
Guide to the Reid Family Papers MSS.1986.9.11

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Contributing Institution: Archives & Special Collections, Santa Clara University Library

Title: Reid Family Papers

creator: Reid, Bernard J. (Bernard Joseph), 1823-1904

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Date (inclusive): 1827-1961 (bulk 1846-1916)

Abstract: The Reid Family Papers, 1827-1961 (bulk 1846-1916), document the personal and professional lives of several members of the Reid family. This collection includes material related to Bernard J. Reid's 1849 overland journey to California from Missouri, including his personal diary from the trip. The records consist of correspondence, business documents, poetry, journals, annotated books, photographs, newspaper clippings, and maps. This collection is arranged into four series: Series I. Bernard J. Reid Papers, 1840-1961 (bulk 1840-1904); Series II. Ambrose Reid Papers, 1871-1935 (bulk 1871-1916); Series III. Reid Family Diaries, Books and Miscellanea, 1843-1940 (bulk 1861-1918); and Series IV. Reid Family Photographs, 1849-1902 (bulk 1860-1880).

This collection is located in Santa Clara University Library's Archives & Special Collections.

Language of Material: English



Access

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Preferred Citation

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Processing Information

Collection processed by Michelle Runyon. Finding aid EAD encoded by Shannon Hartman. Reviewed by Erin Louthen. Folder-level descriptive information added by Daniela Baez and Mia Hope in 2018.

Biographical History

Bernard J. Reid was born April 24, 1823 in Youngstown, Pennsylvania, the son of Irish immigrants. At the age of seventeen, B.J. Reid became the teacher of the district school at Pleasant Unity, Pennsylvania. When he was nineteen, he moved to Clarion, Pennsylvania where he taught school and did land surveying. The following year, he and his brother John C. Reid founded and published *The Iron County Democrat*, which later became *The Clarion Democrat*.

In 1849, Reid participated in the great migration to Gold Rush California. Upon his arrival in California, after a difficult overland journey with the Pioneer Line, Reid worked as a miner near Weber's Creek. In 1851, Reid arrived at the newly established Santa Clara College where he became one of the school's first lay professors. He worked closely with Fr. Nobili, the founder of Santa Clara College, and other faculty to assist with the school's establishment. He taught English and mathematics there until 1852.

In 1852, Reid returned to Clarion, Pennsylvania by way of the Isthmus of Panama. In Clarion, he completed his legal studies and was admitted to the bar on December 3, 1853. Reid married Letitia Farran in 1854, daughter of John and Letitia Farran. Together, they had nine children, including Ambrose, whose papers are also included in this collection. During the Civil War, Reid served as Captain of Company F, 63rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. Following the war, he resumed an active legal practice in Clarion.

Bernard J. Reid died on November 15, 1904 in Pittsburgh as a result of an attack of pneumonia.

Ambrose Reid was born on February 3, 1857 in Clarion, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame and then began to study law under his father in 1875. In 1878, Ambrose was admitted to the bar and became a member of his father's firm. In 1911, he ran for and won the office of judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. He served in this office for the remainder of his life. In December 1933, Ambrose was bestowed the honor of becoming the fifth

president judge of Allegheny County. Like his father, Ambrose took an active interest in the community and was a member of several religious and civic groups.

Ambrose Reid died in 1941 as a result of a long term illness.

Note: Most of the biographical information contained here comes from a legacy finding aid, which we believe drew much of its information from the collection itself.

Organizational History

Santa Clara University was founded in 1851 by the Society of Jesus as Santa Clara College and is California's oldest operating institution of higher learning. It was established on the grounds of Mission Santa Clara de Asis, the eighth of the original 21 California missions. The college originally operated as a preparatory school and did not offer courses of collegiate rank until 1853. The institution became known as the University of Santa Clara in 1912, when the schools of engineering and law were added. For 110 years, Santa Clara University was an all-male school. In 1961, women were accepted as undergraduates and Santa Clara University became the first coeducational Catholic university in California. The number of students and faculty tripled over the next decade and the university began the largest building program in school history with eight residence halls, a student union, and an athletic stadium. In the early 1970s, the Board of Trustees voted to limit the size of the undergraduate population, an action that was intended to preserve the character and ensure the quality of the university for generations to come. In 1985, the university adopted Santa Clara University as its official name.

