Summary Information

Repository: The Historical Society of Montgomery County

Title: Willoughby H. Reed Family Papers

Creator: Willoughby H. Reed

Dates: 1790-1939

Extent: 2 feet, 10 inches

Language: English

Abstract: Dr. Willoughby H. Reed (1856-1939) was a life member of the Historical Society and served as its Treasurer for many years. He was married to Annie Jarrett Reed (1860-) who was also a lifelong member of the Society. The Willoughby H. Reed Family Papers include the papers of the Reed family as well as Annie Jarrett Reed’s father Samuel F. Jarrett (1825-1917) diaries and other papers. There are programs from Jarrett family reunions that were held at the Reed’s home, “Will-Anna.” Willoughby H. Reed’s diaries are also part of the collection as well as correspondence, store ledgers, and receipt books.

Biographical Note

Willoughby H. Reed was a physician, pharmacist, local historian, and writer who was born in Norristown and lived in Jeffersonville, Pa. and Orange City, Florida. After graduating from Jefferson Medical College, he practiced medicine in New Jersey. He married Annie Jarrett in 1884 and opened a pharmacy in Jeffersonville. Reed also wrote books about his travels to California and Florida. He was a life member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County and served as its treasurer and chair of the publication committee. He died in 1939 in Florida. He is buried in Montgomery Cemetery.

Samuel F. Jarrett was born in Upper Providence in 1825. He was a farmer, first on his parents’ farm, then on his own farm in Lower Providence. In 1849 he married Amanda Crawford; they had two daughters. Emma died in infancy. Anne married Dr. W. H. Reed. He was briefly a cavalry sergeant during the Civil War. Jarrett was active in the local Republican Party. He was elected county treasurer three times, and was on the Montgomery County Republican Committee. He also served on the Board of Directors of the People's National Bank of Norristown and a life member of HSMC. He died in 1917.

Annie Jarrett Reed was born in 1860, as Anne Jarrett. She married Willoughby H. Reed in 1884. She was a very active member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County. She died in Orange City, Florida in 1936. She is buried in Montgomery Cemetery.

Issachar U. Rhoads was a schoolmaster at the Center School in Whitpain from 1808 to 1812.

Scope and content

The Willoughby H. Reed Family Papers consists of the papers of several members of the Reed family, dating from 1790 until Reed’s death in 1939. The collection contains diaries, correspondence, ledgers and account books, materials relating to Jarrett family reunions, school work, and Annie Jarrett Reed’s autograph book. Subjects covered in the material include Reed and Jarrett genealogy, the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, and the Reeds’ trips to Jamaica, Florida, and California.
**Arrangement:** This collection is arranged in six series: Willoughby H. Reed Papers, I. M. Rhoads Papers, Reed Family Papers, Samuel F. Jarrett Papers, Annie Jarrett Reed Papers, and Ledgers.

**Administrative information:** This finding aid was prepared by Nancy Sullivan.

**Conditions governing access:** This collection is open for research.

**Sources used:** Historical Society of Montgomery County, Sketches v. IV, Historical Society of Montgomery County Bulletin

**Related Materials:** Willoughby H. Reed also donated his extensive library to the historical society. The topics range from local to national history, plus two books on his travels that Dr. Reed wrote himself. The Historical Society has not retained every book.

**Controlled access headings:**

**Family names:**
Jarrett
Reed

**Personal names:**
Jarrett, Samuel, 1825-1917
Reed, Andrew
Reed, Annie Jarrett, 1860-
Reed, Feronica
Reed, Frank P.
Reed, Jacob
Reed, Michael Hartman
Reed, Willoughby Henry, 1856-1939
Rhoads, I. M. (1821-1892)

**Subject names:**
Centre Square School
Railroad Strike, U.S., 1877
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

**Archivist's Note:** This collection came to the society in several separate accessions. In some cases, such as the Willoughby H. Reed and Samuel F. Jarrett diaries no accession information could be found.

**Collection Inventory**

**Series A. Willoughby H. Reed Papers**

**Scope and Content**
This series consists of the personal papers of Dr. Willoughby H. Reed (1856-1939) including school compositions, diaries, and correspondence. It is organized into five subseries: Diaries, Correspondence, School compositions, Account books, and Miscellaneous.

**Subseries 1. Diaries**

**Scope and Content**

This subseries consists of seventeen diaries written by Willoughby H. Reed from 1881 until 1923. Not all years are represented. Several of the diaries recount trips to Canton, Ohio, Florida, California, and Jamaica.

**Location:** Lower:1R:14: Box 5

**Subseries 2. Correspondence**

**Scope and Content**

This subseries consists of correspondence written to and by Willoughby H. Reed. Topics include genealogy, the Centre School, the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, and local history. There are two letters of recommendation, one signed by John F. Hartranft.

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<th>Invitations to Jarrett family reunions</th>
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<td>Correspondence with Franklin Reed</td>
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**Location:** Lower:1R:14: Box 1

**Subseries 3. School Compositions**

**Location:** Lower:1R:14: Box 1

**Series B. I. U. Rhoads Papers**

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of a receipt book and the enclosed bills, checks, and correspondence. Many of the items relate to the Centre School, including subscriptions for support.

**Accession number:** 1932.8588.001

**Location:** Lower:1R:14: Box 1
**Series C. Reed Family Papers**

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of the papers of Michael Hartman Reed, Jacob Reed, and Andrew Reed. It contains correspondence, maps, jury summonses, bills, and the will of Feronica Reed.

**Accession number:** 1940.9379  
**Location:** Lower:1R:14: Box 2

**Series D. Samuel F. Jarrett Papers**

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of Samuel F. Jarrett’s diaries from the 1860’s until 1911, though not all years are represented. There are also several account books, as well as correspondence and papers relating to Jarrett’s position as county treasurer. Some of the correspondence is from Jarrett’s time in the army during the Civil War, and there is a paper for the hiring of a substitute for Civil War service.

**Location:** Lower:1R:14:Box 2, 3

**Subseries 1. Diaries**

**Subseries 2. Papers**

**Series E. Annie Jarrett Reed Papers**

**Scope and Content**

This series contains an autograph book owned by Annie Jarrett Reed and a one diary.

**Location:** Lower:1R:14:Box 5

**Series F. Ledgers**

**Scope and Content**

This series consists of ledgers kept by various members of the Reed family, including Willoughby H. Reed and Frank P. Reed.

**Location:** Lower:1R:14:Box 4, 6