

**Binghamton University Libraries**  
**Special Collections**

**Rose Family Papers**

**Finding Aid created 1991**  
**Revised 2010 by Jean L. Green, Head of Special Collections**

## Rose Family Papers

### Biographical Note

Dr. Robert Hutchinson Rose, was born in 1776 in Chester County Pennsylvania. His parents had come to this country before the Revolutionary War, his father being from Scotland and his mother from Dublin. Dr. Rose was educated in Philadelphia and graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania (although he never practiced medicine). After being invited on a hunting trip to Northern Pennsylvania by Colonel Timothy Pickering in 1804 or 1805, Dr. Rose was so enamored with the area that he bought all of what is now Silver Lake Township (99,200 acres) in 1809 from the Francis estate (Anna, widow of Tench Francis). This area of the country was known as "Hibernia." The original 99,200 acre tract was added to until it encompassed 140,000 acres. Dr. Rose resided on the South side of Silver Lake. It is interesting to note that Montrose, PA was named around 1812 by Dr. Robert H. Rose, combining the French word, *mont* with his last name.

Dr. Rose was Silver Lake Township's first major developer and sub-divider, promoting the sale of his holdings through advertisements in newspapers throughout Pennsylvania and offering land along the turnpikes at \$6 per acre and off them at \$5 per acre. Indeed, Dr. Rose is credited for much of the development of Susquehanna County, PA. He built mills and roads, and was instrumental in bringing in many settlers. Dr. Rose appealed to African-American and Irish families to move to the Silver Lake Township and the latter gradually replaced the English settlers and became a majority in the Township. This accounts for many roads having Irish names and also for the term "Out our way," referring to a section of the Township. It is also interesting to note that Rose established a farming community of runaway slave families exchanging free land and equipment for labor and shares, although this colony only lasted two years and proved to be problematic.

In 1816, Rose built the first bank in Susquehanna County (and now the oldest existing building in Montrose), the Silver Lake Bank. This bank, the oldest building in Montrose, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The building now serves as headquarters, educational center and museum for the Center for Anti Slavery Studies (C.A.S.S.) a local non-profit organization formed in 1996. Dr. Rose also established a sawmill below Silver Lake as early as 1810 and later built a gristmill. Still later he constructed a woolen factory. Dr. Rose was also the first postmaster of Silver Lake.

Dr. Rose married in 1810 to Jane Hodge, daughter of Andrew Hodge of Philadelphia. He died in 1842, at the age of 66, leaving behind his widow, three sons, Edward W., Andrew H., and Robert

## **Rose Family Papers**

H., and four daughters, Ann, Ellen, Caroline, and Emily Rose. The Silver Lake mansion burnt in 1850.

Ann Rose, eldest daughter of Dr. Robert H. Rose, married William Main, a mining engineer and chemist. They resided on a farm on the borders of Quaker Lake, four miles from Silver Lake, and Ann bore five children (two died in infancy). In 1853, they moved to Philadelphia for the education of three of the children, Alice, William, and Anna. The farm was retained for many years as a summer residence. William Main died in 1876. Ann (Rose) Main died at 87 in Brooklyn in 1898. Their eldest daughter, Alice, died in Philadelphia at the age of 20. Their youngest daughter, Anna, married George Giles. Their son, William Main, was born at the Old Rose Mansion at Silver Lake on February 10, 1845 and eventually became a chemist and mining engineer. He fought in the Civil War in the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns, 1862-1863. In 1871, he married Fannie A. Fillebrown.

Caroline Rose married Francis Dudley Ladd on June 16, 1846. Ladd was son of Gen. Samuel G. and Caroline Vinal Ladd, a niece of President Adams. He became a tutor at the Rose Family Estate, which is where he met Caroline. Ladd became a pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Silver Lake. In 1851, he became pastor of Penn Church in Philadelphia. Francis died in Philadelphia in 1862 and Caroline died in Philadelphia in 1866. They had one child, Ellen Rose, who was born in 1849 and died in Silver Lake in 1851.

Prior to 1873, Dr. Robert H. Rose's sons, Edward W. Rose and Andrew H. Rose lived on estates along Silver Lake. Edward W. later moved from Silver Lake to Montrose, Susquehanna County, and was in the mercantile business. Andrew H. died prior to 1873.

