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Revere Family Papers: Finding Aid

Overview of Collection

Creator: Joseph Warren Revere
Title: Revere Family Papers
Date: 1834-1970s
Quantity: 1 box, 0.5 linear feet

Restrictions

Important Information for Users of the Collection

This material is open for research with limited restrictions under the conditions of the Morris County Park Commission archives access policy. Records may be copied for use in individual scholarly or personal research; however, as with all materials in the Morris County Park Commission, researchers are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use material from the collection.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Revere Family Papers, Courtesy of the Morris County Park Commission.

Acquisition Information

The majority of records which constitute this Collection were donated to the Morris County Park Commission as part of Caroline Foster's donation/bequest in 1974-1979, but not processed until 2006. They were then accessioned into the collection in 2010 (2010.13). Additional material was donated by Jean Patterson (2007.23) and the Friends of Fosterfields and Cooper Gristmill (2013.20).

Processing Information

Described by Lynn Laffey, December 2006
Updated by Katie Humphreys, April 2020
FONDS Parent Record is 2013.8

Biographical Note

Joseph Warren Revere was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1812. He was descended from a French Huguenot family. His grand-father was the celebrated Colonel Paul Revere of Revolutionary fame. His father was John Revere, an eminent physician, writer of medical works, professor at Jefferson College, Philadelphia, and one of the founders of the University of the City of New York. At fourteen Joseph Warren Revere entered the U.S. Naval School at New York and began a long career of service. At sixteen he sailed for a long cruise in the Pacific, joining the squadron employed in suppressing the African slave trade. He was next sent to the European Squadron. During the Second Seminole War (1835-1842) he served with the "Mosquito Fleet" on the coast of Florida. Shortly after he commanded a vessel engaged in breaking up the organized piracy in the West Indies. In 1838 he sailed in the First American squadron which circumnavigated the globe. For saving the British Man-O-War *Ganges* from shipwreck he was presented with a sword of honor by the Governor General of India. After this cruise Lieutenant Revere again served in the West Indies.

Throughout the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) he was on the Coast of California. At Sonoma he raised the first American Flag north of San Francisco Bay and was present at the battles of the Mesa and the San Gabriel, and the bombardment of Guaymas. After the war he went again to California as a government timber agent for the new territory. His book, *A Tour of Duty in California*, became a handbook for the pioneers and settlers. In 1849 Lieut. Revere resigned from the Navy and remained for two years on a ranch he had purchased. In 1850 he accepted a Commission as Lieut. Col. of Artillery in the Mexican Army where he was charged with reorganizing the Mexican Artillery Corps. On the coast of Mexico he rescued the passengers and crew of a shipwrecked Spanish vessel. For this service the Spanish Government conferred upon him the Order of Isabella and was honored by the Mexican and Spanish governments.

In 1852 Revere retired to Morristown, New Jersey. When the Civil War started in 1861 Revere tried to join the Union Navy but was informed that there were no officer slots available for him. Having been appointed as head of the New Jersey Militia during the governorship of Rodman Price, he decided to enlist in the Union Army. Revere was appointed Colonel of the 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry and led it into the Peninsula Campaign and the Seven Days Battle. Revere then fought at the Second Battle of Bull Run where he was commended for his bravery. In October 1862 Joseph Revere was promoted to brigadier general of the U.S. Volunteers. At the Battle of Fredericksburg he led a brigade but saw little action. He was later named to command the Excelsior Brigade.

After the Battle of Chancellorsville 'blame' was being assigned to Revere for the Union Army's loss. After charging the Confederate line, division commander Maj. Gen. Hiram Berry was mortally wounded and the command devolved on Revere. In the chaos of a battle with no clear front line, Revere's decision to regroup his men, commanding them to reform led to controversy. This three-mile march, described by Revere as a "regrouping effort" and not a retreat, led to his being court-martialed. President Abraham Lincoln overturned the court's ruling and reinstated Revere but accepted Revere's resignation at the same time. In response to

this situation, Revere was voted the honor of the rank of Brevet Major General by the United States Congress in 1866. General Revere's health never fully recovered after his Civil War service.

In 1862 he joined the Catholic Church in which he remained until his death. In 1873 he published *Keel and Saddle*, a retrospective of his life. He was very widely read and wrote much for publication. He possessed considerable artistic talent and a painting of his is at the Church of the Assumption, Morristown. He married Miss Rosanne Duncan Lamb of Boston, who with two of his five children, Paul and Augustus L. Revere, survived his death, which occurred April 20, 1880.

