

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Bedlow, Corpron, and McRae Family Papers

Summary Information

Repository

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

Creator

Jean McRae

Title

Bedlow, Corpron, and McRae Family Papers

Identifier

MG 67

Date

1773-1890

Physical Description

1 box

Physical Location

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

Language of the Material

English

Abstract

This collection includes family papers for the Bedlow, Corpron, and McRae families, who were related through marriage and adoption. The Bedlow family was originally from Massachusetts before settling in Plattsburgh, then Champlain, New York.

The collection contains correspondence, legal documents, financial documents, personal papers, ephemera, and photographs.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Bedlow, Corpron, and McRae Family Papers, 1773-1890, MG 67. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions on Access

None

Copyright

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: Jean McRae, 1997

Processing Information

Finding aid updated by H. Cox, June 2021.

Biographical/Historical

George S. McRae was a Schuylerville businessman who was married to Chloe Corpron, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Corpron. Elizabeth Corpron (nee Calkins) had been adopted by Uriah, Charles, and Esther Bedlow shortly after arriving in the United States from England with her widowed mother in 1823. Uriah, Charles, and Esther were three of the nine children of William (1747-1832) and Elizabeth (nee Cook, 1748-1838) Bedlow (sometimes referred to as Bedlam). The family, originally from Massachusetts, settled in Plattsburgh, then Champlain, New York.

Scope and Contents

The Bedlow/Corpron/McRae family papers span the period from 1773 to 1890 and primarily contain documents relating to personal, financial and family life. The collection is divided into four series: Correspondence, Legal and Financial Documents, Personal Papers and Ephemera, and Photographs.

Correspondence contains primarily letters to the William Bedlow family from the Cook family (Elizabeth Bedlow's family), and other related families spread across New York and New England. The contents cover subjects such as health, reports of family births and deaths, religious matters and other family information. One file of several letters written by William Bedlow to his family includes a letter dated 1779 from West Point and describes the capture of an enemy fort during the war.

Legal and Financial Documents contains land sales agreements, deeds and mortgages of Charles Bedlow and Charles Corpron, stock certificates, various receipts (for clothing, coal, insurance, etc.), and canceled checks. Of particular note are Charles Corpron's 1839 declaration of citizenship and an 1858 inventory of Charles Bedlow's belongings.

Personal Papers and Ephemera contains two booklets of manuscript music, primarily religious songs, belonging to Charles Bedlow. Also included are handwritten prayers, household instructions (how to destroy bedbugs, how to preserve beef), and two newspaper clippings concerning George McRae's death.

Photographs contains fourteen undated prints and includes some unidentified individuals. Two cased photographs are of Chloe Corpron McRae and a man who is presumably her husband, George McRae. Also identified are Amos Corpron, Hattie Bedlow, and Mary J. Madison Cook, as well as M. Sherman, whose affiliation with the family is unknown. Identified photographers include: Naramore & Company, and Pine and Bell both of Troy, New York; L.P. Case of Champlain, New York; W.B. Pierce of Rouse's Point, New York; and E.I. Stearn of Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

Description	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1778-1833		
Reuben and Elisabeth Allen, 1815, 1817	1	1
William and Elizabeth Bedlow [Bedlam], 1779-1815		2
Sylvanus Bedlow, 1810-1833		3
Daniel and Diana Cook, 1817, 1824		4
Zebediah, Abigail, and Stephen Cook, 1792-1815		5
William and Rebecca Flagg, 1810-1822		6

Jonathan and Sarah Holbrook, 1811-1822, undated	7
Lydia Printice, October 1778	8
Hannah Stevens, February 1789	9
Legal and Financial Documents, 1831-1890	
Deeds and mortgages, 1831-1890	10
Stock Certificates, Receipts, and Miscellaneous Financial and Legal Documents, 1839-1889, undated	11
Personal Papers and Ephemera, undated	
Household Instructions, and Manuscript Quotation [from Whittier], undated	12
Booklets of Music, undated	13
Prayers, undated	14
Genealogical material, including obituary and newspaper notice of George McRae's death, and list of Corpron family births and deaths, undated	15
Photographs,	
Chloe Corpron McRae, (2 tintypes), undated	16
George McRae, [?] (1 ambrotype), undated	17
Hattie Bedlow (1 print); Mary J. Madison Cook (1 print); Amos Corpron (1 tintype); M. Sherman (Fannie) (1 print), undated	18
Unidentified women (2 prints, 1 tintype); boys (2 tintypes); men (2 tintypes), undated	19