

McECHRON FAMILY COLLECTION: A Guide

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** McEchron Family.
- Title:** McEchron Family Collection.
- Dates:** 1896-1970.
- Abstract:** The McEchron Family Collection consists primarily of the papers of Lottie McEchron (1869-1970) and her husband George McEchron, who lived on West Mountain Road in Queensbury. The collection consists of diaries of both McEchrons, time books, a scrapbook, and a retirement book, 1962, for schoolteacher Sarah McEchron, their daughter.
- Quantity:** 1.5 cubic feet (2 boxes)
- Identification Number:** Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family
Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Lottie (Van Dusen) McEchron (1869-1970) lived her entire life at her family home on West Mountain Road in Queensbury. In 1889 she married George McEchron, Superintendent of the Glens Falls Water Department. He died in 1936. Their daughter, Sarah McEchron, taught the elementary grades in schools in Queensbury for 32 years, retiring in 1962.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The McEchron Family Collection consists of papers of the McEchron Family. Of particular importance are diaries, 1916-1936, of a woman describing farm life. She was probably Lottie McEchron (1869-1970). In addition there is a scrapbook, 1896-1948, compiler unidentified, but possibly Lottie McEchron. The scrapbook mainly consists of newspaper clippings, primarily obituaries, especially of members of the Van Dusen family. There is also material pertaining to the death of Lottie McEchron on June 8, 1970, including her obituary, sympathy cards, and a guest register of her friends who attended services following her death.

Another set of diaries, probably written by a man, describes various work performed by a group of men. The writer of these diaries, 1930-1936, may have been George McEchron, who served as Superintendent of Reservoirs of the City of Glens Falls until his death in 1936. These diaries also include reports of rainfall amounts and also statistics, possibly concerning water level in the reservoirs. In addition, there is a report by George H. McEchron, the Superintendent of Reservoirs of the City of Glens Falls, 1909-1914 (1 volume). This report provides daily statistics for three reservoirs in Glens Falls. Miscellaneous material of George McEchron includes check stubs, 1931-1932, and rubber stamps used by him in his office.

Time books, 1925-1936, account for the time worked of groups of between 4 and 20 men. This accounting was done at two week intervals. It is not clear what work these men did, though it was seasonal (and possibly agricultural), with fewer men working in the winter and more in summer. Some of the work may have been done for the reservoirs of the City of Glens Falls).

Also in the collection is the retirement book (1962) of Sarah McEchron, Lottie McEchron's daughter.

Miscellaneous material includes an account book, 1899, compiler unknown. This small volume records expenses, miles traveled in the region, report of visit to Niagara Falls. Also there is a Time Book, 1904, for workers Rollo Tanner and Eugene Smith. Finally, there are five small Memorandum Books, 1929-1933. One volume, probably prepared by George McEchron, evidently was used to account for hauling wood or logs. The other volumes provide miscellaneous information.

Other papers:

Glens Falls Bicentennial Committee

Minutes, agendas, notes of meetings, and related papers, 1974-1976.

Warren County Bicentennial Commission

Minutes, agendas, notes of meetings, and related papers, 1975-1976.

NOTE: Collector of the above material is not identified, possibly Jeanne Hastings.

INDEX TERMS

- Subjects:** American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976—New York (State)
Farm life—New York (State)—History.
Reservoirs—New York (State)—History.
- Places:** Queensbury (N.Y.)—History—Sources.
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—History—Sources.
- Organizations:** Glens Falls Bicentennial Committee (Glens Falls, N.Y.)
Queensbury School (Queensbury, N.Y.)
Warren County Bicentennial Commission (Warren County, N.Y.)
- People:** McEchron, George.
McEchron, Lottie.
McEchron, Sarah.
Van Dusen family.
- Form/Genre:** Account books.
Diaries.
Scrapbooks.
Time books.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Preferred Citation:** McEchron Family Collection,
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.
- Accession Information:** Accession Numbers: 2004-044, 2004-052.
Gift of John Hastings, 2004.
2005-004. From Lee Butler, 2005.
- Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

BOX 1 (Accession number 2004-044)

Scrapbook, 1896-1948, compiler unidentified, but possibly Lottie McEchron. Mainly newspaper clippings pasted in volume, "*Chips*" *Old Wood Cuts* (1895). Most clippings from the 1940s are loose, not pasted in the volume. The clippings are primarily obituaries, especially of members of the Van Dusen family. Also included is a 1947 Commencement program of South Glens Falls High School.

