MERRILL-GRAFDON FAMILY PAPERS, 1836–1930 (BULK 1890–1920)

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
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Box and Folder Listing
Cataloging Information

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 manuscript boxes (1.3 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1836-1930; Bulk 1890-1920
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

This collection contains the papers of two families connected by marriage, and spreads over two generations. This sketch will attempt to place the family members whose papers appear in the collection, but will omit several brothers and sisters whose papers do not.

The first family is that of Samuel Merrill (1791-1855). Born in Peacham, Vermont, he moved first to York, Pennsylvania, then to Vevay, Indiana. He was a man of many talents. He served as state treasurer (1822-1834), as president of the State Bank of Indiana (1834-1844), and as president of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, the first in Indiana (1844-1848). Finally, through owning a bookstore, he became involved in publishing, and founded the firm which eventually became Bobbs-Merrill. By his first wife, Lydia Jane Anderson, he had a number of children, of whom four appear in this collection.

The first was Catharine Merrill (1824-1900). Following in the footsteps of her father who also taught school at times, she started a school for local children and ran it for some years. In 1859-1860 she took her younger siblings on an educational tour of Germany, and wrote a series of travel letters which were published in the Indianapolis Journal. Having gained more formal experience at teaching in a young ladies' school in Cleveland and in another in Crawfordsville, she began teaching at Northwestern Christian University (now Butler), where a chair in English literature was later endowed in her memory. In 1896 she wrote an anonymous history of The Soldier of Indiana in the War of the Union. She was an active member of several clubs, including the Indianapolis Woman's Club and the Contemporary Club. The Catharine Merrill Club, still in existence, was founded in her honor. Her younger sister, Mina Merrill, was associated with her in her early teaching.

Another sister, Julia Dumont Merrill (1826-1912) married Charles Washington Moores (1828-1864), and they had two sons, lawyer and Congressman Merrill Moores (1856-1929), and lawyer Charles Washington Moores II (1862-1923), many of whose letters appear in this collection.

A fourth sister, Mary Merrill (1835-1917) was married in 1857 to William Mordecai Graydon (1825-1903), thereby making the connection with the second family in this collection. He was the son of Alexander Graydon (1791-1868) and Jane Chambers McKinney Graydon (1802-1891). Jane Graydon was the daughter of Mordecai McKinney, and her sister Mary Ann married William Patterson Alexander, an early missionary to the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands. Her family tree also included the Bodine family. Alexander and Jane Graydon lived at first in Harrisburg, where they were energetic members of the anti-slavery movement. In 1843 they moved to Indianapolis.

They were both active in the Second and then the Fourth Presbyterian Church; she served as a nurse during the Civil War, and was a founder of the Home For Friendless Women (now the Indianapolis Retirement Home). One of their children was William Mordecai Graydon, referred to above.

William Mordecai and Mary Merrill Graydon had three daughters whose papers appear in the collection. The first was
Katharine Merrill Graydon (1858-1934). She graduated from Butler in 1878, taught Latin and Greek at Hastings College, a newly founded Presbyterian institution in Nebraska, then occupied the Catharine Merrill Chair of English at Butler until she retired in 1930.

The second daughter, Jane (Jennie) Graydon (ca 1865-1957), graduated from Butler in 1887. She also taught for some time at Hastings College, and later at Public School #2 in Indianapolis. She was a founder of the Dramatic Club and an active member of the Indianapolis Woman's Club.

The third daughter, Julia Moores Graydon (1870-1935) graduated from Butler in 1890. She married Alexander Jameson, a dentist. She wrote many papers for the Indianapolis Woman's Club, and also was active in the Family Welfare Society and the Fairview Presbyterian Church. Her activities in the Marion County Tuberculosis Association caused the Jameson Camp to be named for her. Her daughter Lydia was married first to banker Evans Woollen, Jr., and then to Dr. James O. Ritchey; her children Evans Woollen III and Katharine Merrill Woollen Fitts are the donors of this collection.

Sources: Materials in collection
Indiana Scrapbook Collection vol. 5 pp. 59-60

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection, filling four manuscript boxes and covering the years 1836-1930, consists of correspondence, club papers, a few official documents, clippings, books, and photographs. It is arranged according to correspondent.

In Box 1, Folders 1-7 contain genealogical material on the Alexander, Bodine, Dumont, Graydon, McKinney, and Merrill families. In Folders 8-11 are letters concerning the older members of the McKinney and Graydon families: letters, 1836-1847, to Mary Ann McKinney Alexander from two of her sisters; a letter from Jane Chambers McKinney Graydon while a nurse in the Civil War (see SC 2222), a poem by Ellen McKinney, and a tribute to Emma Graydon Alexander. In Folders 12-14 are incidental papers from the Merrill family, including a family temperance pledge of 1852.

Folders 15-31 contain papers of Catherine Merrill, mainly letters from her longtime friend Mary L. Meek and her letters from Germany in 1859-1860. Folders 32-33 concern Mina Merrill. Folders 34-40 contain papers of Jane Graydon, mainly a series of charming letters from her cousin Charles W. Moores.

In Box 2, Folders 1-15 contain the papers of Katharine Merrill Graydon. These include a few letters, including one from Oliver Wendell Holmes for the dedication of the Hastings College library; several club papers; and partial diaries for 1879 and 1889. The diary for 6 September 1879 mentions talks with two professors at Butler whom she finds "not unfavorable" to opening the college to girls.

