

Hubbard Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Audrey Walker



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

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Collection Summary

Title: Hubbard Family Papers

Span Dates: 1639-1925

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1830-1897)

ID No.: MSS57364

Creator: Hubbard family

Extent: 7,500 items ; 19 containers plus 1 oversize ; 7.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Chiefly correspondence supplemented by diaries, notes, drawings, poems, speeches and writings, and printed material of various members of the Hubbard family and their relatives, primarily Gardiner G. Hubbard, his wife, Gertrude Mercer McCurdy Hubbard, father, Samuel Hubbard, and father-in-law, Robert Henry McCurdy. Includes material relating to Gardiner Hubbard's interest in the education of the deaf, the Caledonia Mines, ranching in Washington state, and the development of the Bell telephone system in Europe; also includes papers relating to Robert Henry McCurdy's activities during the Civil War, especially with the Union Defence Committee in New York.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Abbott, Gorham D., 1807-1874--Correspondence.

Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922--Correspondence.

Bell, Mabel Gardiner Hubbard, 1859-1923--Correspondence.

Blatchford, Edgcumb, 1811-1853--Correspondence.

Buck, Elizabeth Hubbard, 1817-1890--Correspondence.

Channing, William F. (William Francis), 1820-1901--Correspondence.

Converse, Joseph H.--Correspondence.

Dawes, Henry L. (Henry Laurens), 1816-1903--Correspondence.

De Groof, L.--Correspondence.

Frelinghuysen, Theodore, 1787-1862--Correspondence.

Greene, Elizabeth Hubbard, b. 1760--Correspondence.

Greene, Gardiner, 1753-1832--Correspondence.

Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909--Correspondence.

Hineman, Russell--Correspondence.

Horsford, Eben Norton, 1818-1893--Correspondence.

Hubbard family.

Hubbard, Gardiner G. (Gardiner Greene), 1822-1897. Gardiner G. Hubbard papers.

Hubbard, Gertrude Mercer McCurdy, 1827-1909. Gertrude Mercer McCurdy Hubbard papers.

Hubbard, Samuel, 1785-1847. Samuel Hubbard papers.

Ker, William--Correspondence.

Langley, S. P. (Samuel Pierpont), 1834-1906--Correspondence.

Lesh, D. E.--Correspondence.

Lord, Nathan, 1792-1870--Correspondence.

McCurdy family.

McCurdy, Gertrude L.--Correspondence.

McCurdy, Robert Henry, 1800-1880. Robert Henry McCurdy papers.

Orton, William, 1826-1878--Correspondence.

Rogers, Harriet Burbank, 1834-1919--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Cornelius Van Schaack, 1794-1871--Correspondence.

Scott, Adam--Correspondence.

Storrow, Samuel--Correspondence.

Tarbell, Ida M. (Ida Minerva), 1857-1944--Correspondence.

Organizations

Bell Telephone Company.
Caledonia Mines.
Moxee Company.
Union Defence Committee.

Subjects

Deaf--Education.
Ranches--Washington (State)
Telephone--Europe.
Telephone--History.

Places

New York (N.Y.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of the Hubbard family were received by the Library of Congress in 1977 as a deposit and gift of the heirs of Gardiner G. Hubbard.

Processing History

The papers of the Hubbard family were arranged and described in 1982. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of the [Alexander Graham Bell family](#) and [Grosvenor family](#).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Melville Bell Grosvenor in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public. The copyright interests of other heirs of Gardiner G. Hubbard in the Hubbard family papers have not been dedicated, except for those of Mabel Grosvenor and Gertrude Grosvenor Gayley, which were dedicated to the public in 1980 and 1982 respectively.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Hubbard family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Hubbard Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Gardiner G. Hubbard

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1822, Aug. 25	Born, Boston, Mass.
1841	Graduated, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.
1843	Entered law office of Charles P. and Benjamin R. Curtis after studying law for a year at Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1846	Married Gertrude Mercer McCurdy
1848	Opened law office
1850s	By 1857 had introduced gas lighting and secured a fresh water supply for Cambridge, Mass., and had built a street-car line between Cambridge and Boston, Mass.
1867-1876	Made a series of studies of the postal service and the telegraph at home and abroad that were published in the North American Review and the Atlantic Monthly
1867-1877	President, Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, Mass. (incorporated in 1867 as the result of a movement spearheaded by Hubbard; originally called the Clarke Institute for Deaf Mutes)
1875	Took active interest in Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, directing the early business development of the industry
1876	As a member of the special committee of the Massachusetts Board of Education, worked to make a success of the Massachusetts educational exhibit at the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, Pa. Appointed to commission to investigate the transportation of the mails and to make recommendations to Congress for their improvement
1877	His daughter Mabel married Alexander Graham Bell
1878	Retired from law practice and devoted his time to the Bell telephone
1883	Cofounded with Alexander Graham Bell, Science
1888-1897	Founder and president, National Geographic Society
1890	Glacier named in his honor
1890-1897	Cofounded with Bell and vice-president, American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf
1895	Regent, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
1895-1897	President. joint commission of the scientific societies of Washington which later organized the Washington Academy of Sciences