Edward W. Rose's son, Robert H. Rose graduated from Cortland Academy (Homer, N.Y.) in 1868 and, then, became a student in the law office of Fitch & Watson, attorneys in Montrose, PA. In 1873, he was admitted to the bar in Susquehanna County. In December 1873, Robert H. came to Smethport (McKean County) as attorney and agent for the Bingham Estate. Robert served as attorney for the McKean County commissioners; he was involved with the oil trade beginning in 1878 and belonged to the Bradford Exchange; he represented his district in the State Legislature; he was a thirty-second degree Freemason, a Knight Templar, and a member of the consistory at Pittsburgh; he was also a member of the Mystic Shrine.

On September 5, 1877, he was married to Laena D., daughter of Hon. Henry Hamlin. Laena Rose bore two children, Robert Craig and Marion. He eventually moved his law practice and settled in Binghamton in 1890.

The Collection was acquired by the Binghamton University Libraries in 1985.

## Rose Family Papers

### Brief Bibliography

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“Finding Sanctuary at Montrose,” by William C. Kashatus, *Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine*, accessed via [http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/Portal/Communities/Pennsylvania\\_Heritage/articles/AntiSlaveryPHM.pdf](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/Portal/Communities/Pennsylvania_Heritage/articles/AntiSlaveryPHM.pdf), 6/23/2010.

“History of Silver Lake Township,” from the Silver Lake Township website, <http://www.silverlaketwp.org/history.htm>, accessed 6/23/2010.

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*Letters from the British Settlement in Pennsylvania* by C.B. Johnson, Philadelphia: H. Hall, 1819. Accessed via Google Books 6/23/2010.

“A Sketch of the Life of Dr. Gouverneur Emerson,” by W.S.W. Ruschenberger, *Proceedings of the American Philisophical Society*, V. 29, N. 135 (Jan.-Jun. 1891), pp. 60-78.

“Spotlight is on Underground R.R.,” *Susquehanna Valley Transcript*, 2004. Accessed via [http://www.susquehannatranscript.com/archives/03\\_09\\_04v3n37/living.htm#top](http://www.susquehannatranscript.com/archives/03_09_04v3n37/living.htm#top) 6/23/2010.

*Yearbook of the Pennsylvania Society* 1919. Accessed via Google Books 6/23/2010.

## Rose Family Papers

### Box 1 Robert H. Rose papers, c. 1806-death in 1842

**Folder 1** "Lines Written at Niagara," n.d., 1 original handwritten, 2 typescript copies

**Folder 2-11** Letters from R.H. Rose to Jane Hodge (before marriage), 1806-1808  
Originals plus 2 typescript copies

August 21, 1806 Potter County. Life in Woods  
September 28, 1806 Williamsport. Why don't you write?  
February 7, 1807 Lancaster. Describes stage ride.  
August 13, 1807 Williamsport. Love letter.  
January 24, 1808 Tioga Point. Controversy over Penn.-Conn. land claims.  
February 1, 1808 Tioga Point. Love letter.  
August 8, 1808 Athens. Love letter, on way to Allegheny River.  
August 28, 1808 Lycoming County. Love letter.  
October 1, 1809 Silver Lake. Building saw mill at outlet of lakes to get boards for frame house for Jane.  
November 2, 1809 Silver Lake. Brief note. Jane was either in Philadelphia at her home on Arch St. or visiting her cousins, the Ebenezer Stevens in NY

**Folder 12** Typescript copies of letters to Joshua Whitney, 1806-1810. Whitney and his partner, David Le Roy were evidently R.H. Rose's agents in Binghamton.

January 7, 1806 Wyalusing. Re: Tunkhannock to Chenango Pt. Turnpike  
1806 Chenango Pt. Many alterations appear to be necessary.  
April 2, 1806 Philadelphia. Business with H. Drinker.  
June 14, 1809 Great Bend. Re: Bingham estate.  
September 9, 1809 Silver Lake. Carpenter for mill.  
October 10, 1809 Great Bend. Carpenter to frame his house.  
November 11, 1809 Needs flour.  
November 11, 1809 Dam breaking at mill. Killed two oxen for beef, needs more flour.  
November 25, 1809 Buying pork.  
December 10, 1809 Great Bend. Needs tar, lime.  
December 15, 1809 Great Bend. Deed and mortgage.  
December 19, 1809 Needs beef.  
January 22, 1810. Great Bend. Cold, can't get to Lake, hands out of flour.  
March 25, 1810 Silver Lake. Post route to be changed so as to pass by the Silver Lake.  
(Letter to Jacob Cist, Postmaster, Wilkes Barre)  
July 7, 1810 Great Bend. Bonds.  
September 2, 1810 Great Bend. Wants lime. Headed to Silver Lake with family.