Bibliography:

Santa Clara University. "About SCU - History." www.scu.edu/about/history.cfm (Accessed Nov. 23, 2010)

McKevitt, Gerald, S.J. *The University of Santa Clara: A History, 1851-1977*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1979.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into four series: Series I. Bernard J. Reid Papers, 1840-1961 (bulk 1840-1904); Series II. Ambrose Reid Papers, 1871-1935 (bulk 1871-1916); Series III. Reid Family Diaries, Books and Miscellanea, 1843-1940 (bulk 1861-1918); and Series IV. Reid Family Photographs, 1849-1902 (bulk 1860-1880).

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Reid Family Papers, 1827-1961 (bulk 1846-1916), document the personal and professional lives of several members of the Reid family. This collection includes material related to Bernard J. Reid's 1849 overland journey to California from Missouri, including his personal diary from the trip. The records predominantly consist of the personal papers of Bernard J. Reid and his son Ambrose Reid. Bernard J. Reid was the first lay faculty member at Santa Clara College, now called Santa Clara University, and a successful lawyer in Clarion, Pennsylvania. Ambrose Reid was also a successful lawyer and judge of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Overland to California with the Pioneer Line: The Gold Rush Diary of Bernard J. Reid <https://sculib.scu.edu/record=b1094580>

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Santa Clara University -- History

Education, Higher -- California -- San Jose

Pioneers -- California -- Biography

Santa Clara College (Calif.)

University of Santa Clara (Calif.)

Santa Clara University (Calif.)

Series I. Bernard J. Reid Papers, 1840-1961 (bulk 1840-1904)

Scope and Content

This series documents the personal and professional life of Bernard J. Reid. The series consists primarily of correspondence, newspaper clippings, genealogical material, legal paperwork, financial paperwork, and miscellaneous notes. Bernard Reid kept newspaper clippings related to the treatment of Catholics in the United States, which is included here. Also included is correspondence written over a range of years, from Reid's time spent in California in a variety of occupations to his return to Clarion, Pennsylvania, as well as his career as a lawyer.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by subject.

