

Inventory of the records of the  
Papers of John Schropp

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**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, 1829, 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

3. Journal 2, 1/1/1835 – 5/9/1836

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