

Mary Ann Bickerdyke Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

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Collection Summary

Title: Mary Ann Bickerdyke Papers

Span Dates: 1847-1905

ID No.: MSS19224

Creator: Bickerdyke, Mary Ann, 1817-1901

Extent: 1,800 items; 5 containers; 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Nurse, agent for the United States Sanitary Commission, and pension attorney.

Correspondence, lists, draft memoirs, printed matter, and other papers relating to Bickerdyke's family, her work as a Civil War nurse and agent for the United States Sanitary Commission, and her activities on behalf of Civil War veterans in the years following the war.

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

Baker, Lucien--Correspondence.

Ball family--Correspondence.

Ball family.

Bickerdyke family--Correspondence.

Bickerdyke family.

Bickerdyke, Hiram--Correspondence.

Bickerdyke, James--Correspondence.

Bickerdyke, Mary Ann, 1817-1901.

Blue, Richard Whiting--Correspondence.

Cook, James H.

Dix, Dorothea Lynde, 1802-1887--Correspondence.

Livermore, Mary Ashton Rice, 1820-1905--Correspondence.

Perkins, Walden--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Stone, Lucy, 1818-1893--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States Sanitary Commission.

Subjects

Military pensions--United States--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Veterans.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--War work.

Occupations

Laywers.

Nurses.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Mary Ann Bickerdyke, nurse, agent for the U.S. Sanitary Commission, and pension attorney, were given to the Library of Congress by her grandchildren in 1969. Additional material was given by Marvin Litvin in 1977.

Processing History

The papers of Mary Ann Bickerdyke were arranged and described in 1973. The collection was expanded and revised in 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Mary Ann Bickerdyke is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Mary Ann Bickerdyke 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, Mary Ann Bickerdyke Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1817, July 19	Born, Knox County, Ohio
circa 1833	Attended Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
1837	Studied nursing, Cincinnati, Ohio
1847	Married Robert Bickerdyke (died 1859)
1861	At start of Civil War distributed supplies to soldiers in Cairo, Ill., and worked to improve living conditions for the soldiers; named matron of military hospital there
1862-1865	Worked as agent for United States Sanitary Commission; set up field hospitals and cooked, cleaned, and nursed Union soldiers; traveled with the armies of generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman
1866	Resigned from duty as army nurse
1866-1867	Worked at Chicago Home for the Friendless, Chicago, Ill.
1867-1869	Operated boarding house, Salina, Kans., and campaigned to get former soldiers to move west to Kansas

1870-1874	Conducted missionary work, New York, N.Y.
1874	Returned to Kansas; secured relief for victims of grasshopper plague
1876	Moved to San Francisco, Calif., and got job at United States Mint
1887	Returned to Kansas
1901, Nov. 8	Died, Bunker Hill, Kans.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke (1817-1901), a Civil War nurse and agent for the United States Sanitary Commission who was known as "Mother" Bickerdyke to Union soldiers, span the years 1847-1905.

A large portion of the Mary Ann Bickerdyke Papers consists of correspondence grouped into family, general, and special correspondence files. Among the correspondence of the Ball and Bickerdyke families are letters between Bickerdyke and her sons, James and Hiram. The general correspondence contains letters pertaining to her activities during the Civil War and from Civil War veterans seeking her aid in securing their pensions. A folder of special correspondence contains letters from Lucien Baker, Richard Whiting Blue, Dorothea Lynde Dix, Mary Ashton Rice Livermore, Walden Perkins, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), and Lucy Stone.

Subject files in the collection contain Civil War supply lists and disbursements, passes, and an incomplete draft memoir. Other files pertain to her post-war work on behalf of former Union soldiers, the Woman's Relief Corps, and efforts to aid residents of Kansas following the grasshopper plague of 1874. Miscellaneous items include biographical material, financial papers, a few photographs, and printed matter.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material. Family correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and general correspondence is arranged chronologically by year.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1	Ball, A. T.
BOX 1	Ball, Agnes and Lizzie
BOX 1	Ball, C. C.
BOX 1	Ball, Mary C.
BOX 1	Ball, Olive
BOX 1	Ball, W. A.
BOX 1	Ball, Webb C.
BOX 1	Becker, Elizabeth E.
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Charles R.
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Elizabeth
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Florence
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Hiram
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, James
BOX 1	From Hiram Bickerdyke (brother)
BOX 1	From Mary Ann Bickerdyke (mother)
BOX 1	General
BOX 1	To Mary Ann Bickerdyke
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Jane
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, John
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Joseph
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Mary E.
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, Robert
BOX 1	Bickerdyke, W. W.
BOX 1	Clark, Annie A.
BOX 1	Clark, Ella
BOX 1	Clark, George W.
BOX 1	Cochran, Asenath
BOX 1	Gordon, F. E.
BOX 1	Hutchinson, Ruth
BOX 1	Merritt, Christiana
BOX 1	Pond, Mrs. Charles M., Jr.
BOX 1	Wainright, Mary E.
BOX 1	Woodcock, Eliza
BOX 1	Unidentified
BOX 2	Special correspondence
BOX 2	General correspondence
BOX 2	1859
BOX 2	1862-1870
BOX 2	1874-1878
BOX 2	1881-1895

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 3	1896-1901
BOX 3	1903
BOX 3	1905
BOX 3	Undated
BOX 3	Subject file
BOX 3	Chicago Home for the Friendless, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 3	Civil War activities
BOX 3	Memoir, incomplete draft
BOX 3	Miscellany
	(2 folders)
BOX 3	Supply lists and disbursements
BOX 3	Cook, James H.
	(2 folders)
BOX 3	Kansas grasshopper plague
BOX 4	National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War
BOX 4	Pensions
BOX 4	Bickerdyke, Mary Ann
BOX 4	Soldiers
BOX 4	Soldiers' homes and soldiers' orphans' homes
BOX 4	Western College, Macon, Mo.
BOX 4	Woman's Relief Corps
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Biographical papers
BOX 4	Calling cards
BOX 4	Financial papers
BOX 4	Cook, James H.
BOX 4	Miscellaneous
BOX 4	General
	(2 folders)
BOX 4	Honors and tributes
BOX 5	Newspaper clippings
	(2 folders)
BOX 5	Photographs
BOX 5	Printed matter
	(3 folders)
BOX 5	Railroad passes