

Collection #  
SC 3406

**SCOTT FAMILY  
LETTERS, CA. 1883–1909**

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Processed by

Aly Caviness  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1883–1909

PROVENANCE: Southwood Wabash Junior Historical Society through Bob Montgomery, n.d.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

**Jonathan Scott** was born on 25 January 1816 in Fayette County, Indiana, to Charles Scott (1764–1839) and Elizabeth “Polly” Russell (1777–1859). He moved to Liberty Township, Wabash County, Indiana in 1835 along with his uncle, Jesse D. Scott (1779–1843) and became a lifelong farmer. Jesse Scott was a Baptist preacher and, later, an elected Associate Judge in Liberty Township. Jonathan Scott married Mary Pearson (1824–1894) in Wabash County on 1 November 1840. Together they had three children: Anna (1843–1862), William (1845–1861), and Jerome (1845–1918). Scott died on 3 February 1903 in Wabash County.

**Henry William McPherson** was born on 6 July 1881 in Baltimore, Maryland, to William H. McPherson (1769–1841) and Mary Stickney (1779–1813). By 1830, he resided in Fayette County, Indiana. He married Martha Jane Stone (1817–1907) on 1 May 1834, and together they had eight children: William, Catherine Ann, Elias, Mary, Joseph, Josephine, Walter, Albert, and Martha Jane. The McPhersons moved to Liberty Township, Wabash County, Indiana, in 1835. At the time, Liberty Township was a new settlement, and Henry worked as a carpenter to help build it. By 1880, McPherson immigrated to Springfield, Missouri, where he died on 6 July 1898.

**Jerome Hale Scott** was born on 18 December 1845 in Liberty Township, Wabash County, Indiana, to Jonathan and Mary Pearson Scott. During the Civil War, Jerome Scott enlisted in the Union Army in 1863 as a First Sergeant in the Eleventh Cavalry, 126<sup>th</sup> Regiment; he mustered out on 19 September 1865. Scott married Josephine A. McPherson on 27 September 1866, and they remained in LaFontaine, Wabash County, Indiana, for the rest of their lives.

Together the Scotts had six children: Elias, Albert, Kitty, Lora Anna, Lola, and Essie. Jerome Scott was a farmer as well as the owner of J.H. Scott, Cash Store. When LaFontaine was officially incorporated in 1880, Scott was elected to serve on the first Board of Trustees. On 11 March, 1893, Scott formed a partnership along with many other prominent farmers and businessmen to found the LaFontaine Bank, the first of its kind in the city. He died on 2 June 1918 in LaFontaine.

**Josephine A. “Jose” McPherson Scott** was born on 1 January 1847 in Liberty Township, Wabash County, Indiana, to Henry William and Martha Jane McPherson. Her sister, Catherine Ann “Kitty” McPherson (1837–1871) married Jesse David Scott (1835–1912), a distant cousin of Jose’s husband, Jerome H. Scott. Jose had six children, including Lola Scott Miller (1879–1969). Josephine Scott died on 13 November 1910 in LaFontaine.

**Lola Scott Miller** was born on 9 September 1879 in LaFontaine, Wabash County, Indiana, to Jerome and Josephine Scott. She married Tobias Ovid Miller (1872–1938) of LaFontaine on 8 June 1896. The couple had two children: Jeanette (1896–1981) and Josephine (1901–1976). Lola Miller died on 21 December 1969 in South Bend, Indiana.

**Walter Francis Scott** was born on 4 July 1863 in Wabash County, Indiana, to Jesse David Scott (1835–1912) and Catherine Ann “Kitty” McPherson (1837–1871), making him Josephine Scott’s nephew as well as a distant cousin of Jerome Scott. He married Flora Mericle on 5 February, 1898, in Ionia, Michigan; they later divorced on 11 February 1903 in Kent, Michigan. Letters indicate that he lived in Nashville, Tennessee during the 1880s,

and that he traveled extensively around the world. His death certificate lists his occupation as machinist. He died on 15 June 1917 in Muskegon, Michigan.

No biographical information could be found for Stuart Slussie, William E. Skelton, or Claudia [surname unknown].

Sources:

Collection materials.

Helm, Thomas B. *History of Wabash County, Indiana*. Chicago: J. Morris, 1884 [Reprinted, Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., 1971].

Indiana, Marriages, 1810-2001, via Ancestry.com

Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011, via Ancestry.com

Michigan, Death Records, 1897-1920, via Ancestry.com

Michigan, Divorce Records, 1897-1952, via Ancestry.com

Robertson, Linda Lou. *Wabash County History*. Bicentennial edition. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1976.

1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 U.S. Federal Census, via Ancestry.com

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains eleven photocopies of handwritten letters from various members, friends, and colleagues of the Scott family. The order of the letters as they were given to Indiana Historical Society has been maintained; as such, they are not organized chronologically, but rather by how they were collected in six packets.

The majority of the letters detail various updates between relatives such as illnesses, deaths, and marriages. These letters also feature various aspects of rural life in both Indiana and Missouri in the 1880s. Whether between a father and a daughter, an aunt and a nephew, or a daughter and a mother, most of the letters express longing to see one another – or a scolding for not visiting in quite some time.

Several letters mention Walter F. Scott's extensive travel. Josephine Scott in her letter of 30 December 1888 says that she does not expect to hear from Walter again until he is in "Germany or some other seaport," though none of the letters detail the reason – business or personal – for Walter's voyages.

Addressed to Lola Miller Scott, the longest and most personal letter is from an unknown woman named Claudia, who lived in Angola, Indiana, in 1909. The 5 August 1886 letter, not from a relative and with no apparent connection to the Scotts, invites a Mr. Stuart A. Slussie to teach at a chapel school the following winter.

The collected letters include the following:

- To W.F. [Walter Francis] Scott, Nashville, Tennessee, from Jose [Josephine] Scott, LaFontaine, Indiana (30 December 1888)
- To Jerome H. Scott, LaFontaine, Indiana, from H.W. [Henry William] McPherson, Springfield, Missouri (23 December, year unknown)
- To Walter Scott, LaFontaine, Indiana, from an unknown correspondent (10 March 1883)
- To Walter Scott, Nashville, Tennessee, from Jose [Josephine] Scott, LaFontaine, Indiana (5 January 1889)
- To Mr. Stuart A. Slussie, Frieden's [?] Church, Rockingham County, from William E. Skelton (5 August 1886)
- To Jerome Scott and family, LaFontaine, Indiana, from H.W. [Henry William] McPherson, Springfield, Missouri (11 December 188)
- To Jerome Scott, LaFontaine, Indiana, from H.W. [Henry William] McPherson, Springfield, Missouri (4 July 1885)
- To "Mamma" [Lola Scott Miller], location unknown, from Jeanette Josephine [Miller], LaFontaine, Indiana (11 March 1907)
- To Mrs. Ovid Miller [Lola Scott Miller] LaFontaine, Indiana, from Claudia [surname unknown], Angola, Indiana (19 November 1909)
- To Miss Lola Scott care of H.W. [Henry William] McPherson, Springfield, Missouri from [signature illegible], LaFontaine, Indiana (1886)
- To Walter [Scott], LaFontaine, Indiana, from J.P [Jonathan] Scott, location unknown (20 January 1889)

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