

Santelmann Family papers

Processed by the United States Marine Band Library and Archives

USMB

Washington, D.C.

2018

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Collection Summary

Title: Santelmann Family papers

Span Dates: 1884-1985

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1898-1955)

Accession No.: A1979-4

Creator: Santelmann, William H. (William Henry), 1863-1932; Santelmann, William F., 1902-1984

Extent: 4 boxes, 2 framed images, and 2 oversized folders ; 2.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and German.

Repository: Library and Archives, U.S. Marine Band, Washington, D.C.

Summary: The only father and son to serve as directors of the United States Marine Band, William H. Santelmann (1863-1932) and his son William F. Santelmann (1902-1984) led the organization for a total of 44 years. The service records, correspondence, documentation, photographs, scrapbooks, notated music, and recordings document their careers as military musicians, conductors, and music advisors to the White House.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

American Bandmasters Association

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969

Grunwell, Betsy S. (Betsy Santelmann), 1931-2010

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923

Kappa Kappa Psi

Lejeune, John Archer, 1867-1942

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945

Santelmann Family

Santelmann, William F., 1902-1984

Santelmann, William H. (William Henry), 1863-1932

Shepherd, Lemuel C. (Lemuel Cornick), 1896-1990

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972

United States Marine Band

United States Marine Corps

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924

Subjects:

Band conducting

Band music

Military music

Offensen (Hannover, Germany)

Washington, D.C.

Occupations:

Marine Corps officers

Marines

Musicians
Violinists

Administrative Information

Provenance

Correspondence dated February 13, 1979, indicates that William F. Santelmann was interested in donating recordings, which the the curator of the Military Music Collection at the Marine Corps Museum offered to accept as part of the "Santelmann Collection." Daughter Betsy Santelmann Grunwell allowed the USMB Library to photocopy relevant documents and images in her possession on January 21, 1998, and those photocopies were added to the collection.

Custodial History

Materials in the Military Music Collection were transferred to the United States Marine Band Library circa 1982.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The Santelmann Family papers were inventoried and preliminarily arranged, but it is unclear when or by whom, either the Marine Corps Museum or the Marine Corps History Division. The collection was processed by MGySgt Jane Cross in 2018 and arrangement was revised to include the photocopies provided in 1988. MGySgt Jane Cross coded the finding aid for EAD format in 2018.

Transfers

According to U.S. Marine Corps historical property procedures, three-dimensional artifacts were separated and accessioned through the National Museum of Marine Corps (NMMC) at accession numbers 1977.1028-1032, 2008.57-58, 2010.87, and 2012.82

Copyright Status

Materials from the Santelmann Family papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Access and Restrictions

The Santelmann Family papers are open to research. Researchers must contact the Marine Band Library and Archives to schedule a research appointment.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Santelmann Family papers, Marine Band Library and Archives, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

No family has had a longer or more profound influence on the Marine Band than the Santelmann family, nor has any other father and son both served as the directors of the organization.

William H. Santelmann (1863-1932) was born in Hanover, Germany, where he studied violin and clarinet and then joined the 134th Infantry Band in Leipzig. After studies at the Leipzig Conservatory, he immigrated to the United States to perform with the Royal Stuttgart Orchestra near Philadelphia. He joined the Marine Band in 1887 after auditioning for John Philip Sousa on violin, clarinet, and baritone. He left in 1895 to join the Lafayette Theater Orchestra and then form his own orchestra. He returned in 1898 as 19th Director of the Marine Band, serving until 1927, the longest tenure of any Marine Band Director. It was Santelmann, commissioned as a Captain, who decided to create a full symphony orchestra within the band and required all new members, as well as all current members with less than nine years of service, to learn a stringed instrument in addition to their wind instrument.

