



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Senn Family Papers, 1859-1934 **SCHS# 0616.00**

Description: 2 linear ft. (3 boxes)

Biographical/Historical note: John Edward Senn (1868-1922) was a farmer and dairyman in the Bush River community in Newberry County, S.C. His son Clarence Washington Senn (1911-1974) married Carolyn Ogilvie Neely (1915-1972). She was the daughter of Dr. Augustus Theodore Neely (1887-1952) and Margaret Walker Ogilvie Neely (1890-1981). Margaret Walker Ogilvie Neely was the daughter of William Matthew Ogilvie (1858-1910) and Carolyn Budd Gale Ogilvie (1857-1933), and the grand-daughter of William Matthew Ogilvie, Sr. (1810-1872) and Margaret Walker Ogilvie (1814-1888), whose sister was Robina Jessie Walker (1833-1869). Margaret and Robina were daughters of Robert Walker (1772-1833), a Charleston cabinetmaker.

Scope and content: Collection chiefly consists of ledgers and scrapbooks relating to the Senn family and the related families of Ogilvie and Walker. A “knitting and crochet book” (1867) contains instructions for various patterns, garments, and stitches. An album or commonplace book, 1859-1920, begun by Robina Jessie Walker contains verse and scripture, clippings, a few sketches, a postcard depicting the bathing house off the Battery in Charleston, S.C., a miniature painting of an unidentified man who may be Robert Walker (1772-1833), and a memorial to John Frost Walker (1851-1920), the son of George Edward Walker. A large scrapbook, ca. 1900-1920, likely compiled by Margaret Walker Ogilvie Neely contains clippings of colorful lithographic images and cutouts, as well as advertising cards, magazine clippings, postcards, greeting cards, and ephemera. A ledger, 1911-1920, of John Edward Senn contains records of transactions with numerous individuals for various goods and services. Loose items from the Senn ledger include scattered business correspondence, a rental agreement for renting the “Taylor Place” (1902), receipts for cotton sold to Nat Gist for the Newberry Cotton Mills, and invoices for purchases from various companies including Brown, Hipp & Swittenberg (Newberry), Summer Brothers (Newberry), and J. H. Summer & Company (Newberry). Also of note is a letter from Clemson College listing the “Honor Roll” of South Carolina dairymen who own Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey cattle, giving the names of the cows and their amounts of their milk and butter fat productivity.

Cite as: Senn family papers, 1859-1934. (0616.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Senn, John Edward, 1868-1922.
Walker, Robert, 1772-1833.
Walker, Robina Jessie, 1833-1869.
Compton family.
Neely family.
Ogilvie family.
Senn family.
Walker family.
Crocheting -- South Carolina.
Commonplace books.
Cotton farmers -- South Carolina -- Newberry County.
Dairy cattle breeds.
Dairy farmers -- South Carolina -- Newberry County.
Knitting.
Paper work.
Shoes -- Confederate States of America.
Shoes -- South Carolina -- Laurens District.
Clinton (S.C.)
Newberry (S.C.)

BOX 1

- 1 Knitting and crochet book, 1867, of Robina Jessie Walker, contains instructions for various patterns, garments, and stitches. A few loose pages of instructions are included in the book, one of which is for “Baby’s Sweater” on stationery with the address of 53 Church Street, Charleston, S.C. printed on it.
- 2 Scrapbook, 1920s-1930s. This undated black scrapbook contains clippings of poetry and other writings, and two postcards. This book may have been kept by Carolyn Budd Gale Ogilvie.
- 3 Loose items removed from black scrapbook, 1920s-1930s. Many of these items are clippings of poetry by Edgar A. Guest as well as religious writings. Also included is a fundraising appeal from the Fort Hill Presbyterian Church soliciting funds to replace a structure damaged by fire in 1932.
- 4 “Cherished Memories” album, 1859-1920. This album or commonplace book contains handwritten poetry and scripture, a few sketches, and clippings and other items pasted in. It is inscribed “Robina Jessie Walker, December 1859.” Some of the clippings pertain to Confederate generals and the Confederacy. Of note is a miniature painting of an unidentified man who may be Robert Walker (1772-1833); and a postcard depicting the

bathing house located off the Battery in Charleston (S.C.). A few loose items include a memorial to John Frost Walker (1851-1920), the son of George Edward Walker (1826-1863).