## **Rose Family Papers**

- July 28, 1810            Great Bend. Needs tallow, cash, linen for bedding for workmen at Silver Lake.
- Folder 13**            Letters from R.H. Rose to William Jessup (Montrose). Jessup was R.H. Rose's lawyer and agent. Letters re: land, business, legal business, taxes, etc.
- Folder 14**            Deed polls, 1817 (relinquish title to Rose)  
Samuel Newcomb  
Hiram Plum and Israel Taylor  
William Rowley  
Thomas Farmer  
William Ladejunn  
Jacob Marcle  
Abraham Gaige  
Jonathan Elsworth  
Jonathan Caswell  
Joshua Griswold
- Folder 15**            Mortgage: Thomas Snediker (Willingborough), November 17, 1813.
- Folder 16**            Receipt: March 21, 1845, for land in Silver Lake Township, 403  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres surveyed on a warrant in the name of Robert Morris, dated August 24, 1784.
- Folder 17**            Sheep and wool accounts, c. 1831
- Folder 18**            Miscellaneous merchandise accounts, 1813-1830
- Folder 19**            Notes on two cases in Susquehanna County Court, 1832-33  
1832 Suit brought by Desire Otis against Procter Rigley for having falsely accused her of fornication with Negro  
1833 Fornication and battery on complaint of Urania Concklin against Philo Morse
- Folder 20**            Stock Certificates, Milford and Owego Turnpike (6)  
Statement concerning books and papers of the company (1816-24)  
Receipt for money received from David Robbe by R.H. Rose (1823)
- Folder 21**            Part of legal document concerning a distillery, c.1824

## **Rose Family Papers**

- Folder 22** Miscellaneous notes, receipts, etc., c.1818 (R.H. Rose)  
Includes letter to John Mann (sp?) of Silver Lake with regards to schools, June 1, 1828. Asks Mann to supervise farm work.  
Includes letter to R.H. Rose from Henry Johnston in re: bond, February 6, 1840 (manuscript and typescript).
- Folder 23** Land conveyed to R.H. Rose by Timothy Pickering, warrantee Joseph Bullock, September 10, 1817.
- Box 2** **Legal Documents, 1785-1842  
(Prior to Rose's death)**
- Folder 1** Draught (survey) of tract of land situated on the waters of Choconut Creek adjoining the lands of James McSwine and others in Stoke Township, Northumberland County, April 27, 1785
- Folder 2** Land warrants, Revolutionary War soldiers: James Stover to John Nicholson (1785), Benedict Dorsey to Tench Francis (1785), William Hunter to Tench Francis (1787).
- Folder 3** Deed, Anne Francis to R.H. Rose, February 18, 1809.
- Folder 4** R.H. Rose to Caleb Carmalt (Philadelphia). Assignment of mortgages to him in payment of debt, November 9, 1827.
- Folder 5** List and ledger of settlers accounts prior to 1844.
- Folder 6** List of farms for sale, Susquehanna County, c. 1840.
- Folder 7** Miscellaneous merchandise accounts, 1826-1836. Some accounts with R.H. Rose, some with his agents.
- Box 3** **Rose Estate, 1842 –**
- Folder 1** Receipts, 1828-1867 (bulk after 1844). Mostly Jane Rose and Ellen Rose.
- Folder 2** Jane Rose correspondence, 1849-1862 (business).
- Folder 3** Real estate appraisal of the Rose property at Silver Lake, 1845.

