



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charles T. McIntosh and Son records, 1858-1919 **SCHS# 0612.00**

Description: 12 volumes

Biographical/Historical Note: John Thomson, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, came to South Carolina around 1833. He was first a gardener in Columbia, and then moved to Charleston, where he established a seed business on King Street. When his nephew William Robb, also a native of Scotland, joined him in business, the name of the firm was changed to Thomson and Robb, which also sold “house furnishing” goods. Around 1885, John Thomson sold his business to William McIntosh, who continued as a seedsman and dealer in hardware and agricultural implements. The business was later known as Charles T. McIntosh and Son (or Sons), and finally, McIntosh’s Seed House, going by that name well into the 1970s. In the 1913 city directory, an advertisement for McIntosh’s Seed House at 268 King Street lists the goods they sold including seeds, plants, bulbs, birdcages, baskets, incubators, brooders, and poultry foods and supplies. In 1968, Herbert T. McIntosh was listed as the president of McIntosh’s Seed House.

Scope and Content: Collection consists of account books and invoice books documenting the business activities of several successive seed and hardware companies in Charleston, S.C. The earliest volume, dating 1858-1881, a “Ledger of Accounts of John Thomson & Co., Charleston,” contains accounts with individuals, businesses and organizations for the purchase of seeds, vegetables, and other goods including hardware. This volume has an index of names of customers in Charleston and elsewhere in South Carolina and Georgia, and these include the Orphan House, Alms House, Health Department, City Guard, and City Engineer in Charleston. Another ledger, probably that of Thomson & Robb, contains accounts, 1861-1884 (bulk 1861-1879), with individuals, businesses, and organizations including the Alms House, Commissioners of Public Schools, and the Orphan House in Charleston. A third ledger, 1888-1889, is stamped with the name “Wm. McIntosh” and mostly contains accounts for cash sales of seeds and various goods such as knives, pails, pans, brushes, buckets, and rope. Three invoice books dating from 1902-1913 contain invoices for purchases of seeds and other goods by Charles T. McIntosh, and later, Charles T. McIntosh and Son.

Cite as: Charles T. McIntosh and Son records, 1858-1919. (0612.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

McIntosh, Charles Thomas, 1863-1925.
McIntosh, William, 1833-1912.
Robb, William, 1820-1885.
Thomson, John, 1812-1893.
Charles T. McIntosh and Son (Charleston, S.C.)
McIntosh's Seed House (Charleston, S.C.)
Thomson and Robb (Charleston, S.C.)
Agricultural implements -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Farm supplies -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Hardware stores -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Seed industry and trade -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Stores, Retail -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Vegetables -- Seeds.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Commerce.

Contents:BOX 1

- 1 Ledger, 1858-1881.
- 2 Ledger, 1861-1884.

BOX 2

- 1 Ledger, 1888-1889.
- 2 Loose items removed from ledgers and invoice books.

BOX 3

- 1 Invoice book, 1902-1905 (disbound).

BOX 4

- 1 Invoice book, 1906-1910.

BOX 5

- 1 Invoice book, 1910-1913, part one: March 1910-November 1911.

BOX 6

- 1 Invoice book, 1910-1913, part two: November 1911-August 1913.

BOX 7

- 1 Letterpress copybook, October 1893 – September 1895.
- 2 Letterpress copybook, October 1895 – June 1899.

WRAPPED VOLUMES:

- Letterpress copybook, November 1903 – September 1907.
- Letterpress copybook, January 1911 – March 1914.
- Letterpress copybook, March 1914 – November 1919.