In 1923, his son William F. Santelmann (1902-1984) was accepted into the band and served as a violinist and baritone horn player. He served under his father for the next four years, until his father's retirement. William F. appeared as a featured soloist with the Marine Chamber Orchestra during his first concert season and in 1925 was named concertmaster of the orchestra. In 1935, he was selected as Second Leader of the band. Following in his father's footsteps, William F. was named the 21st Director of the band in 1940. Commissioned a captain in 1942, he was promoted to major in 1947, then four years later to lieutenant colonel. W. F. Santelmann led the band for fifteen years, retiring in 1955. He then sustained a demanding schedule of guest conducting for the next twenty years. On March 30, 1984, immediately following a guest appearance conducting the Marine Band in a concert for the American Band Masters Association in Tempe, Arizona, Santelmann suffered a fatal heart attack.

Together, the Santelmanns led the Marine Band for a total of 44 years, a period more than one-quarter of the band's history at the time.

Scope and Content Note

The Santelmann Family papers span the period 1884-1985, with the majority of the materials dating from 1898-1955, the period when either William H. or William F. were conducting the Marine Band. Materials include military service records, correspondence, articles, biographies and memoirs, invitations, photographs and other images, concert programs, certificates, scrapbooks, notated music, recordings, plaques, and a conducting baton. The materials are arranged in two series, one for William H. (father) and another for William F. (son), with subseries such as documents, correspondence, and notated music therein. Notable correspondents include United States Presidents and Vice Presidents as well as Marine Corps Commandants and notable figures in the field of music. Both father and son sought to document their military service by preserving records of their service including letters of appointment, discharges, and awards as well as complete service histories. Photographs and images consist of family, friends, the Santelmanns conducting the Marine Band, USMC Commandants, William F.'s final concert, and a USMB tour poster. Some photos are included in scrapbooks. Biographical and autobiographical documents are also present in both series as well as scrapbooks representing the Santelmanns' careers. The presence of many invitations to White House and other significant events in Washington, D.C. for both men indicate their standing in the community and the regard in which Marine Band directors were held at that time. Additionally, the many certificates and plaques indicating William F. Santelmann's membership or honorary membership in various professional music organizations illustrate his activity and recognition on a national level. The notated music and recordings help document their careers in a very musical sense, with the father also have been a composer as well as a conductor.

Organization of the Santelmann Family papers

The collection is organized into 2 series:

- I. William H. Santelmann, 1884-1979 and undated
- II. William F. Santelmann, 1891-1985

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<p>I. William H. Santelmann, 1884-1979 and undated</p> <p>Military service records, writings, images, concert programs, a scrapbook, and notated music illustrating the military music career of William H. Santelmann, especially his leadership of the United States Marine Band from 1898 to 1927.</p> <p>Subseries I.A. Military Service Records, 1884-1924 and undated</p> <p>Original and photocopied records and correspondence partially documenting W. H. Santelmann's German infantry and United States Marine Corps military service, retirement, and death. Arranged chronologically.</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/1 German military passbook, 1884 Blue paper cover; all text in German.</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/2 Citizenship papers, July 22, 1895 Issued by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, "having honorable discharge from the Marine Corps."</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/3 Marine Corps discharge papers, February 25, 1903</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/4 Marine Corps reenlistment papers, March 3, 1903</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/5 Good conduct award, March 11, 1907 Certificate for good conduct medal (bar), period covered: March 3, 1903 to March 2, 1907.</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/7 Records (photocoipes), 1893-1933 Folder includes the following arranged chronologically: German document (June 28, 1893), Good conduct certificate, USMC discharge papers, appointment papers, official correspondence, promotion documentation, retirement documentation, and death certificate.</p> <p>Subseries I.B. Writings, 1913-1928 and undated</p> <p>Articles, correspondence, biographical information, and invitations. Arranged alphabetically by genre or name.</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/8 Article, 1928 Text in German.</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/9 Bachelor's Club directory, undated Printed directory with names and addresses; includes hand-written names and addresses on the last two pages.</p> <p>BOX-FOLDER 1/10 Biographies, undated Photocopies of single-page biographies as well as a multi-page versions, both typed and manuscript.</p>

