Marsh Family Papers, 1815-1960

Finding Aid written by Bancroft Library staff; revised by Janice Otani
The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/
© 2007
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.
Marsh Family Papers, 1815-1960

Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 879

The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/

Finding Aid Author(s):
Finding Aid written by Bancroft Library staff; revised by Janice Otani
Finding Aid Encoded By:
GenX
© 2016 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Collection Summary
Collection Title: Marsh family papers
Date (inclusive): 1815-1960
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 879
Extent: Number of containers: 6 boxes, 1 volumeLinear feet: 2.53 digital objects (8 images)
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/

Abstract: The Marsh family papers, 1815-1960, reflect the life of California pioneer John Marsh and his wife, Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh; their daughter, Alice Marsh Cameron; her husband, William Walker Cameron (also referred to as Camron); and their daughter, Amy Gertrude Cameron; as well as other Marsh and Tuck family members. The collection contains correspondence with prominent figures in California history, including John Augustus Sutter, Charles David Maria Weber, and Thomas Oliver Larkin; writings; materials relating to family genealogies; notes on family histories; scrapbooks; diaries; legal documents; and newspaper clippings.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English
Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 94720-6000. Consent is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission from the copyright owner. Such permission must be obtained from the copyright owner. See:
Restrictions also apply to digital representations of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Preferred Citation
John Marsh was born in South Danvers, Massachusetts in 1799. Following his graduation from Harvard University in 1823, Marsh moved to the Michigan Territory, where he studied medicine with a post doctor at Fort Snelling. He became an avid supporter of the Sioux during tribal difficulties and compiled the first dictionary of the Sioux language in 1831, with the help of his common law wife, Marguerite, who was half French and half Wahpeton. Marsh left her behind with their son, Charles, and eventually moved to Independence, Missouri, where he met Captain John Augustus Sutter, John Bartleson, and other prominent pioneers. Marsh decided to go westward to California. Without much money, he arrived in Los Angeles, where he set up a practice as a doctor, displaying his Harvard B.A. diploma, thus becoming California's first Anglo American doctor. There was great demand for his services and he collected fees mainly in the form of livestock, which he could sell for gold. Marsh decided to head north and purchased a ranch in the San Joaquin Valley, at the base of Mt. Diablo (in modern-day Brentwood, Contra Costa County). He wrote numerous letters to family and friends, some of which were published in local newspapers, giving accounts of the future of California and concerns of life on the frontier. He continued his medical practice, became wealthy, and married Abigail Smith Tuck in 1851. When their daughter, Alice, was born Marsh set out to build a great stone house for his family. Abigail died before the house was completed. Marsh moved into the stone house three weeks before he was murdered by vaqueros from his ranch on September 24, 1856.

Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh
Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh was born in Massachusetts in 1818. She taught school in Raleigh, North Carolina before she moved to California, where she also was a teacher in Santa Clara. She and John Marsh were married in 1851 and their daughter, Alice, was born in 1852. After a long illness, Abigail Marsh died in 1855.

Alice Marsh Cameron
Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh was born in Massachusetts in 1818. She taught school in Raleigh, North Carolina before she moved to California, where she also was a teacher in Santa Clara. She and John Marsh were married in 1851 and their
daughter, Alice, was born in 1852. After a long illness, Abigail Marsh died in 1855.

William Walker Cameron

William Walker Cameron was born in Iowa in 1843 and was orphaned at the age of eleven. He was raised in California by his uncle and eventually became a real estate dealer, landowner, and politician. He married Alice Frances Marsh in 1871. After their daughter, Amy Gertrude, was born in 1872, Cameron built a mansion, now known as Camron-Stanford House, on Lake Merritt in Oakland. He later married Viola J. Babcock in 1877 and resumed his political career in the State Legislature. William Walker died in Palo Alto in 1912 after a long illness.

Amy Gertrude Cameron

Amy Gertrude Cameron was born in Martinez, California in 1872. Her father and mother were William Walker and Alice Marsh Cameron. Her grandfather was John Marsh. She lived in Oakland for a brief time and when her parents separated, she moved to Santa Barbara with her mother.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Marsh family papers, 1815-1960, reflect the life of California pioneer John Marsh and his wife, Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh; their daughter, Alice Marsh Cameron; her husband, William Walker Cameron (also referred to as Camron); and their daughter, Amy Gertrude Cameron; as well as other Marsh and Tuck family members. The collection contains correspondence with prominent figures in California history, including John Augustus Sutter, Charles David Maria Weber, and Thomas Oliver Larkin; writings; materials relating to family genealogies; notes on family histories; scrapbooks; diaries; legal documents; and newspaper clippings.

