



Guide to the McCann Family Collection, c. 1860-1930 (bulk: 1860-1902)

Processing Information

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Collection Number

2009.008

Biographical Note

The McCann Family—originally from County Mayo in Ireland—immigrated to Sudbury in 1846. The earliest residents of Sudbury were the farmers Luke McCann (1819-1904) and his brother, Owen (1829-1889), both mentioned in the *History of Sudbury, Massachusetts, 1639-1889* by Alfred Sereno Hudson (pp. 497, 564). The descendants of Luke remained in the town on Water Row, where the seventeenth-century Haynes Garrison House once stood, as well as in nearby areas such as Braintree and Framingham, including his great-grandson and collection donor, John P. Neal (b. 1929). Some of the descendants of Owen moved out-of-state to places such as Louisiana, where the McCann Family Orchestra was established. For the relevant family tree of the McCann Family, see Appendix A.

Scope Note

This collection is comprised of photographs, albums, artifacts, books, and various documents. The materials consist primarily of cabinet cards, along with some tintypes—both popular forms of photography in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—which include various McCann family members and acquaintances as sitters, as well as many unidentified portraits. Documents include real estate transactions, postcards, prints, as well as the diary of Luke's son, John Joseph McCann (1860-1938) and books from his schooling. Fragments of the Haynes Garrison House are also included.

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated to the Sudbury Historical Society by John P. Neal in 2009.

Separated Materials

All books are housed separately and are located within library shelving of the Sudbury Historical Society Founders Room.

Collection Content

Series I: Albums, c.1860-1885

Albums contain photographs—primarily cabinet cards and tintypes—of members of the McCann Family, as well as other named acquaintances and unidentified sitters. Items .0001-.0004 were removed from albums due to preservation concerns. Those photographs are numbered in the sequence in which they were presented in the album.

Box 1

Gem-Tintype Album, c. 1860 (.0005)

All unidentified.

Album, c. 1885 (.0006)

Includes acquaintances James Sumner Draper (1811-1896), Emily Heard, Ellen Reeves, and Horace Scudder Sears (1855-1923).

Album, c. 1870 (.0007)

Includes Mary E. McCann (1855-1930).

Box 2

Album, c. 1880 (.0001)

Includes Elizabeth Comiskey (1821-1901), Elizabeth McCabe, Mary E. McCann (1855-1930), Thomas Edward McCann (1856-1911), Hannah Sullivan McCann (1860-1938), and Katherine Sullivan Sherman.

Album, c. 1890 (.0002)

Includes Elizabeth McCabe, Mary E. McCann (1855-1930), Katherine M. McCann (1887-1944), Annie McCann Neal (1897-1979), Dennis Sullivan, Hannah Sullivan McCann (1860-1938), and Katherine Sullivan Sherman.

Album, c. 1880 (.0003)

Includes Elizabeth McCabe, John Joseph McCann (1860-1938), Lawrence McCann, Mary E. McCann (1855-1930), and classmates Katie Brown, Bridget Dolan, Katie Dolan, Mary Hynes, Mike Hynes, Tom Hynes, Hugh Millen, Beegie O'Brian, and Mary Riley.

Album, c. 1880 (.0004)

Includes Katherine Sullivan Sherman.

Series II: Photographs, c.1860-1890

Loose photographs consisting primarily of tintype and print portraits of members of the McCann Family, unidentified sitters, and other miscellaneous subjects.

Box 3

Folder 1

Unidentified Young Man, tintype (.0008)

Folder 2

Hannah Sullivan McCann (1860-1938), cabinet card (.0009)

Folder 3

President Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) and His Family, Anna E. Dickinson (1842-1932), Miss Lily's First Waltz, prints (.0010)

Folder 4

George W. Cutting and Son Store, 1865, print (.0011)

Folder 5

Unidentified Young Man, print (.0030)

Folder 6

John Joseph McCann (1860-1938), cabinet card (.0031)

Folder 7

Unidentified Young Man, tintype (.0047)

Folder 8

Hugh McCann (1857-1869), tintype (.0048)

Folder 9

Hugh McCann (1857-1869), print (.0049)

Folder 10

Unidentified Woman, cabinet card (.0052)

Unidentified Mustachioed Man, cabinet card (.0053)

Child with Haynes Garrison House Marker, print (.0054)

Unidentified Mustachioed Man, cabinet card (.0055)

Unidentified Seated Woman, print (.0056)

Folder 11

Elizabeth Comiskey (1821-1901) with Group, print (.0057)

Elizabeth Comiskey (1821-1901) with Group, cabinet card (.0058)

Elizabeth Comiskey (1821-1901), print (.0059)

Folder 12

Unidentified Children and Woman, gem tintype (.0060)

Folder 13

Unidentified Woman, tintype (.0061)
Unidentified Young Man, tintype (.0062)
Unidentified Man, tintype (.0063)
Unidentified Woman, tintype (.0064)

Series III: Wayside Inn Postcards, c.1900-1930

Postcards depicting the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts, including two addressed to members of the Mague Family. All others unaddressed.

