

Other#
Refer code
Accession# 2021.179
Received as Claimed Property
Source Hiram E. Deats
Creditline
Home loc Archives:A:1

Object name 2
Object name 3
Accession date 10/03/2021

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01.01 Apprenticeship Indenture, Isaac Passand to Joseph Follows; 1755 0001

Identity Statement:

Title: Capner Papers
 Extent of the unit of description: 18 boxes, 1 map drawer; 10 linear feet

Scope & Content / Abstract:

This collection includes papers and records of the Capner family of Flemington, as well as records of associated families such as Hall, Hill, and Exton of Hunterdon County, Philadelphia, and locations in England.

Scope and Content:

- Box 1: John Hall; correspondence and legal papers, 1755-1786
- Box 2: John Hall; correspondence and accounts, 1786-1791
- Box 3: John Hall; correspondence, 1791-1795
- Box 4: John Hall; correspondence, 1795-1804
- Box 5: John Hall; correspondence, legal papers, accounts, and other miscellaneous materials, 1805-1848
- Box 6: John Hall; correspondence, legal papers, accounts, 1752-1848
- Box 7: John Hall; correspondence, 1758-1895
- Box 8: Thomas Capner; personal papers, correspondence, accounts, and other material, 1811-1824, court cases, 1818-1827
- Box 9: Thomas Capner; court cases, 1818-1827, personal papers, 1821-1830
- Box 10: Thomas Capner; court cases, 1819-1826
- Box 11: Thomas Capner, court cases, 1815-1835, personal papers, [1710] 1810-1834
- Box 12: Hugh Capner; accounts, legal papers, other material, 1811-1848; Hill Family; correspondence and personal papers, 1825-1877
- Box 13: Thomas Capner: correspondence, 1804-1815, financial documents, 1803-1822, court cases, 1816-1824
- Box 14: Thomas Capner: financial records, 1809-1822, legal papers, 1823-1826, court cases, 1809-1826
- Box 15: Thomas Capner; court cases, 1809-1827, personal papers, notebooks, drawings, and ephemera, n.d.
- Box 16: Thomas Capner: court cases, 1813-1825, Board of Chosen Freeholders, 1821
- Box 17: Thomas Capner: Board of Chosen Freeholders, 1821, court cases, 1820-1827; Hall Family, correspondence, 1755-1810
- Box 18: John Hall: drawings, correspondence, accounts, and miscellaneous unsorted material, n.d.

Context:

Name of Creator: John Hall (Capner)

Administrative / Biographical history: The papers that comprise this collection were discovered in the attic of the Capner House in Flemington, NJ, in 1891. The Capner House was the second family home of the Capner family in Flemington.

Joseph Capnerhurst arrived in America at Philadelphia in 1786 and stayed with his Uncle John Hall at the Coltman's (family relations) family home there. He purchased a farm in Flemington later that year.

The farm, called Long Range Farm, was part of the original Kase tract, and is situated entirely in the Borough of Flemington. In 1787, the rest of the Capner family arrived from England. Living on the farm was Joseph, his mother Mary, his brother Thomas, sister Nancy, his Uncle John Hall, Isaac Passand, William Gilbert, and several servants.

John Hall helped Joseph to improve the farm tremendously, building outbuildings, an irrigation system, and a workshop for his own inventions and engineering efforts. The farm became very successful. John Hall was a well known engineer and inventor in early America, who maintained a large correspondence and work record with many known personages in Philadelphia, and beyond. Some of his correspondence includes letters back and forth with Thomas Paine, Robert Fulton, and others.

In 1793, Mary Choyce arrived from England, as a milkmaid, and then married Joseph's brother Thomas. Joseph passed away in 1809 and left the farm to his oldest son Thomas. Thomas was a successful lawyer who also served several terms as county justice (both for the court of common pleas and the justice of the peace). A large portion of this collection includes case files from Thomas' practice as an attorney and as a judge of the county.

