

Collection: WINSTON, ELIZABETH  
Chicago, Illinois

P.C. 1359.1-1359.10

1760-1892, 1967, N. D.

**Physical Description:** c. 1,600 items consisting of correspondence, accounts, agreements, bills of sale, bonds, deeds, estates papers, insurance policies, land grants and plats, leases, mortgages, receipts, wills, and miscellaneous.

**Acquisition:** Ten items given by Miss Elizabeth Winston, ~~Miss Winston~~, Culpeper, Virginia--received May 16, 1967; accessioned, October 4, 1967. Remainder of the collection loaned by Miss Winston--received, June 4, 1969; accessioned, September 26, 1969. *Deed of Gift issued August 23, 1980.*

**Related Collections:** McNEILL-AYRES COLLECTION (PC.1425)

**Description:** The Elizabeth Winston Collection is centered around Malcolm McNeill, an ancestor of Miss Winston. McNeill was born in Person County, N. C., in 1796, the son of Henry McNeill. Both father and son moved to Christian County, Kentucky, around 1817. He died in 1875 at "Hemphill," Kentucky. Politically, McNeill was a Whig. Although opposed to secession, he supported the South after war was declared. The collection contains the business papers of McNeill, with a few personal items, including some relating to his father and other relatives.

In addition to his property in Kentucky, McNeill owned property near Natchez, Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee, and Chicago. While it is not certain that he owned property in Arkansas and Louisiana, he transacted business in both of these states, especially in the latter. Records of these transactions are in the collection. A small number of items relate to property owned by McNeill in Memphis. The investments in Mississippi are discussed much more in various letters and business records. The price of property, the success of crops (usually cotton) and prices received, the availability of money, and the periodic flooding of rivers are some of the topics discussed. The majority of the collection, however, involves McNeill's Chicago property. He made his first investments in Chicago in 1842 and apparently was quite successful in his endeavors. An agent was employed in Chicago to oversee McNeill's interests, and numerous items in this collection are a result of the agent's reports to McNeill. In addition to correspondence, there are reports on rent collection, sale of property and property repairs, items concerning the relationship of McNeill to the city of Chicago (tax notices and receipts for payment and notices from the Board of Health and Office of the Public Works), maps of several blocks of the city, floor plans for an apartment and shop, contract to build houses listing the specifications for construction, and various legal documents (leases, mortgages and agreements). Other general business papers include

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cancelled promissory notes, deeds, accounts, receipts, insurance policies, bonds, and bills of sale.

Although a number of items date from the 1860s, fewer than ten relate to or mention the war. In several cases, the letter concerns the effect the war would have on the price of property. Throughout the collection, business affairs always take precedence over political activities. Several political topics are mentioned--popularity of Henry Clay, nullification, the success of the Whigs in North Carolina (1844), and the 1840 Presidential campaign in Columbus, Mississippi; but basically the collection is business oriented.

Among the personal and miscellaneous items in the collection are: a portion of a letter written by Malcolm McNeill from Chapel Hill in 1813 telling of his college classes; letters from McNeill to his fourth wife, Eliza; two letters from his nephew giving descriptions of Rome and parts of England in 1828-1829; papers of the estate of Henry McNeill, his wife Dorothy and his sons Pryor and John P. and of George Boddie; a draft of the will of Malcolm McNeill; miscellaneous genealogical material; and 13 land records from 7 North Carolina counties.

## Arrangement of Papers

- P. C. 1359.1 Correspondence, 1771-1849
- 1359.2 Correspondence, 1850-1864
- 1359.3 Correspondence, 1865-1892, N. D.
- 1359.4 Business Records, 1771-1859
- 1359.5 Business Records, 1860-1865
- 1359.6 Business Records, 1866-1868
- 1359.7 Business Records, 1869-1892
- 1359.8 Deeds, bonds, powers of attorney, wills, bills of sale, agreements, miscellaneous, 1782-1870
- 1359.9 Land records, estates records, genealogical material, memo book, plans for apt., miscellaneous, 1763-1849, 1967, N. D.
- 1359.10 Miscellaneous

## Finding Aids

Main Entry Card

Date Card

1860-1869

Geographic Card

Chicago, Illinois

Subject Cards

BODDIE--Genealogical material

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS--Real estate investments in--1856-1874

COMMERCE AND BUSINESS--Real estate investments in Chicago--1856-1874

ELECTION--1840 Presidential election in Columbus, Mississippi

HEALTH AND MEDICINE--Cure for cholera--1832

WINSTON, ELIZABETH, Collection

P.C. 1359.1-1359.10

3

Finding Aid completed by Betty H. Carter, December 17, 1970 .

WORK SHEETNUMBER: P.C. 1359NAME OF COLLECTION: WINSTON, ELIZABETH COLLECTION (ADDITION)DATES: 1817-1865ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Gift of Elizabeth Winston on October 27, 1983;  
accessioned November 21, 1983.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 22 items

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The addition to the collections consists of letters, indentures, and land records centering around Malcolm McNeil of Christian County, Kentucky. As in the original portion of the collection, documents are to and from various members of the McNeil family and others associated with the McNeils in North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Kentucky.

[Items merged into existing collection].

Gift: Gayden Bennett Peteet, Greenwood, Miss., May 11, 1990.

Three documents:

1. Heir's bond to save harmless the administrator of Henry McNeill, dec'd., dated March 17, 1824. Added to PC.1359.9.
2. Heir's bond to save harmless the administrator of Henry McNeill, dec'd., dated August 27, 1825. Added to PC.1359.9.
3. Account of money expended on a trip from Mississippi to Kentucky, dated December 1, 1837. Added to PC.1359.4.