

Stiles, Horr, and Bonney Families Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2023086599>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms023020>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2023

Collection Summary

Title: Stiles, Horr, and Bonney Families Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1803-1907

Bulk Dates: 1824-1887

ID No.: MSS86599

Creator: Stiles family

Creator: Horr family

Creator: Bonney family

Extent: 900 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2023086599>

Summary: Families residing in New York, and later, the Upper Midwest. Correspondence received from relatives of Betsy Bonney. Correspondence, deeds, surveys, and ephemera relating to Elizabeth Stiles Horr and family.

Acquisition Information

The papers of the Stiles, Horr, and Bonney families were given to the Library of Congress by Ann L. Bonney and Claire Bonney in 2023.

Processing History

The papers of the Stiles, Horr, and Bonney families were arranged and described by Rachel Telford in 2023.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Stiles, Horr, and Bonney Families Papers is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Stiles, Horr, and Bonney families 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, Stiles, Horr, and Bonney Families Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Family History

Elizabeth (“Betsy”) Stiles Horr (1782-1867) was born in Massachusetts and taught school in Denmark, New York, before marrying Elijah Horr in 1812. They lived in Stone Mills, New York, and had two surviving children, Peter and Benjamin. Peter Horr (1816-1866) married Sabra Lockore, and Benjamin Horr (1819-1893) married Annie Elizabeth Irwin. Betsy and Elijah Horr also reared Betsy’s niece, Mary H. Wyeth (1829-1863), who later changed her name to Mary Stiles Horr, moved west to Wisconsin, and became Mary Duncan upon her marriage to Edward Duncan.

Betsey Gould Knox Bonney (1816-1890) was born in the state of New York and lived in Brownville, New York, with her husband, George Bonney (1807-1872). Betsey and George had two surviving children, Madison and Emma. Madison Bonney (1843-1902) married Ella E. Horr, granddaughter of Betsy Stiles Horr, in 1875. Emma L. Bonney (1837-1909) married Oscar C. Wilson in 1874. Two additional children, Brayton Bonney (1846-1848) and Amelia Gertrude Bonney (1849-1865), did not survive to adulthood.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Stiles, Horr, and Bonney families span the years 1803-1907, with the bulk of the material dating from 1824 to 1887. The collection documents the lives of everyday Americans in the nineteenth century. The papers are in English.

The collection documents the daily lives of the Stiles and Horr families, and the Bonney family, all from northern New York. The bulk of the material consists of letters received by Elizabeth (“Betsy”) Stiles Horr and members of her family. Letters were received from various family members, including her siblings, Silas, Benjamin, Hannah, and Catherine, sister-in-law Polly, children Mary, Benjamin, and Peter, and other family members and friends. Also included is correspondence between other members of the Stiles and Horr families. Topics include Benjamin’s experience in the army during the War of 1812, health and well-being of friends and family members, living conditions, finances, Christian revival meetings, spiritualism, Mormonism, the temperance movement, farming and other work, and opinions on the Civil War and politics of the day. The correspondence also highlights the experiences of family members migrating west to various locations, including Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Louisiana.

The Betsey Gould Knox Bonney family correspondence consists of incoming correspondence, primarily addressed to Betsey Bonney. Letters were received from various family members, particularly her siblings, Pamela Crawford and John Knox, sister-in-law Caroline Knox, and nieces Tina Kroehnke and Carrie Knox. Topics include her sister’s grief over the loss of her daughter, growth and development of children, news of family members, health and deaths of family members, farming and crop yields, family relations, finances and sale of land, desire to visit family, weather, John Knox’s mental health, and Tina Kroehnke’s plans to move to Tennessee and thoughts on that region.

Also included in the collection are deeds, surveys, contracts, and receipts relating to the Stiles and Horr families, clippings, a hand-drawn floor plan, and transcripts of correspondence created by descendants of the Stiles, Horr, and Bonney families. Some transcripts include brief, typewritten or handwritten notes providing additional context.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material, and chronologically therein.

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

Bonney family--Correspondence.

Bonney family.

Bonney, Betsey Gould Knox, 1816-1890.

Horr family--Correspondence.

Horr family.

Horr, Elizabeth Stiles, 1782-1867.

Stiles family--Correspondence.

Stiles family.

Stiles, Benjamin 1780-

Subjects

Agriculture--New York (State)
Christianity.
Deeds--New York (State)
Latter Day Saint churches.
Revivals.
Spiritualism.
Temperance.

Places

Louisiana--Description and travel.
Louisiana--Social life and customs--19th century.
Middle West--Description and travel.
Middle West--Social life and customs--19th century.
New York (State)--Climate.
New York (State)--History--19th century.
New York (State)--Social conditions--19th century.
New York (State)--Social life and customs--19th century.
New York (State)--Surveys.
United States--History--19th century.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--War of 1812.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.
United States--Religion--19th century.

Titles

Bonney family papers
Horr family papers
Stiles family papers

Container List

Container	Contents
	Correspondence
BOX 1	Betsey Bonney family correspondence, 1860-1880 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Elizabeth "Betsy" Stiles Horr family correspondence, 1803-1887, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Elizabeth "Betsy" Stiles Horr family correspondence, 1803-1887, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2	Deeds, surveys, contracts, and receipts, 1835-1907, undated
BOX 2	Family history, 1866, undated
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1811, undated
	Transcripts
BOX 2	Betsey Bonney family correspondence, undated
BOX 3	Elizabeth "Betsy" Stiles Horr family correspondence, undated (2 folders)