

DeKalb History Center

Sacred Harp

Scope and content: Several songbooks, photographs, oral histories and other documents relating to Georgia Sacred Harp activities.

Provenance: Various accession numbers gathered here for ease of research.

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Reproductions of photographs and permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the Archivist, DeKalb History Center. Oral history DVDs may only be viewed on the premises and copies cannot be made. Citations should be made as follows:

Description of specific item; Sacred Harp Materials, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2010.

Size: 4 DVDs, document box of notebooks and books, 3 songbooks on rare book shelf and several folders with documents and photographs. 4 Directories of singing events in the 1990s.

Brief History of Sacred Harp: The Sacred Harp movement is a subset of the larger shape note singing tradition that came to the United States from England in the 18th century. The first Sacred Harp songbook was published in 1844 by Benjamin F. White of Harris County, Georgia and the Sacred Harp tradition remained popular in the southeast United States into the 20th century. The Sacred Harp refers to the human voice, which is highlighted through the typically unaccompanied singing of groups at Sacred Harp singings. Although the songs are mostly religious in nature, Sacred Harp singings generally occur at times separate from church services and served as community gatherings. In DeKalb County, the Georgia State Sacred Harp Convention singing was held at the Old DeKalb County Courthouse from at least 1912 until the 1990s. For more information on Sacred Harp please visit <http://www.fasola.org>.

Description: This finding aid was prepared for researchers to easily locate the various materials related to Sacred Harp in the DeKalb History Center's collections, which include 19th-century songbooks and documentation of more recent singings in DeKalb County.

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main entry: Sacred harp

Subject/Added entries: White, B. F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1879. Sacred harp

Item	Location	ACC#
Photographs	Photograph Subject Files Box 13/Organizations Sacred harp singers	
GA State Sacred Harp Singing conv. constitution	Misc Items 12	2002.91
DVD IRH#60, 34 th Annual Convention part 1	DVD boxes shelf A4	
DVD IRH#61, 34 th Annual Convention part 2	DVD boxes shelf A4	
DVD IRH#76, March 26, 1994 Convention	DVD boxes shelf A4	
DVD IRH#96, Shaped Note singers (very short)	DVD boxes Shelf A4	
<i>Original Sacred Harp</i> , 1911, Atlanta	Rare book shelf A4	1991.32
<i>The Christian Harmony</i> , 1873, Spartanburg	Rare book shelf A4	1986.73
Sacred Harp book, 1859	Rare book shelf A4	1986.73
Manuscript box of 12 books, all music	check shelf list	2001.28
Various newspaper articles and brochures	Subject Files Organizations – Music Sacred Harp	
The Harp of the South songbook	Rare book shelf A3	2003.42.1
1989-1990 Directory and Minutes of Annual Sacred harp Singings		
1990-1991 Directory and Minutes of Annual Sacred harp Singings		
1991-1992 Directory and Minutes of Annual Sacred harp Singings		
1993-1994 Directory and Minutes of Annual Sacred harp Singings (autographed by some of the participants)		1994.9
	Sacred Harp directories, shelf F3	
<i>The Sacred Harp: A Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes, Odes and Anthems</i> , 1897, Atlanta by B.F. White and E.J. King	Rare book shelf A3	FITS.392