

**Guide to the Secor, Flint and
Cousins families collection
ARC.192**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Brooklyn Historical Society
Creator	Cousins family
Creator	Flint family
Creator	Secor family
Title	Secor, Flint, and Cousins families collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1860-1899
Date [inclusive]	1840-1971
Extent	1.0 Linear feet in 3 manuscript boxes and 3 boxes of special photographic formats
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials are in English.
Abstract	<p>This collection contains materials pertaining to the Flint, Secor, and Cousins families of New York from 1840-1971. Material types include correspondence, photographs, bound books, deeds, wills, indentures, marriage certificates, ephemera, and Civil War military passes and correspondence. Subjects of correspondence in this collection include travel, family health, and basic communicative efforts between family members over four generations. The photographs are primarily portraits of the Secor, Flint, and Cousins families during the turn of the twentieth century, though some images of the interiors and exteriors of homes are included.</p>

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, date (if known); Secor, Flint, and Cousins families collection, ARC.192, Box and Folder number; Brooklyn Historical Society.

Biographical/Historical note

In the years before the Civil War, Cyrus Flint (1804-1869) had a furniture business, Flint & Jones, at 36 Royal Street, in what is currently the French Quarter area in New Orleans, Louisiana. Flint, his wife, Catherine M. Flint (1810-1895), "a colored girl," and their two daughters, Cornelia Anna (1836-1915), and Mary Lawrence (1848-1921), settled in Brooklyn during the first half of the American Civil War. Cyrus and Catherine Flint also had two sons, Alden (1837-1872) and George C. (1840-1924). George C. Flint was an avid traveler whose destinations included various parts of the United States, London, Panama, and Mexico. Like his father, George also later engaged in the furniture manufacturing business; Geo. C. Flint & Co. thrived on Hudson and Clarkson Streets in present day Greenwich Village in New York City during the late 1800s until about 1930. Cornelia A. Flint married John G. Secor, who was involved in the dry goods business on Canal Street in New York until his death at the age of 39. Cornelia and John had two children, Cora M. and Mary Lawrence, who married brothers, Thomas and Joseph Blandford Cousins. Mary Lawrence Secor and Joseph Blandford Cousins had a daughter, Cornelia Flint Cousins (b. 1888), who was a member of the Brooklyn Junior League and who married Martin Egan, a writer, correspondent, and employee at J.P. Morgan & Co.

Scope and Contents

The majority of the printed materials in this collection are correspondences between various members of the Flint, Secor, and Cousins families over the course of four generations. The primary correspondents are George C. Flint, Cornelia A. Flint Secor, John G. Secor, and Mary Lawrence Cousins. Many of George C. Flint's letters describe his travels to Panama, San Francisco, and London, and contain descriptions of the hotels and restaurants where he stayed, as well as detailed accounts of the scenery and markets he experienced while in Panama and Mexico. Other members of the Secor, Flint, and Cousins families traveled around Europe as well.

Other subjects of correspondence include family affairs such as finance, visits, illnesses, and general communicative efforts; as well as weather, theater, and family businesses. One letter to John G. Secor, from his daughter includes a political cartoon clipping of a man's face on a cat's body digging into a fishbowl with a fish inside that says "presidential nomination."

The Civil War related documents in this collection include passes for Cyrus Flint, his wife, two girls, and a "colored girl" to travel from New Orleans to New York. Also included are two letters from John G. Secor's brother, Leonard H. Secor, while he served in the NY 4th Regiment Heavy Artillery during the Civil War. His letters reference General Ulysses S. Grant, the Potomac Army 2nd Corps, as well as some of his general duties. Two military passes for Leonard Secor are also included.

Other document types in this collection include deeds, indentures, marriage and death certificates, receipts, and a bill of sale for a steamer called "Polomska." There are also newspaper clippings, a hand-made valentine, New Jersey Railroad line tickets, and a train schedule for the Long Island Railroad from 1872. Also included in this collection is genealogical information pertaining to the Secor, Flint, and Cousins families.

There are five bound books in this collection, including a diary (1861) that is mostly blank, with an entry regarding Cyrus Flint and his family traveling to New York in 1862 if given permission by General Butler. Cora L. Flint's Bible (1869), adjoined common prayer and hymnal books, a Yale University Class Day program from 1906, and an address book are also included.

