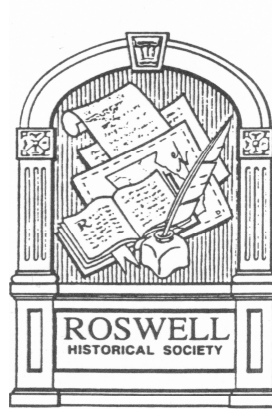


King, Baker, & Simpson families papers
[1812-2005]
MS 100



Roswell Historical Society/City of Roswell Research Library and Archives

Contact Information:

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Title: King, Baker, & Simpson Families Papers
Dates: 1818-2005
Extent: 20.4 linear ft. (85 boxes)
Identification: MS 100

Biographical or Historical Note

The King, Baker, and Simpson families papers is a collection that was kept by family members at their family home, Barrington Hall in Roswell, Georgia

Roswell King (1765 -1844) was born in Windsor, Connecticut. He moved to Georgia in 1789, settling in the town of Darien and marrying Catherine Barrington (1776-1839) in 1792. After establishing various business ventures in Darien, he assumed the duties of manager of the Major Butler estate from 1802 to 1819. King was commissioned by the Bank of Darien to establish a branch of the bank in Auraria, Georgia in 1829 after gold was discovered in the area. On this trip, he visited the area that would become the town of Roswell. By 1835, King began to purchase land from the winners of the 1832 Georgia land lottery and, with the help of his son Barrington King, began work on a cotton mill complex. Five other coastal families joined him in their business venture and built homes.

Barrington King (1798-1866) was born in Darien, Georgia. He married Catharine Margaret Nephew (1804-1887) in 1822. He became president of the Roswell Manufacturing Company. He moved to Roswell with his family in 1837. The couple had 12 children, nine living to adulthood: Charles Barrington (1823-1880), William Nephew (1825-1894), James Roswell (1827-1897), Thomas Edward (1829-1863), Barrington Simeral (1833-1865), Ralph Browne (1835-1920), Catherine Evelyn "Eva" (1836-1923), Joseph Henry (1839-1917), and Clifford Alonzo (1842-1911). Barrington Hall was the family home.

Ralph King (1801-1878) was born in Darien, Georgia. He acted as consul at the Port of Bremen from 1851-1853. According to the 1860 United States Census, he lived in Brooklyn, New York and worked as a broker. His first wife was Isabella Gibbs (1805-1857). His second wife was Mildred Bronaugh (1823-1902), whom he married in 1859. He had 2 children with Isabella: George Gibbs King (1829-1853) and Florida Bayard King Whistler (1840-1863), who was married to William McNeill Whistler (1836-1900). Since his two children died without issue, the content of this collection was found in the King family papers in Barrington Hall.

William Nephew King was born in 1825. He was a graduate of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons and studied surgery in Paris for three years. He married Virginia Way (1828-1883) in 1851 and lived in Savannah, Georgia. They had two children Mary Hartford "Mamie" King Drake (1852-1883) and William Nephew King Jr. (1858-1920). After the Civil War, he moved to New York City. After Virginia died in 1883, he married Fanny DeCamp (1852-1918). They had two sons, Claude Barrington King (1886-1952) and Edward Irving King (1893-?). He died in Manhattan, New York in 1894.

Catherine Evelyn "Eva" King married Reverend William Elliott Baker (1830-1906) in 1856. He served as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Staunton, Virginia from 1857 - 1884. In 1883, the Bakers move to Roswell to care for Eva's widowed mother, Mrs. Barrington King. The Bakers purchased Barrington Hall in 1887 after the passing of Mrs. Barrington King. The Bakers had seven children: Catherine Nephew "Kate" Baker (1857-1934), Eva King Baker (1859-1935), William Elliott (1861-1936), Thomas King (1865-1934), Frances Hamilton "Fannie" (1867-1952), Sarah Clifford (1869-1945), and Roswell King (1871-1950).

Katherine "Kate" Baker married Dr. Carolus Adams Simpson (1844-1935) in 1885. The couple had six children and lived in Decatur, Georgia. Their daughters, Evelyn Barrington Simpson (1889-1960) and Katharine Baker Simpson (1895-1995) purchased the home in 1929 after the passing of their grandmother, Eva King Baker. Neither of the daughters ever married; they dedicated their lives to the preservation of Barrington Hall and the family legacy documented by extensive documents and photographs of the King, Baker, and Simpson families. Evelyn died in 1960 and Katherine lived in Barrington Hall until her death in 1995.

Ownership of the house passed to Lois Simpson, a friend of Katharine, whom she legally adopted in 1977. Lois sold the home to Sarah Winner, a close friend, who renovated the house, allowing Lois to live at Barrington Hall until her passing in 2003. Ms. Winner sold the house to the City of Roswell in 2005 and donated the papers of the King and allied families to the Roswell Historical Society for preservation.

Scope and Content

The King, Baker, and Simpson families papers document the lives of members of the King family and related families from the Georgia coast, but most importantly, it chronicles their involvement in the founding of the town of Roswell, Georgia. The records in the collection include letters, letter books, journals, account books, medical ledgers, slave records, receipts, estate papers, Civil War documents, land records, scrapbooks, maps, family genealogy, personal and household artifacts, ephemera, and publications. The collections also contain the records of the Roswell Manufacturing Company and Ivy Mill.

Organization Note

Arranged into 14 series by families or subject, some with several subseries. The series are (1) Roswell King Family Papers (Roswell King and Ralph King), (2) Barrington King Family Papers (Barrington King, Catharine Margaret Nephew King, Charles Barrington King, William Nephew King, James Roswell King, Isabelle Meta Lewis King, Thomas Edward King, Barrington Simeral King, Ralph Browne King, John Henry King, and Clifford Alonzo King) (3) Baker Family Papers (Catherine Evelyn “Eva” King Baker, William Elliott Baker, and Baker Children), (4) Simpson Family Papers (Catherine Evelyn Nephew “Kate” Baker Simpson, Carolus A. Simpson, and Simpson Children, Evelyn Barrington Simpson, Katherine Baker Simpson, and Lois Virginia Carson Simpson), (5) Allied Families, (6) Roswell Manufacturing Company, (7) Ivy Woolen Mills, (8) Land Records, (9) Barrington Hall, (10) Genealogy, (11) Roswell Presbyterian Church, (12) Black History, (13) Graphics, and (14) Printed Material.

The records within the series are arranged chronologically with records types or formats kept together. Within each folder, papers are arranged in chronological order. The collection is processed to the file level with some files described to the item level.

Restrictions

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

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Selected Search Terms

Baker, Catherine Evelyn “Kate” Baker

Baker, William Elliott

Barrington Hall

Ivy Woolen Mills

King, Barrington
King, Barrington Simeral
King, Catharine Margaret Nephew
King, Catherine Evelyn "Eva"
King, Charles Barrington
King, Clifford Alonzo
King, James Roswell
King, John Henry
King, Ralph Browne
King, Roswell
King, Thomas Edward
King, William Nephew
Roswell Manufacturing Company
Roswell Presbyterian Church
Simpson, Dr. Carolus A.
Simpson, Evelyn Barrington
Simpson, Katherine Baker

Related Materials

King, Baker & Simpson Families Artifacts Collection
King, Baker & Simpson Families Photograph Collection
King, Baker & Simpson Families Textile Collection

Administrative Information

Citation

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Source:

Sarah Winner