## **Rose Family Papers**

- Folder 4** Power of attorney R.H. Rose (son) to William Jessup, 1845.
- Folder 5** Rose estate legal documents pertaining to sons and daughters, 1850-1892.
- Folder 6** Will of Jane Rose, July 15, 1865.
- Folder 7** Survey of Silver Lake Presbyterian church site, February 21, 1853.
- Folder 8** Inventory and appraisal of R.H. Rose library, 1850. (2 copies)
- Folder 9** List of bonds, mortgages, contracts of R.H. Rose estate, 1844.
- Folder 10** List of accounts and mortgages held by William Rose, November 1, 1844.
- Folder 11** Statement of the accounts of contracts with the estate of R.H. Rose assigned to daughters by John H. Hodge, executor (from January 1, 1844 to January 1, 1851).
- Folder 12** Account of Andrew Gayley, Executor of the estate of Jane Rose, June, 1866.
- Folder 13** Deed: John W. Brackney (Binghamton) to Jonathan thorn, John Watson, and Edwin Thorne (New York City) to twelve (12) parcels of land (extensive holdings) in Silver Lake Township, May 13, 1858. Some of the lands were originally part of the Rose estate.
- Folder 14** Accounts of the R.H. Rose estate, c.1858
- Folder 15** Memorandum of an agreement between John Hodge, Executor, and Rose heirs on the accounts of the executor, September 5, 1849.
- Box 4** Documents subsequent to settlement of Robert and Jane Rose Estate, c. 1860-
- Folder 1** Biographical sketches of R.H. Rose, 1912.
- Folder 2** Wood contracts with New York & Erie Rail Road Company: June 10, 1854 with Enos Newcomb (Sanford); April 5, 1854 with Ford and Belding (Deposit); April 5, 1854 with M. L. Cole (Port Jervis).

## **Rose Family Papers**

- Folder 3** Obituary of the Hon. John Greig, April 14, 1858. (Letterhead: Silver Lake Resort, Rose Brothers, Proprietors)
- Folder 4** Income tax returns:  
Henry Drinker, Montrose, May 12, 1864  
Joseph a. Scranton, Scranton, May 16, 1864  
R.B. Little, Montrose, May 21, 1864  
James S. Scranton, Scranton, May 24, 1864  
Levi P. Little, Scranton, May 28, 1864  
Sarah Carmalt, Friendsville, May 14, 1866
- Folder 5** Letter from James West to Captain ? regarding books on the battle of Gettysburg, March 27, 1894.
- Folder 6** Letter from Edward L. Rose, Mgr. of the Howe Machine Co., Wheeling, W.V. to H.C. Jessup (Montrose) regarding business dealings, February 24, 1877.
- Folder 7** Deed: Ellen rose to Margaret Kain, May 4, 1870.
- Folder 8** New York City Guide Map, c. 1890.
- Folder 9** Mercer's Curiosity Store (war relics, fossils, Indian relics, etc.), Cincinnati, OH, ads and price list, c.1890.
- Folder 10** Typescript letter to Thomas Leiper Hodge from Ann Main relating family history, n.d. (seven (7) pages).
- Box 5** R.H. Rose Estate (Settlements, Accounts, etc.), 1844- (Post-estate legal documents).
- Folder 1** Accounts of William Jessup, Trustee of R.H. Rose Estate, 1849-1855.
- Folder 2** Lists of contracts, bonds, mortgages in Rose Estate, 1844-1847.
- Folder 3** Partition of R.H. Rose Estate (Indenture), 1851.
- Folder 4** Accounts, Rose Estate, 1842-1851.

## Rose Family Papers

- Folder 5** Will of Edward L. Rose (Binghamton) plus codicils, November 26, 1894, February 28, 1898.  
Recapitulation of expenditures and receipts under the will, c.1911.  
Copy of letter from W.D. Painter (attorney) to W.C. Cochran Esq., (Cincinnati, OH), October 10, 1911, concerning Edward Rose's will.
- Folder 6** Newspaper clipping: "Early Settlement of Silver Lake: Pioneer Work Done by Doctor Robert H. Rose," unknown source, n.d.
- Box 6** Bound ledger ("Letters"), c.1820-21, 1839.  
Contains surveys including descriptions and maps of lots forming various parts of the R.H. Rose land holdings.  
Contents:  
First pages, non-paginated: "Turnpike lots." Lots are listed by number of lot, page in ledger and to whom deeded.  
Descriptions of lots as follows, starting with page 1: Course, distance, rate, remarks:  
p. 52-55: Surveys of roads, descriptions as above.  
p. 56-69: Lots, maps.  
p. 71: Middletown lots.  
p. 72-80: Lots, surveys.  
p. 80-81: Road surveys.  
p. 82-83: Interferences.  
p. 86: Map of "Part of the Reservation."  
p. 87: Lots.  
p. 88, 90 Part of the Reservation.  
p. 91: Lots.  
p. 92: Silver Lake, Lawsville.  
p. 93: Lots.  
p. 94: Silver Lake Lots.  
p. 96: Bridgewater Lots (pp. 100, 102, 104)  
Dates of the above surveys appear to be c. 1820-1821 from notes of lots sold.  
p.107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119: Choconut lots.  
Continues with lots and maps for Middletown, Rush, Turnpike lots in Middletown, Great Bend, Warren, Windham, and Silver Lake.  
p. 168: Choppings for R.H. Rose. Surveyed by O.B. Chamberlin, 1839.

