

MS 8 John W. Kratz Papers (1886-87, 1898)

History

There are few known details concerning Kratz. He apparently was a Baltimore City resident who owned the two structures treated in the collection.

Manuscript Summary

These items relate to John W. Kratz and include an 1898 letter from William F. Broening (later mayor of Baltimore, 1919-23 and 1927-31) concerning the disposition of the estate of Kratz's mother; and state and city tax bills for 1886 and 1887, along with municipal water rent bills for the same years pertaining to a three story brick house on Barre Street and a frame dwelling in the rear of Welcome Alley.

Series

1. Kratz Papers. 1886-87, 1898. 0.25 lin. in.  
No arrangement.

MS 9 Joseph Robinson Book Auction Record (1842)

History

Robinson was born in Frederick, Maryland in 1787. He learned the printer's craft and moved to Baltimore around 1807. After running a printing business for several years, Robinson expanded his activities to include bookselling and operation of a circulating library. He also published a number of books for the Catholic Church and put out at least two serials: Robinson's Magazine in 1818 and The Monitor newspaper in 1857.

Judging from the nature of the bankruptcy auction record, Robinson apparently had some difficult financial times around 1842 and was compelled to liquidate his book stock. But he managed to continue earning money through printing, and by the late 1840s was again listed in the city directory as a bookseller.

During the War of 1812, Robinson held the rank of general in the local militia. He was also very active in the Maryland Masonic organization and served as Grand Master from 1842 until his death in 1863.