

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Bell, Ricardo Maria (?-1847)** **MC 1999.15**

Material: Family Papers (1830-1856)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Gift of Samuel and Anna D. Moyerman, 1964

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ricardo Maria Bell (?-1847) was born in the town of Lurgan in Ireland, the legitimate son of Alexander Bell and Ann Maxwell; not much else is known of his early years. He later became a resident of Santiago, Cuba. Ricardo Bell married Maria Candelaria Yrady and the couple had four children: Joseph Alexander, Ricardo, Ana Maria (wife of Pedro Becerra), and Isabel Maria (wife of Antonio Herrera Castillo). Maria Candelaria Yrady Bell died on November 13, 1837. When Ricardo died ten years later, his last will and testament named the executors of his estate as his sons Joseph Alexander and Ricardo as well as his son-in-law Pedro Becerra.

Ana Maria Bell (1817-1855) was the eldest daughter of Ricardo Maria and Maria Candelaria Yrady Bell. She married Brigadier of Infantry Pedro Becerra, and the couple resided in Santiago, Cuba. The couple had seven children. Pedro Becerra died on June 11, 1848, and three years later Ana relocated her family from Santiago to Madrid where her sons Pedro and Nicholas died. Ana herself died at the age of thirty-eight of an internal and intense hemorrhage on August 14, 1855; her five surviving children were Maria Candelaria (age twenty), Jose Maria (age twelve), Ana Maria (age eleven), Ricardo (age nine), and Alejandro (age unknown). After her death Ana's brother Joseph Alexander Bell petitioned the court to be the executor of her estate and guardian of her children; his petition was granted on September 25, 1855.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Bell Family Collection occupies one document box, and is derived from the papers of Robert Ewing, trustee and lawyer of Joseph Alexander Bell. The documents are composed of legal and financial materials pertaining to the estates of Ricardo Bell and Ana Maria Bell de

Becerra, father and sister of Joseph Alexander Bell, respectively. The collection has been divided into two sections, Business Materials and Correspondence.

The Business Materials comprise the bulk of the collection. They are arranged alphabetically by author or person to whom they refer. These materials contain the last will and testaments of both Ricardo Bell and Ana Maria Bell de Becerra. Included among these materials is a brown leather-bound ledger which belonged to Robert Ewing and in which the estate of Ricardo Bell is cataloged. Written copies of letters addressed to Ricardo's heirs are also included in the ledger; these letters document contact between the heirs and Ewing during the settlement of the estate. Other legal documents pertaining to Ricardo's estate can be found here and are indexed in the front of the ledger book. A document acknowledging that the heirs received their share of stock, loans, securities, and property left to them by Ricardo in his will can be found among the Business Materials; five copies, each one signed by one of the five named heirs. Also included among these materials are checks signed by Antonio Herrera Castillo (husband of Isabel Maria Bell) and Joseph Alexander Bell. Receipts for bills paid by Ewing can also be found in the Business Materials.

The Correspondence section is arranged alphabetically by author and then chronologically within each folder. All of the letters in this section are addressed to Robert Ewing; the bulk of these letters were written by Joseph Alexander Bell in June and July of 1848 and pertain to the estate of his father Ricardo. Three letters, written in Spanish, were sent to Ewing by Antonio Herrera Castillo. Also included are two letters from Alexander Henry, presumably a colleague of Ewing's. The first letter, dated September 6, 1848, is almost illegible; in the second, dated October 25, 1856, Henry offers advice regarding the estate of Ana Maria Bell de Becerra. One letter by an unknown author can also be found among the Correspondence.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 1999.15

BUSINESS MATERIALS

- Becerra, Ana Maria Bell
 - Folder 01) Last Will and Testament - 1855-1856
- Bell, Joseph Alexander
 - Folder 02) Checks - 1848-1849
- Bell, Ricardo Maria
 - Folder 03) Receipts - 1830-1838
 - Folder 04) Last Will and Testament - 1847-1848
 - Folder 05) Constitution of Personal Property
 - Folder 06) Five copies of estate settlement - 1848
 - Folder 07) Ledger Book - 1848-1849
- Castillo, Antonio Herrera
 - Folder 08) Checks - 1845-1848
- Ewing, Robert
 - Folder 09) Receipts for bills paid - 1832-1848

BOX 1 - MC 1999.15 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE

Bell, Joseph Alexander		
Folder 10)	Letters to Robert Ewing - June 1848-July 1848	(8)
Castillo, Antonio Herrera		
Folder 11)	Letters to Robert Ewing - 1845-1849	(3)
Henry, Alexander		
Folder 12)	Letters to Robert Ewing - 1848-1856	(2)
Unknown Author		
Folder 13)	Letter to Robert Ewing - June 1847	

This collection register was prepared by Kristin McLane, December 1999.