

A Guide to the Leesburg Opera House Handbill, 1894

Leesburg Opera House Handbill 1894

1894



A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0012

Thomas Balch Library

2006

Author: Rebecca K. Ottinger

History

Processed by: Rebecca K. Ottinger

Title Statement

A Guide to the Leesburg Opera House Handbill, 1894

Subtitle: Leesburg Opera House Handbill

Collection: SC 0012

Author: Rebecca K. Ottinger

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Beth Schuster, 30 March 2009

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

SC 0012

Language

English

Abstract

The collection consists of a reproduction of a handbill advertising a lecture presented by Belle Boyd at the Leesburg Opera House on 4 Dec 1894

Collector

Loudoun County Historical Society

Extent

1 item

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research .

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect the use of this material. Photocopying not permitted.

Acquisition Information

Loudoun County Historical Society

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca K. Ottinger, 25 August 2008. Formerly filed as NUCMC 66.

Preferred Citation

Leesburg Opera House Handbill (SC 0012) Thomas Balch Library Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2004.0001

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Leesburg Architectural Surveys 1971-2002 (M 016), #253-0035-0390. Block 24 S. King Street 30, 32; Vertical Files: Leesburg, 19th Century; Norris Brothers

Bibliography

Leesburg, 19th Century, Vertical Files, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA. Leesburg Architectural Surveys 1971 - 2002 (M 016), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA Leesburg Town Records, Town Council (RG 1), Minutes. 9 Jul, 7 Aug, 8 Oct 1886; 17 May, 20 May, 27 Jun 1887; 27 Jun 1955. Leesburg (VA) Mirror Leesburg (VA) Mirror Norris Brothers, Vertical Files, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA. Sanborn Map of Leesburg, Va. Sanborn Map of Leesburg, Virginia. Belle Boyd: Confederate Spy. Washington Post Washington Post

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

The Opera House occupied the second floor of the Leesburg Town Hall/Opera House, located on the northeast corner of King and Loudoun Streets in downtown Leesburg. At a called meeting on 20 May 1887 the Leesburg Town Council accepted a bid of \$14,985.00 to build a town hall from Norris Brothers, who constructed many buildings in Leesburg. The previous structure on the lot, an ordinary owned by Stephen and Elizabeth Emery, was demolished and construction of the new building was accepted as completed on 3 July 1888.

The ground floor of the building housed town offices and retail stores. The fire department was located at the rear of the building, with a tower housing the bell used to summon firefighters. According to the map prepared by Sanborn Map Company only the first floor of the building was brick, although pictures of the building suggest that it was an all brick structure. The Opera House occupied the second floor of the building with one balcony and seated 450 people on folding wooden chairs. It was lighted by kerosene oil lamps. According to most sources, it is doubtful that an opera was ever performed at the Opera House, but it was used for various functions, including a grand ball in September of 1895. It was mainly used for movies, especially during the silent movie era. In spite of modifications, when talking movies started, it seemed to be less than adequate for that purpose.

The Leesburg Town Council sold the building in 1955 for \$35,000. It was demolished the following year and White's Department Store built a new structure on the site, which still stands.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of a reproduction of a handbill advertising a lecture presented by Belle Boyd at the Leesburg Opera House on 4 Dec 1894. Maria Isabella Boyd, better known as Belle Boyd (9 May 1844- 11 Jun 1900), was born in Martinsburg, VA (now WV). Because of her activities as a spy for the Confederacy during the Civil War she was arrested and imprisoned three times. In the late 1880s she began to travel around the country giving dramatic presentations describing her memories of the Civil War and her exploits as a Confederate spy. Boyd died suddenly of a heart attack while on tour in 1900.

Contents List

Folder 1: Handbill 1894

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