John Marsh's papers, most significantly his correspondence and writings, provide descriptive accounts of early life in Northern California and such issues as annexation of California to the United States, livestock ranching, railroad and militia projects, and Indian relations. His papers also include family correspondence, Marsh's student notebooks from various Massachusetts academies, and information regarding the Stone House he built in Contra Costa County. Correspondence includes originals, typed transcripts from the California State Library, handwritten transcripts, and Photostat copies. Some of the correspondence was donated by Mrs. David Potter, Mrs. George Lyman, donated correspondence, along with George D. Lyman's research materials for his book, *John Marsh, Pioneer: The Life Story of a Trail-Blazer on Six Frontiers* (1931).

Correspondence of Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh is primarily with Tuck family members.

Alice Marsh Cameron's papers contain correspondence with her family, friends, and contacts for research requests concerning family histories. The bulk of materials include various handwritten drafts, including numerous transcriptions of letters and articles written by her father, John Marsh; interviews with people who knew Marsh, and notes on his life in California. There is also a handwritten draft and notes on the Tuck family history in America. Of particular interest is a cookbook/scrapbook, dated 1870, consisting of recipes, newspaper articles, and handwritten notes. Also included in her papers are legal documents, her wedding invitation, a European travel journal, diaries, and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings on various topics.

William Walker Cameron's papers contain correspondence with his family, letters regarding the Marsh ranch and pardon of Marsh's murderer, and also a brief response from Leland Stanford to a request. Cameron's papers also include his will, real estate papers, and a membership certificate to the Free Masons of Oakland.

Amy Gertrude Cameron's papers contain correspondence, mainly with the Marsh and Cameron families, her friends, and persons regarding information on her family's history. Her handwritten drafts and transcriptions of Marsh's letters and articles, typed transcriptions from The Bancroft Library, and research notes show that she shared her mother's interest in writing about her grandfather, John Marsh. There are also materials regarding the Cameron family history, including a scrapbook consisting of genealogy information, photographs, and notes. Cameron's papers also contain legal documents; the will and estate documents of Viola J. Cameron, her step-mother; diaries; information on the family home in Oakland, California, materials relating to a Harvard Club event commemorating John Marsh; book reviews of George D. Lyman's book, *John Marsh, Pioneer;* and miscellany.

The other Marsh family members' papers include materials relating to James Marsh (brother of John Marsh), George E. Marsh (brother of John Marsh), and James M. Marsh (nephew of John Marsh), and Oliver C. Coffin.
John Marsh 1815-1856 Series 1

Physical Description: Box 1, Folders 1-51
Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence; school journals and notebooks; writings, including drafts of articles to be published; materials regarding the Stone House; documents; receipts; and miscellany.

Correspondence with family
- Brown, F. (sister) 1831
- Marsh, John 1815, 1827, 1847
- Marsh, Mary (sister) 1838, 1844, 1849
- Tuck, Samuel (father-in-law) 1855-1856

Correspondence with others
- Barnett, William B. (addressed to Captain Sutter or Mr. Marsh) 1841 May 18
- Cass, Lewis, 1782-1866 (Governor of Michigan Territory) 1846 January 20
- Clark, William 1827 May 30
- Cooper, Juan Bautista Rogers, 1791-1872 1847 March 12
- Farnham, Thomas J. 1845 July 6, 1847 May 25
- Fitch, H.D. 1843 October 8
- Fravel, Ephraim 1844 June 21
- Gantt, John 1845 March-October, 1847 August 2
- Hastings, Lansford Warren, 1819-1846 March 26
- Jones, Thomas Ap Catesby, 1790-1858 (Commodore) circa 1842
- Langetroth, J. Alexander 1843 December 4
- Lataillade, Cesareo, 1818-1849 1842 August 22, 1843 September 29, November 19
- Larkin, Thomas Oliver, 1802-1856 1845 March-August
- Luis, Guillermo 1844 November 4
- McMahan, Samuel G. 1844 June 16
- MacTavish, Dugal 1846 May 8
- Majors, J. 1844 June
- Martinez, Vicente 1845 November 3
- Melius, H. 1842 April 23
- Owens, Sam C. 1846 May 2
- Pickering, Charles, 1805-1878 1841 October 29
- Pico, Pio, 1801-1894 1846 April 30
- Smithsonian Institution 1848 November 1
- Stearns, A. 1837 March 27
- Stribling, C.K. 1843 May 3
- Suñol, Antonio Maria, 1797-1865 1845 March, June
- Sutter, John Augustus, 1803-1880 1841 November, 1844-1846
- Tinslar, Benjamin R. 1841 May 28
- Weber, Charles David Maria, 1814-1881 1845-1846
- Wiatt, J.W. 1846 September 13