In 1822, Thomas sold the farm to his younger brother Hugh Capner. Hugh operated the farm, still with various relatives living there, until

1836. He then sold the property to the Flemington Mining Company, and moved the family to another house in Flemington.

When these papers were discovered in the attic of the second Capner home in the area, there were letters and papers from several generations of the Capner family and many of the residents who had lived with them. Joseph and Mary Capner, John Hall, Thomas and Mary Capner, their daughter Mary, their distant relatives Isaac Passand and William Gibson, all lived there and wrote letters to each other when separate and back and forth to friends and their relations still living in England.

In the subsequent generation, John Hall Capner, the Exton Family, the Choyce family, Thomas Capner and his wife, Hugh and his wife Matilda, all spent time living at the farm. The letters and legal papers left behind by this regionally important family tell a story of life in early America. The members of this family touched the heights of fashionable society but also reflected rural life in America and England. John Hall's letters reflect his time while the family lived in England, but also had many pieces and much information from the revolutionary period as well, when he lived in Philadelphia. The second generation left us a wealth of Hunterdon county court records that tell their own story of the region in the time period of the early 19th century.

All in all, this is a remarkable collection of documents that tells the story of both an American family, and that of Flemington, Hunterdon County, and the evolution of American Society.

Custodial history: The Capner Papers were acquired by Hiram E. Deats, the Librarian of the HCHS, in 1891 from the attic of the Capner House. Since then, the material of the first 664 folders in the collection have been used or sorted by at least 14 people. Folders 1 to 218 were sorted by Dr. Hubert G. Schmidt about 20 or 25 years ago. The marks, repairs, and comments are his. In the 1980 processing, clips, pins, rubber bands, etc. were removed. Material was re-housed in acid free folders and containers.

Existing typescripts were created by Mrs. Frederick Powell.

Folders 219 to 321 were partially sorted by Dr. Schmidt., and arranged as found in 1980.

Folders 322 to 664 were partially sorted by Dr. Schmidt and by B.A. Sorby.

The balance of the material was sorted in 1980 as found by Mr. Deats in 1891 with relatively no disturbance.

Structure:

System of Arrangement: Original Order as determined by processor of collection. See Archival Notes.

Disposition:**Disposition date:**

Conditions of Access & Use:

Access conditions: Manuscript collections may only be viewed at the Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library, the Library and Archives of the Hunterdon County Historical Society during open business hours. The retrieval and use of manuscripts, microfilm, and other library materials ends 15 minutes prior to closing time of each open business day. Please check the society website at hunterdonhistory.org for current hours.

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Language of material: English

Finding Aids: In Vertical File

Allied Materials:

Location of originals: A1

Collection HCHS Manuscript Collection**Event****Medium**

Catdate 10/06/2021**Status date**

Catby	Cornelius, Donald	Status by	
Display value		Status	Unprocessed
Condition		Cond date	
Condition by		Cond notes	
Appraisor		Acq value	Current value min
App notes		Value date	Current value max
Ins policy#		Ins phone#	
Ins company		Ins premium	
Ins rep		Ins value	Policy exp date
Temp loc		By/Until	
Date		Invn by	
Invn date			
Subjects	Accounts Correspondence Court cases Deeds Diaries Drawings Drawings, Architectural Drawings, Engineering Inventory Maps Surveys (Land) Wills	Classification	
Search terms	Capner family Hall family Hill family Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders	People	Buchanan, John Capner, Ann "Nancy" Capner, Hugh Capner, John Hall Capner, Joseph Capner, Mary Capner, Thomas Capnerhurst, John Capnerhurst, Joseph Capnerhurst, Mary Hall Case, John Case, Tunis Choyce, Elizabeth Choyce, James Choyce, Mary Coltman Samuel Coltman, Elizabeth Coltman, John Coltman, Robert Coltman, Sarah Coltman, William Exton, Hugh Exton, Mary Hall, John Hall, Rebecca Haward, Peter Hill, Ann Capnerhurst Hill, Thomas Johnson, Isabella Paine, Thomas Passand, Isaac Suydam, Phebe Van Neste, Caty Watt, James Wright, Mary

Notes

