

Catskill Mountain House Collection

Repository:

Vedder Research Library
90 County Route 42
Coxsackie, NY 12051
Tel. (518) 731-1033
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Access Number: None Assigned

Creators: Unknown

Extent: 2 cu. ft. (1 box and 13 shelved bound volumes)

Languages Present: English

Date Range: 1823 - 1989

Historical Note: The Catskill Mountain House was a timber-framed hotel that once stood on a scenic overlook atop South Mountain in Haines Falls, NY. The hotel attracted a diverse array of visitors with advertisements describing beautiful vistas, fresh mountain air, and modern amenities for which the facility came to be nationally renowned. Presidents, captains of industry, preeminent thinkers and authors of the 19th century all made visits to the Catskill Mountain House as part of their summer social schedules during the hotel's heyday. Originally opened in 1823 by a group of entrepreneurs from Catskill, NY, the property was leased to Charles Beach and finally purchased outright by him in 1839. The hotel passed through several owners before being abandoned after the 1941 season. In 1962 the land upon which the Catskill Mountain House stood was purchased by the Department of Environmental Conservation for transformation into what is today the North-South Lake Recreation Area and Campgrounds. As part of this initiative, DEC burned the remains of the Mountain House on January 25, 1963 and erased nearly all traces of its existence from the overlook it had occupied for over a century. Visitors today can hike to the clearing where the building once stood to read about the hotel's history on historic markers while taking in the famous view.

Summary of Contents: The collection comprises one box of material spanning the history of the Mountain House from its earliest days as operated by the Catskill Mountain House Company to its final seasons as Andron's Mountain House in the 1930s. There are clippings and historical gleanings about the Mountain House published both during the hotel's existence and post-1963. Two folders contain correspondence regarding attempts at preservation and its eventual destruction. There are several folders of ephemera including menus and advertisements from the 1880s

through the 1930s along with guide maps, hotel stationery, and souvenir programs from hotel events. Photographs appear throughout the folders as they pertain to given subjects. There are two folders on Charles and George Beach which contain legal and business documents related to their estates and the operations of the hotel. Additionally, 13 bound Hotel Registers still exist covering the years 1853 - 1873, 1905 - 1908, and 1913 - 1915. Several are alphabetized indexes of guests with addresses, room numbers, arrival and departure dates, and in some instances even requested supplies for their rooms.

Arrangement: Material is sorted into 18 folders by subject, oversized ledgers are shelved separately.

Acquisition: Item likely accessioned by purchase c. 1970, supporting documentation not present.

Processing Details: None available.

Publication: Collection likely processed by Ray Beecher at unknown date, finding aid created Fall 2016 by Jonathan Palmer.

How to Access Materials: Materials are available to examine on-site at the Vedder Research Library in Coxsackie, New York during posted Library hours as found on the repository's homepage.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Use Restrictions: Researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to current copyright laws. Duplication of print and photographic materials without express permission of Head Librarian is strictly prohibited.

Citing Material: Identification of Item, Folder, Box, Collection Name, Date Range. Vedder Research Library, Greene County Historical Society, Coxsackie NY.

Contents of Collection: Itemized list of collection provided on request when available by calling or emailing the Vedder Research Library during posted hours.

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