



2018

Finding Aid to the Collection of Henry Clay Merriam Materials

Henry Clay Merriam

Colby College Special Collections

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Finding Aid to the Collection of Henry Clay Merriam Materials MERRIAM.1

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Colby College Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Colby College Special Collections
Title:	Collection of Henry Clay Merriam Materials
ID:	MERRIAM.1
Date [inclusive]:	1862-1912
Physical Description:	1.5 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The collection contains letters, documents, and photographs of Merriam and his family, especially the post-Civil War period.

Preferred Citation

Collection of Henry Clay Merriam Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

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Biographical / Historical

Henry Clay Merriam (1837-1912) was born in Houlton in 1837 and entered Waterville College(now Colby College) in 1860. He enlisted in the 20th Maine Regiment in the spring of 1862 and served under Joshua Chamberlain. After the Union Army decided to allow black troops to fight, Maine men were solicited to lead black units. Merriam was one of those willing to do so and in March 1863, he was made commander of the Third Colored Infantry of Louisiana. The 3rd Infantry, later the 73rd Infantry Corps d'Afrique, was considered an excellent fighting unit under Merriam's leadership.

Merriam led his black troops on a dangerous first assault on Fort Blakely in Alabama, causing the fort to surrender and enabling the Union Army's advance into Mobile. He was made full Colonel and awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor. He was offered other commands but preferred to stay with his unit until the end of the war.

After the war he returned to Maine briefly but reenlisted in the army for a long career in the West. Merriam served during the Mexican revolution of 1868, various Indian conflicts including the last battle with Sitting Bull, and in the Spanish American War in 1898. He retired in 1901 to spend his last years in Portland.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains letters, documents, and photographs of Merriam and his family, especially the post-Civil War period.

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Arrangement

Materials arranged in two series: Correspondence and Personal documents.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Colby College Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Custodial History

Materials acquired via gift or purchase.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials to be used on site during regular Special Collections hours or by appointment.
Photocopying or scanning may be possible at discretion of staff for nominal fee. Digital cameras are permitted. Materials may be protected by copyright.

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Controlled Access Headings

- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
- Newspaper clippings
- Military and War
- Photographs
- Colbiana
- Alumnae and alumni
- Sherman, William T. (William Tecumshe), 1820-1891 (United States Army. General)
- Webb, Edmund F. (Edmund Fuller), 1835-1898 (American. Attorney)
- Bangs, Isaac S. (Isaac Sparrow), 1831-1903 (United States Army. Brigadier General)
- Merriam, Lewis, 1844-1923 (Captain, United States Army)
- Boutelle, Charles A. (Charles Addison), 1839-1901 (U.S. Representative, Maine)
- Wolcott, Edward Oliver, 1848-1905 (U.S. Senator, Colorado)
- Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925 (United States Army. Lt. General)
- Cockrell, Francis Marion, 1834-1915 (U.S. Senator, Missouri)
- Burleigh, Edwin C. (Edwin Chick), 1843-1916 (U.S. Senator, Maine)
- Hale, Eugene, 1836-1918 (U.S. Senator, (R) Maine)
- Ord, Edward Otho Cresap, 1818-1883 (United States Army. Major General)
- Doubleday, Abner, 1819-1893 (United States Army. Major General)
- Coke, Richard , 1829-1897 (U.S. Senate, Texas)
- Dunnell, Mark H. (Mark Hill), 1823-1904 (U.S. Senate, Maine)
- Hogg, James Stephen, 1851-1906 (Governor, Texas)
- Leonard Brooks Merriam
- Cyrus Knapp Merriam
- Mary Foss Merriam
- Merritt, Wesley, 1834-1910 (United States Army. Major General)
- Marsh, D. C., fl. 1873 (U.S. Customs Service, Texas)
- Gonzales, M. J., fl. 1864 (United States Army. Chaplain)
- Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914 (Educator and United States Army. Colonel)
- Hazen, William Babcock, 1830-1887 (United States Army. General)

Collection Inventory

Series A: Correspondence

Physical Description: folders

Title/Description

Instances

Folder A1: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
1863-1869

Physical Description: 27 ALS; 7 TLS.

Folder A2: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
1870

Physical Description: 35 ALS; 1 TLS.

Folder A3: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
1871-1876

Physical Description: 29 ALS; 5 TLS; 2 TL; 4 telegrams.