Writings
- Photostat of Daily Argus newspaper page (1941) with letter from Marsh, regarding frontier life in California 1940 July 3
- Drafts submitted for publication in California Star
- Militia project circa 1838
- Upper California (pen name, Essex) 1846 February
- Railroad project (pen name, Agricola) 1847 February
- Horse thieves (pen name, Agricola) 1847 March 28
- In the Valley of San Joaquin (pen name, Agricola) 1847
- Various topics 1847-1848
- School course work from Massachusetts
- Journals from Danvers, Franklin Academy (Andover), and Lancaster Academy 1817 January-1818 December

Marsh Family Papers, 1815-1960
box 1, folder 44  
Math notebook from Franklin Academy (Andover) circa 1817
box 1, folder 45  
Compositions (Boxford, Massachusetts) 1818 June, July, 1821 April
box 1, folder 46  
John Marsh Stone House, Contra Costa County 1856
box 1, folder 47-48  
Real estate papers 1852
box 1, folder 49  
Proclamation, reward for capture of Marshs murderer 1956 October 13
box 1, folder 50  
Mountain View Memorial Park, Oakland (burial site) undated
box 1, folder 51  
Receipts for payments of services and supplies 1842, 1852
box 1, folder 52  
My Little Daughters Shoes, poem by Sprague undated
Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh 1837-1855 Series 2

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence with Tuck family members.

Physical Description:
Box 2, Folders 1-5

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence with family

box 2, folder 1  
Tuck, Almira (sister) 1846-1847
box 2, folder 2  
Tuck, Elizabeth A. (sister) 1845, 1848, 1851-1855
box 2, folder 3  
Tuck, Samuel and Margaret Smith (father and mother) 1847-1855

Letter from Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh to her parents, Samuel Tuck and Margaret Smith Tuck. 1853 April 18 BANC MSS C-B 879

Physical Description: 1 letter
Language of Material: English
Additional Note
This material was selectively digitized from a larger resource or collection.

box 2, folder 4  
Tuck, Samuel (brother) 1847
box 2, folder 5  
Wild, Zemas P. and Margaret Tuck (brother-in-law and sister) 1837-1855

Letter from Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh to her sister and brother-in-law, Margaret Tuck Wild and Zemas Wild. 1851 July 14 BANC MSS C-B 879

Physical Description: 1 letter
Additional Note
This material was selectively digitized from a larger resource or collection.

box 2, folder 5  
Letter from Abigail Smith Tuck Marsh to her sister and brother-in-law. 1852 August 29 BANC MSS C-B 879

Physical Description: 1 letter
Additional Note
This material was selectively digitized from a larger resource or collection.

box 2, folder 6  
Sarah (aunt?) 1846, 1852

Alice Marsh Cameron 1864-1927 Series 3

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence; writings, including various manuscript drafts on John Marsh, a draft on the Tuck family, notes; a cookbook; journals; diaries; scrapbooks with newspaper clippings; and miscellany.

box 2, folder 7  
Correspondence with family 1864, 1881, 1891-1913
Correspondence with others

box 2, folder 8  
Appleton, John N. 1886 June 11
box 2, folder 9  
The Bancroft Library: Morrison, George H. undated
box 2, folder 10  
Bidwell, John, 1819-1900 1890 December 7
box 2, folder 11  
Crow (?), S.E. 1909, 1912
box 2, folder 12  
De Golia, Nettie G. 1908, 1910

Marshall Family Papers, 1815-1960  
BANC MSS C-B 879
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Freitas, Ada M. 1916, 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Smith, William W. 1876 April 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Miscellaneous 1888-1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Written drafts and related materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Life of Dr. John Marsh undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>A California Romance in Real Life: One Mans Life on the Frontier undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>A Pioneers Life in California undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>History of the Life of John Marsh (notebook with draft and notes) undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Dr. John Marsh: The Pioneer Physician undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>The Doctor Marsh Story undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Adobe House (sketch and background materials) 1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Interviews and information related to John Marsh 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Notes and newspaper articles related to John Marsh 1892, 1901, 1909, undated 24-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tuck Family History in America (draft, background materials, and notes) undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Travel journal of European trip 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Daily notes 1886, 1890-1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Cookbook/scrapbook with recipes, newspaper clippings, and handwritten notes 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Legal papers 1898-1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Scrapbooks with newspaper articles related to wills and testaments, poultry raising, and miscellaneous topics 1879-1885, 1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wedding invitation 1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Miscellaneous 1864, 1880, 1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10-22</td>
<td>Correspondence with family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brown, Elam C. (cousin) 1890 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cameron, Amy Gertrude (daughter) 1906, 1910-1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cameron, Viola J. (second wife) 1897 April 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Emry, David F. (uncle) 1891 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Miscellaneous 1891, 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Correspondence with others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Derry, C.W. 1887-1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Gardner, R. 1865 March 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ivory, M.B. 1891 December 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Stanford, Leland, 1824-1893 1886 June 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wittenmeyer, L.C. 1891 December 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Will 1886 April 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Real estate papers 1890, 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Membership certificate to the Free Masons (Oakland, California) 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Receipt for diamond ring from Louis Braverman &amp; Co. (San Francisco, California) 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1-35</td>
<td>Amy Gertrude Cameron 1817-1960 Series 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1-19</td>
<td>Physical Description: Box 4, Folders 1-35; Box 5, Folders 1-19; Box 7, Folders 7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Contains correspondence, writings, journals, notes, book reviews, materials related to John Marsh commemorative event, legal documents, and miscellany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Correspondence with family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Brown, Caroline Thelan (Cameron) 1913 December 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brown, Elam C. (cousin) 1897, 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cameron, Viola (step-mother) 1947-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Drake, Julia A. (cousin) 1948, 1956-1957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
box 4, folder 5  
Frazer, W.A. 1926, 1933