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Coolidge, President Calvin, March 4, 1924 Letter and card for flowers from President Coolidge congratulating Santelmann on 25 years with the Marine Band.
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Daniels, Josephus, September 10, 1917 Letter from the Secretary of the Navy thanking Santelmann and the band for a concert performance on the Elipse.
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Dawes, Charles, July 20, 1925 Letter from the Vice President of the United States about a piece of music, and an invitation to dine.
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Harding, Warren G., March 3, 1923 Card denoting congratulations on Santelmann's twenty-fifth anniversary as leader of the Marine Band.
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Invitations (photocopies), 1913-1928 and undated Invitations to White House events, first family wedding announcements, White House gate admission cards, and a parking pass.
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Lejuene, John A., April 28, 1927 Letter from the Commandant of the Marine Corps regarding Santelmann's retirement.
BOX-FOLDER 1/19	Letters (photocopies), 1888-1893 Folder includes copies of five manuscript letters in German.
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	Marshall, Thomas R., July 29, 1916 Manuscript letter from the Vice President regarding appreciation for music provided at several receptions.
BOX-FOLDER 1/18	Wilson, Woodrow February 6, 1917 Invitation card for a reception at the White House.
	Subseries I.C. Photos, 1887-1927 Five photos of W. H. Santelmann, the United States Marine Band, and Clara Becke Santelmann. Arranged alphabetically, then chronologically therein.
BOX-FOLDER 1/20	Becke, Clara, circa 1887 Photograph of Clara Becke Santelmann, wife of W. H. Santelmann and mother of W. F. Santelmann.
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	Santelmann, W. H., circa 1920 Photograph of W. H. Santelmann inscribed "With loads of good wishes to Wilhelm Papa."
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	Santelmann, W. H., May 1, 1927 Captain Santelmann in his living room the day of his retirement from the Marine Band.
BOX-FOLDER 1/23	United States Marine Band, 1898

Container	Contents
	Marine Band with Santelmann at the Trans-Mississippi International Exposition in Omaha, Nebraska. Signed by H. D. Pryor.
BOX-FOLDER 1/24	United States Marine Band, circa 1920 Marine Band with Santelmann posed in front of the Library of Congress.
	Subseries I.D. Programs and Scrapbook, 1892-1932 Subseries primarily consists of Marine Band concert programs conducted by W. H. Santelmann. Arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/25	National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, September 22, 1892 Marine Band performed at the event.
BOX-FOLDER 1/27	Programs (photocopies), 1896-1925 Folder includes photocopies of programs for: a performance by the Columbia Theater Orchestra led by W. H. Santelmann, Alice Roosevelt's wedding at which the Marine Band performed, and the Marine Band and Orchestra led by W. H. Santelmann.
BOX-FOLDER 1/28	Scrapbook, 1896-1932 Includes correspondence, clippings, and programs.
BOX-FOLDER 1/26	W. H. Santelmann retirement, April 27, 1927 Marine Orchestra concert in observance of Santelmann's retirement.
	Subseries I.E. Notated Music, 1886-1979 and undated Manuscript, printed, and photocopied compositions by William H. Santelmann. Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX-FOLDER 1/27	Admiral Dewey March, 1898 Manuscript full score for band, 3 leaves, landscape orientation, holograph in ink.
BOX-FOLDER 1/30	Debutante, The, 1900 Photocopy of piano/solo cornet holograph manuscript score, 4 pages. Inscribed "Original manuscript given to me by Bill, December 27, 1936.
BOX-FOLDER 1/31	Greeting from Germany, 1886 Published piano sheet music, 5 pages.
BOX-FOLDER 1/32	Orchestral music cataloging inventories, 1979 Cataloging inventories for ten orchestral pieces that may have been donated with other collection items, but were cataloged as part of the Marine Band's music library holdings. Folder also includes title pages to two works showing property stamps for W. H. Santelmann.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2-4	II. William F. Santelmann, 1891-1985 Documents, images, notated music, recordings, and realia related to the military music career of William F. Santelmann, leader of the Marine Band from 1940 to 1955. Subseries II.A. Documents, 1891-1985 and undated Certificates, articles, invitations, correspondence, memoirs, programs, recordings lists, Marine Band tour itineraries, and a scrapbook that help document William F. Santelmann's service in, and leadership of, the Marine Band. Arranged alphabetically by name or subject.
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	American Bandmasters Association program, March 1930 Photocopy of program book from first annual convention.
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	American Bandmasters Association certificate, March 15, 1941 Certificate conferring membership.
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Articles (photocopies), 1940-1955 and undated Photocopies of newspaper articles regarding W. F. Santelmann's appointment as leader of the Marine Band, performance at the White House and for Inaugurations, the national concert tour, rank promotions, retirement, and guest conducting opportunities.
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Death and funeral, April-May 1984 Folder includes photocopies of funeral ceremony photos, eulogies, tributes, and an obituary.
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Invitations, December 6, 1946 and undated One from President and Mrs. Truman for a reception, and one from President and Mrs. Roosevelt.
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Invitations (photocopies), 1938-1954 Folder includes photocopies of invitations from President and Mrs. Roosevelt, Women's National Press Club, Pan American Union, the White House, Gridiron Club, the Smithsonian, President and Mrs. Truman, dedication of the equestrian statues on Memorial Bridge, Queen of the Netherlands, President and Mrs. Eisenhower, and Commandant of the Marine Corps General Shepherd.
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Kappa Kappa Psi, 1947-1969 Photocopies of membership certificates in several chapters, a membership card, and a national intercollegiate band roster.
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Kappa Kappa Psi, October 16, 1940 Certificate of honorary membership in the Alpha Xi chapter.
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	Letters of condolences (photocopies), 1984-1985