1897, Dec. 11	Died, Washington, D.C.
1902	Hubbard Memorial Hall, National Geographic Society building, named in his memory

Samuel Hubbard

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1785, June 2	Born, Boston, Mass
1802	Graduated, Yale University, New Haven, Conn., and began study of law
1806	Began law practice, office of Judge Mellen, Biddleford, Maine
1810	Returned to Boston, Mass.; elected representative in state legislature
1815	Married Mary Anne Greene (died 1827)
1827	LL.D., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1828	Married Mary Ann Coit
1842	LL.D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1842-1847	Judge, supreme judicial court of Massachusetts
1847, Dec. 24	Died, Boston, Mass.

Robert Henry McCurdy

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1800	Born, Lyme, Conn.
1820	Cofounded with Herman D. Aldrich the dry goods firm of McCurdy and Aldrich
1826	Married Gertrude M. Lee
1840	Name of business firm changed to McCurdy, Aldrich & Spencer
1857	Retired
1861-1865	Acted as commissary-general of New York
1880	Died, New York

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Hubbard family span the years 1639-1925, with most of the material concentrated between the years 1830-1897. The papers are composed primarily of correspondence supplemented by drawings, notes, poems, speeches and writings, and printed matter. The collection is organized into seven series: [Diaries](#), [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

Although the collection centers around the papers of Gardiner G. Hubbard and his wife, Gertrude, it includes papers of earlier generations of the Greene and Hubbard families as well as documents of the McCurdy family. Approximately half the collection consists of [Family Correspondence](#). The earliest letters are written by Daniel and Mary Hubbard and Gardiner and Elizabeth Greene, the maternal great-grandparents and grandparents of Gardiner G. Hubbard. Letters written by Gardiner's parents, Samuel and Mary Hubbard, during the first and second years of their marriage are also included. Gardiner G. Hubbard's first letters date from his school days at Andover, Leicester, and Dartmouth College. They are followed by letters focusing on his choice of a career, the establishment of his financial independence, and letters to his wife prior to their marriage. Most of the letters after 1855 are to his wife, Gertrude, whose family correspondence starts in 1845. In addition to family news, discussions of items of topical interest, and financial matters, the correspondence between Gardiner and Gertrude and with their relatives also highlights Gardiner G. Hubbard's public welfare activities. His crusade to establish a school that would teach lipreading and speech to deaf children and his campaign in behalf of the postal telegraph system are documented in the correspondence. Business ventures, such as the Caledonia Mines, the Moxee Company, and the development of the Bell telephone systems are other topics covered in the family letters. The [Miscellany](#) series contains excerpts from and transcripts of many family letters apparently made in preparation for a biography of Gardiner G. Hubbard. These copies are followed by chronological lists that index the subject contents of the letters under categories useful for the biography.

[General Correspondence](#) constitutes a small portion of the Hubbard family papers and mainly consists of letters written and received by Gardiner G. and Gertrude Hubbard, Samuel Hubbard, and Robert Henry McCurdy. The most significant letters of Gardiner G. Hubbard relate to the initiation of telephone service in Europe and to his appointment to the Special Commission on Railway Mail Transportation. A number of letters to Harriet Rogers, principal of the Chelmsford School that pioneered speech and lipreading in America, are found in the General Correspondence between 1865 and 1869. The majority of letters received by Gertrude are letters of condolence following the deaths of Gardiner in 1897, their son, Robert, in 1849, and their daughter, Gertrude, in 1886. A few letters concerning the Gardiner G. Hubbard collection of engravings presented to the Library of Congress and replies to inquiries about Gardiner's activities in preparation for the proposed biography are also included in her correspondence.

