

Collection: The Thomas Hough Business Record Collection**Accession Number:** 93.38.1-200**FINDING AID****Date Range:** 1870-1910**Bulk Date:** N/A**Creator:** Thomas Hough/Barbara Olsen and Bruce Balistreri**Number and Type of Containers:** 6 folders/ 1 box**Storage Location:** Jasper Street Unit A- Shelf 2**Aid Created By:** Amber Kitchings, Museum Attendant**Biographical Information/ Historical Information:**

Thomas Hough (1825-1910) was born in New York City. He spent his childhood on a farm in Manchester, New Jersey. At age 15, he started working at Rogers Locomotive and Machine Works in Paterson, before leaving their employment to learn cabinetry. He worked in several locations, but spent 25 years working in a piano case factory in New York City. He married Mary E. Taylor of Paterson in 1858. The couple had six children together. Mary pre-deceased Thomas, as did four of their children. Hough died on March 27, 1910 at the age of 85. At the time of his passing, he lived at 152 Hamilton Avenue. In 1892 the newspaper indicates that Thomas purchased a property on the corner of Godwin Street and Graham Avenue. It is unclear how many properties he may have owned in Paterson throughout his lifetime.

According to a newspaper article from 1886, the music firm of Thomas Hough & Son first started in 1864 and was located on West Street. His 1910 obituary indicates that the firm opened in 1872. The company moved to 36 Main Street in 1879. According to several newspaper ads, Thomas Hough & Son sold pianos, organs and musical items. They offered tuning and repairs. The store also advertised cards, stationery, toys, novelties and fancy goods. In 1902, Thomas retired from the business. His son Nathaniel Taylor Hough continued to operate it alone. An ad in 1903 indicates a retirement sale and specifically mentions stationery and toys. However, Hough's 1910 obituary indicates that his son is still operating the piano business at that time.

Archival History:

This collection was transferred to the Paterson Museum in June of 1993 from the Dey Mansion/Washington's Headquarters Museum. The transfer records do not indicate why or how the documents first came into the collection of the Dey Mansion, however there may be some relationship with the Van Boskirk Collection, which is still held at the Dey Mansion at the time of this writing. During the drafting of this aid, Museum staff inquired with the Department of Cultural and Historic Affairs at the County of Passaic, but no additional information was uncovered.

Due to the transfer, call items have two accession numbers. The first, which begins with an X, is the number applied to it by the Dey Mansion. The second accession number, beginning 1993.38 was given to the collection when it entered the Paterson Museum collection in 1993.

Scope and Content:

A collection of records related to Thomas Hough. The records mainly contain receipts of utility bills and property tax records, however, some records are receipts for a Daniel Snyder.

The records included in this collection are related to the following Paterson addresses:

36 Main St,
49 & 51 Ryle Ave,
12 Bank St,
113 Matlock Ave,
22 West St
163 Tyler St

The bills included in this collection are related to the following companies:

Passaic County Water Company (Water Bill),
Public Service Corporation of New Jersey (Gas/Electric Bill),
City of Paterson (Property Tax),
WM. B. Thompson, Dr. (Labor Bill),
Undertaking & Embalming (Funeral Bill)

Series:

At the time of the creation of this finding aid and the associated box list, this collection was already organized. The original organization system (which appears to have been applied by the Dey Mansion) was maintained. Within each folder the documents are mostly organized by date and accession number order, however the folders are not in order. All of the documents in this collection are individually sleeved.