

ELSA KNY STEINBACK COLLECTION: A Guide

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library
The Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Elsa Kny Steinback.
- Title:** Elsa Kny Steinback Collection.
- Dates:** 1830-1997.
- Abstract:** The Elsa Kny Steinback Collection contains a compilation by Frances Herman and Elaine Angel of slides and color photocopies of art works by Lake George artist Elsa Steinback. There are also photographs collected by Elsa Steinback of Lake George and the surrounding area, including Glens Falls and the Adirondack Mountains, mostly by photographer Seneca Ray Stoddard. There are also a few historical prints and some miscellaneous papers.
- Quantity:** 1 cubic foot (2 boxes)
- Identification:** Art & Artifacts

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Artist and author Elsa Kny Steinback (1911-1996) was born in New York City, but spent summers at Shelving Rock on Lake George at a house built by her grandparents. Before the house was built, her grandfather and his family stayed for many years at one of the old hotels, Pearl Point. She became interested in art in high school and received training at the Pratt Institute and with artist Eric Pape. For years she spent winters in Brooklyn and had an art studio there. In the 1940's she had a winter home built in Bolton Landing and continued to spend summers across the lake at Shelving Rock. Most of her artistic and literary works concern the Lake George region. Her art works were widely exhibited and her best known book, *Sweet Peas and a White Bridge: On Lake George When Steam Was King*, published in 1974, is a history of Lake George with an emphasis on the 19th century.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The collection contains a compilation by Frances Herman and Elaine Angel of slides and color photocopies of art works by Lake George artist Elsa Steinback. These photographs of her art present mainly botanical subjects, such as flowers (especially wildflowers) and vegetables, along with some landscapes, views of Lake George, boats, old equipment, and views of the Southwest and Arizona. She worked mainly with oils, watercolors, and pastels.

There are also historical photographs collected by Elsa Steinback of Lake George and the surrounding area, mostly by photographer Seneca Ray Stoddard

INDEX TERMS

- Topics:** Artists—New York (State)—Lake George.
Botanical illustration—New York (State)—Lake George.
Landscape painting—New York (State)—Lake George.
- Places:** Adirondack Mountains (N.Y.)—Description—Views.
George, Lake (N.Y.: Lake)—Description—Views.
George, Lake (N.Y.: Lake)—History—Photographs.
- Important People:** Angel, Elaine.
Herman, Frances.
Steinback, Elsa Kny.
Stoddard, Seneca Ray
- Form/Genre:** Photographs, prints

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Elsa Kny Steinback Collection,
The Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Gift of the Estate of Elsa K. Steinback, February, 1997.
Accession Number 1997-005.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler and Elizabeth Kern. Emendations by Erica Wolfe Burke 2006, 2013.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Box 1: Photographic reproductions of art works by Elsa Steinback.

Elsa Steinback, Artist, 1911-1996: A Survey of Her Works, compiled by Frances Herman and Elaine Angel, January-February, 1997. Commissioned by Peter and Courtney Simon. 1 volume, plus color photocopies of many of Elsa Steinback's art works.

The volume contains color slides and brief descriptions of many of Elsa Steinback's paintings. These photographs of her art present mainly botanical subjects, such as flowers (especially wildflowers) and vegetables, along with some landscapes, views of Lake George, boats, old equipment, and views of the Southwest and Arizona. She worked mainly with oils, watercolors, and pastels.

Inventory of books and other items donated to Crandall Public Library by the Estate of Elsa K. Steinback.

Box 2: Historical Photographs, mostly of the Lake George Region, and related historical prints and other documents.

Stoddard photographs in album – all Lake George views

- 897. Lake Geo., The Narrows, N. from Shelving R.
- 898. Pearl Point, Lake George.
- 899. Pearl Point, Lake George.
- 900. Pearl Point, from South, Lake George.
- 913. Pearl Point, from South, Lake George.
- 897. Steamboat Landing at the Sagamore, Lake George.
- 898. Pearl Point, Lake George.
- 899. Lake George, Northwest from Shelving Rock.
- 927. Paradise Run, Lake George.
- 897. Pearl Point, Lake George.
- 898. The Narrows from Horicon Pavilion, Lake George.
- 899. Horicon Pavilion, Lake George.
- 900. North from Horicon Pavilion, Lake George.
- 901. Horicon Pavilion, Lake George.
- 902. Horicon Pavilion, Lake George, 1881.
- Lake George, Shelving Rock and Buck Mt.
- 897. Lake George, West from Shelving Rock.
- 898. Hundred Island House, Lake George.
- 899. Lake George—North from Hundred Island House.
- 914. Pearl Point Harbor, Lake George.

Stoddard photographs - loose

- 24. Mohican House, Lake George.
- 45. Alva Dunning, Adirondack Guide and Hunter, 1891.
- 79. Sunlight and Shadow [house partly visible through trees]
Large house with statues along driveway in front.

Other Photographs:

- Tent on shore of Lake George. Note by Elsa Steinback on back: "My father's camp on NW point of Uncas Island, 1909-1910."
- Four people in rowboat, Lake George, by Thatcher.
- Children on beach, Lake George, by Thatcher.
- Pier by moonlight.
- Hundred Island House Grounds, Lake George.
- Loggers by river
- Horse and driver [Note on back by Elsa Steinback: "Probably at Warrensburg, N.Y."]
- Log house by lake.
- Artisan in shop, probably a blacksmith – horseshoes hanging from ceiling.
- Woman with child angel – art work.

Historical prints

- "View of the Ruins of Fort Ticonderoga," W. H. Bartlett, T. A. Prior, London, 1837.
- "Lake George"
- "The Narrows, Lake George", W. H. Bartlett, F. W. Topham, London, 1839.
- "Washington County Seminary and Collegiate Institute, Fort Edward, N.Y."
- "Plaza of Congress Hall, Saratoga Springs," C. Burton, engraved and printed by Fenner Sears & Co. London: I.T. Simkin & Hinton & Marshall, 1830.
- "Albany", W.H. Bartlett and C. Cousen, n.d.

Lake George Mirror (Vol. X, No. 10), August 5, 1899.

Elsa Steinback correspondence, 2 items, 1975 and n.d.

