

Albany Institute of History & Art
Library

MG 67

BEDLOW/CORPRON/McRAE FAMILY PAPERS

1773-1890

.5 lin. ft., 1 box

- Series I. Correspondence (1778-1833)
- Series II. Legal and Financial Documents (1831-1890)
- Series III. Personal Papers and Ephemera (1773-1832)
- Series IV. Photographs (n.d.)

June 1997

Biographical Note

The Bedlow/Corpron/McRae family papers were donated by Jean McRae of Albany. Ms. McRae's great-grandfather was George S. McRae, a Schuylerville businessman who is represented by several financial documents in the collection. George McRae 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). It is the correspondence and documents of the Bedlow family which make up the largest portion of the collection. The family, originally from Massachusetts, settled in Plattsburgh, then Champlain, New York. Some of the most notable correspondence in the collection was written by William Bedlow to his wife and children while he was a soldier in the Revolutionary army.

Scope and Content Note

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. The papers and photographs, along with a collection of books, were given to The Albany Institute of History and Art by Jean McRae in 1997. The books, primarily on religious subjects, were catalogued and housed with the Library's Special Collections volumes.

Series I. 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.

Series II. 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.

Series III. PERSONAL PAPERS AND EPHEMERA contains two booklets of manuscript music, primarily religious songs, belonging to Charles Bedlow. Also included are hand written prayers, household instructions (how to destroy bedbugs, how to preserve beef), and two newspaper clippings concerning George McRae's

death.

Series IV. 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, NY; L.P. Case of Champlain, NY; W.B. Pierce of Rouse's Point, NY; and E.I Stearn of Honesdale, PA.

Box Folder

Series I. CORRESPONDENCE

1	1	Allen, Reuben and Elisabeth	1815, 1817
	2	Bedlow [Bedlam], William and Elizabeth	1779-1815
	3	Bedlow, Sylvanus	1810-33
	4	Cook, Daniel and Diana	1817, 1824
	5	Cook, Zebediah, Abigail and Stephen	1792-1815
	6	Flagg, William and Rebecca	1810-22
	7	Holbrook, Jonathan and Sarah	1811-22, n.d.
	8	Printice, Lydia	1778 Oct 10
	9	Stevens, Hannah	1789 Feb

Series II. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

10	Documents: deeds and mortgages	1831-90
11	Documents: stock certificates, receipts and miscellaneous financial and legal documents	1839-89, n.d.

Series III. PERSONAL PAPERS AND EPHEMERA

12	Household instructions, and manuscript quotation [from Whittier]	n.d.
13	Booklets of music	n.d.
14	Prayers	n.d.
15	Genealogical material, including obituary and newspaper notice of George McRae's death, and list of Corpron family births and deaths	n.d.

Box Folder

Series IV. PHOTOGRAPHS

1	16	McRae, Chloe Corpron (2 tintypes)	n.d.
	17	McRae, George [presumed] (1 ambrotype)	n.d.
	18	Identified: Hattie Bedlow (1 print); Mary J. Madison Cook (1 print); Amos Corpron (1 tintype); M. Sherman (Fannie) (1 print) n.d.	
	19	Unidentified: women (2 prints, 1 tintype); boys (2 tintypes); men (2 tintypes)	n.d.