**Language of Material:** English

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

**Title:** Reid Family Papers

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

**Identifier/Call Number:** MSS.1986.9.11

**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.

**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 Asís, 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:

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

Guide to the Reid Family Papers
MSS.1986.9.11

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: 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: 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 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 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