Moses A. McCoid Papers: Finding Aid

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
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URL: http://www.huntington.org
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Overview of the Collection
Title: Moses A. McCoid Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1859-1884
Collection Number: mssHM 74211-74296
Extent: 107 items in 3 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection contains letters chiefly written by Iowa lawyer, Civil War soldier (and later second lieutenant), and
Iowa State Senator Moses A. McCoid (1840-1904), to his wife Helen, and dating from 1859 to 1884.
Language: English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Moses A. McCoid Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Gift of Hugh Evans, August 31, 2010.
Biographical Note
Moses Ayers McCoid was born to Robert McCoid and Jean Bain McCoid near Bellefontaine, Ohio, November 5, 1840. He
attended Fairfield University, Iowa and Washington College (now Washington and Jefferson College) in Washington,
Pennsylvania. He studied law in Fairfield, Iowa and was admitted to the bar in 1861 where he began practicing law. In May
of 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company E, Second Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. (McCoid was later commissioned
a second lieutenant). The regiment was organized at Keokuk and mustered in May 27, 1861. Until July 26, 1861, the men
were guarding headquarters at St. Joseph, Mo. and later in the summer and early fall were posted at Bird Point, Ironton,
Pilot Knob, and Jackson, Mo. and Fort Jefferson, Ky. In February 1862, the regiment took part in the investment and capture
of Fort Donelson. It remained on duty there until it moved to Pittsburg Landing in early March. With his regiment, McCoid
fought at Shiloh (April 6-7), advance and siege of Corinth, Miss.; the march to Iuka (September 18-22), battle of Corinth
(October 3-4), Dodge's expedition to intercept Forest (Dec. 18, 1862 - Jan. 3, 1863) and expeditions to Hamburg (Jan. 26,
1863) and to Jacinto (Feb. 25-27.) Following Dodge's Expedition into Northern Alabama in April, the men were posted on
duty at Corinth where they remained until August and then at LaGrange until November 1. On Nov. 1-11, they marched to
Pulaski, Tenn. and remained on duty there along the Nashville & Decatur Railroad, and at Decatur until May 1864. While on
furlough in September 1863, he married Helen Ireland in Jacksonville, Illinois. He was discharged in May 1864 and resumed
the practice of law in Fairfield. In 1866 he became district attorney of the sixth judicial district of Iowa. In 1871, McCoid was
elected to the Iowa State Senate; he served from 1872 to 1879. In 1878 he was elected as a Republican to the 46th, 47th
and 48th congresses (1879 to 1885). In 1884 he was unsuccessful in his re-nomination for Congress and went back to
practice law in Fairfield, Iowa where he died on May 19, 1904.
Scope and Content
The papers consist of 86 letters, the majority of which were written by Moses to his wife Helen. Three letters were written
by Helen to Moses. The letters are organized chronologically.
The pre-Civil War letters were written between 1859 and 1861 when McCoid was in Fairfield, Iowa reading law with James F.
Wilson. In these letters, Moses is wooing Helen. He reminds her of the time they met and talks about their future together
despite her parents being against the match.
The Civil War letters cover the period of May 1861 to April 1864. These intensely emotional love letters are filled with the young man’s longing for his “dear Helen,” and his attachment to “our flag” and country. The letters discuss war news and politics, army life (rations, attending church services, conflicts with commanding officers, etc.) including a detailed account of the Battle of Shiloh and Moses’ take on the Emancipation Proclamation. He also talks about his regiment, the 2nd Iowa Infantry Regiment (1861-1864), courts-martial, the siege of Vicksburg, G. T. Beauregard, Braxton Bragg, Ambrose Burnside, Grenville Dodge, John Charles Frémont, H. W. Halleck, William Hardee, Joseph Hooker, Abraham Lincoln, John A. Logan, Gideon Pillow, Samuel Sturgis, Libby Prison and war prisoners, and slavery. One of the letters includes a hand-drawn map of the Battle of Shiloh with a list of casualties from Co. E. Many letters were written on ornate patriotic stationery, some with illustrated envelopes as well.

The post-war letters were written by McCoid when he was a member of the Iowa State Senate living in Des Moines and Washington, D. C. In these letters he talks about politics in Iowa and his dislike of being away from his wife and family.

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

Subjects
Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893.
Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876.
Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1824-1881.
Dodge, Grenville Mellen, 1831-1916.
Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890.
Hardee, William Joseph, 1815-1873.
Hooker, Joseph, 1814-1879.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
Logan, John Alexander, 1826-1886.
McCoid, M. A. (Moses Ayers), 1840-1904.
Pillow, Gideon Johnson, 1806-1878.
Sturgis, Samuel Davis, 1822-1889.
Libby Prison.
United States. Army. Iowa Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1864)
Courts-martial and courts of inquiry -- United States -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Politicians -- Iowa -- Correspondence.
Shiloh, Battle of, Tenn., 1862.
Slavery -- United States -- History -- Sources.
Des Moines (Iowa)
Fairfield (Iowa)
Iowa -- Politics and government -- 19th century -- Sources.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Correspondence.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Prisoners and prisons.
Vicksburg (Miss.) -- History -- Siege, 1863.
Washington (D.C.)