box 1

Box 1: Correspondence, Wills, Obituaries, and Genealogical Documents, 1840-1961

Folder 1: Biographical Sketches of B.J. Reid, undated

Folder 2: B.J. Reid Obituaries, undated

Folder 3: Genealogical Materials, Reid Family Obituaries, undated

Folder 4: Reid Family Wills, undated

Folder 5: Farran Family Items and Obituaries, undated

Folder 6: John Farran, Golden Jubilee, undated

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1840

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1841

Folder 9: Correspondence, 1842

Folder 10: Correspondence, 1843

Folder 11: Correspondence, 1844

Folder 12: Correspondence, 1846

Folder 13: Correspondence, 1847

Folder 14: Correspondence, 1848-1849

Folder 15: Correspondence, 1850

Folder 16: Correspondence, 1851

Folder 17: Correspondence, 1852

Folder 18: Correspondence, 1853

Folder 19: Correspondence, 1854

Folder 20: Correspondence, 1854

Folder 21: Correspondence, 1855

Folder 22: Correspondence, 1856

Folder 23: Correspondence, 1856

Folder 24: Correspondence, 1859

Folder 25: Correspondence, 1860

Folder 26: Correspondence, 1860

Folder 27: Correspondence, Incoming, 1861

Folder 28: Correspondence, Incoming, 1861

Folder 29: Correspondence, Incoming, 1861

Folder 30: Correspondence, Incoming, 1861

Folder 31: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1861

Folder 32: Correspondence, Outgoing 1861

Folder 33: Correspondence, Incoming, 1862

Folder 34: Correspondence, Incoming, 1862

Folder 35: Correspondence, Incoming, 1862

Folder 36: Correspondence, Incoming, 1862

Folder 37: Correspondence, 1862

Folder 38: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1862

Folder 39: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1862

box 2

Box 2: Correspondence, 1863-1904

Folder 40: Correspondence, Incoming, 1863

Folder 41: Correspondence, Incoming, 1863

Folder 42: Correspondence, Incoming, 1863

Folder 43: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1863

Folder 44: Correspondence, Incoming, 1864
Folder 45: Correspondence, 1864
Folder 46: Correspondence, 1865
Folder 47: Correspondence, 1866-1870
Folder 48: Correspondence, Incoming, 1871-1872
Folder 49: Correspondence, Outgoing 1872
Folder 50: Correspondence, 1873
Folder 51: Correspondence, 1873
Folder 52: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1873
Folder 53: Correspondence, 1874
Folder 54: Correspondence, 1875
Folder 55: Correspondence, 1876-1877
Folder 56: Correspondence, 1879
Folder 57: Correspondence, 1880
Folder 58: Correspondence, 1881-1882
Folder 59: Correspondence, 1883
Folder 60: Correspondence, 1884
Folder 61: Correspondence, 1885-1886
Folder 62: Correspondence, 1886
Folder 63: Correspondence, 1887
Folder 64: Correspondence, 1888
Folder 65: Correspondence, 1889
Folder 66: Correspondence, 1890
Folder 67: Correspondence, 1891
Folder 68: Correspondence, 1892
Folder 69: Correspondence, 1893
Folder 70: Correspondence, 1894
Folder 71: Correspondence, 1895
Folder 72: Correspondence, 1896
Folder 73: Correspondence, 1897-1898
Folder 74: Correspondence, 1899
Folder 75: Correspondence, 1900-1901
Folder 76: Correspondence, 1902
Folder 77: Correspondence, Incoming, 1903
Folder 78: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1903
Folder 79: Correspondence, Incoming, 1904
Folder 80: Correspondence, Incoming, 1904

box 3

Box 3: Speeches, Correspondence, Poetry, and Miscellaneous Notes, 1840-1904
Folder 81: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1904
Folder 82: Letters of Condolence 1, 1904
Folder 83: Letters of Condolence 2, 1904
Folder 84: Letters of Condolence 3, 1904
Folder 85: Letters of Condolence 4, 1904
Folder 86: Letters of Condolence 5, 1904-1905
Folder 87A: Diaries, Draft of Journal, 1904, Based on 1849 Diary, 1849-1904
Folder 87B: Diaries, Draft of Journal, 1904, Based on 1849 Diary, 1849-1904
Folder 88: Reid's 1849 Diary and Mary Gordon's Introduction, 1849
Folder 89: Diary Notes, 1886
Folder 90: Diaries, 1891
Folder 91: Letters to the Editor, 1840-1849
Folder 92: Letters to the Editor, 1850-1859
Folder 93: Letters to the Editor, 1860-1869
Folder 94: Letters to the Editors, 1870-1879
Folder 95: Letters to the Editor, 1880-1889
Folder 96: Letters to the Editor, 1890-1899
Folder 97: Letters to the Editor, 1900-1904
Folder 98: Mnemonics, 1830-1860, & undated
Folder 99: M.S. Semper Virgo, undated