box 4, folder 6  
Marsh, Barbour E.

box 4, folder 7  
Marsh, Ewing and Adelaide, Larry, and Philip 1946, 1955

box 4, folder 8  
Marsh, John (father) and Abigail Smith Tuck (mother) 1881-1885, 1908-1912

box 4, folder 9  
Soberanes, Irene Sewell (cousin) 1941, 1945-1958

box 4, folder 10  
Wilds, A. Jennie 1912, 1930, 1935, 1940

box 4, folder 11  
Miscellaneous 1929, 1943, 1960

Correspondence with others

box 4, folder 12  
Appenzeller, Clara B. 1947-1952

box 4, folder 13  
Appenzeller, Lena M. 1953-1955

box 4, folder 14  
Armitage, Mabel Violet 1954, 1956-1957

box 4, folder 15  
Atsatt, Rodney F. 1948, 1957-1958

box 4, folder 16  
Cullimore, Clarence 1942, 1949

box 4, folder 17  

box 4, folder 18  
Goodwin, J.A. 1901, 1907, 1917

box 4, folder 19  
Greason, Annie 1952-1957

box 4, folder 20  
Herbert, F.H. 1907

box 4, folder 25  
Landers, Carrie M. 1893

box 4, folder 26  
Leonard, Anna 1939

box 4, folder 27  
Lyman, George D., 1882-1949 1927-1948

box 4, folder 28  
McGowan, Katherine 1933, 1940, 1942

box 4, folder 29  
Miller, Ernest Lee 1908-1909, 1913

box 4, folder 30  
Novack, Marilyn 1954-1955

box 4, folder 31  
Peralta, Marie Louise 1904, 1914

box 4, folder 32  
Stewart, Curtis H. 1934-1941, 1948, 1959

box 4, folder 33  
Van Meter, Betty 1952

box 4, folder 34  
Miscellaneous 1894-1956

Writings

box 5, folder 1  
Handwritten transcripts of letters, articles, and daily diary 1817-1847

box 5, folder 2  
Typescripts from The Bancroft Library 1939-1945

box 5, folder 3  
Notes undated

box 5, folder 4  
Materials related to the Cameron family history

box 5, folder 5  
Genealogy information and notes undated

box 5, folder 6  
Scrapbook with biographical information, photographs, genealogy, newspaper clippings and notes circa 1922

box 5, folder 7  
Handwritten drafts and notes on various topics undated

box 6, folder 7-8  
Diaries 1886, 1935-1940

box 5, folder 8  
Book reviews of John Marsh: Pioneer by George D. Lyman 1930

box 5, folder 9  
The Harvard Club of San Francisco, commemorative ceremony

box 5, folder 10  
Program and address by George D. Lyman 1934

box 5, folder 11  
Newspaper clippings related to the Stone House in Contra Costa County, California 1934

box 5, folder 12  
Legal documents, including will and estate papers 1938-1957

box 5, folder 13  
Materials related to employment 1900

box 5, folder 14  
Information related to the family home built by William Walker Cameron in Oakland, California 1950

box 5, folder 15  
Hair salon business cards and advertisements undated

box 5, folder 16  
Native Daughters of the Golden West, Reina Del Mar Parlor invitations and program 1951-1952, 1956

box 5, folder 17  
Calling cards undated

box 5, folder 18  
Dance programs 1892-1893

box 5, folder 19  
Miscellany 1897, 1900, 1921

box 5, folder 20  
Miscellaneous 1894-1956
Other Marsh family members: Marsh, James; Marsh, George E.; Marsh, James M. 1856-1860, 1912-1913 Series 6

Physical Description: Box 5, Folders 20-24

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence and newspaper clippings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5, 20</td>
<td>Marsh, James; correspondence 1856-1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 21</td>
<td>Marsh, George E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 22</td>
<td>Correspondence 1857 January-October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 23</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings regarding his murder 1912 April-August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 24</td>
<td>Marsh, James M.; newspaper clippings regarding his death 1913 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 24</td>
<td>Coffin, Oliver C.; correspondence 1860 September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>