Folder A4: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
1880-1890

Physical Description: 6 ALS; 6 TLS; 13 TL; 13 telegrams.

Folder A5: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
1891

Physical Description: 30 ALS; 24 TLS; 13 TL; 1 telegram.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Letters from Joshua L. Chamberlain to Henry Clay Merriam, in the Joshua Chamberlain Collection. 1 ALS with enclosure, December 11, 1891.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914 (Educator and United States Army. Colonel)

Folder A6: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
1892-1893

Physical Description: 12 ALS; 3 TLS; 9 TL.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Letters from Joshua L. Chamberlain to Henry Clay Merriam, in the Joshua Chamberlain Collection. 1 ALS, June 8, 1893.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914 (Educator and United States Army. Colonel)

Folder A7: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., 1894-1895

Physical Description: 4 ALS; 9 TLS; 7 TL; 1 telegram.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Letters from Joshua L. Chamberlain to Henry Clay Merriam, in the Joshua Chamberlain Collection. 1 TL, April 18, 1895.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914 (Educator and United States Army. Colonel)

Folder A8: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., 1896

Physical Description: 2 ALS; 3 TLS; 5 TL.

Folder A9: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., January - April

Physical Description: 16 ALS; 20 TLS; 10 TL.

Folder A10: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., May - August

Physical Description: 70 ALS; 12 TLS; 1 TL; 18 telegrams.

Folder A11: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., September - December

Physical Description: 1 ALS; 6 TL.

Folder A12: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., January - June

Physical Description: 10 ALS; 9 TLS; 14 TL; 24 telegrams; 1 document.

Folder A13: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., July - December

Physical Description: 10 ALS; 4 TLS; 4 TL; 1 document.

Folder A14: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., 1899

Physical Description: 7 ALS; 12 TLS; 7 TL; 2 telegrams; 1 document.

Folder A15: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., 1900

Physical Description: 4 ALS; 6 TLS; 6 TL; 3 documents.

Folder A16: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., January - June

Physical Description: 24 ALS; 25 TLS; 2 TL; 1 clipping; 4 telegrams.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Letters from Joshua L. Chamberlain to Henry Clay Merriam, in the Joshua Chamberlain Collection. 1 ALS, June 6, 1901.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914 (Educator and United States Army. Colonel)
 - Henry C. Corbin
 - Edgar Ensign
 - Samuel L. Ryan
 - Bartlett Sinclair
 - Oswald Garrison Willard
-

Folder A17: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., July - December

Physical Description: 15 ALS; 20 TLS; 3 TL; 1 document; 51 telegrams.

Controlled Access Headings:

- W.P. Richardson
 - Merriam, Henry C. (Henry Clay), 1837-1912 (United States Army, Major General)
 - McKinley, William, 1843-1901 (United States. U.S. President.)
 - Oswald Garrison Willard
 - Henry C. Corbin
 - J.C. Bates
-

Folder A18: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., 1902

Physical Description: 17 TLS.

Folder A19: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents., 1903-1905

Physical Description: 11 ALS; 10 TLS; 1 TL; 5 documents; 4 clippings.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Letters from Joshua L. Chamberlain to Henry Clay Merriam, in the Joshua Chamberlain Collection. 1 ALS, August 16, 1905.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Samuel L. Ryan
- Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914 (Educator and United States Army. Colonel)

Folder A20: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
1906-1912

Physical Description: 5 ALS; 8 TLS; 2 TL; 3 documents; 3
invitations; 1 postcard.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Existence and Location of Originals

Letters from Joshua L. Chamberlain to Henry Clay Merriam,
in the Joshua Chamberlain Collection. 5 ALS, 4 TLS,
January - September, 1906.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914 (Educator and
United States Army. Colonel)

Folder A21: to Henry Clay Merriam from various correspondents.,
Undated.

Physical Description: 7 ALS; 1 TL; 2 invitations; 1 telegram; 1
document.

Folder A22: from Henry Clay Merriam to various correspondents.,
1886-1909

Physical Description: 16 ALS; 15 TLS; 11 TL; 1 clipping.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Edward W. (Edward Winslow) Hall, 1840-1910

Folder A23: Maude Merriam., 1905-1907

Physical Description: 1 ALS; 1 TLS; 2 documents.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Maude Merriam

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Series B: Personal documents

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