



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Belton-Kirby-Dawson-Todd families papers

ca. 1763-1892 [bulk 1830-1860]

MssCol 258

Summary

Creator: Belton family

Title: Belton-Kirby-Dawson-Todd families papers

Date: ca. 1763-1892 [bulk 1830-1860]

Size: 1.8 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Gift, Carter, Frank; Mary Ruth Lashley, 1987

Abstract: Francis Smith Belton (ca. 1791-1861) was a career officer in the U.S. Army who served in the Mexican War. He was married to Harriet Kirby Belton (1798-1873); their son Winfield Scott Belton (1820-1889) fought with the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Collection consists of the papers of Francis Smith Belton, Harriet Kirby Belton, Winfield Scott Belton, and members of the Dawson, Kirby and Todd families who were related to the Beltons. Papers of Francis Smith Belton, 1818-1853, include correspondence with his wife, military papers (some are copies) and an autobiography. Papers of Harriet Kirby Belton, 1829-1854, consist mainly of correspondence with her husband during the period of the Mexican War. Winfield Scott Belton's papers, 1832-1887, include correspondence with his wife relating in part to his activities during the Civil War. Kirby family papers consist of correspondence of various family members. Dawson papers, ca. 1763-1813, include correspondence of Joshua Dawson who emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland. Todd family papers, 1819-1861, contain correspondence concerning naval service and political and military events during the Mexican War. Other materials include family and legal papers, certificates of commission, 1859 log, commonplace book from 1835 to 1842, photographs of family members, clippings, and issues of various newspapers.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Belton-Kirby-Dawson-Todd families papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: Some letters and documents are in Spanish

Creator History

Francis Smith Belton (ca. 1791-1861) was a career officer in the U.S. Army who served in the Mexican

War. He was married to Harriet Kirby Belton (1798-1873); their son Winfield Scott Belton (1820-1889) fought with the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Scope and Content Note

Collection consists of the papers of Francis Smith Belton, Harriet Kirby Belton, Winfield Scott Belton, and members of the Dawson, Kirby and Todd families who were related to the Beltons. Papers of Francis Smith Belton, 1818-1853, include correspondence with his wife, military papers (some are copies) and an autobiography. Papers of Harriet Kirby Belton, 1829-1854, consist mainly of correspondence with her husband during the period of the Mexican War. Winfield Scott Belton's papers, 1832-1887, include correspondence with his wife relating in part to his activities during the Civil War. Kirby family papers consist of correspondence of various family members. Dawson papers, ca. 1763-1813, include correspondence of Joshua Dawson who emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland. Todd family papers, 1819-1861, contain correspondence concerning naval service and political and military events during the Mexican War. Other materials include family and legal papers, certificates of commission, 1859 log, commonplace book from 1835 to 1842, photographs of family members, clippings, and issues of various newspapers.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Charleston (S.C.) -- History -- 1775-1865
Ireland -- Social life and customs -- 18th century
Mexico City (Mexico) -- History -- American occupation, 1847-1848
United States -- Emigration and immigration
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
United States -- Politics and government -- 19th century
United States -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

Subjects

Mexican War, 1846-1848
Seminole War, 2nd, 1835-1842
Trail of Tears, 1838-1839
Transatlantic cables

Occupations

Military personnel

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographic prints

Names

Belton family
Belton, Francis Smith, ca. 1791-1861
Belton, Harriet Kirby, 1798-1873
Belton, Rebecca Todd, 1827-1892
Belton, Winfield Scott, 1820-1889
Dawson, Joshua, fl. 1782-1813
Kirby, Edmund, 1794-1849

Kirby, Ephraim, 1757-1804
Kirby, Reynold Marvin, 1790-1842
Kirby, Ruth Katherine
Putnam, Helen Kirby, b. 1800
Smith, Frances Kirby, b. 1785
Todd, Henry
Todd, Joshua Dawson, 1818-1861
Todd, Rebecca Dawson, d. 1861
Todd, Samuel Poultney, d. 1858
Dawson family
Kirby family
Todd family
Harvard University
United States. Army
United States. Navy