Mumbower family papers

02

Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.

Last updated on June 11, 2014.

Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
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Summary Information

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<th>Repository</th>
<th>Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association</th>
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Abstract

Henry Mumbower (1826-1892) and his wife Catherine Maurer Mumbower (1828-1898) settled in Gwynedd Valley, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in the mid 19th century. After purchasing a mill in the area in 1858, the family operated a grist mill, now known as Mumbower's Mill, for over half a century. Henry and Catherine had eight children. The Mumbower family papers, 1927-1950, contain a Mumbower family photograph album, a family reunion binder, and a few scans of Mumbower family photographs.

Biography/History

Henry Mumbower (1826-1892) was born in Bucks County and eventually settled down with his wife, Catherine Maurer Mumbower (1828-1898), in Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania (Montgomery County), where he purchased what is today known as Mumbower's Mill in 1858. Henry and Catherine had eight children: Kate, Lizzie, Emma, Henry Jr. (Harry), Sue, David, Hannah, and Mary. The mill was operated
as a grist mill by Henry Mumbower and his sons, David Mumbower (1856-1930) and Henry 'Harry' Mumbower, Jr., from 1858 until about 1930.

The children of Henry and Catherine held family reunions, mostly in locations near the family mill, even after it ceased its operations. The reunions appear to have been heavily attended, although they did not necessarily occur every year on account of weather or events such as World War II.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains a Mumbower family photograph album, a family reunion binder, and a few scans of Mumbower family photographs.

The Mumbower family photograph album, circa 1930, contains black and white photos of family members of all ages. There are both individual and group shots. Many pictures are from some of the Mumbower family reunions. There is at least one photograph labeled "Mumbower Children" presumably depicting Henry and Catherine's children, circa 1930.

The Mumbower family reunion binder is titled "The Reunions of Henry and Catherine Mumbower's Descendents," and has lists of reunion attendees organized by the year of the reunion from 1927-1950. There is also a list of family members in the front of the binder, some with death dates and descriptions of how people are related to the family. Various notes have been written on many pages, and there are several reunion invitations present in the binder. Most of the reunions took place in Pennsylvania and north of Philadelphia including Willow Grove, West Point, and Chalfont. From 1943-1946 the reunions were postponed due to World War II and gas rationing. A partial finding aid for the reunion binder is available on-site.

An original photograph of the 1928 family reunion, held at the Mumbower Mill in Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania, is on display in the mill building.

Also available on-site are photocopies of deeds and some research relating to the Evans family, one of the first families to settle in the area of Gwynnedd Valley. Abraham Evans built a mill in 1745 on the site where Mumbower's Mill now stands.

Administrative Information

Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.
Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note


Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association directly for more information.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Gwynedd Valley (Pa.)
- Montgomery County (Pa.)

Personal Name(s)

- Mumbower family
• Mumbower, Catherine Maurer, 1828-1898
• Mumbower, Henry, 1826-1892

Subject(s)

• Family reunions
• Genealogy
• Local history