Box 3

Folder 14

Wayside Inn Grist Mill (.0032)
Longfellow's Wayside Inn (.0033)
Longfellow's Wayside Inn, (.0034)
The Wayside Inn, 1901 (.0035)
Longfellow's Wayside Inn (.0036)
Old-Fashioned Garden, Longfellow's Wayside Inn (.0037)
Lower Hall, Longfellow's Wayside Inn (.0038)
The Old Kitchen, Longfellow's Wayside Inn (.0039)
The Washington Room, Longfellow's Wayside Inn (.0040)
Old-Fashioned Garden, Longfellow's Wayside Inn (.0041)

Series IV: Documents, c.1865-1902

Legal and personal documents related to the McCann Family, consisting primarily of real estate records for leases, mortgages, and property transactions, as well as other miscellaneous documents.

Box 3

Folder 15

Hugh McCann (1857-1869) Reward of Merit (.0012)

Folder 16

Henry Goodnow (1815-1881) to Luke McCann (1819-1904) Mortgage
Deed, 1874 (.0042)

Folder 17

Nathan Brooks Goodnow (1843-1903) to Luke McCann (1819-1904)
Mortgage Discharge, 1886 (.0043)

Folder 18

Thomas Edward McCann (1856-1911) to Luke McCann (1819-1904)
Warranty Deed, 1897 (.0044)

Folder 19

Luke McCann (1819-1904) to Brenton Halliburton Dickson Jr. (1867-1946)
Lease, 1902 (.0045)

Folder 20

Anemone Print (.0065)

Series V: John Joseph McCann Diary, 1876

Personal diary of a sixteen-year-old John Joseph McCann (1860-1938), titled on covers as both "Account Book" and "Diary." Describes day-to-day activities and includes mathematical figures, as well as an almanac for the year 1876.

Box 3

Folder 21

Diary (.0046)

Series VI: Haynes Garrison House Fragments, c. 1870

Interior fragments of the Haynes Garrison House, which was located on property owned and inhabited by the McCann Family. The house once stood in Sudbury—as far back as during King Philip's War in 1676—on present-day Water Row.

Box 4

Closet Peg (.0050)

Dining Room Cupboard Knob (.0050)

Flooring Nail (.0050)

Wooden Key Ring (.0050)

Appendix A: McCann Family Tree

First Generation

Hugh McCann (1800-1862) marries Bridget Smith (1800-1871).

Hugh and Bridget have four children: Luke (1819-1904); Owen (1829-1889), Catherine (1840-1893); and Thomas.

Second Generation

Luke McCann marries Elizabeth Kelley Comiskey (1821-1901).

Luke and Elizabeth Kelley have four children: Thomas (1852-1869), Mary E. (1855-1930), Hugh (1857-1869), and John Joseph (1860-1938).

Owen marries Mary Broderick (1830-1897).

Owen and Mary have two children: Thomas Edward (1856-1911); and John Francis (b. 1869).

Catherine marries John Dolan (b. 1832).

Catherine and John have four children: Mary A. (b. 1855); Gertrude M. (b. 1859); Catherine F. (b. 1860); and Sarah J. (b. 1862).

Third Generation

John Joseph marries Hannah Sullivan (b. 1861), sister of Dennis and Kate Sullivan.

John Joseph and Hannah have eight children: Katherine M. (b. 1887); Luke J. (b. 1888); Hugh T. (b. 1893); Matthew M. (b. 1895); Mary M. (b. 1896); Ann C. (1897-1979); Ruth H. (b. 1898); and Lucy V. (1900-1966).

Thomas Edward marries Callie E. Rountree (1867-1937).

Thomas Edward and Callie E. have three children: Mary (1887-1887); James A. (1889-1951); and Albert Hews (1891-1969).

John F. McCann marries Nellie McGrail (b. 1872).

Fourth Generation

Ann C. marries Paul A. Neal (1891-1945).

Ann C. and Paul have one child: John P. (b. 1929).

Lucy V. marries Martin W. Keefe, Sr.

Lucy and Martin W. Sr. have three children: Robert M. (b. 1929); Katherine J. (b. 1932); and Martin Jr. (1941-2013).

Fifth Generation

John P. marries Janet R. (b. 1934).