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Inventory of the Solomons Family Papers, 1800s-1941

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Solomons family papers
Date(s)	1800s-1941
Creator:	Solomons family
Abstract:	Photographs, genealogical materials, financial and legal papers, ketubah, and correspondence of the Solomons family of Sumter, South Carolina. Materials primarily relate to the family of Augustus Aurelius Solomons, Sumter merchant, and youngest son of Mark Solomons and Rachel Rodrigues Solomons. Solomons' parents are reputed to be Sumter's first permanent Jewish settlers, moving to the area circa 1820.
Extent:	0.5 linear feet (1 document box, 1 oversize folder)
Repository:	Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: http://archives.library.cofc.edu
Call Number:	Mss 1103
Language of Material:	Materials in English and Hebrew

Biographical Note

Born in Sumter, South Carolina, in 1829, general merchandiser Augustus Aurelius Solomons (1829-1891) was the youngest child of Mark Solomons (1774-1837), a merchant, and Rachel Rodrigues Solomons (1799-1855), a native of Bordeaux, France. Mark Solomons arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1805, and in 1816, married Rachel Rodrigues. The couple moved to Sumter circa 1820 and are reputed to be the town's first permanent Jewish settlers. In 1852, in Savannah, Georgia, Augustus Solomons married Kate Cohen (1833-1876), daughter of Barnet Cohen (1769 or 70-1839), a native of Bristol, England, and Bella A. Cohen (1792-1836), a native of Hamburg, Germany. Augustus and Kate Solomons had five children, two of whom died in infancy: Kate Cecile Solomons (1853-1930); Augusta Isabel Solomons (1856-1936); Aurelius Aaron Solomons (1857-1858); Jacob Theodore Solomons Jr. (1859-1940); Rosalie Eliza Solomons (September 24, 1862-October 8, 1862); and Maude Cohen Solomons (1863-1951).

In 1847, Solomons, with his older brother Jacob Theodore Solomons (1825-1875), took over the mercantile business started by their father. Forming a partnership with Henry J. Haynsworth in 1848, and with Anthony White in 1849, the brothers continued the business under the name of J. T. Solomons and Co. Two years later brother Edward Solomons (1822-1895) and J. B. Roach were taken into the partnership and the name was changed to Solomons and Co.

In 1867, under the management of Solomons, a branch of the mercantile business was opened on the corner of Main and Liberty streets. In the following year, 1868, the firm was dissolved with each brother managing his own establishment. In 1890, his health failing, Solomons retired from the mercantile business. In 1895, four years after his death, a corporation was formed and the building on Main and Liberty streets leased to the Sumter Dry Goods Company. The income accumulated from the property, part of the estate Solomons left to his daughters, made possible the establishment and maintenance of the Solomons Home for the Aged located on North Guignard Drive.

The family resided in a large two-and-half-story house on North Main Street. In 1907 the county acquired the property to build the Sumter County Court House. The house itself was sold to Dr. S. H. Edmunds, superintendent of city schools, and moved to the southeast corner of Calhoun and Harvin Streets. After the property was sold, the Solomons' three daughters, Kate Cecile Solomons, Augusta Isabel Solomons, and Maude Cohen Solomons, moved to New York City. The sisters would occasionally return to Sumter to visit, reserving rooms at the Claremont Hotel.

Collection Overview

Photographs, genealogical materials, financial and legal papers, ketubah, and correspondence of the Solomons family of Sumter, South Carolina. Materials predominantly relate to the family of Augustus Aurelius Solomons, youngest son of Mark Solomons, a merchant, and Rachel Rodrigues Solomons. Photographs consist of daguerreotypes, tintypes, and cabinet card images of the Solomons family, Michael Cohen, older brother of Kate Cohen Solomons, Jacob Theodore Solomons, older brother of Augustus Aurelius Solomons, Susie Grantham, the family cook, and two unidentified women. Genealogical materials consist of handwritten notes listing names, birthdates, and dates of death for Solomons family members. Financial and legal papers consist of handwritten income tax lists of Maude Cohen Solomons and contracts, including real estate agreements for properties owned by the Solomons family and a lease agreement between Maude Cohen Solomons and the Sumter Dry Goods Company. Correspondence consists of letters and telegraphs concerning a theft of money by a cashier employed by Augustus Aurelius Solomons and letters to Maude Cohen Solomons from The Charleston Museum regarding several gifts of personal effects including assorted books, clothing, jewelry, and glassware.

Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice

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Related Material

Related materials in Special Collections include "Kinship and Community: An Enduring Commitment to an Interracial Family in Antebellum South Carolina," a 2004 master's thesis about the forebears of Kate Cohen Solomons by Anita Cooper Mehlman.

Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

Names

Solomons, Augustus Aurelius, 1829-1891
Solomons, Mark, 1774-1830
Solomons, Rachel Rodrigues, 1799-1855
Solomons family

Subjects

Jews--South Carolina--Sumter
Jewish families--South Carolina--Sumter
Jewish merchants--South Carolina--Sumter

Places

Sumter (S.C.)

Types of Material

Daguerreotypes (photographs)
Cabinet photographs
Tintypes (prints)
Contracts
Ketubahs
Correspondence

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Solomons family papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in 2009 by the Ramon Schwartz Jr. family.

Processing Information

Processed by Joshua Minor, June 2012.

Encoded by Joshua Minor, July 2012.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, July 2012.

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the processing of this collection and encoding of the finding aid.

Inventory

Photographs, 1800s-1890s

Daguerreotypes, tintypes, and cabinet card images of the Solomons family. Also included are images of Michael Cohen, older brother of Kate Cohen Solomons; Jacob Theodore Solomons, older brother of Augustus Aurelius Solomons; Susie Grantham, the family cook; and two unidentified women.

Solomons family, 1850s-1890s

Box 1 Folder 1

Augustus Aurelius Solomons, 1850s-1880s

Also includes DVD of digitized images from the Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.

Box 1 Folder 2

Kate Cohen Solomons, 1860s

Box 1 Folder 3

Kate Cecile Solomons, 1850s-1860s

Box 1 Folder 4

Augusta Isabel Solomons, 1860s

Box 1 Folder 5

Aurelius Aaron Solomons, 1858

Post mortem daguerreotype portrait of Aurelius Aaron Solomons.

Box 1 Folder 6

Jacob Theodore Solomons Jr., 1860s-1880s

Box 1 Folder 7

Maude Cohen Solomons, 1880s-1890s

Box 1 Folder 8

Michael Cohen, 1800s

Older brother of Kate Cohen Solomons.

Box 1 Folder 9

Jacob Theodore Solomons, 1860s

Older brother of Augustus Aurelius Solomons.

Box 1 Folder 10

Susie Grantham, 1800s

Box 1 Folder 11

Unidentified women, 1850s, 1879

Box 1 Folder 12

Genealogical materials, 1934, undated

Assorted handwritten notes listing names, birthdates, and dates of death for the Solomons family. Also included is Kate Cohen Solomons' obituary notice printed on silk.

Income tax lists and contracts, 1852-1941, undated

Includes handwritten income tax lists of Maude Cohen Solomons and assorted contracts including real estate agreements for properties owned by the Solomons family; a lease agreement between Maude Cohen Solomons and The Sumter Dry Goods Company; and the ketubah of Augustus Aurelius Solomons and Kate Cohen.

Box 1 Folder 13

Income tax lists, 1933-1938

Box 1 Folder 14 Contracts, 1884-1941, undated

Oversize Paper Folder 1 Ketubah of Augustus Aurelius Solomons and Kate Cohen, 1852

(Flat storage)

Box 1 Folder 15 Correspondence, 1879-1939, undated

Consists of letters and telegraphs concerning a theft of money by a cashier employed by Augustus Aurelius Solomons and letters to Maude Cohen Solomons from The Charleston Museum regarding several gifts of personal effects including assorted books, clothing, jewelry, and glassware.