box 4

- Folder 100: Poems, 1844-1891, & undated**
- Folder 101: Poems by Reid, 1847-1893, & undated**
- Folder 102: Poems by Reid's Relatives, 1873-1922, & undated**
- Folder 103: BJ Reid, 1945, & undated**
- Folder 104: Columbus Day Banquet, 1843-1916, & undated**
- Box 4: Miscellaneous Writings and Ephemera, 1847-1902**
- Folder 105: Notes by Reid on Peter Burnett, undated**
- Folder 106: General Momentos, 1850-1911, & undated**
- Folder 107: Momentos, Travel Souvenirs, 1847-1892, & undated**
- Folder 108: Momentos, Programs, Invitations, 1860-1891, & undated**
- Folder 109: Momentos, Calling Cards, undated**
- Folder 110: Momentos, Stationary, 1874-1904, & undated**
- Folder 111: Momentos, Religious, 1840-1907, & undated**
- Folder 112: Momentos, Religious, Holy Cards, 1877-1893, & undated**
- Folder 113: Momentos, Religious - Holy Cards, Memorials, 1878-1917, & undated**
- Folder 114: Momentos, Santa Clara College, Poems, etc., 1850-1894, & undated**
- Folder 115: Momentos, Poems by Reid 1832, & undated**
- Folder 116: Momentos, Clarion, PA, 1858, & undated**
- Folder 117: Army, 1861-1908, & undated**
- Folder 118: Momentos, Society of California Pioneers, 1891**
- Folder 119: Reminiscences of Santa Clara College, M.S. 1901**
- Folder 120: Memorial to John May Burnett, 1916**
- Folder 121: Magazine Articles and Unpublished Works by Reid, undated**
- Folder 122: Speeches by Reid (dated) 1, 1858-1896**
- Folder 123: Speeches by Reid (dated) 2, 1897-1900**
- Folder 124: Speeches by Reid (undated), undated**
- Folder 125: Magazine Articles and Other Reading Material, 1856, & undated**
- Folder 126: Medical Records of Reid, 1893**
- Folder 127: Reid's Briefs and Momentos of his Law Practice 1, 1860, & undated**
- Folder 128: Reid's Briefs and Momentos of his Law Practice 2, undated**
- Folder 129: Legal Papers of B.J. Reid's Ancestors (including John C. Reid), 1865, & undated**

box 5

- Box 5: Legal/Financial Papers and Newspaper Clippings, 1840-1900**
- Folder 130: Legal Papers of John C. Reid 1, 1861-1871**
- Folder 131: Legal Papers of John C. Reid 2, 1875-1891, & undated**
- Folder 132: Financial and Legal Information regarding Beaver Oil Co. and John C. Reid, 1861-1898, & undated**
- Folder 133: Legal Papers of Reid, 1899, & undated**
- Folder 134: Legal Papers of Charles Reid, 1890-1891**
- Folder 135: Financial Papers 1, 1867-1904, & undated**
- Folder 136: Financial Papers 2, 1870-1886, & undated**
- Folder 137: Newspaper Clippings, 1840-1849**
- Folder 138: Newspaper Clippings, 1850-1859**
- Folder 139: Newspaper Clippings, 1860-1869**
- Folder 140: Newspaper Clippings, 1870-1875**
- Folder 141: Newspaper Clippings, 1876-1879**
- Folder 142: Newspaper Clippings, 1880-1885**
- Folder 143: Newspaper Clippings, 1886-1889**
- Folder 144: Newspaper Clippings, 1890-1895**
- Folder 145: Newspaper Clippings, 1896-1899**
- Folder 146: Newspaper Clippings, 1900-1906**
- Folder 147: Newspaper Clippings, undated**
- Folder 148: Clippings on the Status of the Catholics, 1890, & undated**

frame Item 1 Map
of Route from
Mouth of the
Kansas River to
San Francisco,
California

Item 1: Map of Route from Mouth of the Kansas River to San Francisco, California, undated

Series II. Ambrose Reid Papers, 1871-1935 (bulk 1871-1916)

Scope and Content

This series documents the personal and professional life of Ambrose Reid. The series consists primarily of correspondence, poetry, campaign materials, newspaper clippings, business records and notes written by Ambrose Reid. Materials related to Ambrose Reid's campaign for county judge in 1911 are included, as well as material related to his law career. There are also poems and drawings created by Reid; some of the poetry was published in local periodicals.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by subject.