Container	Contents
	Correspondence primarily addressed to Margaret Santelmann, wife of W. F. Santelmann, expressing condolences upon his death.
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	Letters to and from family (photocopies), 1922-1972 and undated Folder includes manuscript and typed letters from W. F. Santelmann to his parents, and notes from his young daughter.
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	Letters (photocopies) donated by Betsy Grunwell, 1945-1972 and undated Folder includes photocopies of correspondence to and from President Truman, J. Edgar Hoover, Pierre S. du Pont, James Hagerty, President Eisenhower, Howard Hanson, General Lemuel Shepherd (CMC), Arthur Godfrey, Meredith Willson, Edward Foley, and Harry Byrd.
BOX-FOLDER 2/12	Memoirs, April 6, 1955 Typed, photocopy. "My Eight Terms in the White House" by Lt.Col. William F. Santelmann, USMC (retd.)
BOX-FOLDER 2/13	Military service records, 1946-1984 and undated Photocopies of official correspondence, award applications and commendations, record of emergency data, inauguration registration card for vehicle, service histories, separation papers, and death certificate.
BOX-FOLDER 2/15	Phi Beta Mu, March 23, 1963 Certificate of membership.
BOX-FOLDER 2/14	Phi Mu Alpha, May 8, 1990 Certificate of honorary membership.
BOX-FOLDER 2/16	Programs, 1941-1984 Photocopies of concert programs includes recital by Hazel M. Phippeny, concert by the NBC Symphony conducted by Arturo Toscanini, United States Marine Band, Marine Orchestra, 1941 Inaugural Gala, and the US Navy Band.
BOX-FOLDER 2/17	Recordings List, undated Photocopies of repertoire included on recordings conducted by W. H. and W. F. Santelmann. Recordings date from 1904 to 1954.
oversized	Scrapbook, circa 1929-1946 Photocopy made in July 1995 of a scrapbook owned by Betsy Grunwell. Comprised of newspaper clippings and correspondence.
BOX-FOLDER 2/18	Tour itinerary book, 1891-1932 With index and list of programs. Digitized.
BOX-FOLDER 2/19	Tour itinerary book, 1953-1974 With programs.
BOX-FOLDER 2/20	United States Marine Band Leader's Log, March 5-13, 1932 Photocopy of an excerpt from the log; used in a talk by W. F. Santelmann at ABA on March 28, 1984.