Scope and Content Note

The Revere Family Papers contain a diversity of materials relating to Joseph Warren Revere and his family, this includes biographical information, military service (which includes court martial and pension documents). The arrangement of the collection reflects the natural groupings found within it: Personal information, Business Related, Military, Correspondence, and Property

Associated Image Collection

Fosterfields Image Collection

With over 800 images the Fosterfields Image Collection captures the lives of the Foster family who resided at Fosterfields as well as other farm residents and employees. From the development of the farm and its dairy cattle business under the ownership of the Fosters to their personal enjoyments and recreations this Collection captures a snapshot of life across almost 150 years.

Arrangement

The Revere Family Papers are organized into 5 series relating to various aspects of Joseph Warren Revere's life. These documents are an excellent source of information for researchers interested in Revere's military and personal life.

Series 1: Personal Documents (2010.13.1)

Articles, manuscripts, notes, 1850-1970s. This series contains material produced by Joseph Warren Revere, his wife, his children Paul and Augustus, and various researchers, most notably Caroline Foster. This material relates to the life and death of members of the Revere Family. It includes a copy of Joseph Warren Revere's Certificate of Baptism, his Last Will and Testament, and a copy of his death certificate.

Series 2: Business Documents (2010.13.2)

Manuscripts, 1836 -183. This series contains a list of royalties earned from Joseph Warren Revere's patents, and copies of various business records.

Series 3: Military Documents (2010.13.3)

Published works, articles, and manuscripts, 1838-1896. This series includes a wide sampling of Joseph Warren Revere's military related documents. This includes pension information and court martial information. Also included are a large selection of correspondence from Revere's service as a Timber Agent in California.

Series 4: Correspondence (2010.13.4)

Published articles, manuscripts, 1834-1881. This series includes general correspondence that Joseph Warren Revere received or that was received by other family members.

Series 5: Land and Property Documents (2010.13.5)

This series contains a selection of Deeds and Indentures relating to properties that Joseph Warren Revere owned. In addition, this series includes information about the property now known as Fosterfields. This includes lease agreements from Revere to Charles Foster, bills and paperwork related to building The Willows.

Container List

Series 1: Personal Documents

Box	Folder	
1	1	Joseph Warren Revere (JWR) Biographical Information
	2	Mrs. Joseph Warren Revere (Rosanna Duncan Revere)
	3	Certificate of Baptism, 10-19-62
	4	Indenture Before Marriage
	5	JWR Will
	6	JWR Xerox of Schedule A (section of Last Will and Testament), 2-28-82
	7	JWR – Death
	8	Augustus L. Revere
	8a	Augustus L. Revere calling card (2007.023)
	9	Paul Revere Application to Sons of the American Revolution, 1889
	10	Revere Family Biographical Information, notes

Series 2: Business Documents

Box	Folder	
1	11	Patent Royalties, Explorer Patent: Business Records 1836-53

Series 3: Military Documents

Box	Folder	
1	12	Military Service, Mexican War, Timber Agent
	13	By-Laws of 7 th Reg't Veteran Asso'n of New Jersey, 1896
	14	7 th NJ Volunteers
	15	Naval Records
	16	Chancellorsville Reports
	17	Court Martial
	18	Pension
	19	Pension: Injury at Manassas

- 20 Pension: Affidavits
- 21 Pension: Widow's Claim
- 22 "Statement of the Case of B. Gen. Joseph W. Revere" (copy)

Series 4: Correspondence

Box	Folder	
1	23	Correspondence: Mrs. Revere & Paul Revere, RE: Court Martial
	24	Correspondence: Revere in Morristown, 1870s
	25	Correspondence: Civil War
	26	Correspondence: 1834-9
	27	Letter from Maria Leddell, 1863
	28	Correspondence, death, 1880-1881
	29	Madeleine Price, letter re: Frances Revere's death
	30	Submarine EXPLORER
	31	Kearny/Price Papers
	32	Correspondence: Mrs. Revere & Jane Revere (2013.20.1)

Series 5: Land and Property

Box	Folder	
1	33	Misc., mostly Mortgages
	34	Land Bounty Appeal
	35	Deed, Rogers to Revere
	36	Agreement to Build House
	37	Revere & Earlier Land Titles
	38	Leases Revere to Foster
	39	Mining Lease