box 6

Box 6: Correspondence, 1871-1911

Folder 149: Article on Ambrose from The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, 1942

Folder 150: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1871-1872

Folder 151: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1873

Folder 152: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1874

Folder 153: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1875

Folder 154: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1875

Folder 155: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1876

Folder 156: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1876

Folder 157: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1877

Folder 158: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1878

Folder 159: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1878

Folder 160: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1879

Folder 161: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1879

Folder 162: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1880

Folder 163: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1880

Folder 164: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1881

Folder 165: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1882

Folder 166: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1883

Folder 167: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1884

Folder 168: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1885-1886

Folder 169: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1887

Folder 170: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1888

Folder 171: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1889

Folder 172: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1890-1899

Folder 173: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1901-1903

Folder 174: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1904

Folder 175: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1905

Folder 176: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1906

Folder 177: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1906

Folder 178: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1907

Folder 179: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1907

Folder 180: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1908

Folder 181: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1909

Folder 182: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1910

Folder 183: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1911

box 7

Box 7: Correspondence and Poetry, 1910-1911

Folder 184: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1911

Folder 185: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1911

- Folder 186: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1911**
- Folder 187: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1911**
- Folder 188: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1912**
- Folder 189: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1913**
- Folder 190: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1914**
- Folder 191: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1915**
- Folder 192: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1915**
- Folder 193: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1916**
- Folder 194: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1917**
- Folder 195: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1918**
- Folder 196: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1919-1920**
- Folder 197: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1921**
- Folder 198: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1922-1924**
- Folder 199: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1925-1928**
- Folder 200: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1930-1932**
- Folder 201: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1933**
- Folder 202: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1934-1936**
- Folder 203: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1937**
- Folder 204: Ambrose's Correspondence, 1938**
- Folder 205: Ambrose's Correspondence, undated**
- Folder 206: Ambrose's Correspondence, undated**
- Folder 207: Compositions by Ambrose, 1914, & undated**
- Folder 208: Compositions by Ambrose, 1893, & undated**
- Folder 209: Notes by Ambrose, undated**
- Folder 210: Manuscripts by George Potter, undated**
- Folder 211: Poems Saved by Ambrose, 1910-1911, & undated**
- Box 8: Poems, Manuscripts, and Ephemera, 1884-1934**
- Folder 212: Poems by Ambrose, 1893-1912**
- Folder 213: Manuscript by George Reid, undated**
- Folder 214: Momentos, Misc, 1891-1896**
- Folder 215: Momentos, Travel Souvenirs (Ambrose's Papers), 1903-1915, & undated**
- Folder 216: Momentos, Travel Souvenirs (Ambrose's Papers), 1903-1914**
- Folder 217: Momentos, Programs and Invitations (Ambrose's Papers), 1898-1909, & undated**
- Folder 218: Momentos, Programs and Invitations (Ambrose's Papers), 1909-1912**
- Folder 219: Momentos, Programs and Invitations (Ambrose's Papers), 1912-1916**
- Folder 220: Momentos, Programs and Invitations (Ambrose's Papers), 1915-1918**
- Folder 221: Momentos, Programs and Invitations (Ambrose's Papers) 1918-1928**
- Folder 222: Momentos, Religious (Ambrose's Papers), 1905-1917**
- Folder 223: Momentos, Religious, Holy Cards (Ambrose's Papers), 1905-1914**
- Folder 224: Momentos, Calling and Business Cards (Ambrose's Papers), 1926-1936**
- Folder 225: Momentos, Schooling (Ambrose's Papers) 1872-1921**
- Box 9: Speeches, Campaign Materials, and Ephemera, 1891-1935**
- Folder 226: Momentos, The Wind Mill, St. John's School, 1916**
- Folder 227: Momentos, The Peabody, Senior, 1917**
- Folder 228: Momentos, Ambrose's Campaign, 1911**
- Folder 229: Momentos, Ambrose's 1921, 31, and 33 Judicial Campaigns, 1921-1933**
- Folder 230: Momentos, World War I, 1914-1918**
- Folder 231: Lucy Reid's Death, 1935-1936**
- Folder 232: Speeches by Ambrose 1890-1895**
- Folder 233: Speeches by Ambrose, 1907-1912**
- Folder 234: Speeches by Ambrose, 1916-1930**
- Folder 235: Speeches by Ambrose, undated**
- Folder 236: Speeches by Ambrose, undated**
- Folder 237: Drawings by Ambrose, 1890-1891, & undated**
- Box 10: Magazine Clippings, Newspaper Clippings, Legal Papers, and Business Records, 1874-1916**

