Overview of the Collection

Title: Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1856-1869

Collection Number: mssHM 68280-68322

Creator: Thornton, Lucy Smith Crittenden.

Extent: 43 items in 1 box

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 collection contains 43 letters of Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton (1802-1885), wife of United States Government Land Commissioner in California Harry Innes Thornton (1797-1861), chiefly to her son attorney Harry Innes Thornton, Jr., as well as other Thornton family members. Even though the letters chiefly deal with family matters and the Thorntons' social lives in San Francisco and Oakland, California, many of the letters also discuss the social conditions in the post-Civil War South and family friends who left the South because of failing plantations.

Language: English.

Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Biographical Note
Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton (1802-1885), sister of Kentucky Senator John J. Crittenden, was married to Harry Innes Thornton (1797-1861), Judge of the Supreme Court of Alabama. The couple had four children: Harry Innes Thornton, Jr., Bessie Thornton, Margaret Thornton Fall, and Sarah (Sallie) Thornton. In 1849 the Thorntons moved to San Francisco, California after President Fillmore appointed Harry Innes Thornton Government Land Commissioner. Harry Innes Thornton, Jr., became an attorney and politician. Although the Thorntons lived in California, the family remained loyal to Alabama and the South and when the Civil War began Harry Innes Thornton, Jr., resigned his position as California State Senator, traveled to Alabama and joined the 58th Alabama Infantry. After the war, Harry Innes Thornton, Jr., lived in Texas, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and California while he continued to practice law, specializing in mining litigation and criminal defense. The younger Thornton married his cousin Katherine Marshall Thornton in 1868.

Bibliography

Scope and Content
The collection consists of 43 letters. Thirty of the 43 letters are from Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton to her son Harry Innes Thornton, Jr. The remaining letters are written by other Thornton family members including (piece counts in parenthesis): Bessie Thornton (3), Sarah Thornton (2), Margaret Thornton Fall (1), Katherine Marshall Thornton (2), Harry I. Thornton, Jr. (3), and Ann Mary [last name unknown] (2). Even though the letters chiefly deal with family matters and the Thorntons' social lives in San Francisco and Oakland, California, many of the letters also discuss the social conditions in the post-war South and family friends who left the South because of failing plantations. The Thorntons also comment upon the numerous “Yankees” with whom they have to socialize after the war. The family also mentions the freedmen in the South, Jefferson Davis, the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, and politics in California. The 3 letters by Harry I. Thornton, Jr.,
discuss his travels in the American Southwest, his legal career, and specific court cases with which he was involved. Harry I. Thornton, Sr., is mentioned briefly in one letter.

**Arrangement**
Arranged chronologically.

**Indexing: Subjects**

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875, Impeachment. Subject in Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895 letter (1868, Mar. 21) to Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton.


**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](https://www.huntington.org).

**Subjects**
Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863 -- Family -- Correspondence.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875 -- Impeachment.
Thornton, Harry I. (Harry Innes), 1797-1861.
Thornton, Lucy Smith Crittenden.
Freedmen -- Southern States -- History -- Sources.
Lawyers -- West (U.S.)
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- Public opinion -- Sources.
Veterans -- Confederate States of America.
Women -- California -- Correspondence.
California -- Politics and government -- 19th century.
California -- Social life and customs.
Oakland (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
San Francisco (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
Southern States -- Social conditions -- 19th century -- Sources.
United States -- Politics and government -- 19th century.

**Forms/Genres**
Letters (correspondence) -- California -- 19th century.

**Additional Contributors**
Thornton, Harry I. (Harry Innes), 1834-1895.

**Box 1**

**Correspondence**

HM 68280

1861, Apr. 1. Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895, letter to Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton. HM 68281

1864, Feb. 3. Sarah Thornton letter to Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton. HM 68282

1865, Nov. 17. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68283

1865, Dec. 27. Margaret Thornton Fall letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68284


[1866], Jan. 31. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68287
1866, Feb. 22. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68288
1866, May 12. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68290
[1866], June 13. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68291
[1866, after June 13]. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68292
1866, July 22. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68294
1866, Aug. 29. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68296
1866, Sep. 23. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68297
1866, Oct. 5. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68298
1866, Nov. 4. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68300
1866, Nov. 10. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68301
1866, Nov. 21. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68302
[1866], Dec. 22. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68303
[1866]. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68304
[1866]. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68305
[Approximately 1866]. Ann Mary S---- letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68306
1867, Feb. 22. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68308
1867, Mar. 5. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68309
1867, May 5. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68313
1867, May 10. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68314
1867, May 25. Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68315

Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton
Papers: Finding Aid
mssHM 68280-68322
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1867, June 20.</td>
<td>Sarah Thornton to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68318</td>
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<td>1867, Sep. 16.</td>
<td>Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68319</td>
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<td>1869, Feb. 1.</td>
<td>Lucy Smith Crittenden Thornton letter to Harry I. (Harry Innes) Thornton, 1834-1895. HM 68322</td>
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