

LINNA HENNIG SHERMAN

Jan. 20, 1873 – Feb. 18, 1958.

SUMMARY: Photographs and print material documenting the career of Linna Hennig Sherman, actress and teacher of drama. Also, pictures of other members of the Hennig family. Bulk of the collection is from the 1880s through the 1930s.

EXTENT: .5 lin. ft. -- 1 box; approximately 55-60 photographs, plus newspaper clippings and publicity materials.

PROVENANCE:

The collection was prepared by Eleanor Sherman Hennig, and came to the library in a box marked "Linna Hennig Sherman, her pictures, her achievements and honors, collected by her daughter, Eleanor Sherman Hennig." The library received the material from L. Grubbs, 423 Woods Rd., Newport News, VA 23601, along with Eleanor's college scrapbook. Any accompanying information has been lost.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Linna Hennig Sherman, 1873-1958, was an actress in Wheeling amateur theater, a founder of the Player's Club in the 1890s, and the Little Theatre in the 1920s. In 1904 or 05 she started the Sherman School, teaching dramatic arts, etc. She also taught in Steubenville and later at Mount de Chantal.

She was the daughter of Emil Isadore Hennig, 1831-1899. He was listed as homeopathic physician in census and city directories and lived at 24 11th St, Wheeling, where he also had his office. He was from Leipzig, Saxony. He was married to (Agnes) Adaline Large. Linna was the youngest of their nine children.

The following genealogy is from:

[http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=DESC&db=732snow&id=I10327:](http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=DESC&db=732snow&id=I10327)

- 7 Agnes Adaline LARGE b: 23 MAR 1833 d: 14 JUN 1914
 - + Emil Isadore HENNIG b: 19 OCT 1831 d: 27 AUG 1899
- 8 Frank HENNIG b: 23 NOV 1860 d: 2 FEB 1934
 - + Maude MALCOLM
- 8 Emil Isadore HENNIG b: 23 JUN 1861 d: 6 OCT 1914
 - + Martha Ella WALTON d: Abt 1915
- 8 George Robert HENNIG b: 25 JUN 1863 d: 21 JAN 1924
 - + Elizabeth PIERCE b: 1871 d: 20 AUG 1912
- 9 George Pierce HENNIG b: 6 AUG 1895 d: 27 MAR 1937
 - + Emma Hilda O'BERRY b: 6 FEB 1890 d: 18 MAR 1963
- 10 Paul F. HENNIG b: 25 NOV 1921 d: 10 JUL 1986
 - + Living COFFMAN
- 10 William Cecil O'BERRY b: 31 OCT 1912 d: 7 NOV 1983
 - + Virginia KLINE
- 10 DeLois O'BERRY b: 25 APR 1915 d: 19 JUN 2009
 - + Manuel Gordon GEIGER b: 30 JAN 1905 d: 28 FEB 1998
- 9 Paul Kirkwood HENNIG b: 16 SEP 1896 d: DEC 1976
 - + Eleanor Adaline SHERMAN b: 15 OCT 1901
- 8 Edgar Wilhelm HENNIG b: 16 MAY 1865 d: 31 DEC 1919

+ Martha Lee CHAMBERS b: 1880
9 Kirkwood Molette HENNIG b: 5 JAN 1906
+ Vivian C. KAPELLER
8 Infant HENNIG b: 19 NOV 1866 d: 19 NOV 1866
8 Louis Phillippe HENNIG b: 1868 d: 7 SEP 1868
8 Karl Isadore HENNIG b: 18 OCT 1869 d: 8 JUL 1870
8 Agnes Adaline HENNIG b: 28 JUN 1871 d: 26 MAR 1872
8 Adda Linna HENNIG b: 20 JAN 1873 d: 18 FEB 1958
+ Samuel SHERMAN
9 Eleanor Adaline SHERMAN b: 15 OCT 1901
+ Paul Kirkwood HENNIG b: 16 SEP 1896 d: DEC 1976

Her oldest brother Frank, after being a telegraph operator in the 1880 census listing, is recorded in the Wheeling city directories of 1884 and 1886 as a 'tragedian'. He may be the same Frank Hennig who name turns up as a Shakespearean actor, 1893-1903. One clipping notes that Frank was in Thomas Keene's company for many seasons.

At some point she married Samuel Sherman, born in September 1868. They had one daughter Eleanor Adaline Sherman (Oct. 15, 1901-April 12, 1994).

In 1900 they lived at 50 Zane Street. She is described as an elocutionist. He is listed as Trav. Passenger Agent WLE R.R. (Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad) in the census and city directories.

They were somehow missed in the 1910 census.

