Inventory of the records of the

Papers of John Schropp

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2007
Papers of John Schropp, 1833-1841. 11 Boxes, 6 journals, 1 ledger.

Biography

John Schropp was born September 8, 1805, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Johannes and Elisabeth Schropp. Johannes Schropp was a minister and, upon retirement, the Warden for Bethlehem. On October 12, 1828, at age twenty-three, John Schropp married Mary Corn Goundie. Between 1829 and 1831, Schropp commissioned Isaak McHose to build his home in Bethlehem. Goundie bore Schropp three sons, Abraham S., John C., and Charles W., and one daughter, Maria Elisabeth.

Schropp, a merchant, began his career with business partner Owen Rice before going into business for himself. In addition to owning his own store, which sold groceries, dry goods and hardware among other things, Schropp also served as secretary on the Bethlehem Township School Board. Schropp died on September 2, 1840, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Schropp’s named executor, Matt Krause, assumed the role of settling Schropp’s estate. He shared these responsibilities with Schropp’s former business partner, Owen Rice.

Level of Description
Fonds

Archival History

The Archives came into possession of these records after Schropp’s death. Source of acquisition unknown. The papers were preliminary arranged by Lothar Madeheim at the Moravian Church Archives. In 2007 they were rearranged by Janelle Pham, student at Moravian College.

Scope and Content

This collection documents his business transactions, financial records, and the actions of his executor, Matt Krause, following Schropp’s death in 1840. Nine boxes in the collection contain receipts pertaining to transactions within Schropp’s store, and the journals and ledger further document these business transactions. The journals and ledgers are organized by customer. One box consists of twenty booklets detailing store inventory and cash expenses. The remaining box documents the posthumous settlement of Schropp’s estate by Matt Krause, and other miscellaneous financial records kept by Schropp pertaining to his business.

System of Arrangement

The papers are arranged into two series: business receipts and financial documentation, and settlement of Schropp’s estate. The first series consists of receipts, ledgers, journals, store inventory and cash expenses. Each of these categories is further organized chronologically. The second series consists of papers pertaining to the settlement of Schropp’s estate, financial transactions, and other miscellaneous documents. This series is composed of three folders: documents and records regarding unfinished business at the time of Schropp’s death, correspondence and financial records regarding the settlement of Schropp’s estate, and miscellaneous documentation whose purpose cannot be determined. All of these folders are further arranged chronologically. This
series also contains three notebooks which document financial transactions regarding the settlement of Schropp’s estate.

Conditions governing access
This collection is open to the public.

Language
English

Physical Characteristics
Some paper documents are extremely worn and/or fragile.

Finding Aids
Inventory attached.

Related Unit of Description
John Schropp’s memoir can be found in the Moravian Church Archives in a collection titled “Memoirs 1840.” This memoir is written in German.
1. **Business receipts and financial documentation**

1. **Store ledger** (1833-1840)
   Arranged by customer, then chronologically
   1 item
   Language: English

2-6. **Store journals** (1833-1839)
   Contents:
   2. Journal 1, 8/27/1833 – 12/31/1834
   4. Journal 3, 5/10/1836 - 6/30/1837
   5. Journal 4, 7/1/1837 - 9/19/1838
   6. Journal 5, 9/20/1830 – 11/12/1839
   5 bound journals
   Language: English

7. **Account of store stock** (1835-1836)
   Organized into the following categories: Dry goods, hardware, groceries, crockery, books and stationary, fancy articles etc., outstanding debts and memorandum; journal closed
   February 1, 1835
   1 item
   Language: English

8-27. **Store inventory and cash expenses** (1833-1840)
   Contents:
   8. No title, 1833
   9. No title, 1834
   10. Memorandum, April 1835
   11. June 1835
   12. Sept. 1835
   13. No title, April 1836
   14. No title, June 1836
   15. John Schropp, Sept. 1836
   16. J. Schropp, Nov. 1836
   17. John Schropp March 1837
   18. John Schropp Sept. 1837
   19. John Schropp Nov. 1837
   20. No title, 1837
   21. J. Schropp Sept. 1839
   22. John Schropp April 1840
   23. J. Schropp, June 1840
   24. John Schropp, Bethlehem, PA (Date unknown)
   25. No title, date unknown
   26. No. 2, 1836-1838
27. No title, 1833-1840
Pocket notebooks outlining store inventory. Nr. 26 is a cash book listing the cash
amounts taken in by the store each day. Nr. 27 lists outstanding debts by customers and
their payment of these debts.
20 items
Language: English

28-64. Receipts (1826-August 1840)
Contents:
   28-31. Receipts 1826-1832
   32-36. Receipts 1833
   37-41. Receipts 1834
   42-45. Receipts 1835
   46-49. Receipts 1836
   50-53. Receipts 1837
   54-57. Receipts 1838
   58-61. Receipts 1839
   62-64. Receipts Jan 1840-August 1840
Contents arranged chronologically in boxes. The box containing items 28-31 is composed
of 4 folders organized by year, with the exception of the folder “Receipts from Isaak
McHose, 1829-1831. This folder contains receipts documenting purchases and payments
made to Isaak McHose for the construction of Schropp’s house. The box containing items
62-64 is composed of 3 folders; all other boxes contain 4 folders organized
chronologically, which each folder containing three months of receipts.
9 boxes
Language: English

2. Settlement of Schropp’s estate

65. Papers regarding unfinished business at the time of Schropp’s death (1833-1840)
Miscellaneous collection of records, to include financial records, correspondence and
legal documents, which were produced prior to Schropp’s death in September 1840.
1 folder
Language: English

66-69. Papers regarding the settlement of Schropp’s estate (September 1840-August
1841)
Contents:
   66. Papers regarding the settlement of Schropp’s estate, September 1840-August 1841
   67. No title, 1840-42
   68. Monies received for the Estate of J. Schropp, 1840-1842
   69. Amounts due to the Estate of John Schropp dec., February 26, 1841
Folder contains business transactions and financial records pertaining to Schropp’s estate
after his death in September 1840. Matthew Krause acts as Schropp’s executor in these
records. Folder contains two documents with no discernable date. Three pocket
notebooks document outstanding debts and payments for the administration of Schropp’s estate.
1 folder, 3 notebooks
Language: English

70. Miscellaneous records
Folder contains documents whose functions are not discernable.
1 folder
Language: English