

Elise McDowell Backus Collection Biographical Notes

The volume of sheet music that comprises this collection was bound with the name, Elise McD. Backus on the front cover. Researching information about Elise revealed that she was a member of one of Toledo's prominent families. The sheet music is from a time before she was born; possibly the music had belonged to her parents and was bound for her.

Elise McDowell Backus was born in Toledo, Ohio on October 24, 1876 to Alexander and Henrietta T. (Bell) Backus. Elise never married and died on June 14, 1959 in the Commodore Perry Hotel where she had lived since 1952. Before moving to the Commodore Perry, she and her family lived at 2049 Parkwood Avenue.

Rev. Leighton Coleman, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, married Alexander and Henrietta on June 3, 1875. Their second daughter, Nettie, was born in December 1877. Henrietta died before the 1880 census; Alexander was shown as widowed and he and his two daughters were living with his father, Abner L. Backus. Alexander married Elizabeth Montgomery on October 4, 1883 in a ceremony performed by Rev. Nathaniel R. High, pastor of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church. Alexander and Elizabeth had one daughter, Katherine, born in June 1891.

Alexander was a well-known businessman in Toledo. At the time of his death on June 16, 1929, he was president of the Vulcan Iron Works and the Vulcan Realty Company. He was born in Maumee, Ohio on October 18, 1850 to Abner Lord and Elizabeth (Reed) Backus.

Elise McDowell Backus Collection List of Sheet Music in Volume

(This collection requires an advance appointment to use. Call the Local History Department at 419-259-5233 to schedule.)

- “You’ve Been a Friend to Me” by Will S. Hays. NY: J. L. Peters, 1867
- “Think of Me at My Best” Words by Geo. W. Birdseye, Music by Henry Tucker. NY: Wm. A. Pond & Co., 1868
- “The Old Man Dreams” Words by G. M. Ballard, Music by J. P. Webster. Chicago:H. M. Higgins, 1860
- “Tenting on the Old Camp Ground” Arranged by M. F. H. Smith. [n.p.:n.p.], n.d.
- “Jenny Who Lives in the Dell” Words by Geo. Cooper, Music by J. R. Thomas. NY: C. M. Tremaine, 1866
- “There’s Music in the Air” by Geo. F. Root. Boston: Russell & Tolman, 1857
- “Il Bacio (The Kiss) (Der Kuss)” by Arditi. Cincinnati: A. C. Peters & Bro., 1864
- “Come Home, Father.” Words & Music by Henry Clay Work. Chicago: Root & Cady, 1864
- “Now the Swallows are Returning” by Franz Abt. Chicago: Root & Cady, n.d.
- “Kathleen Mavourneen” Words by Mrs. Crawford, Music by F. N. Crouch. Chicago: Root & Cady, n.d.
- “Where Are the Friends of My Youth” Ballad by George Barker. Louisville: David P. Faulds, n.d.
- “The Song of All Songs” Composed by Stephen C. Foster. Brooklyn: D. S. Holmes, 1863
- “Oh! Ask Me Not, I Cannot Sing” Words by Triste, Music by W. A. Ogden. Toledo: W. W. Whitney, 1867
- “Don’t Be Sorrowful, Darling” Words by Alice Cary, Music by J. P. Webster. NY: J. L. Peters, 1862
- “Now, Moses” Words and Music by Henry C. Work. Chicago: Root & Cady, 1865
- “Dreaming of Thee” Words by George Cooper, Music by J. R. Thomas. NY: William A. Pond & Co., 1866
- “The Rainy Day” Poetry by H. W. Longfellow, Music by William R. Dempster. Boston: Oliver Ditson, 1847
- “Write Me a Letter from Home” by Will S. Hays. NY: J. L. Peters, 1866
- “Gaily Through Life Wander (Libiamo Ne Lieti Calici)” Baltimore: George Willig
- “Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still” Poetry by J. E. Carpenter, Music by W. R. Wrighton. Toledo: Louis Doebele, n.d.

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- “Aura Lea” Poetry by W. W. Fosdick, Music by Geo. R. Poulton. Cincinnati: J. Church, Jr., 1861
- “Then You’ll Remember Me; from the Opera of the Bohemian Girl” Composed by Balfe. St. Louis: Rich J. Compton, n.d.
- “Out in the Starlight I’m Waiting for Thee” By Frank Howard. Toledo: W. W. Whitney, 1866
- “Maggie’s Secret” Words and Music by Claribel. Chicago: Root & Cady, n.d.
- “The Brightest Eyes” Music by G. Stigelli, Translation by Mme. Elde Darby. NY: S. T. Gordon, n.d.
- “The Refugee” Composed by Will S. Hays. Louisville: Louis Tripp, 1865
- “Meet Me at the Lane” By J. S. Cox. Philadelphia: Sep. Winner & Co., 1866
- “I am Wandering Alone in the Twilight” Words by C. O. Clayton, Music by J. E. Perring. NY: C. M. Tremaine, 1867
- “Beautiful Lena” by William Seibert. Chicago: Lyon & Healy, 1866
- “Sweetly Sleep and Dream of Me” Written by H. Olynthus, Music by Arthur Vance. Chicago: Lyon & Healy, 1867
- “Thou Art So Near and Yet So Far” by Alexander Reichardt. Cleveland: S. Brainard & Co., n.d.
- “When You and I Were Young, Maggie” Words by George W. Johnson, Music by J. A. Butterfield. Indianapolis: J. A. Butterfield & Co., 1866
- “Ever My Spirit Awakens to Thee” Words by Maggie Williams, Music by E. Mack. Philadelphia: W. R. Smith, 1865
- “Farewell Song of Enoch Arden; or I’ll Sail the Seas Over” Words and Music by Sep. Winner. Philadelphia: Sep. Winner, 1865
- “Spring is Coming” by Henry Kleber. NY: Firth, Son & Co., 1853
- “Darling Minnie Lee” Words by W. Dexter Smith, Jr., Music by E. N. Catlin. Boston: Henry Tolman & Co., 1866
- “Oh! Do Not Quite Forget” Composed by J. R. Thomas. NY: Wm Hall & Son, 1858
- “Beautiful Isle of the Sea” Words by George Cooper, Music by J. R. Thomas. NY: Wm. A. Pond & Co., 1865
- “My Trundle Bed; or, Recollections of Childhood” by John C. Baker. Chicago: H. M. Higgins, 1860
- “Pass Under the Rod” Words by Mrs. Dana, Music by Mrs. Sue Ingersoll Scott. Cincinnati: John Church, Jr., 1862

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- "I've Brought Thee an Ivy Leaf" by David Wood. NY: S. T. Gordon, 1859
"Leaf by Leaf the Roses Fall" by T. B. Bishop. Cincinnati: John Church, Jr., 1865
"Come This Way My Father" by Wm. Martin. Boston: Oliver Ditson, 1855
"Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming" by Stephen C. Foster. NY: Firth Pond & Co.,
1855