

DOWNNS/MCCACHREN AND CAPPIELLO/PISCITELLI COLLECTION, 1860-2015

2.25 cu. ft. [6 boxes]

ABSTRACT

The Downs/McCachren and Cappiello/Piscitelli Collection contains a variety of materials for the Downs, McCachren, Cappiello, and Piscitelli families. The Downs and McCachren families have been longtime residents of Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties, while the Cappiello and Piscitelli families came from Italy and settled in New Haven, Connecticut. Anthony Piscitelli settled in Charlotte after marrying Alice McCachren in 1947.

Members of these families for whom materials may be found are listed below, and a more detailed family tree is discussed under Historical Note.

Downs:

Ambrose Boswell Downs (1834-1904); his wife, Nancy R. Griffith (1843-1918); their daughter, Alabama (1865-?), and daughter, Jonathan Anne "Jonsie" Downs-McCachren (1881-1954).

McCachren:

Jonathan Edward McCachren; Nancy Louise McCachren; Roland Peter McCachren (1872-1920); his wife, (married 1898) Jonathan Anne "Jonsie" Downs-McCachren; their daughter, Alice McCachren-Piscitelli (1917-1990); and son, George (1919-2008).

Cappiello:

Laura Anne Cappiello-Piscitelli (1887-1962).

Piscitelli:

Felice (1883-1955); his wife, Laura Anne Cappiello-Piscitelli; their son, Michael (1923-1977); their son, Anthony (1915-2007); Anthony's wife, Alice McCachren-Piscitelli; Anthony's daughter, Laura Anne (1948-); and Anthony's son, Philip Anthony (1950-2004).

This collection contains artifacts, documents, photographs, and scrapbooks.

ACCESS

This collection is open to the public without restriction. The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Downs/McCachren and Cappiello/Piscitelli Collection, 1860-2015, Charlotte Records, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

ACQUISITION

Processed by Hannah Cox, August 2016.

Donated by Laura Piscitelli Weaver, 2015-2016.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Piscitelli and McCachren families were joined in 1947, when Anthony Emanuel Piscitelli* (1915-2007) and Alice Woodrow McCachren* (1917-1990) married. Their children were Laura Anne (Weaver)* (1948-) and Philip Anthony* (1950-2004).

Anthony Piscitelli was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and later came to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he met and married Alice McCachren. Anthony was one of ten children born to Felice* (1883-1955) and Laura Anne Cappiello Piscitelli* (1887-1962). His siblings included Philomena (1909-1975), James (1911-1918), Maria Grace (1913-?), Carmelina M. (1917-2010), James J. (1919-1996), Francis (1921-2000), Michael Carmen* (1923-1977), Joseph J. (1926-1990), Clemente (1928-1991), and Domenic R. (1928-1985).

Alice Woodrow McCachren's family were longtime residents of Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties. She was one of thirteen children born to Roland Peter* (1872-1920) and Jonathan Ann "Jonsie" Downs McCachren* (1881-1954). Her siblings included Nancy Lenora (Sherrill)* (1899-1957), Agnes Uelah (Pyron) (1900-1981), an infant son (1902-1902), Jonathan Edward* (1903-2001), Mary Ophelia (Sides) (1906-1991), Lorene Alexandria (Elliott) (1907-1974), Winnie Banks (1908-1992), David Downs (1910-2004), James Roland (1911-?), Elizabeth Blair (Huey) (1913-2007), William Henry (1915-2001), George Ennis* (1919-2008).

"Jonsie" Downs McCachren was one of eight children born to Ambrose Boswell* (1834-1904) and Nancy R. Griffith Downs* (1843-1918). Her siblings were Thomas (1862-?), Alabama* (1865-?), Teresa (Wilson) (1866-1942), Boswell (1869-1873), Annie, Ruth, (1871-?), and Cora (1872-1873).

Nancy Griffith Downs was one of eight children born to James Boyce (1797-1865) and Francis Downs (1799-1885). Her siblings were Robert M. (?-1846), Thomas Downs (1820-1864), William Franklin (1825-1893), Mary C (Bartlett) (1831-1903), Margaret Matilda (Stewart) (1837-1904) James H.* (1837-1866), and John Larkin* (1841-1864).

Thomas, James, and John served during the Civil War, and Thomas and John both died in 1864 due to wounds received during battle. James survived the war, but had been captured at Gettysburg, released a month later, surrendered at Appomattox, and died the following year.

*denotes material currently in the collection for this person.

RELATED MATERIALS

Downs Family. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Downs/McCachren and Cappiello/Piscitelli Collection consists of items relating to these families. The bulk of the collection is from the Piscitelli and McCachren families. Most items date from the 1920s-2000s.

The series are Churches, Family Records, Postcards, Programs, Photographs, Scrapbooks, and Artifacts, with subseries as indicated below.

Churches, 1939, includes a single book from the Second Presbyterian Church.

Family Records, 1860-2015, are divided into family group surnames of Downs, Griffith, McCachren, and Piscitelli. The bulk of these records are from the Piscitelli family, followed by the McCachren and Griffith brothers' Civil War correspondence. The surname records are then divided by individual names of the family members, and contain the available materials of each person, i.e. correspondence, news clippings, certificates, and other related family materials.

Postcards, 1944, consists of World War II postcards brought back Anthony Piscitelli.

Programs, 1999, consists of a single program from a motion simulator in Florida.

Photographs, 1902-2009, includes family photographs, as well as church and school groups family members participated in. Also included are photographs of aircraft and pictures from the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron Anthony belonged to.

Scrapbooks, 1914-1940s, includes three scrapbooks: one belonging to Anthony Piscitelli, with the other two housing photographs of McCachren family and friends.

Artifacts, 1932-1940s, contains three-dimensional items of family sentimental value.

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