Around 1904 they moved to 1413 Chapline Street, where Linna established the Sherman School. By 1910, Samuel is not in the city listings. In 1920, Linna is head of household at 1413 Chapline St., Wheeling, a teacher of dramatic arts. Eleanor is a student at the Music Con[servatory]

According to *Progressive West Virginians*, 1923 (she was one of a very few women included) she was president of the Sherman School of Expression and Dramatic Art, which she founded in 1905. She also taught at Mount de Chantal. She had earlier been organizer of the Player's Club of Wheeling.

A poignant note from her daughter on the back of one picture: "Fall of 1929. Before coming to Hilton Village, Va. This picture was taken just before my mother had a severe illness which became a prolonged nervous breakdown. She lost much weight which she never regained. Nor did she ever again have her usual vitality."

In the 1930 census Linna and Eleanor were living at 3200 West Ave., Newport News, Va. Linna was principal, dramatic school; Eleanor was supervisor of music, high school.

Eleanor organized the first Newport News High School marching band in 1929. She headed the high school music department until her retirement in 1959. She married Paul Kirkwood Hennig (1896-1976) who was her first cousin, the son of George Robert Hennig. Eleanor died in 1994.

Linna died Feb. 18, 1958 at Warwick, Va.

CONTENTS:

The collection is in file folders:

Biographical information

Linna – baby pictures (3)

Linna – earlier pictures (4 portraits and snapshots: at Atlantic City – Linna in DelSarte pose – Linna with fabulous hat – portrait by Connell, Wheeling.)

Scene from Young Mrs. Winthrop, after the baby's death (1882 play by Bronson Howard)

Dress rehearsal of Leah the Forsaken (with Linna, Frank Nesbit, Edw. Henry)

Linna as Portia, Juliet and Ophelia (3 pictures)

Scene from Cut Off with a Shilling (with Bernie McMechen)

Linna as Leah (in Leah the Forsaken)

Linna in a fancy gown. Possibly ca. 1900? Portrait by Connell, Wheeling.

E. I. Hennig and Agnes Hennig. Portrait of E. I. Hennig, picture of the elderly E.I. And Agnes together, picture of elderly Agnes.

George R. Hennig (2 portraits)

Nate Cox – tin type in case -- “Aunt Kate Large's sweetheart Nate Cox to whom she was engaged for 20 years”

Samuel Sherman – formal portrait

From Photo album – 11 pictures from dismantled photo album, still on black paper. Scenes in Michigan, several snapshots of Linna.

From Photo album – 10 pictures from album – Atlantic City, Ohio River boat trip, others unidentified.

Snapshots – Most unidentified – Hughes Resort, Michigan, July '12; 2 of Jean Blinn or Blynn of Steubenville, City Treasurer for many years; Linna with car; Crossing to Norfolk on the ferry, 1930; June Wynters, a former student (1950s?)

Family? -- Kate Browning, 3 years old, taken in Steubenville; a large house, ca. 1900?; 'Bobby and Mary Anne' 2 children in the snow, 1930s?; tiny portrait in the form of a postage stamp; unidentified girl (Eleanor?); unidentified young woman, ca. 1900.

Later Pictures – portrait dated 1929; one “taken last July...with a visiting student from Whg, a girl I

taught 30 years ago..."; formal portrait 1920s or 30s; early picture with young man; later color picture of ??

Flora Williams – portrait by Kossuth. “A fine soprano and dear friend of Linna's, they were in the same Chautauqua Co.”

Newspaper clippings – most fragmentary – 1956 article about Little Theater in Wheeling. Linna was among founders (News-Register, Sunday, Aug. 26, 1956) – “Mr Frank Hennig now entering upon his fourteen season with Mr. Thomas Keene....” -- “Mrs. Linna Hennig Sherman to Teach at Mt. De Chantal (Aug. 5, 1919) – Clipping about Sherman School of Expression, also naming Miss Alma Wilson, Miss Genevieve Ewing, Miss Carabel Zane – Linna Hennig Sherman Dramatic School Graduating Class of 1921 – 1926 Commencement Recital – Leah the Forsaken review, April 10, 1896 – Program, Court Theatre Attaches Benefit, May 19, 1903 – Evening of Comedy at Court Theatre, with Linna Hennig Sherman and Edward Franzheim at Mr. And Mrs. Honeyton (Sept. 4, 1904)

Sherman School Material: Sherman School Juvenile Potpourri, April 15, 1925; invitation to 1912 graduation; invitation to 1918 graduation; publicity flyer ca. 1905.

Promotional Material for Linna: two gravure portraits; two large postcard portrait, “Entertainment Bureau, Playettes, Recitals, Concerts, arranged for Churches and Clubs; Linna Hennig-Sherman in Interpretive Recitals (ca. 1916?)

Correspondence: From J.E.? O'Brien about her interest taken in Marguerite's behalf. 1921 – Letter from Linna to Katherine Browning, “Dear Coz....”, mentions a serious shock. June 27, 1914 – German New Year's card from Kate Browning.