

The Mrs. William D. Rees Collection

Repository

Dutchess County Historical Society
549 Main Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 471-1630
<http://www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org/>
dchistorical@verizon.net

Access Number

DC.0273 – DC.0286

Processed by

Finding Aid Author: Gregory Wiedeman, 2013
Arranged by: unknown
Described by: unknown
Preservation work: unknown
Encoded by: n/a

Date Completed

2013 March 28

Creators

Mrs. William D. Rees
Maria Van Wyck
Cornelius Storm
Theodore Storm
Abraham G. Storm

Extent

.4 linear feet, or 11 files

Dates

Inclusive: 1807 - 1908

Conditions Governing Access

No Restrictions

Languages

English

Scope and Content

This collection consists of scrapbooks, genealogies, correspondence, and other documents concerning the Can Allen, Van Wyck, Storm, and Rees families. The material seems to have been gathered by Theodore Storm in San Jose, California circa 1905.

Historical Note

Isaac Adriance owned land in Hopewell, Dutchess County in the mid-18th century. He married Laetitia Van Wyck, the daughter of Theodorus Van Wyck, Jr., in 1836. He later remarried to Ida Schenck—daughter of revolutionary Whig Ralph Schenck of Long Island—and the two gave birth to Laetitia Adriance on February 5th, 1766. During the British occupation of New York, Laetitia Adriance was cut off from her grandfather, Schenck, and only obtained “her patrimony” in secret under a flag of truce. At 21 Laetitia married Cornelius C. Van Wyck in 1786 and moved to his estate at Fishkill after it was vacated by occupying American forces during the war. The estate was originally purchased by the grandfather of Cornelius C. Van Wyck in 1733 from Madame Catharina Brett. Laetitia Van Wyck died on May 22nd, 1858.

William Knickerbocker Van Allen was born in Rensselaer County in January of 1818. He became a New York City clerk then merchant and married Emma Lousie Van Wyck, the daughter of Isaac C. Van Wyck. Van Allen set off with the California Gold Rush via Panama. He arrived in San Francisco in October 1849 and invested in real estate, gaining considerable wealth. Emma Lousie Van Allen died “on sojourn” in Italy in 1870. Their only daughter died in 1883 in Naples from injuries received during the 1883 Casamicciola earthquake. William Van Allen died in San Francisco in 1903 at the age of 85.

Provenance

The Collection was donated to the Dutchess County Historical Society by Mrs. William D. Rees of Philadelphia in 1969.

Subject Headings

Freemasonry; Genealogy

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