge if any of the orchestral parts constitute a complete score. The script is complete, however, and it is possible to combine that with the songs and segues that most frequently appear in the orchestral parts to make a very preliminary sketch of the musical numbers involved:

Act I:

Before Curtain
Curtain music
Chorus at curtain: Negro melodies: “Picking Cotton”, “Oaken Bucket” etc.

”Chicken Songs”
”Black Annie”
”My Old Kentucky Home”
”The Days When I Was Young” (or “My Old Savannah Home”?)
”Ambolena Snow”
Grand Chorus: ”Palms”

Act II & Act III (?):
Intro. music to ”Levee scene”
”Buck Dance”
”Soft Shoe Dance”
”Frog Act”
“Paulina Cotrell” (female solo?)  
The Baileys -- specialty act  
Andy McLeod -- specialty act  
“One Hundred Fathoms Deep”  
Keystone Quartet -- specialty act  
Imperial Quartet -- specialty act  
“The Man Who Led the Cake Walk”  
Finale

The Papers, of course, include many more songs than indicated in this list. The individual orchestral scores are largely made up of segues identified only by script cues, and there is some variation from score to score. The second half of the show appears to have been only loosely related to the story line: it is basically a variety revue.

**Arrangement**

In 2 series, as follows: I. Publicity, scripts, and other materials. II. Music.
## Collection Contents

### Series I. Publicity, scripts, and other materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 1, f. 1 | Publicity & other ephemera  
1 small publicity brochure  
Photograph, b&w, of company & private parlor car  
Publicity statement, handwritten, in ink -- 3 pages  
Contract for performance at Atheneum Theatre [city not mentioned] dated 1898. [The contract is the only dated document in this collection.]  
List of company expenses, handwritten, in ink  
Log sheet, unused, for company’s itinerary |
| b. 1, f. 2 | “Harry Martell’s New and Original Picturesque Spectacle Entitled ‘South Before the War’ in Three Acts and Numerous Tableaux”  
Complete typed script -- 28 pages |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Scripts for Act I  
Holograph [Harry Martell’s handwriting?], in ink -- 13 pages  
4 typed scripts -- 17 pages, 16 pages, 24 pages, 24 pages |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Scripts for Act II  
Handwritten script, in ink -- 27 pages  
Handwritten script for scene 1, Act II -- 14 pages  
Typed script -- 20 pages |
## Series II. Music

### Manuscript Orchestral Scores and Parts

**Call Number:** II.A

[fragments, duplicates, etc.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 5</td>
<td>Leader [conductor]</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>64 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 6</td>
<td>1st violin</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>11 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 7</td>
<td>2nd violin</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>40 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 8</td>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>35 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 9</td>
<td>Bass (and/or Cello)</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>62 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 10</td>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>33 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 11</td>
<td>Clarinet in A &amp; B flat</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>58 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 12</td>
<td>Cornet in A</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>18 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 13</td>
<td>Cornet in B flat</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>47 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 14</td>
<td>Trombone</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>44 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 15</td>
<td>Drums</td>
<td>II.A</td>
<td>35 pages</td>
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</table>

### Manuscript Songs

**Call Number:** II.B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 16</td>
<td>&quot;Niger's Luck&quot;</td>
<td>II.B</td>
<td>9 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[no author given]</td>
<td>One-page orchestral parts for: 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola, bass, flute, clarinet in B, cornet in A, trombone, drums</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 17</td>
<td>&quot;Our Gallant Boys in Blue&quot;</td>
<td>II.B</td>
<td>10 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[no author given]</td>
<td>One-page orchestral parts for: 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, clarinet, cornet in A, trombone, drums</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## II.B Manuscript Songs (continued)

### b. 4, f. 18

“O’Possum”  
*9 pages*  
(by E. Morback Buck?)  
One-page orchestral parts for: leader, 2nd violin, viola, bass, flute, clarinet in B flat, cornet in B flat, trombone, drums

### b. 4, f. 19

“My Baby”  
*8 pages*  
(no author given)  
Mimeographed one-page orchestral parts for: 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola, bass, flute, clarinet in A, cornet in A, drums & bells

### Unidentified fragments

Call Number: II.C

### b. 4, f. 20

Unidentified fragments  
*19 pages*  
In manuscript form, in ink and pencil

### Published songs

Call Number: II.D

### b. 4, f. 21

“Who Dat Say Chicken in dis Crowd”  
*8 pages*  
Will Marion  
Published orchestral parts for (one page each): 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola, bass & cello, flute, clarinet in A, cornet in A, trombone

### b. 4, f. 22

“Black Annie”  
*10 pages*  
Hillman & Perrin  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola, cello & bass, flute, clarinet in A (2 copies), cornet in A, trombone, drums

### b. 4, f. 23

“Ambolena Snow”  
*7 pages*  
Maywood  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: 2nd violin, bass & cello, flute, clarinet in A, cornet in A, trombone, drums

### b. 4, f. 24

“At a Georgia Campmeeting”  
*12 pages*  
Kerry Mills  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: piano, 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola, bass, flute, clarinet in B flat, 1st cornet in B flat, 2nd cornet in B flat, 1st & 2nd trombone, trombone, drums