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century.

Indexing: Subjects
Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893.
  • Subject in letter (1862, Apr. 11) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74232.
  • Subject in letter (1862, Aug. 21) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74233.
Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876.
  • Subject in letter (1862, Aug. 21) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74233.
Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1824-1881.
- Subject in letter (1863, Jan. 4) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74241.

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry - United States - Civil War, 1861-1865.
- Subject in letter (1863, Mar. 29) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74245.
- Subject in letter (1863, Aug. 10) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74253.

Dodge, Grenville Mellen, 1831-1916.
- Subject in letter (1862, Dec. 4) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74237.
- Subject in letter (1863, May 13) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74246.

Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890.
- Subject in letter (1861, Aug. 6) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74222.
- Subject in letter (1862, Sep. 8-10) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74234.

Hardee, William Joseph, 1815-1873.
- Subject in letter (1861, Aug. 18) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74223.

Hooker, Joseph, 1814-1879.
- Subject in letter (1863, June 22) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74249.

Libby Prison.
- Subject in letter (1863, Dec. 7) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74258.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
- Subject in letter (1862, Dec. 4) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74237.
- Subject in letter (1863, Jan. 31) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74242.

Logan, John Alexander, 1826-1886.
- Subject in letter (1863, Aug. 8) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74252.

Pillow, Gideon Johnson, 1806-1878.
- Subject in letter (1861, Aug. 6) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74222.

Shiloh, Battle of, Tenn., 1862.
- Subject in letter (1862, Apr. 11) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74232.

Slavery - United States - History - Sources.
- Subject in letter (1863, Jan. 31) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74242.

Sturgis, Samuel Davis, 1822-1889.
- Subject in letter (1862, Jan. 1) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74229.

United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Prisoners and prisons.
- Subject in letter (1863, Dec. 7) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74258.

- Subject in letter (1863, Jan. 31) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74242.

Vicksburg (Miss.) - History - Siege, 1863.
- Subject in letter (1863, June 2) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74247.
- Subject in letter (1863, June 22) from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74249.

Correspondence

Box 1

1859-[before 1863]
- [1859, Nov. 29]. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete. HM 74211
- [1859, Dec. 5]. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74212
- [1859]. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74213

Moses A. McCoid Papers: Finding Aid mssHM 74211-74296
1860, Apr. 1. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74215
1860, Apr. 22. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74216
[1860]. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74218
1861, May 27. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74220
1861, July 17. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74221
1861, Aug. 6. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Letter is ripped. Loss of text. HM 74222
1861, Aug. 18. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74223
1861, Nov. 18. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74226
1861, Nov. 28. 1 letter from Helen McCoid to M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904. With envelope. HM 74227
1862, Jan. 1. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete. HM 74229
1862, Jan. 28. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74230
1862, Feb. 12. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. In fragile condition; Torn; loss of text. HM 74231
1862, Apr. 11. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Includes hand-drawn map of Battle of Shiloh and list of casualties (on verso). HM 74232
1862, Aug. 21. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74233
1862, Sep. 8-10. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74234
1862, Sep. 22. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74235
1862, Sep. 29. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete? With envelope. HM 74236
1862, Dec. 4. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete? HM 74237
1862, Dec. 20. 1 letter from Helen McCoid to M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904. HM 74238
1863, Jan. 4. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74241
1863, Feb. 28. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete. HM 74243
1863, Mar. 7-8. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74244
1863, Mar. 29. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74245
1863, May 13. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74246
1863, June 2. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74247
1863, June 15. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete. HM 74248
1863, June 22. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74249
1863, June 30. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74250
1863, Aug. 8. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74252
1863, Aug. 10. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74253
1863, Sep. 25. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74254
1863, Oct. 27. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74255
1863, Nov. 3. . 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74256
1863, Nov. 29. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74257
1863, Dec. 7. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74258
1863, Dec. 11. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74259
1864, Feb. 9. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74263
1864, Feb. 11. 1 letter from Helen McCoid to M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904. With envelope. HM 74264
1864, Feb. 29. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74265
1864, Mar. 17. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74267
1864, Mar. 31. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74268
1864, Apr. 9. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74269
1864, Apr. 29. 1 letter from Helen McCoid to M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904. HM 74270
1871, Apr. 16. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74271
1872, Mar. 23. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74274
Box 3
1873-1884, undated and empty envelopes
[1873], Jan. 25. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete. HM 74276
[1873], Jan. 26. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74277
1873, Feb. 1. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74278
1875, May 3. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74280
1876, July 2. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete. With envelope. HM 74281
[1877], Jan. 31. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. Incomplete. HM 74282
[1877], Mar. 3. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74283
1880, Feb. 10. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Permelia. HM 74286
1880, Feb. 16. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With receipt and envelope. HM 74287
1880, Apr. 12. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74289
1880, May 22. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74291
1880, July 9. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74292
1884, May 27. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74293
1884, June 18. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. With envelope. HM 74294
[undated]. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74295
[undated]. 1 letter from M. A. (Moses Ayers) McCoid, 1840-1904 to Helen McCoid. HM 74296
Empty envelopes (1860-1884). 19 items.