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## Edith Pilcher Papers ARL.075

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Adirondack Research Library

[belaira@union.edu](mailto:belaira@union.edu)

URL: <http://libguides.union.edu/ARL-home>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Adirondack Research Library
<b>Title:</b>	Edith Pilcher Papers
<b>ID:</b>	ARL.075
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1790-2007
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1980-2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.13 Cubic Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Edith Pilcher Papers measure 5.13 cubic feet and date from 1790-2007, with the bulk of the collection falling between 1980-2004. The papers reflect her work as a freelance writer outside duties as collection development chair of the Adirondack Research Library. The collection consists of research materials, correspondence, notes, photographs, and drafts of each of her four books on Adirondack History.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Edith Pilcher (1928-2018) was a founding member of the Adirondack Research Center (later the Adirondack Research Library) and author of four books. Her and her husband Ennis, a professor at Union College, were long-time residents of Schenectady and spent much of their time in the Adirondacks and at their cabin on Big Moose Lake. Edith was Chairman of the Adirondack Research Center from 1979-1981 and later in charge of collection development. In addition to her library duties, she wrote freelance articles and books on Adirondack history and was involved in numerous historical and conservation organizations.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Edith Pilcher Papers consist of research materials, correspondence, notes, writings, photographs, and other materials compiled and created during the writing of four books on Adirondack history. The collection demonstrates the process of preparing a book manuscript in the pre-internet age. For each publication extensive research was undertaken by photocopying or requesting copies of primary sources, publications, and articles. Copious notes were taken to assemble chapter outlines and fill out details on specific topics, with further information filled in by extensive correspondence and revisions. Illustrations and photographs were also similarly laborious to produce, often through making copy negatives through visits to museums or via correspondence with organizations and individuals.

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## Arrangement

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The collection was arranged into series based on the original order of the records as maintained by Edith Pilcher. Original folder titles were retained when possible. Each series consists of materials prepared for each publication. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Series I. Castorland, 1793-1995 (Box 1; 1.28 cubic feet)

Series II. Up the Lake Road, 1858-1986 (Box 2; 1.28 cubic feet)

Series III. The Constables, 1790-1996 (Box 3; 1.28 cubic feet)

Series IV. Big Moose Lake, 1849-2007 (Box 4; 1.28 cubic feet)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Adirondack Research Library

[belaira@union.edu](mailto:belaira@union.edu)

URL: <http://libguides.union.edu/ARL-home>

## Custodial History

On April 22, 2011, Protect the Adirondacks! placed the collection on permanent loan with Union College.

## Processing Information

Processed by Matthew Golebiewski and Margaret Amodeo, Fall 2018.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Brochures
- Manuscripts
- Adirondack Park (N.Y.)
- Adirondacks (N.Y.)
- Slides (photographs)
- Black-and-white photographs
- Documentary photographs
- Pilcher, Edith

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## Collection Inventory

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### Castorland, 1793-1995

Physical Description: 1.28 Cubic Feet

#### Scope and Contents

The series consists of photocopied articles, histories, notes, negatives, photographs, slides, and a manuscript draft for the publication, *Castorland: French refugees in the western Adirondacks, 1793-1814* (1985). Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject title.

Castorland (French for Beaver Land) was a French emigre settlement on a triangular piece of land in New York State bounded by the Black River, Lake Ontario, and the Adirondack Mountains. The settlement existed from 1793 to 1814. Pilcher devotes six of her eight chapters to the history of this utopian community that ultimately failed because of harsh climate, transportation difficulties, problems in determining its actual boundaries, and a variety of economic development problems. The book is also a tribute to the work of Franklin B. Hough, who produced a history of the area in the 19th century by hand-copying and translating French primary sources. The last two chapters provide a view of the literature and of the region today.

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**Title/Description**

**Instances**

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Biographies, 1888-1940	box 1	folder 1
Black River, 1975-1980	box 1	folder 2
Book Notes, 1981-1985	box 1	folder 3
Castorland Article, 1984-1986	box 1	folder 4
Castorland Journal Typescript, 1980	box 1	folder 5
Des Jardins Research, 1989-1995	box 1	folder 6
General, 1862-1985	box 1	folder 7
Historical Societies, 1975-1984	box 1	folder 8
Illustrations, 1986	box 1	folder 9
Jefferson County, 1878	box 1	folder 10
Maps, 1802-1966	box 1	folder 11
Miscellaneous, 1793-1985	box 1	folder 12
Negatives and Slides, 1980-1986	box 1	folder 13
Oneida Historical Society, 1983-1984	box 1	folder 14
Photographs, 1980-1985	box 1	folder 15
Prize Proposals and Grants, 1982-1986	box 1	folder 16
Regional Histories, 1901-1979	box 1	folder 17

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## Up the Lake Road, 1858-1987

Physical Description: 1.28 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents

This series consists of research materials, correspondence, photographs, minutes, maps, organizational records, and manuscript drafts used in writing *Up the Lake Road: the first hundred years of the Adirondack Mountain Reserve* (1987). The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject title. *Up the Lake Road* is an account of the first hundred years of the Adirondack Mountain Reserve. The 7,000-acre Adirondack Mountain Reserve (AMR) consists of private lands around the Upper and Lower Ausable Lakes and the upper reaches of the East Branch Ausable River. The lands lie between the Dix Mountain Wilderness and the High Peaks Wilderness in the Adirondack Park.

