

Collection #
SC 3029
OM 0551

HARRIET AND HARVEY RISLEY CORRESPONDENCE, CA. 1861–1900

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 oversized folder, 2 manuscript folders, 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1861–1900

PROVENANCE: Kris Anderson, Portland, Oregon, 2007

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2007.0383

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Harriet Gracy (1833–1906) and Harvey Risley (1828–1914) were married on 23 December 1851. They appear to have settled on the old Gracy family farm and were farmers near Vera Cruz in Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana for most of their lives. Harriet and Harvey had seven children: Franklin, Eliza, Sarah, (Grant) Ulysses, Harvey, Samwell, and Ethie (also spelled Etheal and Etha in the federal censuses). Many of their children remained on and worked the family farm as adults. The correspondence from the extended members of Harriet Gracy Risley's family implies that they were also farmers.

During the Civil War, Harvey served as a private in Company C of the 51st Regiment of the Indiana Infantry. The 51st Regiment was organized in Indianapolis and mustered in December 1861 and mustered out December 1865 in San Antonio, Texas.

Harriet and Harvey Risley are buried in Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

1870 U.S. Federal Census; 1880 U.S. Federal Census; 1900 U.S. Federal Census; Indiana Marriage Collection, 1800–1941; and U.S. Find a Grave Index, 1700s– Current, all accessed through Ancestry.com.

"Union Regimental Histories–Indiana." Accessed 14 June 2014.
<http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreghst/unininf4.htm#51st>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of nineteen letters written by or to Harvey and Harriet Risley and one undated tintype of Harriet Gracy Risley.

One folder contains nine letters of correspondence between Harvey and Harriet while Harvey was serving in the 51st Indiana Regiment. The eight letters from Harvey were written mostly from Camp Green in Huntsville, Alabama and from camps in Tennessee. In the letters, Harvey mostly writes about missing his wife and children and advising her on how to run the farm in his absence. There is only one letter from Harriet to Harvey in the collection. In her letter, she relates an upsetting incident that occurred on the farm and several rumors about when soldiers may be able to come home. Harriet also writes that she thinks many of her letters to Harvey are not reaching him.

The ten remaining letters in the collection are from Harriet and Harvey Risley's extended family members. One folder contains eight letters, and the other folder contains two oversized letters. The bulk of these letters are from Harriet's family from 1879–1889, especially from Harriet's brother, Sam M. Gracy of Lowry City, Missouri. The letters mostly consist of family news, with some references to politics, and the desire of some family members to sell their interest in the old Gracy farm to Harvey Risley.

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Letters Between Harriet and Harvey Risley, ca. 1864–65

Letters from Family Members, 1861–1900

Oversized Letters

Letter from Sam M. Gracy, 19 Oct. 1879

Letter from Sam M. Gracy, 2 Feb. 1880

Tintype of Harriet Gracy Risley, [n.d.]

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

OM 0551, Folder 1

Photographs:
Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 3029).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.