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/21	United States Marine Corps, April 1, 1940 Appointment of W. F. Santelmann as leader of the Marine Band.
BOX-FOLDER 2/22	United States Marine Corps, May 1, 1955 Certificate of honorable service in World War II.
	Subseries II.B. Images, 1905-1984 and undated Original and photocopied photographs of family, friends, distinguished acquaintances, and the Marine Band. The subseries also contains pages from a scrapbook featuring images of the Marine Band on tour, photos from W. F. Santelmann's final concert, and a large tour poster. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 2/24	Arnold, Edward, June 1943 Conducting the Marine Band, with W. F. Santelmann standing behind Arnold.
BOX-FOLDER 2/25	Cates, C. B., undated Autographed.
BOX-FOLDER 2/26	Final concert, March 30, 1984 Photocopies of photographs taken at the last concert W. F. Santelmann conducted, which was the Marine Band, at the American Bandmasters Association convention.
oversized	Holcomb, Thomas, January 1, 1943 Autographed.
BOX-FOLDER 2/31	Photographs (photocopies), 1905-1975 and undated Photocopies of photographs of Santelmann family members, friends, and the Marine Band.
oversized	Santelmann, William F., undated Framed copy of a caricature and text titled "Santelmann...Musical Mariner." Sketch by Brian Brown.
BOX-FOLDER 2/29	Scrapbook photos, undated Ten loose scrapbook pages with photos affixed, primarily of the Marine Band, likely on tour.
BOX-FOLDER 2/27	Shepherd, Lemuel C., January 1, 1954 With W. F. Santelmann, autographed.
BOX-FOLDER 2/28	Shepherd, Lemuel C., undated Autographed.
flat file	Tour advertisement poster, undated Separated, in three sections.
oversized	Vandergrift, Alexander, January 1, 1947 Framed photo autographed by General Vandergrift, CMC.

Subseries II.C. Notated Music, 1954-1984

Container	Contents
	Two pieces of music, one a gift and the other a score used to conduct the Marine Band during W. F. Santelmann's last performance. Arranged alphabetically.
BOX-FOLDER 2/32	Capriccio Brillante, March 15, 1954 Music by Herman Bellstedt. Autographed gift of Frank Simon. Published.
BOX-FOLDER 2/33	Ride of the Valkyries, March 30, 1984 Score used by W. F. Santelmann during his final performance, which occurred at the ABA convention conducting the Marine Band. Missing.
BOX 4	Subseries II.D. Recordings, 1948-1957 Twenty-five audio reel tapes of Marine Band radio broadcasts (transcription recordings) and three audio reel tapes of oral history interviews with William F. Santelmann. Tapes arranged by assigned number. Subseries II.E. Realia, 1954-1984 Six plaques and the conducting baton used for the funeral viewing. List arranged alphabetically by name or object type.
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	American Bandmasters Association, March 7, 1953 - February 27, 1954 Plaque commemorating W. F. Santelmann's role as president.
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	American Bandmasters Association, December 9, 1955 Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic.
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Conductor's baton, April 1984 Baton used in the casket for the viewing during William F. Santelmann's funeral visitation and services.
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma, 1957 Presented for guest conducting the National Intercollegiate Band.
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	Phi Mu Alpha, July 21, 1962 National honorary member plaque.
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	Queen Julianna of the Netherlands, April 1952 Plaque commemorating the royal visit.
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	Santelmann Lounge plaques, April 1, 1976 Two brass plaques that were displayed in the Santelmann Lounge, the Marine Band day room/lounge, at 8th and I Streets Southeast from 1976 until 2014, when the band moved to the Marine Barracks Washington Annex at 7th Street and Virginia Avenue.