

Berkeley Cox family papers

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c. 1863-1897

Title Statement

Berkeley Cox family papers Berkeley Cox family papers MSS.16941

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-24 11:02:23 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.16941

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1867

Unit Date

c. 1863-1897

Language

English

Creator

Cox, Richard Smith, 1825-1889

Creator

Cox, Mary Lewis Berkeley, 1830-1897

Extent

.4 Cubic Feet 1 letter-sized document box

Condition Description

Fair.

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection has been minimally processed and is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was a gift from Mary Berkeley Reynolds to the Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia on 20 February 2025.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16941, Berkeley Cox family papers, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical Note

Richard Smith Cox (1825–1889) was the patriarch of the family and a native of Georgetown, D.C. He was the son of Georgetown mayor John Cox and the great-great-grandson of the prominent Maryland physician Dr. Gustavus Brown. Beginning around 1847, he served as a clerk in the Paymaster-General's Office of the War Department. He married twice: first to Elizabeth Williams, known as Eliza, in 1849. She died approximately one year after the marriage. No children from their union are documented. He then married, following her death, Mary Lewis Berkeley in 1851. During the Civil War, Cox resigned from his federal position and served as a Confederate paymaster. After the war, the family settled at Stoke Farm in Aldie, Loudoun County, Virginia, which Cox purchased in 1868.

Mary Lewis Berkeley was born in 1830 to a farming family in Loudoun County, Virginia. She married Richard S. Cox in 1851. Her maiden name, Berkeley, was passed forward as a given name to multiple children and grandchildren. The children of Richard S. Cox and Mary Lewis Berkeley Cox had eight children including Lewis, Francis, and Bessie. Lewis Berkeley Cox was born on January 7, 1856, at the family's Georgetown estate, Berleith. He later settled in Portland, Oregon, where he married Elinor Junkin. He died on April 11, 1901, in Portland. He and Elinor had a son, Berkeley Cox. Francis Callendar Cox appeared in the 1870 Loudoun County, Virginia census as "Frances C.," listed at age 10. Bessie Cox was a daughter of Richard S. Cox and Mary Lewis Berkeley Cox. "Bessie" was commonly used in the nineteenth century as an informal form of Elizabeth. Catherine Cox Reynolds would marry into the Reynolds family.

References:

Fletcher, Carlton. "Local Slaveholders." Glover Park History. Last modified May 14, 2025. <https://gloverparkhistory.com/population/slaves-population/local-slaveholders/>.

Fletcher, Carlton. "Richard Smith Cox and Berleith." Glover Park History. Last modified May 14, 2025. <https://gloverparkhistory.com/glover-park/neighborhood-histories/burleith-history/>.

Fletcher, Carlton. "The Colored Home." Glover Park History. Last modified May 14, 2025. <https://gloverparkhistory.com/estates-and-farms/burleith/the-colored-home/>.

Find a Grave. Memorial page for Lewis Berkeley Cox, Sr. (7 Jan 1856–11 Apr 1901). Memorial no. 156853896. Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156853896>.

Find a Grave. Memorial page for Richard Threlkeld Cox (2 Dec 1862–4 Mar 1939). Memorial ID 37193719. Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37193719/richard-threlkeld-cox>.

Jewell, Aurelia M. Loudoun County, Virginia, Marriage Records to 1881. 1975. Cited in Fletcher, "Richard Smith Cox and Berleith."

United States Census Bureau. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870. Loudoun County, Virginia, Schedule 1 (Population). National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Content Description

This collection contains items from the Berkeley Cox family papers. The collection contains cased photographs, hair of various family members, a glass plate photograph, a silver card case with calling cards, a medallion, a photograph, and a Mulberry Hill pamphlet. Many of the items have a small notation from a family member describing the people in photographs or the physical item. Family members represented in the collection include: Mary Berkeley Cox, Lewis Berkeley Cox, Francis Callendar Cox, Richard S. Cox, Eliza Williams, Bessie Cox, Catherine Cox Reynolds, Lewis Berkeley Cox, and son Berkeley Cox.

Keywords

Virginia -- History -- 19th Century
cased photographs
human hair
Cox, Bessie, 1854-1924
Cox, Lewis Berkeley, 1856-1901
Cox, Frances Callender, 1859-1926

Description of Subordinate Components

Berkeley medallion belonging to Catherine Cox Reynolds

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293020

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 1 (Item)

Language English

Cased photograph of Richard S. Cox and Eliza Williams

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293021

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 2 (Item)

Silver card case with cards of Mary Berkeley Cox

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293022

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 3 (Item)

Language English

Cased negative of Bessie Cox

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293023

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 4 (Item)

Language English

Cased photograph and hair of Francis Callendar Cox

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293024

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 5 (Item)

Language English

Cased photograph of Lewis Berkeley Cox

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293025

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 6 (Item)

Language English

Photograph of Lewis Berkeley Cox and son Berkeley Cox

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293026

Unit Date 1894

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Glass plate negative of Bessie Cox

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293027

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Mulberry Hill pamphlet

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293028

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Hair clipping from Bessie Cox; Hair clipping from Berkeley Cox

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293029

Unit Date 1863; 1898

Mixed Materials [X032762811] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)