Overview of the Collection

Title: Kirk Family Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1817-1913

Collection Number: mssHM 74389-74411

Creator: Kirk family.

Extent: 23 pieces + ephemera in 1 case

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This small collection contains papers of the Kirk family, a well-established Pennsylvania Quaker family. The majority of the collection consists of family letters, notes, cards and invitations between members of the Kirk, Inskeep, and Ridgway families.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. Kirk Family Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance


Biographical Note

The Kirks were a well-established Pennsylvania Quaker family, descended from John Kirk (1660-1705) who immigrated to Darby, Pa., in 1687. Joshua Paul Kirk (1841-1914), was the fourth son of Elias Kirk (1808-1889) and Rachel Paul Kirk. In August 1861, J.P. Kirk enlisted in Co. A. of the 1st Regiment of New Jersey Cavalry, and fought in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania; he was mustered out in July 1865. In 1868, J.P. Kirk married Marietta (Mame) Ridgway (1848-1884) and they had three children: Marietta Kirk (1871-1940), George Ridgway Kirk, and Morris Paul Kirk (1874-1953). Marietta, a graduate of Swarthmore College (Class of 1888), married Henry Wisdom Ragland in 1902; they had one child, Morris Kirk Ragland (b. 1904).

The Ridgways were related to Ephraim Inskeep (1795-1881), a successful New Jersey-born miller, and his wife Mary Olden Inskeep (1795-1875). Inskeep's stepdaughter Margaretta married William Ridgway (ca. 1805-1849) in 1830 and they had four children: William Olden Ridgway (1834-1925), Ephraim Inskeep Ridgway (1835-1913), George K. Ridgway (b. ca. 1844) and Mary Ridgway. After both Margaretta and William Ridgway succumbed to cholera in 1849, the children went to live with their Inskeep grandparents. William and George Ridgway also served in the Civil War before moving west, along with their sister Mary.

Scope and Content

The papers consist of the following:

1. Correspondence, Manuscript, Document and Ephemera (1 tan rope case). The material includes one manuscript, one document and 16 pieces of ephemera; the majority of the collection consists of family letters, notes, cards and invitations between members of the Kirk, Inskeep, and Ridgway families. The most noteworthy of these are the letters written by Joshua Paul Kirk, in 1862, detailing his experiences in the Civil War.

The other family members include: Ephraim Inskeep, Mary Olden Inskeep, Elias Kirk, Joshua Paul Kirk, Marietta Ridgway Kirk, Morris Paul Kirk, Marietta Kirk Ragland, Ephraim Inskeep Ridgway, Mary Ridgway, and William Olden Ridgway. There are also letters to and from various friends and assorted family members.

Arrangement
The Correspondence, manuscript, and document are arranged chronologically, followed by three folders of ephemera.

- Inskeep, Mary Olden, 1795-1875. Joint addressee with Ephraim Inskeep, 1795-1881, note from Esther L. Thomas and Jacob Jackson, (1826, Apr.). HM 74390.
- Jackson, Jacob. Joint author with Esther L. Thomas, note to Ephraim Inskeep, 1795-1881 and Mary Olden Inskeep, 1795-1875, (1826, Apr.). HM 74390.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Kirk family -- Archives.
Jackson, Stonewall, 1824-1863.
United States. Army. New Jersey Cavalry Regiment, 1st (1861-1865)
Dreams -- United States -- History -- 18th century.
Quakers -- Pennsylvania -- Archives.
Quaker women -- United States -- History.
Pennsylvania -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives.

Forms/Genres
Documents -- United States -- 19th century.
Ephemera -- United States -- 19th century.
Family papers -- United States -- 19th century.
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century.
Manuscripts -- United States -- 19th century.

Additional Contributors
Inskeep, Ephraim, 1795-1881.
Inskeep, Mary Olden, 1795-1875.
Kirk, Elias, 1808-1889.
Kirk, Joshua Paul, 1841-1914.
Kirk, Marietta Ridgway, 1848-1884.
Kirk, Morris Paul, 1874-1953.
Ragland, Marietta Kirk, 1871-1940.
Ridgway, Ephraim Inskeep, 1835-1913.
Ridgway, Mary.
Ridgway, William Olden, 1834-1925.

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1817, Nov. [Inskeep, Ann B. and Glover, John P.] 1 note to Mary H. Oldden, A.N. (1 p.). HM 74389
Note: written in the third person; a dinner invitation. Also enclosed: fragment of an autograph poem: “Night oer the world her curtain...,” also an envelope addressed to “Messrs. Ridgway.”

1826, Apr. [Thomas, Esther L. and Jackson, Jacob.] 1 note to Ephraim Inskeep, 1795-1881, and Mary Olden Inskeep, 1795-1875, A.N. (1 p.), ([New Jersey]). HM 74390
Note: written in the third person; a dinner invitation.

Note: first page titled: “A Remarkable Dream the 30th of the 10th Month 1762;” also 6 blank pages.

Note: addressed to “Dear Cousin Mary.”

Note: addressed to “Dear Cousin Ephraim.”

With envelope.

Incomplete.

[1862, June?]. [Kirk, Joshua Paul, 1841-1914]. 1 letter to ------, A.L. (1 p.). HM 74397
Incomplete, fragment only. Cataloger’s Note: probably written to his father, Elias Kirk, 1808-1889.

Incomplete. Cataloger’s Note: probably written to his father, Elias Kirk, 1808-1889.

1866, May [1?]. [Kirk, Marietta Ridgway, 1848-1884]. 1 letter to [Melie], A.L.S. (3 p.). HM 74399
Note: signed “Mame.”

Note: addressed to “Mame.”
   Note: addressed to “Dear Friend.”

   Note: addressed to “My Dear Friend Mame.”

   Note: first paragraph very faded; on verso: autograph note in an unknown hand.

   Note: written out by a clerk, signed and dated by Ephraim Inskeep.

   Note: addressed to “Dear Grandaughter” from “Thy Loving Grandma.”

   Note: addressed to “Dear Sister.” Followed by: A.L.S. from Joshua Paul Kirk, 1841-1914, to Marietta Kirk Ragland... (3 p.).

   Note: addressed to “My dear Sister.” Followed by: A.L.S. from Joshua Paul Kirk, 1841-1914, to Marietta Kirk Ragland... (2 p.).

   Note: addressed to “Dear Daughter.”

   Note: addressed to “My Dear Sister.” Followed by: A.L.S. from Joshua Paul Kirk, 1841-1914, to Marietta Kirk Ragland... (1 p.).

   Note: addressed to “Dear Daughter.”

   Note: addressed to “Dear Mamie.”

Folder 24  Ephemera: Printed Clippings, (6 pieces). [Approximately 1820?-1902]
   Note: fragile -- please do not remove from mylar.

Folder 25  Ephemera: Wedding invitation, calling card, and misc. envelopes, (6 pieces). 1861-1868

Folder 26  Ephemera: Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. and Arizona Meat Products Company, stock certificates, (4 pieces). 1905-1913
   Note: certificates made out to Marietta Kirk Ragland and Henry Wisdom Ragland.