



## Archives and Records

### Finding Aid

**COLLECTION NUMBER: 60**

**COLLECTION TITLE: George Chapin Scott and Edward F. Bernier Collection**

#### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator(s):** George Chapin Scott and Edward F. Bernier

**Title:** George Chapin Scott and Edward F. Bernier Collection

**Extent:** 1.25 linear feet

**Date Span:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> century – circa 2005

**Repository:** The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Migyeong Geum, Simmons College intern from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, November 2011, under the supervision of Andrew Elder and Libby Bouvier.

#### SUBJECT TERMS

*Subject Names:*

George Chapin Scott

Edward F. Bernier

Provincetown

Boston

Holyoke

*Subject Topics:*

Gay History

#### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

Contact The History Project for further information:

The History Project

29 Stanhope Street

Boston, MA 02116

617.266.7733

info@historyproject.org617.266.7733

www.historyproject.org

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

George Chapin Scott was born August 1916 in Heath, Massachusetts, the only child to Myria F. Chapin and John H. Scott. He first contacted The History Project in 2000 to donate a large collection of local lesbian and gay newspapers, i.e. *The Guide*, *Tommy's* and *Next*. He lived on Elm Street, Davis Square, Somerville, and died April 12, 2005 at age 88. He was a member of Boston Prime Timers, a 25-year member of the Monday Night Bowling League, and founding treasurer of the Somerville Committee for a Response to AIDS (SCRA). He was the friend of Robert J. Publicover who was a longtime Somerville resident, a publisher of *Somerville Journal*, the 1992 recipient of *Bay Windows* Newspaper Award, Mr. Gay New England, and founder of SCRA. Publicover was also the executor of George's estate. Among other friends of George's were William Wood of Medford, Rudy Corvo of Boston, Bruce Carpenter of Granby, Jack Sheehan of Quincy, James Cyr of Quincy, Robert Hanson of Provincetown, and Larry Hannay of Somerville.

Edward F. Bernier, or Eddie, was born in Pennsylvania in 1930 and was George's partner until he died in an auto accident in Wellfleet, Cape Cod, in early 1961. He was a hairdresser in Central Square, Cambridge, on Massachusetts Avenue. This collection contains a large number of photos of Eddie as well as photos of Eddie's.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

After George passed away in 2005, all of his stuff was thrown out, perhaps by his landlord. A woman in the neighborhood, Julie Katz, found his collection on the ground by chance, and picked up as much as she could carry. She later contacted The History Project regarding the collection. For this reason, most of the materials lost any original order, and the collection was neither well organized nor comprehensive. Photographs constitute the largest part of the collection. There are a number of photos of Eddie, as well as old family photos from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Included in the collection are materials such as letters, address books, business cards, pamphlets, certificates, high school journals, news clippings, and miscellaneous stuff.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SERIES**

### **Series I: Photographs (Folder 1)**

This series includes 290 black and white photos, 14 color photos, and some memorabilia. Some negatives are included as well, with some associated with existing photos and some not. The photos have been rearranged in terms of the determined commonalities, such as locations or numbers printed on the verso, except for those kept in individual albums. The photos are arranged in the following categories: George and his friends at the beach in Provincetown; Eddie's photos and memorabilia; Photos from three different albums (mostly Eddie's photos); Miscellaneous photographs; Boston in the snow; Show business photos owned by Eddie; Family photos and portraits (presumably); Old family photos (of George's family) from the album "Scenes from Monte Vista"; other family photos from 1930 and 1950; and postcards of Provincetown.

All photos in this series have been placed in a binder (Box 1) in the above order and according to the above categories.

One oversize photograph (part of the series of Show Business photos) is included in Box 2, Folder 1.

Please note: The collection contains a number of photos of Phil Baiona on the beach in Provincetown. Baiona also appears in a book, *Images of America: Provincetown Vol.2* (Arcadia Publishing, 1998) edited by John Hardy Wright on the page 118, as well as in The History Project's book *Improper Bostonians*

Wright introduces Baiona as the owner of "Twelve Carver Street," a very popular gay bar in Boston's Bay Village, with a photograph named "An Ample Water Nymph (1955)." A photo of Eddie is also found under Phil Baiona's photo and is titled "A Busty Beach Beauty (1955)."

#### **Series II: Personal documents (Folder 2, 3 and 4)**

This series is further subdivided into the following categories:

- **Family history** (Folder 2) includes a family record book by George's parents which records their marriage in 1915 and George's birth in 1916, a copy of documents from 1897, and an identification card of George from Town of Granby. \*\*Some old letters that belong here have been taken out for a special treatment.
- **Letters** (Folder 3) contains a number of old letters from family.
- **Certificates** (Folder 4) contains certificates granted to George Scott or John Scott by the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry (1925-1955).

#### **Series III: Contacts (Folder 5 and 6)**

This series is further subdivided into the following folders/categories:

- **Addresses and business cards** (Folder 5) includes business cards and notes with addresses that George might have written down.
- **Address books** (Folder 6) includes four small address books.

#### **Series IV: Printed materials (Folder 7, 8, 9 and 10)**

This series is further subdivided into the following folders/categories:

- **News clippings** (Folder 7) includes three pieces of news clippings related to George's parents or perhaps his relative and a column that George wrote to introduce Provincetown.
- **Pamphlets** (Folder 8) includes a number of pamphlets from a church or a telephone company, an invitation card from Twelve Carver, a couple of tickets, a couple of flyers and a town event program.
- **High school journals** (Folder 9) contains the high school journal *The Spotlight* from 1930 to 1932 that was published five times a year in Holyoke, Massachusetts, by the Students of South Hadley High School.
- **Stuff from England** (Folder 10) contains various kinds of materials and memorabilia from England, circa 1953 and 1954, such as pictorial books for souvenirs, journals, a church pamphlet, and a newspaper.

#### **Series V: Miscellaneous materials (Folders 11, 12 and 13)**

This series (Folders 11, 12 and 13) includes shopping notes, glasses cleaner, a souvenir folder of Provincetown, a typewriter manual, a memorial service card from 1873, diverse media materials (phonograph records, films, and audiocassette), and a rainbow belt.

### **SERIES AND FOLDER LIST**

#### **Series I: Photographs**

Folder 1: Photographs (moved to Provincetown photograph photo box)

#### **Series II: Personal documents**

Folder 2: Family history

Folder 3: Letters

Folder 4: Certificates

#### **Series III: Contacts**

Folder 5: Addresses and business cards

Folder 6: Address books

**Series IV: Printed materials**

Folder 7: News clippings

Folder 8: Pamphlets

Folder 9: High school journals

Folder 10: Stuff from England

**Series V: Miscellaneous materials**

Folder 11: Miscellaneous materials (see Series Description)

Folder 12: Rainbow belt

Folder 13: Records, audiocassette