

Library Company of Philadelphia

McA MSS 028

CHRISTIAN GODFREY WEBER PAPERS

1802-1844

.21 linear feet, 1 box

Series I. Correspondence (1842-1843)
Series II. Documents (1802-1844)

August 2006

Descriptive Summary**Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

Call Number

McA MSS 028

Creator

Weber, Godfrey, d. 1862

Title

Godfrey Weber Papers

Inclusive Dates

1802-1844

Quantity

.21 linear feet (1 box)

Language of Materials

Materials are in English and French.

Abstract

The Godfrey Weber Papers holds correspondence and documents related to the personal and professional life of a Philadelphia merchant. Weber was the executor of the estate of Peter Anthony Blénon, and the collection includes records from that estate.

Administrative Information**Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society's reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, <http://www.hsp.org/>, for reading room hours.

Acquisition Information

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

Processing Information

The Godfrey Weber Papers were formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The papers were reunited, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2006, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Preferred Citation

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Online Catalog Headings

Subject Names

Blénon, Peter Anthony, 1759-ca. 1836--Estate
Ingersoll, Joseph R. (Joseph Reed), 1786-1868
Preston Retreat

Subject Topics

Charities—Pennsylvania--Philadelphia

Document Types

Passports
Bonds (legal records)
Military records

Biographical/Historical Notes

Godfrey Weber (d. 1862) was a merchant in Philadelphia. Born Christian Godfrey Weber in Strasbourg, France, he first appeared in the Philadelphia directories in 1820 as Godfrey Weber, a merchant at 160½ South Second Street. In 1833 his description and location changed to an importer of French goods at 68 South Third Street. The compendium *Memoirs and Autobiography of some of the Wealthy Citizens of Philadelphia* (1846) describes Godfrey Weber & Co. as "Importers of French and other goods. Adopted citizens." with a net worth of \$50,000. At the end of his life, Weber was listed as a dry goods merchant and was living at 635 Pine Street.

The donor of the papers, John A. McAllister (1822-1896), was an antiquarian collector living in Philadelphia. Family history and census documents suggest that Weber was related to McAllister's wife Annette Steinbrenner (d. 1926); the McAllisters are buried with the Weber and Steinbrenner families in Woodlands Cemetery, Philadelphia.

Collection Overview

The Godfrey Weber Papers are arranged in two series: Correspondence, and Documents.

Series I, Correspondence (1842-1843) holds letters that relate to Weber's business interests. There are three letters from Pennsylvania representative Joseph Reed Ingersoll (1786-1868), one of which replied to Weber's letter regarding silk duties. One letter is unsigned and unattributed; written in December 1842, it is addressed to President John Tyler and recommends the appointment of Henry Mahler of New York to the position of United States Consul at Zurich. It is filed with the Weber material based on a letter from Ingersoll to Weber saying that he had

forwarded Weber's recommendation to the secretary of state along with an endorsement of Weber's character. Mahler was appointed to the post as the country's first consul to Switzerland, and served there from 1843-1844.

Series II, Documents (1802-1844) mostly pertains to the estate of a doctor and druggist, Peter Anthony Blénon (1759-circa 1836), for whom Godfrey Weber was an executor. A native of Sens in the Burgundy region of France, Pierre Antoine Blénon became an American citizen in 1798, and was a resident of Hamilton Village in West Philadelphia. He left a large part of his estate to "Institutions of Charity and Benifence" in the city of Philadelphia. Included in the papers is a set of refunding bonds signed by each of the thirty-two organizations, which bear a collection of beautiful institutional seals. Other documents in the series are a receipt book that records payments made from the Blénon estate between July 1836 and February 1844, two of Weber's French passports, and two of his French military conscription forms.

Box Folder

SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE 1842-1843

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

1	1	Ingersoll, Joseph Reed, Washington	1842-1843
	2	Syz, Jean G., Philadelphia	1842 Oct 17
	3	Unsigned letter to John Tyler	1842 Dec

SERIES II. DOCUMENTS 1802-1844

4		Conscription certificates and passports	1802-1810
5		Bill from Charles Chauncey, for services	1839 Oct 14
		Blenon Estate	
6		Receipt book	1836-1844
7		Preston Retreat resolution and receipt	1843
8		Refunding bonds	1843