

John Shearer Research, 2005-2015

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A Collection in Thomas Balch Library SC 0112

Thomas Balch Library

2017

History

Processed by: Laura Christiansen

Title Statement

John Shearer Research, 2005-2015

Subtitle: John Shearer Research

Collection: SC 0112

Author: Laura Christiansen

Publication Statement

Date: © 2017 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Thomas Balch Library

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Laura Christiansen, 14 November 2017

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

SC 0112

Language

English

Abstract

This collection consists of genealogy research reports compiled by Melody C. Warner for Elizabeth A. Davidson in connection with her graduate thesis on furniture maker John Shearer. In order to develop a contextual framework for commentary incorporated in the decorative inlay or hidden within Shearer's work, Warner compiled records documenting individuals and families referenced in Shearer's notations as well as materials potentially documenting his family. The reports vary in content, but include genealogical records, timelines, and lineage charts.

Collector

Melody Warner, Land O' Lakes, FL

Physical Characteristics

less than .33 cubic ft.

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Open for research.

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

Acquisition Information

Melody Warner, Land O' Lakes, FL

Processing Information

Processed by Laura Christiansen, 2017

Preferred Citation

John Shearer Research , 2005-2015 (SC 0112), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

Accruals

2015.085

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Davison, Elizabeth A., and John Shearer. 2011. The furniture of John Shearer, 1790-1820: "A True North Britain" in the Southern Backcountry. Lanham [Md.]: AltaMira Press V REF 749.092 DAV Family Files, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

Bibliography

The Furniture of John Shearer, 1790-1820: "a True North Britain" in the Southern Backcountry.

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

Originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, John Shearer (fl. 1790-1820) worked as a cabinet maker and joiner in Loudoun County, Virginia; Frederick County, Maryland; and Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Virginia) between 1790 and 1820. Immigrating to American around 1775, Shearer was a British loyalist. Little record of Shearer's life and business has been discovered beyond the furniture he created. His work includes both overt and covert clues to his history, politics and opinions. Inlaid designs referencing events such as Nelson's

victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 offer positive commentary about current events, while messages and drawings hidden within his furniture reveal at times negative observations about the patrons who commissioned the pieces.

Documentation of Shearer's furniture only began after 1979, when decorative arts scholar and collector John Snyder (1947-2014) published an article about a chest of drawers inscribed by Shearer in the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts. Snyder and other scholars failed to positively identify Shearer, although more than fifty pieces of his work were subsequently documented. In 2011, independent scholar Elizabeth A. Davidson published *The Furniture of John Shearer, 1790-1820 "A True North Britain in the Southern Backcountry"*, a catalogue of Shearer's known work. Culminating research completed by Davidson at the Smithsonian, Parsons, and New School of Design Program in the History of Decorative Arts and Design at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, the catalog used inscriptions discovered on Shearer's works to more accurately identify him, as well as to provide information about many of the individuals who commissioned his work.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of genealogy research reports compiled by Melody C. Warner for Elizabeth A. Davidson in connection with her graduate thesis on furniture maker John Shearer. In order to develop a contextual framework for commentary incorporated in the decorative inlay or hidden within Shearer's work, Warner compiled records documenting individuals and families referenced in Shearer's notations as well as materials potentially documenting his family. The reports vary in content, but include genealogical records, timelines, and lineage charts. Information is included about the Shearer, Klinger, Pendleton, Krammer, Brandenburg, Koontz, Lugenbeel, Stover, Filler, McFarland, Lockett, Steer, Bel, Milholland/Milhollen, Whitaker, Gore, Lane, Gaburri, Lupton, Hollinsworth, Loose and Beachtel/Bachtel Families.

Contents List

SC 0112

Box 1

Folder 1: John Shearer Research

Folder 2: Shearer Family Timelines

Folder 3: Edmund Pendleton (1776-1820) of Winchester, VA Timeline

Folder 4: Krammer Family Timelines

Folder 5: Philip Stover, Frederick County Maryland (1755-1814) Timeline

Folder 6: Elizabeth Filler (dates unknown) Timeline

Folder 7: Robert McFarland (1770-1886) Timeline

Folder 8: Samuel Lockett (1770/77 - 1824) Timeline

Folder 9: Steer Family of Frederick and Loudoun Counties, Virginia Family Tree and Family Sheets

Folder 10: Alfred Belt (1788-1872) Timeline

Folder 11: Milholland/Milhollen Family of Loudoun County, Virginia Timeline; Sarah B. Milhollen Whitaker Family of Fauquier County Virginia and Missouri Timeline

Folder 12: Ellen Matthew Gore (1879-1912) Paternal Lineage

Folder 13: Lane, Loose and Beachtel/Bachtel Families

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