Folder 238: Magazine Articles, Ambrose's Papers, 1908-1919, & undated

Folder 239: Pamphlets, Ambrose's Papers, 1903-1915

Folder 240: Pamphlets, Ambrose's Papers, 1898-1925

Folder 241: Ambrose Reid's Law Briefs, 1921

Folder 242: Ambrose's Legal Papers (Deeds, etc.), 1908-1942

Folder 243: Ambrose's Insurance Policy, 1916-1936

Folder 244: Ambrose's Cash Records, 1891-1912

Folder 245: Ambrose's Cash Records, 1913-1942

Folder 246: Bills and Receipts, Ambrose's Papers 1903-1915

Folder 247: Bank Books, Ambrose's Papers, 1906-1918

Folder 248: Ambrose's Financial Papers, Allen Campbell Co., 1901-1914

Folder 249: Ambrose's Misc. Financial Papers, 1928-1935

Folder 250: Ambrose's Financial Papers, Tax Information, 1891-1937

Folder 251: Ambrose's Tax Returns 1929-1934

Folder 252: Newspaper Clippings, undated

Folder 253: Newspaper Clippings, 1900-1911

Folder 254: Newspaper Clippings, 1912-1919

Folder 255: Newspaper Clippings, 1920-1929

Folder 256: Newspaper Clippings, 1930-1937

Series III. Reid Family Diaries, Books, and Miscellanea, 1843-1940 (bulk 1861-1918)

Scope and Content

This series documents the personal and professional lives of various members of the Reid family. The series consists primarily of diaries, annotated books, letters, newspaper clippings, legal documents and ephemera. The biographical material found in the diaries of Bernard J. Reid is particularly useful for understanding life in early California. Also included are photocopies of letters that Bernard Reid wrote during his service in the Civil War to his family and friends.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by subject.

box 11

Box 11: Diaries of Ambrose and Kate Reid, 1874-1916

box 12

Box 12: Newspaper Clippings and Autograph Book, 1880-1915

box 13

Box 13: Diaries, Address Books, and Calling Cards, 1893-1928

box 14

Box 14: Diaries, Notebooks, and Scrapbooks, 1843-1894

box 15

Box 15: Annotated Books, 1845-1899

box 16

Box 16: Annotated Books, 1917-1918

box 17

Box 17: Diaries and Annotated Books, 1836-1935

box 18

Box 18: Notebooks and Annotated Books, 1855-1884

box 19

Box 19: Address Books, Notebooks and Annotated Books, 1859-1930

box 20

Box 20: Photocopies of Army Letters from B. Reid during the Civil War, 1861-1884

box 21

Box 21: Newspaper Clippings and Legal Documents, 1862-1940

box 22

Box 22: Diary of Bernard J. Reid, 1849

Series IV. Reid Family Photographs, 1849-1902 (bulk 1860-1880)

Scope and Content

This series documents the photographic history of the Reid family during the last half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. Included are several photographs of Bernard Reid in his Civil War uniform.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by subject.

box 23

Box 23: Reid Family Photographs, 1849-1902