The photographs in this collection are primarily portraits, with some images of interiors and exteriors of homes. Subjects are the Flint, Secor, and Cousins families in the late 1800s and early decades of the 1900s. Media include mounted photos, cartes-de-visite, daguerreotypes, tintypes, cabinet cards, cyanotypes, and hand-colored photos. One daguerreotype and one carte-de-visite are in ornate cases.

Arrangement note

The first 6 folders in this collection are in the original order created by the donor; the arrangement for the remaining contents of this collection was imposed by the archivist.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Brooklyn Historical Society February 2011

Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers without restriction.

Conditions Governing Use note

Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

This collection was donated to the Brooklyn Historical Society in 1992 by Richard P. Wunder.

Processing Information note

The collection was processed in February 2011 by Robyn Hjermstad.

The collection combines two accession numbers: 1992.019 (text matter) and V1992.017 (photographs).

Related Materials

Separated Materials note

Museum accession M1992.22 contains materials separated from this collection, including a leather traveling book case, dance cards, a party favor, and a pair of brass keys. Further details of the items can be found in PastPerfect, BHS's museum objects database, available in the library.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Geo. C. Flint & Co. (New York, N.Y.).
- United States. Army. New York Heavy Artillery Regiment, 4th (1862-1865). -- Correspondence

Family Name(s)

- Cousins family -- Correspondence
- Flint family -- Correspondence
- Secor family -- Correspondence

Genre(s)

- Bible

- Bills of sale
- Cartes-de-visite (card photographs)
- Correspondence
- Daguerreotypes (photographs)
- Deeds
- Military passes
- Passports
- Photographs
- Prayerbooks
- Printed ephemera

Geographic Name(s)

- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)
- London (England) |x description and travel
- New York (State) |x History |y Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States |x History |y Civil War, 1861-1865

Personal Name(s)

- Cousins, Cora L. Flint, 1850-1899
- Cousins, Mary Lawrence Secor, 1862-1931
- Egan, Cornelia Cousins, b. 1888
- Flint, Alden, 1837-1872
- Flint, Catherine M., 1810-1895
- Flint, Cyrus, 1804-1869
- Flint, George C., 1840-1924
- Merrill, Mary L. Flint, 1848-1921
- Secor, Cornelia A. Flint, 1836-1915
- Secor, John G., 1833-1872

Subject(s)

- Communication in families
- Families |x Health and hygiene
- Family life
- Furniture industry and trade |z Louisiana |z New Orleans
- Furniture industry and trade |z New York (State) |z New York
- Genealogy
- Inheritance and succession

- Voyages and travels

Other Finding Aids note

The photographs in the collection can be viewed in PastPerfect, BHS's image database, in the BHS library. Search for object ID V1992.017.

Collection Inventory

	Dates	Box	Folder
George C. Flint correspondence	1860-1890	1	1
Cornelia Flint Secor correspondence	1861-1899	1	2
John G. Secor correspondence	1871-1878	1	3
Cornelia Flint Secor correspondence to John G. Secor	1866-1868	1	4
Secor, Flint, and Cousins families correspondence	1865-1885	1	5
Secor and Cousins families correspondence	1871-1895	1	6
Ephemera	1872-1929	1	7

Deeds, wills, receipts, paid checks, and other property and business related documents	1837-1937	1	8
Civil War related material	1862-1864	1	9
Death and burial related material	1872-1899	1	10
Mary Lawrence Secor Cousins correspondence	1880-1921	1	11
Elizabeth Smylie interior decorating bills to Mary Lawrence Secor Cousins	1929-1930	1	12
Genealogical notes	1840-1971	1	13
Cornelia Flint Cousins Egan passports	1934-1965	1	14
Cornelia Flint Cousins Egan correspondence	1892-1929	1	15

Miscellaneous correspondence	1885-1924	1	16
Address Book	circa 1930	2	1
Bible	1869	2	2
Common prayer book and <i>The Hymnal</i>	1863-1869	2	3
Diary	1861-1862	2	4
Yale Class Day program	1906	2	5
v1992.17 Photographs (6 folders)	circa 1890- circa 1940	3	1-6
V1992.17 Tintype Photographs (7 envelopes)	circa 1870	4 (Tintypes V1992.17.25-31 1)	

V1992.17 Cased photographs (5 images in 2 cases)	circa 1870	5	V1992.17.49, .51
		(Daguerreotype 4)	

V1992.17 Cased photographs (2 cases)	circa 1860	6	V1992.17.48, .50
		(Ambrotypes 2)	