Report of George H. McEchron, the Superintendent of Reservoirs of the City of Glens Falls, 1909-1914 (1 volume). Provides daily statistics for three reservoirs in Glens Falls.

Retirement Book of Sarah McEchron, teacher in Queensbury schools, February 20, 1962. See table (Finding Aids-Archives and Manuscripts-Personal and Family Papers-McEchron) of list of teachers and others who signed the book. Bruce Cole provided most of the identifications on this list. *This list is not included in this electronic Finding Aid, but is available in hard copy in the Folklife Center.*

Lottie J. McEchron (1869-1970), obituary, sympathy cards, guest register of visitors at funeral home.

Diaries (cover title *Date Book*)

1916 – Writer evidently a woman, possibly Lottie McEchron. Describes activities of two men, GC and GM, mostly doing farm chores. One of the men, probably GM, is her husband, George McEchron. Crops are potatoes, buckwheat, corn, hay, oats. GM goes to Butler Pond on many days. Visits to the "Falls". Also reports on her daughter Sarah. Included on most days is a sentence or two concerning the weather.

1917

1918

1919

1920

1921

1922

1923

1924

1925

1926

1928

1930

1931

1933

1934

1935

1936

1930 – Second diary writer a man, likely George McEchron. Reports work of a group of men. Also includes reports of rainfall amounts and also statistics possibly concerning reservoirs. Work (e.g. clearing brush) may have taken place near the reservoirs. George McEchron was Superintendent of Reservoirs of the City of Glens Falls. There is a second 1930 diary that describes work at a house. Again, the writer was probably George McEchron.

1931

1933

1934

1935

1936

Also includes diaries of Lottie McEchron, 1916, 1917, 1934. (these diaries were acquired from Lee Butler, March 2005. Accession Number 2005-004) – listed with diaries above.

Stamps (6) – for a business or office

One used by George McEchron, Agt.

Stamps are the gift of Lee Butler, March 2005.

Accession Number 2005-004

BOX 2 (Accession number 2004-052)

Account book, 1899.

Expenses, miles traveled in the region, report of visit to Niagara Falls.

Time Books:

1904. For workers Rollo Tanner and Eugene Smith.

The volumes listed below account for the time worked of between 4 and 20 men. This accounting was done at two week intervals. It is not clear what work these men did, though it was seasonal (and possibly agricultural), with fewer men working in the winter and more in summer. A few men are noted for teams of horses (or one horse), and there was occasional mention of sawing or hauling wood. There is one mention of a tractor. A few times “charity work” is mentioned. It is not clear whether the activities described in the time books below are related to the other volumes listed below, but this is a possibility.

Time Books: (probably reporting time worked by team of workers for the reservoirs of the City of Glens Falls)

December 6, 1925 – January 9, 1927.

January 16, 1927 – January 8, 1928.

January 15 – December, 1928.

January 6, 1929 – January 5, 1930.

January 12, 1930 – January 4, 1931.

January 18, 1931 – January 3, 1932.

December 4, 1932 – December 31, 1933.

July 2 – September 10, 1933. Smith.

January 14 – October 21, 1934.

May 12, 1935 – January 26, 1936. Geo. H. McEchron.

August 17 – October 5, 1935. Hugh Lavery.

February 2 – August 2, 1936.

Memorandum Books, 1929-1933. 5 small volumes.

1933 - One volume evidently used to account for hauling wood or logs, probably prepared by George McEchron.

Other volumes provide miscellaneous information.

Diaries.

Diaries briefly report the weather for each day. A number is written in the diary which declines each day until the notation is given that tanks were changed or a “New tank of gas” installed. On that day the number would rise significantly. These diaries may concern work at the reservoirs of the City of Glens Falls. George McEchron was Superintendent of the reservoirs during these years, and these may be his diaries.

1934

1935

Check stubs

1931 Mostly for labor on house, main recipient was John Sleight

1932 Many checks to Comac Sales (Chevrolet dealer), payments for purchase of automobile?

Checks were probably written by George McEchron

Glens Falls Bicentennial Committee

Minutes, agendas, notes of meetings, and related papers, 1974-1976.

Warren County Bicentennial Commission

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