

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Behrens Collection
1913-1980s

1 box

BEHRENS COLLECTION

10-09

Henry (Hank) G. Behrens
(1911-2000)
Virginia (Ginny) (Scharen) Behrens
(1914-1995)

HISTORY, SCOPE and BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

The Behrens Collection was donated in 2010 by Christine Gault, the present owner of the house the Behrens built and lived in at 90 Ransom Road, Falmouth. The collection was housed in two suitcases and several small boxes and envelopes. It had been left in the house upon Hank's death; there were no heirs.

For the most part, the collection consisted of photographs. The largest portion of photos were color snapshots of myriad social events that they had attended during their years in Woods Hole, with no dates or identification given.

Another portion of the photos were finely preserved a few daguerreotypes, tintypes and many cabinet cards with portraits of Virginia's German-American ancestors, who lived in the northern part of Brooklyn in the German enclave of the 19th century. The cabinet cards had stunning graphics on the backs of the mounts with the names of many German photo studios. All persons were identified in pencil. There were also deeds to houses in the Brooklyn area and several other papers from the family.

Since none of this related to Woods Hole, a query was put out to the Brooklyn Historical Society. They were happy to accept the donation of the daguerreotypes, tintypes and cabinet cards as well as the other material related to Brooklyn.

Henry and Virginia, both educated at N.Y.U., moved to Falmouth in 1946 when Henry accepted a position at W.H.O.I as business manager. In 1950 they bought a lot on Ransom Road overlooking Oyster Pond from land agent Forrest Johnson and built a Cape-style home on it (90 Ransom Road). In 1962 Henry became the deputy Controller of W.H.O.I. and later became Controller. He was involved in many organizations as an officer (see obituary for details in Folder 1A).

Virginia had worked for the American Telephone & Telegraph Company in New York (1936-1946) before moving to Falmouth. In 1952 she became the supervisor of the Falmouth business office of New England Telephone and retired in 1971. At that time she became a professional real estate broker. Virginia was also very active in various Falmouth organizations (see obituary and other text in Folder 1B for details).

BEHRENS COLLECTION

- 10-09.1 Behrens-Scharen genealogy.
- 10-09.1A Material on Henry Behrens (from Falmouth *Enterprise* files)
- 10-09.1B Material on Virginia Behrens (from Falmouth *Enterprise* files)
- 10-09.2 Behrens-Scharen wedding: cards, telegrams and newspaper announcement (1936)
- 10-09.3 Photos: wedding and honeymoon trip
- 10-09.4 Photos: early to mid 1900s
- 10-09.5 Photos: mid-1900s – 1908s
- 10-09.6 Photos and material about Virginia's parents, James J. Scharen and Katharine Siewert Scharen
- 10-09.7 Honeymoon cruise to Puerto Rico souvenirs
- 10-09.8 Travel souvenirs
- 10-09.9 Virginia Behrens' real estate licenses
- 10-09.10 Henry Behrens' autograph book