Letters addressed to Samuel Hubbard are mostly limited to the educational progress and expenses of his children, Gardiner, Caroline and Joanna. The first letters to Robert Henry McCurdy are testimonials to Gardiner's character and financial prospects for the future before his marriage to Gertrude; later correspondence concerns McCurdy's activities during the Civil War. An avid supporter of Lincoln, McCurdy rallied merchants and citizens of New York in support of the Northern cause, and many of the letters are responses to calls for meetings of loyal citizens. Printed material relating to loyal citizen association meetings and the Union Defense Committee are found in the [Miscellany](#) series, as are a few manuscripts that McCurdy collected on April 20, 1865, on a visit to Richmond after Lee's surrender.

Among the family correspondents in the Hubbard family papers are Alexander Graham Bell, Mabel Gardiner Hubbard Bell, Edgcomb Blatchford, Elizabeth Hubbard Buck, Theodore Frelinghuysen, and Gertrude L. McCurdy. Other correspondents are Gorham D. Abbott, William F. Channing, Joseph H. Converse, Henry L. Dawes, L. de Groof, Edward Everett Hale, Russell Hineman, Eben Norton Horsford, William Ker, S. P. Langley, D. E. Lesh, Nathan Lord, William Orton, Harriet Burbank Rogers, Cornelius Van Schaack Roosevelt, Adam Scott, Samuel Storrow, and Ida M. Tarbell.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Diaries, 1835-1864, undated](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1775-1909](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1808-1925](#)
- [Subject File, 1886-1894](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1860-1895](#)
- [Miscellany, 1639-1922](#)
- [Oversize, 1788-1789](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

Diaries, 1835-1864, undated

Diary of Robert Henry McCurdy of trips to Europe, Spain, and Washington, D.C., and a meeting with Abraham Lincoln.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 1-6

Family Correspondence, 1775-1909

Letters exchanged between members of the family.

Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and therein chronologically.

BOX 7-10

General Correspondence, 1808-1925

Non-family letters written and received by members of the family.

Arranged by name of family member and therein chronologically.

BOX 10

Subject File, 1886-1894

Letters and reports relating to the Moxee Co.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 11

Speeches and Writings, 1860-1895

Handwritten copies, drafts, notes, and printed copies of articles and speeches written by various family members.

Arranged by name of family member and therein alphabetically

BOX 12-19

Miscellany, 1639-1922

Biographical and genealogical data, drawings, miscellaneous manuscripts and fragments, notes, transcripts of letters, school papers, and printed matter.

Arranged by type of material and further differentiated by names of family members concerned where distinguishable.

BOX OV 1

Oversize, 1788-1789

Calligraphic exercises and watercolor drawing.

Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Diaries, 1835-1864, undated Diary of Robert Henry McCurdy of trips to Europe, Spain, and Washington, D.C., and a meeting with Abraham Lincoln. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	McCurdy, Robert Henry
BOX 1	Trip to Europe, 1835
BOX 1	An account of a meeting with Abraham Lincoln and a trip to Washington, D.C., July 11, 1862, and June 1-4, 1864
BOX 1	Visit to Spain, undated
BOX 1	Visit to Spain, undated
BOX 1-6	Family Correspondence, 1775-1909 Letters exchanged between members of the family. Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Bell, Alexander Graham
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BOX 1	Bell, Grace H.
BOX 1	Bell, Mabel Gardiner Hubbard
BOX 1	Bell, Roberta H.
BOX 1	Blatchford, Edgcomb, H.
BOX 1	Blatchford, Mary Ann H.
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BOX 1	Buck, Alice
BOX 1	Buck, Elizabeth Hubbard
BOX 1	Frelinghuysen, Charlotte
BOX 1	Frelinghuysen, Theodore
BOX 2	Greene, Elizabeth Hubbard
BOX 2	Greene, Gardiner
BOX 2	Grossman, Gertrude H.
BOX 2	Grossman, Maurice
BOX 2	Hubbard, Daniel
BOX 2	Hubbard, Gardiner G.
BOX 2	1831-1846 (7 folders)
BOX 3	1855-1889 (10 folders)
BOX 4	1890-1897
BOX 4	Hubbard, Gertrude Mercer McCurdy
BOX 4	1845-1847
BOX 4	1854-1881 (6 folders)

Family Correspondence, 1775-1909

Container

Contents

BOX 5	1882-1895, undated (4 folders)
BOX 5	Hubbard, James
BOX 5	Hubbard, John
BOX 5	Hubbard, Mary A. Greene
BOX 5	Hubbard, Mary G
BOX 6	Hubbard, Samuel (1785-1847)
BOX 6	Hubbard, Samuel (born 1830)
BOX 6	McCurdy, Caroline H.
BOX 6	McCurdy, Gertrude M.
BOX 6	McCurdy, Richard
BOX 6	McCurdy, Robert H.
BOX 6	Marsh, Sarah M.
BOX 6	Salisbury, Evelyn M.
BOX 6	Other family members

BOX 7-10

General Correspondence, 1808-1925

Non-family letters written and received by members of the family.
Arranged by name of family member and therein chronologically.

