Shorey Family Papers mssShorey

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The Huntington Library
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**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** The Huntington Library

**Title:** Shorey family papers

**Creator:** Shorey (Family : 1873-1905)

**Identifier/Call Number:** mssShorey

**Physical Description:** 1.25 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

**Date (inclusive):** 1873-1905

**Abstract:** The Shorey family correspondence consists primarily of letters to and from Louisa Dunham Shorey of Belfast, Maine, dating from 1873-1905.

**Conditions Governing Access**

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**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item]. Shorey family papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Purchased from McBride Rare Books, January 2019 and July 2019.

**Biographical / Historical**

Louisa Dunham Shorey (1837-1907) of Belfast, Maine was married to Wellington Shorey (1831-1903), a farmer. The couple had seven children: Raymond, Robert, John D., and James W., who all settled in the Montana Territory as well as Jennie, Emma, and Charles, who remained in Maine. Raymond was a farmer who settled in Roberts, Montana, southwest of Billings. Robert (variously Bert or B.G.) purchased a ranch, worked successfully as a sheep rancher, and eventually rose to prominence as a businessman in Billings. John D. worked in White Sulphur Springs as a contractor, builder, and, occasionally, in the mines as an operator. James worked as a farmer and stockman in Richland County. Jennie married a farmer, Emma was a spinster, and Charles was a farmer.

**Scope and Contents**

The Shorey family correspondence consists primarily of letters to and from Louisa Dunham Shorey, of Belfast, Maine and her children, dating from 1873-1905. The letters document a close-knit family who kept in touch across the continent, with numerous letters exchanged between Maine and various locations in Montana and Saugatuck, Michigan. The letters from her sons in Montana relate the difficulties of life on the booming Montana frontier, with details of sheep farming, wild weather, the high cost of goods, and farming on the plains. Raymond's wife, Carrie, provides a more family-centric glimpse of the hardships faced out in the Montana territory. The letters written closer to home by residents of Maine and Massachusetts frequently mention the spiritualism movement, especially among Shorey's female acquaintances. Included are references to Temple Heights, a spiritualist summer camp on Penobscot Bay, Maine, and correspondence from the American College of Sciences in Philadelphia, acknowledging Shorey's order for a course of instruction on personal magnetism and hypnotism. Other correspondents include Shorey's sister, grandchildren, and various other family members. Included in the collection are financial records, manuscripts, and printed ephemera.

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Frontier and pioneer life -- Montana
Ranch life -- Montana
Ranchers -- Montana
Spiritualism -- Maine
Women -- West (U.S.) -- History
Maine -- Description and travel
Michigan -- Description and travel
Montana -- Description and travel
Montana -- Social life and customs
Letters (correspondence)
Shorey, Louisa Dunham, 1837-1907

Box 1, Folder 1  1873-1888
Box 1, Folder 2  1889-1890
Box 1, Folder 3  1891
Box 1, Folder 4  1892
Box 1, Folder 5  1893
Box 1, Folder 6  1894
Box 1, Folder 7  1896
Box 1, Folder 8  1897
Box 1, Folder 9  1898
Box 2, Folder 1  1899 January
Box 2, Folder 2  1899 February
Box 2, Folder 3  1899 March
Box 2, Folder 4  1899 April-July
Box 2, Folder 5  1899 August-December
Box 2, Folder 6  1900
Box 2, Folder 7  1900

Scope and Contents
Empty envelopes, receipts, and an invitation only.

Box 2, Folder 8  1901 January-April
Box 3, Folder 1  1901 May-December
Box 3, Folder 2  1902 February-March, 1903 January-May
Box 3, Folder 3  1903 October-December
Box 3, Folder 4  1904-1905
Box 3, Folder 5  Undated

Scope and Contents
Includes: Incomplete letters.