Title/Description	Instances	
Adirondack Mountain Reserve Records, 1870-1986	box 2	folder 1
Ausable Club Records, 1889-1987	box 2	folder 3
Bureau of Real Property, 1919-1985	box 2	folder 4
Camp Owner Information, 1932-1986	box 2	folder 5
Chapters and Outlines, 1985	box 2	folder 6

Correspondence with Bill Dunham, 1985-1986	box 2	folder 7
Correspondence with David Ford, 1985-1986	box 2	folder 8
Correspondence with Peggy O'Brien, 1985-1986	box 2	folder 9
Correspondence with Morgan Smith, 1985-1987	box 2	folder 10
Correspondence, Other, 1985-1986	box 2	folder 11
Expenses, 1985-1987	box 2	folder 12
Geological Information, 1980-1986	box 2	folder 13
Keene Valley History, 1879-1985	box 2	folder 14
Keene Valley Library Research, 1858-1986	box 2	folder 15
Log Notes, 1986	box 2	folder 16
Maps, 1966-1986	box 2	folder 17
People, 1934-1986	box 2	folder 18
Photograph Requests, 1985-1986	box 2	folder 19
Proof Sheets and Negatives, 1985-1986	box 2	folder 20
Research by Chapter, 1985	box 2	folder 21-27
Research for Marcy Climb Article, 1986	box 2	folder 28
Saint Huberts, 1923-1986	box 2	folder 29
Trips to Ausable Club, 1985	box 2	folder 30

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## The Constables, 1790-1996

Physical Description: 1.28 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents

The series contains articles, photocopied documents, notebooks, biographical information, genealogical charts, photographs, negatives, slides, diaries, correspondence, brochures, writings, maps, and other materials assembled to write *The Constables: First Family of the Adirondacks* (1992). Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject title. The book traces the roots of a pioneer North Country family who were some of the foremost merchants, traders, and land speculators in the Adirondacks following the American Revolution.

Title/Description	Instances	
Adirondack Museum, 1991	box 3	folder 1
Articles on the Adirondacks, 1854-1991	box 3	folder 2
Articles on Lewis County, 1860-1883	box 3	folder 3
Castlorland Documents and Letters, 1792-1848	box 3	folder 4

Conservation Thesis, 1950	box 3	folder 5
Constable's Camping Trip, 1850-1988	box 3	folder 6
Constable, Casimir, 1867-1990	box 3	folder 7
Constable Family, 1850-1990	box 3	folder 8
Constable Hall, 1945-1991	box 3	folder 9
Constable, John, 1891-1996	box 3	folder 10
Constable, John III and Family, 1850-1990	box 3	folder 11
Constable Notebook, 1873-1990	box 3	folder 12
Constable, William I, 1801-1990	box 3	folder 13
Constable, William II, 1806-1990	box 3	folder 14
Constable, William III, 1850	box 3	folder 15
Correspondence, 1989-1991	box 3	folder 16
Correspondence from Gouverneur Morris to William Constable, 1790-1793	box 3	folder 17
Correspondence with John P. Constable, 1982-1991	box 3	folder 18
Genealogy, 1987-1991	box 3	folder 19
General, 1880-1991	box 3	folder 20
Guns, 1964-1991	box 3	folder 21
LeRay, James, 1794-1820	box 3	folder 22
MacEntyre Diary, 1850-1859	box 3	folder 23
Maps, 1840-1990	box 3	folder 24
McVickars and Pierreponts, 1906-1962	box 3	folder 25
Negatives, 1985-1990	box 3	folder 26
New York Public Library Research, 1990-1993	box 3	folder 27
Photographs, 1987-1990	box 3	folder 28-31
Schenectady Historical Society Research, 1841-1990	box 3	folder 33
Slides, 1986-1992	box 3	folder 34
Stillman, 1855	box 3	folder 35
Verner and Cadbury Notes, 1960-1988	box 3	folder 36
Watson Settlement, 1864-1988	box 3	folder 37

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## Big Moose Lake, 1849-2007

Physical Description: 1.28 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents

The series contains photocopied articles, interviews, notes, correspondence, writings, manuscript drafts, maps, slides, and other research materials created and assembled in the writing of select chapters of Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks: The Story of the Lake, the Land, and the People (2004). Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject title.

Title/Description	Instances	
"A Forest Working Plan for Townships 5, 6, and 41," Ralph S. Hosmer, 1903	box 4	folder 1
Bibliography, 1996	box 4	folder 2
Big Moose History, 1927-2001	box 4	folder 3
Big Moose History Project, 1999-2001	box 4	folder 4
Big Moose History Project Committee, 1995-2000	box 4	folder 5
Big Moose History Survey, 1996-1999	box 4	folder 6
Camps Not on East Bay, 1964-1992	box 4	folder 7
Correspondence, 1996-2007	box 4	folder 8
East Bay History, 1849-2000	box 4	folder 9
Fernspring Camp, 1998-1999	box 4	folder 10
Fish and Game Reports - Animals, 1900-1909	box 4	folder 11
Forestry, 1931-1999	box 4	folder 12
Hotels, 1987-1992	box 4	folder 13
Ice Harvesting Article, 2003	box 4	folder 14
Lumbering at Big Moose Research, 1913	box 4	folder 16
Maps, 1938-1978	box 4	folder 17
Miscellaneous, 1895-1999	box 4	folder 18
Motorboats, 1905-1917	box 4	folder 19
Old Pine Point, 1997-1999	box 4	folder 20
Old Roads Near Long Lake, 1976-1999	box 4	folder 21
Herkimer County Line Dispute, 1900-1943	box 4	folder 22
Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area, 1999	box 4	folder 23
Slides, 1983-1997	box 4	folder 24
Thesis on Big Moose Lake, 1985	box 4	folder 25
West Bay, 2002		

box 4 folder 26

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Williams, Frank, 1965-1998

box 4 folder 27

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