

Collection: Reid Family Papers

Accession: 2016.040

Finding Aid

Date Range: 1869-1938**Bulk Date:** 1875-1890**Creator:** John Reid Estate (possibly)**Containers:** 2 flip-top document boxes**Storage Location:** PCHS Library and Archives**Aid Created By:** Janet Wasti, Volunteer

Biographical:

John Reid Jr. was born on December 19, 1835 in Scotland and moved with his family to the United State six years later. The family settled in Paterson, New Jersey, most likely attracted to the employment opportunities of the city's many industries. While working at the Rogers Locomotive Works in this teens, John became interested in the daguerreotype process. By 1850 he was working as a photographer and producing wet collodion ambrotypes. Initially John shared his office with his brother, Alexander, who was a dentist. They were known as Reid & Brother, Dentist & Daguerreotypes until Dr. Reid's death in 1862.

After he returned from serving in the Civil War, John Reid's business continued to grow. He began to specialize in outdoor photography, taking in the natural beauty of Paterson and its surrounding landscapes. He also photographed locomotives and railroad scenes throughout his career. Reid received awards at the Philadelphia's Centennial Exhibition, the Paris Exposition, and Chicago's Colombian Exhibition. Reid's studios relocated several times throughout his career, but always remained centrally located in downtown Paterson on Main Street, or Broadway.

John Reid married Frances Mosson (1844-1907) and together they had three daughters (Fannie, Caroline and Bertha) and three sons (John, William and Charles). William joined his father's photography studio after finishing his education. When his father passed away on April 7, 1911, William was amply qualified to take his father's place at the head of the business established so many years ago. William was also an accomplished musician performing as a concert soloist as a part of the Philharmonic and Symphony orchestras. William passed away at the age of 48 at from heart disease.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains various business and financial documents, as well as some personal items such as stock transactions. Customer correspondence are among the more personal items included in the collection, and John Reid's negative book. Also included is a day log belonging to Dr. Alexander Reid recording service rendered and charges for his dental services.

Series:

The collection is organized into folders containing like items of the same subject matter. At the writing of this finding aid, the collection had already been divided into folders.

In addition to the material in this collection, the Passaic County Historical Society has a large number of photographs from the Studio of John Reid, representing many aspects of his photography career. The Society also has a large number of objects associated with John Reid's studio, including cameras and other equipment donated from the John Reid Estate. Accessions from the estate occurred throughout April 1936 and the associated numbers are: 4577-4593; 4598-4600; 5028; 5531-5532; 6410-6440

As the documents included in this collection are not listed among the items accessioned in April of 1936, they have been given a found in collection number. It is most likely that they were donated at or around that time, however as was often the case with documents in the early years of collecting, they were not noted or accessioned.