

Finding Aid

Date Range: 1702-1820

Bulk Date: 1702-2003

Creator: Franklin Thorn

Containers: 1 large document box

Storage Location: PCHS Library and Archives

Aid Created By: Helen Berkenbush, Volunteer

Biographical Information: In 1932, Carl F. Schondorf, archaeologist-historian and PCHS member, was given the collection by Mrs. Wilhelmina Thorn, widow of Franklin Thorn, principal of School No. 8 in Paterson. The collection consisted of twenty-three documents, all related to the history of Paterson and Passaic County. Schondorf was in fact one of the intermediaries in this transaction.

The origin of the documents is that a woman purchased an old house in Paterson and found the documents tucked away in the attic. She then gave them to Principal Franklin Thorn. Through the efforts of Mr. Schondorf and Dr. William H. Rauchfuss, who became the Society's Historian, the entire collection was presented to the Passaic County Historical Society on 15 November 1932, and assigned the accession number 14747. According to a statement by the PCHS Curator Walter Arndt Lucas, the collection was photostatted and placed in a storage vault at the U.S. Trust Company in Paterson. The collection was subsequently removed from the bank and returned to Lambert Castle. On 6 January 1939, it was inventoried and typed transcripts made under the supervision of Erwin C. H. Schoers (an honorary member of the Society), as part of his routine duties on behalf of the Depression-era Works Projects Administration (WPA) Historical Records Survey.

Eventually, Mr. Edward A. Smyk and Curator Edward Graf unlocked a large steel cabinet where valuables were stored in the basement room containing Catholina Lambert's double-door steel safe. They were intact and neatly filed in a large black portfolio. At some point in time the portfolio disappeared.

The documents in this collection are part of the entire collection, yet to be completely located. The transcripts in this collection refer to bills of sale of slaves, wills, records of various sales, deeds, bonds and notes referring to Andrew and John Cadmus of Bergen County, particularly Saddle River and Garfield.

Scope and Content:

The Thorn Collection is an archival collection which focuses on the life and dealings of Andrew and John Cadmus of Bergen County, particularly Saddle River and Garfield.

The collections consists of original 18th century documents pertaining to the bills of sale of slaves, wills, records of various sales, deeds, bonds and notes.

Series:

The documents in this collection were assigned numbers at one time. The collection is organized according to the size of the documents. Some documents are inside of file folders. Included in this collection is a typed transcription of the documents. In the process of indexing this collection all of the original documents were scanned along with the typed transcription.