In Folders 16-17 of Box 2 are the 1890-1891 journal of Julia Graydon Jameson, and some of her correspondence.

The papers of Julia Graydon Jameson continue in Box 3. In Folders 1-17 are some of her club papers. In Folder 18 is a paper on Early Times in Indianapolis probably by Julia Dumont; in Folder 20 a grammar workbook; in Folder 21 the catalog of Cleveland Female Seminary for 1856-1857; in Folders 22-26, clippings.

A considerable number of identified photographs in Folders 29-43 are stored in Visual Collections (see box and folder listing).

In Box 4 are a number of family-related books (see box and folder listing).
1: Genealogical-- Alexander
2: Genealogical-- Bodine
3: Genealogical-- Dumont
4: Genealogical -- Graydon
5: Genealogical-- Graydon-- "A family retrospect"
6: Genealogical-- Merrill
7: Mary Ann McKinney Alexander--from Rachel McKinney 1836-1847
8: Mary Ann McKinney Alexander--from Jane McKinney Graydon 1836
9: Jane McKinney Graydon to her sister 1861
10: Ellen McKinney-- poem n.d.
11: Emma Graydon Alexander, by Katharine M. Graydon
12: Ketcham family letter 1844 to Priscilla Wilson
13: Rachel V. Potts to "Uncle" 1849
14: Merrill family temperance pledge 1852
15: Catharine Merrill--diplomas 1838, 1839
16: Catharine Merrill--journal 1843
17: Catharine Merrill--from Elizabeth L. Meek-- 1845-1851
18: Catharine Merrill--- 1852-1874
19: Catharine Merrill--from William M. and Mary M. Graydon 1851, nd
20: Catharine Merrill--from Mary Merrill 1852
21: Catharine Merrill--from Hattie E. Beecher 1856
22: Catharine Merrill--to family 1853-1874, nd
23: (OM 0272) Catharine Merrill--passport 1859, D. A. R. diploma 1893
24: Catharine Merrill--letters from Germany 1859-1860
25: Catharine Merrill--newspaper letters from Germany, 1859
26: Catharine Merrill--newspaper letters from Germany, February 1860
27: Catharine Merrill--newspaper letters from Germany, May-November 1860
28: Catharine Merrill--newspaper letters from Germany, 1861, n.d.
29: Catharine Merrill--to Julia Dumont n.d.
30: Catharine Merrill--and John Muir
31: Catharine Merrill--memorials 1900, 1906
32: Catharine Merrill--memorial by James Davie Butler 1900
33: Mina Merrill-- from Mary L. Meek 1903
34: re: Mina Merrill
35: Jane Graydon--to Mary Merrill Graydon
36: Jane Graydon--from Charles W. Moores, 1890
37: Jane Graydon--from Charles W. Moores, 1891
38: Jane Graydon--from Charles W. Moores, 1893-1898
39: Jane Graydon--from Charles W. Moores, 1899-1915
40: Jane Graydon--from Alberta Holford 1903
41: Jane Graydon--to Jameson nieces and nephew 1907-1908

BOX 2: Katharine Merrill Graydon; Julia Graydon Moores
FOLDER
1: Katharine Merrill Graydon--from [Mary Merrill Graydon}
2: Katharine Merrill Graydon--to Janet Moores 1864
3: Katharine Merrill Graydon--to Julia Graydon Jameson [1898]
4: Katharine Merrill Graydon--from Oliver Wendell Holmes 1889
5: Katharine Merrill Graydon--recommendation for emeritus status 1930
6: Katharine Merrill Graydon--"A pioneer tale"
7: Katharine Merrill Graydon--"The man Shakespeare as revealed in his works"
8: Katharine Merrill Graydon--pages 23-40 of incomplete paper
9: Katharine Merrill Graydon--"The child in literature"
10: Katharine Merrill Graydon--"The passing of the picturesque in Indianapolis"
11: Katharine Merrill Graydon--"Scenes from early Indiana life"
12: Katharine Merrill Graydon--Retrospect on Fourth Presbyterian Church; Poem by Scot Butler
13: Katharine Merrill Graydon--Diary 1879
29: (VC) Catharine Merrill, Mina Merrill
30: (VC) Jane Chambers McKinney Graydon, family rocker
31: (VC) William M. and Mary Merrill Graydon, Ellen Douglass Graydon
32: (VC) Jane Graydon
33: (VC) Katharine Merrill Graydon and her house
34: (VC) Jameson family
35: (VC) Moores family
36: (VC) Graydon and Moores families
37: (VC) Friends-- identified
38: (VC) Friends' babies-- identified
39: (VC) Samuel Merrill house (ca 1822-1865) on Merrill St. west of Meridian
40: (VC) Watercolors--Merrill and Bickford houses, Peacham, Vt.
41: (VC) Watercolors--4 unidentified scenes; Postcards
42: (VC) Postcards--Peacham, Vt.
43: (VC) Postcards--Corydon, Vincennes, Ind.

BOX 4: BOOKS

Catharine Merrill-- *The Man Shakespeare*

Katharine Merrill Graydon-- *Butler College in the World War; Thoughts on the service of Homer to humanity*

*Juvenile Companion* ca 1825

*The school of good manners* --early primer

Thomas Day-- *Sandford and Merton* New York, 1830

*The pageant of Indiana* 1916

*Indiana Magazine of History* September and October 1938--articles on Julia Dumont

*Butler Alumni Quarterly* April and July 1934, July 1937--articles on Katharine M. Graydon

CATALOGING INFORMATION

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


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, M 0609).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.