



The Historical
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Collection 1184

Henry C. DuBois
Collection

1776-1927

1 box, 2 vols., 0.66 lin. feet

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Processed by: Leslie Hunt

Processing Completed: November 2004

Sponsor: Processing made possible by a grant from the
National Endowment for the Humanities

Restrictions: None.

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Abstract

Henry C. DuBois was born in Philadelphia in 1880 and was the second son of William L. and Mary (Cowell) DuBois. Henry became the steward of a small cache of family history and papers, some of which date to the Revolutionary War. The collection includes miscellaneous correspondence and documents pertaining to several generations of the Patterson, Ewing, Cowell, and DuBois family, as well as a published family history, genealogical notes, and photographs.

Background note

Henry C. DuBois (b. 1880), was the second son born to William L. DuBois and Mary (Cowell) DuBois. On his father's side, Henry was descended from Louis DuBois, a French Huguenot who immigrated to America in approximately 1660, and Robert Patterson (1743-1824), the Irish-born Revolutionary War hero and distinguished professor of mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Uriah DuBois, the great-great grandson of Louis DuBois, was born in 1768 in New Jersey. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1790, where he studied with Professor Robert Patterson. In 1798, Uriah married Patterson's daughter, Martha. They had eight children: Charles Ewing, Emilu, Robert Patterson, Samuel, William Ewing, Matilda, Louis, and Mary. The DuBois family lived in the Deep Run area of Bucks County, where Uriah was a well-known and greatly respected minister.

William Ewing DuBois (1810-1881), one of Uriah and Martha's sons, married Susanna Eckfeldt, whose family had long been associated with the United States Mint. William Ewing DuBois also served as an officer at the Mint and was also concerned with recording his family's history. He and Susanna had four children: Margaretta, William Louis, Patterson, and Sarah.

William L. DuBois (1844-1919) followed his father into the financial sector, rising through the ranks and becoming the president of Philadelphia Trust Company. He married Mary Cowell (1849-1927), the daughter of Martha (Murphy) and Henry R. Cowell. William and Mary's eldest son, William P. DuBois (b. 1871), served as an officer in Philadelphia Trust until his untimely death in 1913. Henry C. DuBois (b. 1880), the

second son, served for a time as the secretary and treasurer of Rittenhouse Motor Company and served in the military during World War I.

Scope & content

This small and somewhat fragmentary collection includes miscellaneous correspondence, notes, printed materials, and photographs pertaining to the DuBois, Patterson, Cowell, and Ewing families. Letters included in the collection appear to have been passed down for several generations, with Henry C. DuBois as the last compiler of the family data. Henry's grandfather, William E. DuBois, also appears to have been very involved in tracing the family's history. Although primarily genealogical in nature, included is some Revolutionary War letters of Robert Patterson, written to his wife Amy, as well as a few letters regarding the United States Mint near the turn of the nineteenth century.

The densest information can be found in *Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois*, published in 1847. This work consists of three pamphlets, each pertaining to one of the three families. Each pamphlet is accompanied by a set of notes, the majority of which appear to have been written by William E. DuBois, who then compiled the pamphlets and notes into one large work. In addition to the information provided by the published text, which provides a fairly extensive history of these three families, the notes on each section include letters that have been glued onto the pages, transcriptions of other letters, newspaper clippings and obituaries, and notes about conversations pertaining to family history and individual family members. Although William E. DuBois appears to have written and compiled the vast majority of these supplemental materials, there are a few items that date after his 1881 death. It is likely that his son, William L. DuBois, or grandson, Henry C. DuBois, added these later notes. The published pamphlets and all corresponding notes are included in Box 1.

In addition to this family history, miscellanea pertaining to the Cowell, DuBois, and Patterson families includes an invitation to the wedding of William L. DuBois and Mary Cowell, obituaries for various members of the Cowell Family, notes on the estate of Louis DuBois, a DuBois family tree, a description of the Cowell family farm house, and an article written by William E. DuBois entitled "The Temple Sweepers."

Correspondence included in this collection is extremely fragmentary. A 1797 letter from Oliver Wolcott to Elias Boudinot, the director of the Mint, concerns the transfer of money from the Bank of the United States to the Mint, and an 1801 letter to Boudinot from Secretary of State James Madison concerns a machine for striking coins. There are also two letters to John Kent Kane concerning Amy Patterson's widow's pension, as well as another item documenting her pension claim. There is a handful of other family letters of an incidental nature.

Of great significance are thirteen letters written by Robert Patterson to his wife Amy during the Revolutionary War. Nearly all of these are dated from New York and Long Island. These letters begin in July 1776 and lead up to the Battle of Long Island, fought on August 27, 1776. In a letter dated August 26, 1776, Patterson briefly described the

skirmishes occurring in the days before the battle. He described seeing the corpse of the man they considered to be the first casualty of the battle and how an Indian used his scalping knife to remove locks of the dead man's hair as souvenirs for those present, including Patterson. He also mentioned Lt. Col. Tedwick[?], who was imprisoned for having a "most traitorous correspondence with some of the principle [English] officers." He was to be "tryed for his life today or tomorrow." Patterson's letters not only reflect upon the movements and activities of the army, but also on more mundane occurrences as the weather. They further illustrate a deep affection for his wife, who he occasionally referred to as "my dear love."

