

Jacob B. Schoener Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83061242>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms020017>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2020
Revised 2022 May

Collection Summary

Title: Jacob B. Schoener Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1752-2009

Bulk Dates: 1800-1850

ID no.: MSS61242

Creator: Schoener family

Extent: 800 items

Extent: 3 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1.25 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm83061242>

Summary: Nineteenth-century itinerant portraitist, miniaturist, and son of William Schöner (William B. Schoener Jr.), Reading, Pennsylvania, politician. Family correspondence, hand-colored sketches, deeds, indentures, bonds, clippings, notes, and wallets.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Schoener family--Correspondence.

Schoener family--Genealogy.

Schoener family--Homes and haunts.

Schoener family.

Schoener, Jacob B., 1805-1846.

Schoener, William B., Jr., 1779-1850.

Schöner, W. (William), 1779-1850.

Subjects

Art--Study and teaching.

Art--United States.

City planning--Pennsylvania--Reading.

Deeds--Pennsylvania.

Dwellings--Pennsylvania--Reading--Design and construction.

Wills--Pennsylvania.

Places

Pennsylvania--History, Local.

Reading (Pa.)--History.

Reading (Pa.)--Politics and government.

Reading (Pa.)--Social life and customs.

Titles

Schoener family papers

Occupations

Artists.

Politicians--Pennsylvania.

Acquisition Information

The papers of the Jacob B. Schoener family were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1983. Additions were purchased by the Library of Congress in 2020 and 2021.

Processing History

The papers of the Jacob B. Schoener family were arranged and described by David Mathisen in 1985. A small addition was arranged and described, and the finding aid was created by Elizabeth Livesey in 2020. Another addition was processed and the finding aid revised by Pang H. Xiong in 2022.

Transfers

Some portraits and the back matter of a portrait have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Jacob B. Schoener Family Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Prints and Photographs Division in advance of a research visit.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Jacob B. Schoener family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Jacob B. Schoener family are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Jacob B. Schoener Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Jacob B. Schoener was born in 1805 in Reading, Pennsylvania. An itinerant portraitist and miniaturist, Schoener studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under Italian artist Gennarino Persico. Schoener practiced in New York City, New York; Albany, New York; Providence, Rhode Island; and finally, Boston, Massachusetts; where he lived for much of the 1830s. Schoener also travelled to Florida and Cuba for work and wintered in Charleston, South Carolina, among other southern cities. He died by suicide in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1846.

Jacob B. Schoener's father, William Schöner (William B. Schoener Jr.), was a local politician in Reading, Pennsylvania. He also worked as a scrivener for local lawyers and officials and acted as a legal signatory on many local deeds, wills, and indentures. William B. Schoener Jr. married Catherine Boyer, and they had seven children: Jacob, John, Elizabeth, William B., Louisa, Mary, and Franklin.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Jacob B. Schoener family span the years 1752-2009, with the bulk of the material dating from 1800 to 1850. The collection primarily comprises correspondence written between Jacob B. Schoener and his father, William Schöner (William B. Schoener Jr.), and, to a lesser extent, between his siblings William B., Mary, and Franklin Schoener.

Materials include architectural drawings, city plans, clippings, correspondence, deeds, indentures, notes, publications, receipts, and wills related to Schoener family genealogical history. Also present are a number of Jacob B. Schoener's colored pencil drawings and portraits. Family correspondence relates chiefly to Jacob B. Schoener's and his siblings' business and financial matters, Schoener's training under Gennarino Perisco, local politics in Reading, Pennsylvania, the construction of the Schoener family home, Mary Schoener's schooling, and Jacob B. Schoener's health. The 2022 Addition includes Catherine Boyer Schoener's pocket wallet.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material with the 2020 and 2022 additions listed last and arranged alphabetically by name of family member or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1826-1842 (9 folders)
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1800-1842
BOX 2	2020 Addition
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1804-1871
BOX OV 1	Miscellany, 1823-1840s
BOX OV 1	Schoener, Franklin, correspondence, 1830
BOX 2	Schoener, Jacob B.
BOX 2	Biographical file, 1830s-2001
BOX OV 1	Correspondence, 1823-1840 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1824-1841 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1828-1842
BOX 2	Notebook and wallet, 1818-circa 1835
BOX 2	Sketchbook, 1829-1830
BOX 2	Sketches, circa 1820-circa 1840
BOX OV 1	Trade sign, 1830s
BOX 2	Schoener, Mary
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1839-1841
BOX 2	Education file, 1839-1840
BOX 2	Schoener, William B., Jr.
BOX OV 1	House construction expenses, 1833
BOX 2	House construction plans and expenses, 1833
BOX 3	Legal case file, 1799-1808
BOX 3	Miscellany, circa 1800-circa 1850
BOX OV 1	Professional file, 1815-1832
BOX 3	Settlements, deeds, indentures, 1808-1849
BOX 3	Schoener, William B.
BOX 3	Bonds and will, 1848-1881
BOX OV 1	City plans and property drawings, circa 1840-circa 1870
BOX OV 1	Correspondence, circa 1840-circa 1860
BOX 3	Legal concerns, 1841
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1880, undated
BOX 3	Receipt books, 1840-1882
BOX 3	Schoener family
BOX 3	Genealogical file, 1873-circa 2009
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1849-1924
BOX 3	Settlements, deeds, indentures, 1831-1848
BOX OV 1	Settlements, deeds, indentures, 1846-1863
BOX OV 1	Settlements, deeds, indentures, general, 1752-1901 (2 folders)

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 3	Settlements, deeds, indentures, general, 1773-1846
BOX 3	2022 Addition
BOX 3	Schoener, Jacob B., folder cover for miniature portrait, undated
BOX 3	Schoener, Catherine Boyer, pocket wallet, 1800s