- 5 Ledger, 1911-1920, of John Edward Senn contains records of transactions with numerous individuals for various [farm] goods and services.
- 6 Loose items removed from John Edward Senn ledger, 1911-1920, including scattered business correspondence, a rental agreement for renting the "Taylor Place" (1902), receipts for cotton sold to Nat Gist for the Newberry Cotton Mills, and invoices for purchases from various companies including Brown, Hipp & Swittenberg (Newberry), Summer Brothers (Newberry), and J. H. Summer & Company (Newberry). Also of note is a letter from Clemson College listing the "Honor Roll" of South Carolina dairymen who own Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey cattle, giving the names of the cows and their amounts of their milk and butter fat productivity.

BOX 2

Scrapbook, ca. 1900-1920, containing clippings of colorful lithographic images and cutouts, as well as advertising cards, magazine clippings, postcards, greeting cards, and ephemera. Of note is a humorous card issued to Margaret Ogilvie granting her permission to "butt into all conversations" as a member of the "Ancient, Reckless and Independent Sons of Buttinsky." There are also a few photographs of children, ladies and houses pasted into the scrapbook, one of which is identified as Catherine Gray Hardy, age 6. This scrapbook was likely compiled by Margaret Walker Ogilvie Neely (1890-1981).

BOX 3

Cobbler's ledger and scrapbook. The first 124 pages of this volume are a scrapbook of the 1880s covering over the ledger entries, including clippings of newspaper articles, postcards, advertising cards, and memorabilia. Of note is a program, 1888, for graduation exercises at Clinton Academy (page 133), published by the Thornwell Orphanage Press, and items pertaining other schools. A few pages of the cobbler's ledger, 1860-1865, are visible within the scrapbook, which ends at page 140. The handwritten ledger continues at page 141 and includes entries for credit given to a school bill in 1862 and 1863 to Dr. A. G. Harris (page 255); a balance given in Confederate money (page 308); an entry dated March 26, 1862, for shoes sent to camp for William Copeland by Capt. Owen (page 324); "By Rent Shoe Shop" (page 380-381); "By reduction of Confederate prices" (page 384); and "For Confederate States – 130 pairs of shoes" (page 396). These accounts of a cobbler in Laurens District (probably in the town of Clinton) are for purchases of shoes, boots, leather and nails by numerous individuals, and by the "Town Council." Loose items include clippings, a calling card of Robert G. Smith, an advertising card for the Keowee Hotel (Seneca, S.C.), and other items. The names of several individuals in the

accounts are identifiable as Clinton residents (such as D.M.H. Langston and Joel T. Foster).

Note: The origin of the cobbler's ledger unknown but one loose item, an issue of the *Clinton Weekly Gazette* (8 Nov. 1888) has the name "Beulah Compton" written on it in pencil. Another newspaper fragment has what appears to be "W. Compton" written on it. The Compton name is eventually connected to the Senn family by marriage. The diary of Rev. William Plumer Jacobs lists the following individuals in Clinton who were doing business in shoes: D. T. Compton, George Simpson, and Nelson Hood (an African American) in the 1860s. Daniel Thornton Compton (1822-1870) is buried in Clinton. He is listed as a shoemaker, along with Elias Compton (age 20), in the 1860 census. D. T. Compton's wife, Eleanor A. Compton (1826-1886) is also buried in Clinton. Miss Clara Mae Compton (1904-1981), the daughter of William Mack Compton (1886-1963) and the grand-daughter of James Franklin Compton (1858-1932), married Roy Lee Hadden (1898-1954), and their daughter, Patricia Hadden (1928-2011) married William Thornwell Senn (1925-2004). The presence of the calling card of Robert G. Smith may be explained by the fact that in 1889, a Clinton resident, Miss Beulah Compton (1861-1938), who may have been a daughter of D. T. Compton, married Pinckney Clark Smith (died 1918).