Lastly, there are a few photographs of the Logan Square area of Philadelphia, as well as a photo album containing various notes, transcriptions of letters, newspaper clippings, and numerous photographs pertaining to the Cowell and DuBois families. Most photos are clearly identified, and many of them are dated. Among those pictured are William L. DuBois, his wife Mary Cowell DuBois, and their children, William P. DuBois and Henry C. DuBois. There is also a photograph of Rachel W. DuBois, the wife of William P., and several photographs of their daughter Mary Cowell DuBois, who died in 1924 at the age of nineteen. There are two photographs of Henry C. DuBois's marriage to Julia Lavino. Quite a few photographs depict Annie and Margaret Cowell, sisters of Mary Cowell DuBois, and there are a few photographs of their parents Henry R. and Martha M. Cowell. This album appears to have been compiled and annotated by Henry C. DuBois.

Separation report

None.

Related materials

Patterson-Lord Papers, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.
Robert Maskell Patterson Papers, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

Bibliography

DuBois Family, http://bombaci.rootsweb.com/WC03/WC03_080.HTML (accessed 15 November 2004)

Subjects

Long Island, Battle of, New York, N.Y., 1776
Military pensions
United States – History – Revolution, 1775-1783 – Personal narratives
United States – History – Revolution, 1775-1783 – Veterans
United States Mint – History

Boudinot, Elias, 1740-1821 – Correspondence
Cowell, Anna, 1855-1930
Cowell, Henry R., 1813-1898
Cowell, Martha M. (Martha Murphy), 1822-1884
DuBois, Henry C. (Henry Cowell), b. 1880
Cowell, Margaret
DuBois, Mary Cowell, 1849-1927
DuBois, Mary Cowell, 1905-1924
DuBois, William E. (William Ewing), 1810-1881
DuBois, William Louis, 1844-1919
DuBois, William Patterson, 1871-1913
Kane, John K. (John Kintzing), 1795-1858
Madison, James, 1751-1836 – Correspondence
Moore, Samuel, 1774-1861
Patterson, Amy, 1751-1844
Patterson, Robert, 1743-1824
Patterson, Robert M. (Robert Maskell), 1787-1854
Wolcott, Oliver, 1760-1833 – Correspondence

United States. Continental Army – Pay, allowances, etc.

Administrative Information

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Gift of Henry C. DuBois, 1941.

Alternative format

None.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Henry C. DuBois Collection (Collection 1184), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

Processing made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The several pamphlets comprising *Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois*, which was annotated largely by William E. DuBois, had all been compiled and sewn into one binding, presumably as the wish of William E. DuBois. This configuration compromised the contents of the volume, and during processing, the volume was disbound and the pamphlets are now separate. All of the items that were a part of this compiled volume, including the binding that William E. DuBois used, are included in box 1.

Box and folder listing

Folder/volume title	Date	Box/ Vol.	Folder
<i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois.</i> Patterson Lineage	1847	vol. 1	
<i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois.</i> Notes on Patterson Lineage	n.d.	vol. 1	
<i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois.</i> "Record of the Family of Thomas Ewing"	1847	vol. 1	
<i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois.</i> Notes on "Record of the Family of Thomas Ewing"	n.d.	vol. 1	
<i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois.</i> "Record of the Family of Louis DuBois"	1847	vol. 1	
<i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois.</i> Notes on "Record of the Family of Louis DuBois"	n.d.	vol. 1	
<i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois.</i> Miscellaneous notes	n.d.	vol. 1	
Sir John Cowell – obituaries	1894	1	1
John V. Cowell – "Sketch of His Life"	1888	1	2
Martha and Henry Cowell - obituaries	1884, 1898	1	3
Charles E. Cadwalader to Margaret G. Cowell	1903	1	4
Description of Cowell Farm House	n.d.	1	5
Louis DuBois – notes on his estate	1846	1	6
William E. DuBois – "The Temple Sweepers"	n.d.	1	7
William L. DuBois and Mary Cowell – wedding invitation	n.d.	1	8
Uriah DuBois to Jeremiah DuBois	1812	1	9
Moses Richman to William DuBois	1846	1	10
William S. Stryker to Richard C. DuBois	1895	1	11
DuBois family tree and genealogical notes	n.d.	1	12

Family trees (photocopies of those included in <i>Record of the Families of Robert Patterson (The Elder), Thomas Ewing, and Louis DuBois</i>)		1	13
W.B. Ewing to Robert M. Patterson	1838	1	14
Robert Patterson – typed description of Revolutionary War service	n.d.	1	15
Robert Patterson to Amy Patterson	1776	1	16
Robert M. Patterson to Amy Patterson	1836	1	17
Amy Patterson – widow's pension	1838	1	18
Charles E. DuBois to Robert M. Patterson	1838	1	19
James D. Westcott – abstract of payroll paid by the militia master, 1777-1778	1838	1	20
Oliver Wolcott to Elias Boudinot	1797	1	21
James Madison to Elias Boudinot	1801	1	22
George William Crump to John K. Kane	1837	1	23
J.L. Edwards to John K. Kane	1837	1	24
Family portraits	n.d., ca. 1910	1	25
Views of Logan Square	n.d.	1	26
Photograph album	1881- 1927, n.d.	vol. 2	

All-in-One Tree of Henry Cowell DuBois

