



Gremms-Doolittle Library
Schenectady County Historical Society
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Guide to the McWilliam, Parkhill, and Simpson Family Papers, 1790-2006 (2012.14)

Creators:

McWilliam, George, 1749-1812
McWilliam, Robert A., 1804-1883
McWilliam, Mydert Wemple, 1829-1910
McWilliam, Hawley Bell Sr., 1863-1918
McWilliam, Hawley Bell Jr., 1907-1967

Accession Number: 2012.14

Extent: 2 cubic feet

Source: Donated by Kathleen Johnson, 23 January 2012.

Inclusive Dates: 1790-[2006]

Bulk Dates: ca. 1880s - 1910

Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Abstract: The collection is composed of material pertaining to the McWilliam, Parkhill, and Simpson families.

Catalog Terms:

McWilliam, George
McWilliam, Robert A.
McWilliam, Mydert Wemple
McWilliam, Hawley Bell Sr.
McWilliam, Hawley Bell Jr.
Simpson, Alberta Parkhill
McWilliam Family
Parkhill Family
Simpson Family
Charlton (N.Y.)
Galway (N.Y.)
Saratoga County (N.Y.)
Schenectady County (N.Y.)

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains material pertaining to the McWilliam, Parkhill, and Simpson families; most of the materials in the collection relates to the McWilliam family. The material includes a large number of photographs, correspondence, financial records, legal documents, and genealogical resources including family bibles and detailed family histories. The bulk of the material is dated between the 1880s and 1910 and represents material collected by Hawley Bell McWilliam, Sr. The only documents in the collection that date post-1950 are family histories.

Organization Note:

The collection is organized into the following series:

Series 1: Photographs, Undated

Series 2: Subject Files, 1790 – [2006]

Please see series notes for information about each series.

Biographical Note:

George McWilliam (1749-1812) left the Parish of Whitman in the Shire of Galloway, Scotland, and arrived in America in 1774 with several other Scottish Families. George McWilliam settled on a 114 acre farm in the Charlton-Galway area of New York. He married Mary Millory (1772-1840) and had a son, Robert A. McWilliam (1804-1883). Robert married Jane Ann Wemple, a descendant of the Dutch Wemple family who were a founding family of Schenectady, in 1828. Robert and Jane McWilliam had six children: Mydert Wemple McWilliam (1829-1910); Margaret M. (1831-1837); Elizabeth A. (1833-1888); John McWilliam (1837-1850); Margaret M. (1841-1881); and George McWilliam (1844-?). Mydert lived on the farm for much of his life but never held active ownership of it as his parents lived until the 1880s. Mydert married Mary E. Bell (?-?) in 1856. Mydert and Mary had two children: Jennie A (1858-?) and Hawley Bell McWilliam (1863-1918). Hawley took over ownership of the farm after the death of his grandfather Robert. He married Alberta Parkhill Simpson (1868-1954) in 1890. Hawley and Alberta had five children: Jennie Louella (1890-); Alberta Cornelia (1892-); Robert S (1894-1894); Hawley Bell Jr. (1907-1967); and Mary Elizabeth (1909-). Hawley Bell McWilliam Jr. married Florence Young (?-?). The marriage did not result in any children and the McWilliam family name died out with Hawley's death in 1967. The family farm was sold in 1968.

Condition Note:

Much of the material in this collection is in poor condition. Many of the photographs are stored in albums which are in poor condition and many are tintypes, also in poor condition. Much of the paper is brittle.

Related and Separated Materials:

Some artifacts have been removed from the collection and transferred to the Schenectady County Historical Society's museum collections.

Processed By/Date: Jason Thomas, 18 June 2014.

Series 1: Photographs, Undated

Series Note: This series is composed of the McWilliam family photographs. Most of the photographs in the series are portraits without identifying markers or dates. This series is separated based on the type of material it is. Box 1 contains albums and a family bible with photographs. Box 2 contains loose photographs. Box 4 contains the tintypes.

Box and Folder Listing:

Box	Folder	Folder Title
1	N/A	Family Bible
1	N/A	Large Photo Album
1	N/A	Small Photo Album
1	N/A	Small Photo Album
2	1-10	Family Photographs (Undated)
4	N/A	Tintypes (Undated)

Series 2: Subject Files, 1790-[2006]

Series Note: This series contains correspondence, legal documents, financial records, family histories, signature albums, and a bible containing family history.

Box and Folder Listing:

Box	Folder	Folder Title
1	N/A	Family Bible
1	N/A	Signature Album
1	N/A	Signature Album
1	N/A	Signature Album
1	N/A	Signature Album
2	11	Calling Cards (Undated)
2	12	Chronic Receipts and Letters (1895, 1896, 1899, Undated)
2	13	Correspondence: Family (1887, 1888, 1891, 1893, 1894)
2	14	Correspondence: Family (1897, Undated)
2	15	Correspondence: General (1871, 1879, 1889, 1894, 1897)
2	16	Correspondence: General (1898, 1899, 1907, 1909, 1927)
2	17	Correspondence: General (Undated)
2	18	Family Histories/Genealogies (1968, [2006], Undated)
2	19	Financial Documents (1798, 1812, 1813, 1816, 1819)
2	20	Financial Documents (1822, 1827, 1828, 1838, 1841)
2	21	Financial Documents (1843, 1851, 1856, 1859, 1864)
2	22	Financial Documents (1868, 1869, 1872, 1876, 1882)
2	23	Financial Documents (1888, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1893)
2	24	Financial Documents (1894-1899)

2	25	Financial Documents (1901, 1902, 1903, 1904 1907)
2	26	Financial Documents (Undated)
2	27	Insurance (1890, 1893, 1895, 1900, 1904)
2	28	Insurance (1910)
2	29	Jennie L McWilliam Birth Certificate Copy (1947)
2	30	Ledger Book (1884-1888)
2	31	Ledger Book (1895)
2	32	Ledger Book (Undated)
3	1	Legal Documents (1795, 1800, 1809, 1814, 1822)
3	2	Legal Documents (1825, 1845, 1848, 1861, 1868)
3	3	Legal Documents (1872, 1879, 1882, 1884-1885)
3	4	Legal Documents (1886-1891, 1893, 1896, 1897) 1 of 2
3	5	Legal Documents (1886-1891, 1893, 1896, 1897) 2 of 2
OS	N/A	Legal Documents - OVERSIZED (1790, 1815, 1818)[see oversized folder in flat file storage]
3	6	Mason Certificates (1870)
3	7	M.E. McWilliams Remembrance Card (1893)
3	8	Obituaries (1887, 1910, 1918, 1925, Undated)
3	9	Personal Writings (Undated)
3	10	Programs (1861, 1892)
3	11	Wedding Invitations/Announcements (1872, 1887-1890, Undated)
3	12	Wills (1825, 1843, 1885, 1936)