BOX 7	Bell, Alexander Graham
BOX 7	Bell, Charles J.
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BOX 7	Hubbard, Gardiner G.
BOX 7	1840-1869
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BOX 9	Hubbard, Gertrude Mercer McCurdy
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BOX 9	Hubbard, Samuel (1785-1847)
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BOX 9	1846-1862
BOX 10	1863-1868, undated
BOX 10	Other family members

BOX 10

Subject File, 1886-1894

Letters and reports relating to the Moxee Co.
Arranged chronologically.

Subject File, 1886-1894

Container

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BOX 10	Moxee Co., 1886-1887, 1892-1894 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Speeches and Writings, 1860-1895 Handwritten copies, drafts, notes, and printed copies of articles and speeches written by various family members. Arranged by name of family member and therein alphabetically
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BOX 11	Hubbard, Gardiner G.
BOX 11	"China, Japan, and Corea"
BOX 11	"Cost of Telegraphic Correspondence in Europe"
BOX 11	"The Effects of Geographic Environment on the Development of Civilization"
BOX 11	"The Effect of Strikes"
BOX 11	"The Geography of Commerce"
BOX 11	"Jamaica" (with drafts and notes)
BOX 11	Lecture on Napoleon
BOX 11	"The Life of Napoleon as Told by His Portraits"
BOX 11	Memorial on the subject of postal telegraph system, Jan. 18, 1871
BOX 11	"Metamorphosis"
BOX 11	Paper on Blacks after the Civil War
BOX 11	"Postal Telegraph; An Address Delivered . . . before the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York," Apr. 3, 1890
BOX 11	Remarks at a meeting in Washington, D.C., for the relief of the University of Virginia, University of Virginia Alumni Bulletin, Nov. 1895
BOX 11	"Russia in Europe"
BOX 11	Speech, New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, June 22, 1867
BOX 11	"The Telegraph and the Press"
BOX 11	Testimony before United States Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, Feb. 6, 1874
BOX 11	Untitled manuscript (draft)
BOX 11	Hubbard, James M., "Jean Paul Mascarene," 1889
BOX 11	McCurdy, Robert Henry
BOX 11	Address at meeting of Sons of Connecticut, fall 1862 (with copy)
BOX 11	Address to Sons of Connecticut, Jan. 7, 1863
BOX 11	Memorandum of remarks to be made at a meeting to receive Dr. Prentiss's resignation, May 1873
BOX 11	Memorial to United States Senate and House of Representatives on reducing tariff (draft)
BOX 11	Remarks at meeting of New England Society
BOX 11	Remarks before the Union League Club
BOX 11	Remarks on the death of John [Wadsworth?]
BOX 11	Reminiscences of Mr. Chase
BOX 11	Speech as chairman of meeting of Republicans ratifying nomination of Roscoe Conkling, 1860
BOX 11	Speech at dinner for General Ambrose Everett Burnside, 1864
BOX 11	Speech at Gettysburg, June 20, 1867
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Speeches and Writings, 1860-1895

Container

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BOX 12-19	Miscellany, 1639-1922 Biographical and genealogical data, drawings, miscellaneous manuscripts and fragments, notes, transcripts of letters, school papers, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material and further differentiated by names of family members concerned where distinguishable.
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BOX 13	1860-1871 (5 folders)
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BOX 15	Indexes to family letters, 1794-1898 (2 folders)
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BOX 16	Drawings
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BOX 17	Presentation of the Gardiner G. Hubbard Collection of Engravings to the Library of Congress
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BOX 17	Loyal leagues and citizens meetings and activities
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BOX 17	Miscellaneous papers relating to other family members

Miscellany, 1639-1922

Container

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BOX 17	Printed matter
BOX 18	Printed matter
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BOX 18	25 Jan.-28 Mar. 1883; Jan.-29 Apr. 1892
BOX 18	29 Apr.-16 June 1892
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BOX 19	26 Dec. 1892-6 Jan. 1893; 29 Oct.-Nov. 1896
BOX 19	1896 and undated loose notes
BOX 19	Unidentified manuscript
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BOX 19	White, Andrew D., family letters, Feb.-Mar. 1905
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1788-1789
	Calligraphic exercises and watercolor drawing.
	Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Hubbard, James P., calligraphic exercises and watercolor drawing, Norwich, 1788-1789 (Container 17)