## Rose Family Papers

User copy also in box.

### Box 7

Bound ledgers, 1823-1842

Contracts, May 1823-August 1829

Letter Book, 1824-1832 – R.H. Rose business letters. Notes, accounts, receipts tucked among pages.

Letter Book, No. 2, August 30, 1838-February 12, 1842.

“Copy of Inventory of the Estate of R.H. Rose, filed June 22, 1842”

(Note: most of the letters concern land dealings)

Fragment of *Magazine of Art*, n.d. (was originally in Box 5)

*Educational Art Series*, Vol.1, No.2, November 16, 1893: *The Dream City* (photo album Columbia Exposition, Chicago, 1892). (was originally in Box 5)

### Box 8

Oversize Documents

Deeds & Indentures:

Note: Deeds marked with an asterisk (\*) are on printed forms, the final paragraph being printed with “Tench Francis” and tracing title back to the Proprietor, Richarch Penn. All deeds have the surveyor’s description of the medes and bounds.

March 27, 1810: R.H. Rose to John G. Huyler (Rush Township), warrant of Daniel Humphrey: \$285.09, 145.8 acres, secured by mortgage.\*

October 3, 1810: R.H. Rose to Peleg Butts (Bridgewater Township): \$589.24, 205 acres, Peter and James Dibley warrantees.\*

October 13, 1810: R.H. Rose to Abraham Gaige (Bridgewater Township): \$435.45, 151.5 acres. Document is handwritten. Traced to Tench Francis, warrant of Roger Dibby, April 4, 1785.\*

## Rose Family Papers

October 17, 1810: R.H. Rose to Philip Griffeth (Bridgewater Township): \$575.66, 259.5 acres, traces to warrant of Samuel Dibley.\*

December 31, 1810: R.H. Rose to Silas Beardslee (Rush Township): \$164.58, 93 acres, Eleazar Oswald, Warrantee. \*

January 9, 1815: R.H. Rose to Andrew Gardener (Choconut Township): \$519.83, two parcels-132.3 acres and 99.6 acres, secured by mortgage. "Being part of 2 tracts of land granted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to William Jones and Benjamin Scale and by them severally conveyed to Tench Francis ..." \*

January 2, 1818: R.H. Rose to William Whipple (Silver Lake): \$2005.97, 120.16 acres.

November 6, 1819: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Great Bend Township) to R.H. Rose concerning warrant granted to Roger Harper, surveyed April 25, 1785.

October 6, 1831: Ansel and Lydia Hill (Silver Lake) and R.H. Rose, \$1000.00, 103 acres (Silver Lake Township blong Montrose-Chenango Point Turnpike), land conveyed By Joseph ad Elizabeth Macomber to Ansel Hill, May 1, 1817.

July 9, 1833: Zenas and Mary Bliss (Silver Lake) to Edwin Bliss (son): 3 acres 108 perches (bounded by lands of R.H. Rose).

October 3, 1836: Edwin and Anne Bliss (Silver Lake) to R.H. Rose, \$700.00, 96 acres and 28 perches.

March 25, 1845: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to John and Andrew Hodge, trustees of the R.H.Rose estate, 418 ½ acres, surveyed in re: warrant dated July 26, 1787 granted to Samuel Powell, coveyed to Tench Francis August. 28, 1787, willed to Anne Francis April 4, 1800, coveyed to R.H. Rose February 18, 1809.

Other documents within:

Rose genealogy (on brown wrapping paper).

## Rose Family Papers

Lum genealogy (on wax tracing paper).

Map of warrants in Bridgewater, Forest Lake, Jessup and Middletown Townships, 1850.

Map, mounted on linen, 2 copies, n.d., indicating warrants for lands in Willingborough (Great Bend) Township.

Map, mounted on linen, folded, of Choconut Township land holdings, c1850?.

Grammar School Diploma, Lara J. Long, October 25, 1877, Wheeling, West Virginia.

**NOTE:** When this collection was re-processed in March-April 2010 by Jean Green, Head of Special Collections, the following items were missing:

- List of warrants issued April 4, 1785 with number of warrant or lot, name and number of acres. (missing from oversized documents box)
- List of lands purchased from Revolutionary War soldiers, April 21, 1785, by Tench Francis. (missing from Box 2, was folder 6)