### b. 4, f. 25

“I’m the Warmest Member in the Land”  
*4 pages*  
(incomplete)  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: cello & bass, cornet in A, trombone, drums
### II.D Published songs (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 4, f. 26 | "The Enquirer’s Club"  
8 pages  
(march)  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: piano, cello, 2nd clarinet in B flat, oboe, 1st horn in F, 2nd horn in F, 2nd cornet in B flat, bassoon |
| b. 4, f. 27 | "Marie! Come Kiss Your Honey Boy"  
8 pages  
[incomplete]  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: 2nd violin, viola, bass, flute, clarinet in B flat, cornet in B flat, trombone, drums |
| b. 4, f. 28 | "Take Back the Engagement Ring"  
4 pages  
[incomplete]  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: 2nd violin, bass, clarinet in B flat, cornet in B flat |
| b. 4, f. 29 | "Happy House in Coontown"  
4 pages  
[incomplete]  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: 1st violin, bass, 1st cornet in A, drums |
| b. 4, f. 30 | "The First Wench Done Turned White"  
4 pages  
[incomplete]  
Published orchestral parts (one page each) for: 2nd violin, flute, cornet in A, trombone |

**Published Piano-Vocal Scores**  
*Call Number: II.E*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 4, f. 31 | Published piano-vocal scores  
All for you (by Carl Vandal) -- 3 pages  
As it was of old (Lyn Udall) -- 3 pages  
The cake-walk in the sky (Ben Harney) -- 4 pages  
The change will do you good (John W. Bratton) -- 3 pages  
Chicoongo (Arthur S. Shaw) -- 3 pages  
City of Harrisburg (L. A. Drumheller) -- 1 page  
Coming Home to Die (Gussie L. Davis) -- 3 pages  
Coons in the Canebrake (M. S. Clayson) -- 4 pages  
Could the dream but go on (Richard Stahl) -- 3 pages  
The dandy sparrow cops (W. H. Batchelor) -- 4 pages  
Dear old soul (John W. Bratton) -- 4 pages  
Done said all I had to say (J. Hicks & S. Perrin) -- 4 pages  
Everything’s a comin’ mah way (E. Moulton) -- 3 pages |
The field burglars (G. H. Bramhall) -- 4 pages
Flanagan, rushin' the can again (Taylor & Stephens) -- 4 pages
The gripcar gripman’s grip (Wm. Devere) -- 4 pages
He is coming to us dead (Gussie L. Davis) -- 4 pages
I’m not particular (Murray & Leigh) -- 4 pages
I’ve got money locked up in a vault (I. Jones) -- 3 pages
I think of thee (Louis C. Elson & Hartel) -- 2 pages
In the heart of old New England (T. S. Allen) -- 3 pages
Just a little spray of heather-bells (Heelan & Hamilton) -- 3 pages
Kiss your goosie woosie (C. G. Cotes & B. Scott) & It didn’t take long to do (Murray & Leigh) -- 6 pages
Little Miss Vixen (Louis Reinhard) -- 4 pages
A long time ago (C. Moreland) -- 4 pages
Ma Caroline (Lee Johnson) -- 4 pages
A Maine girl (W. E. Chadwick) -- 4 pages
Mamie Tracy (Roger Harding) & Mary Had a Little Lamb (J. Tabrar) -- 6 pages
Mandy, will you be my lady love? (S. L. Perrin) -- 4 pages
Meet me half way (J. Donigan) -- 3 pages
Miss Virginia (Jefferson & Irving) -- 4 pages
Molly McEntee (Edwin W. Cole) -- 4 pages
My little octoroon (W. R. Williams) -- 3 pages
My old Westchester home among the maples (W. B. Gray) -- 4 pages (2 copies)
Oft-times (J. E. Fay & J. B. Oliver) -- 4 pages
Oh! such a business! (Arthur Gillespie & G. Edwards) -- 4 pages
Only a dream (J. E. Fay & J. B. Oliver) -- 3 pages
The pride of the pier (W. H. Ford & J. W. Bratton) -- 3 pages
The sermon Deacon Vandewater preached (W.B. Gray) -- 4 pages
Sweet, sweet love (C. Horwitz & F. V. Bowers) -- 3 pages
Take good care of mother (‘Murphy’ & J. A. Bland) -- 4 pages
There’s always a home for you (G. L. Davis) -- 4 pages
There’s something going to happen mighty soon (C. Lane) -- 4 pages
Unrequited (W. Blake & G. J. Couchois) -- 3 pages
Why don’t you love me in the same old way? (W.R. Williams) -- 3 pages
Cantiniere (W. L. Gilmore) & The best in the wide, wide, world (Cooper & Ryan) & Turtle dance (G. A. Held) & A fancied resemblance, that’s all (Browne & Coleman) -- 13 pages
Published Sheet Music (Fragments)
Call Number: II.F

b. 4, f. 32

Published sheet music - Fragments
America my glorious home - for trombone -- 1/2 page
Break the news - for trombone -- 1/2 page
The cake walk - piano-vocal fragment -- 2 pages
Country life - for trombone -- 1 page
Smiles & tears - for trombone -- 1 page
Dear little love - piano-vocal fragment -- 2 pages
Hot tomale alley - for cornet in A -- 1 page
Katie Emmett March - for cello -- 1 page
Mahooney's days - for 2nd violin & viola -- 2 pages
Medley selection of Southern plantation songs - for violin -- 1 page
Tandem 2-step - for 1st violin -- 1 page [torn]
Every night in central park - 1st violin -- 1 page [torn]
Unidentified - for 1st violin & viola -- 2 pages
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Minstrel shows

Corporate Body
South Before the War Company