

Kirk Munroe Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79033894>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012009>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Revised 2023 October

Collection Summary

Title: Kirk Munroe Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1850-1940

Bulk Dates: 1867-1932

ID No.: MSS33894

Creator: Munroe, Kirk, 1850-1930

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 24 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 10 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79033894>

Summary: Author and adventurer. Correspondence, diaries, handwritten drafts and printed copies of writings, biographical material, scrapbooks, subject files, newspaper clippings, printed matter, photographs, drawings, and other papers relating primarily to Munroe's literary career and travels, including on a survey teams for the Union Pacific Railroad Company and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Munroe, Kirk, 1850-1930.

Munroe, Mabel Stearns. Mabel Stearns Munroe papers.

Munroe, Mary Barr. Mary Barr Munroe papers.

Organizations

Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company.

Union Pacific Railroad Company.

Subjects

Canoes and canoeing.

Cycling.

Indians of North America--Florida.

Literature.

Railroads--Surveying.

Seminole Indians.

Places

East Asia--Description and travel.

Everglades (Fla.)--Description and travel.

Florida--Description and travel.

Hudson Bay--Description and travel.

Occupations

Adventurers.

Authors.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Kirk Munroe, author and adventurer, were given to the Library of Congress by Eliot O'Hara in 1964.

Processing History

The papers of Kirk Munroe were arranged and described in 1964. The finding aid was revised in 2011 by Allen H. Kitchens. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

A daguerreotype and two tintypes have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Kirk Munroe 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of the 1915 Mary Barr Munroe diary in the Munroe Papers is available on one reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1850, Sept. 15	Born Charles Kirk Munroe, Prairie du Chien, Wis
1867-1868	Explored and surveyed routes for the Union Pacific Railroad Co. and Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Co.
1868-1869	Attended Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1876-1879	Reporter, <i>New York Sun</i> and <i>New York Times</i>
1879-1882	Editor, <i>Harper's Round Table</i>
1880	Founded League of American Wheelmen
1883	Married Mary Barr (died 1922)
1886	Settled in Coconut Grove, Miami, Fla. Published <i>Wakulla; A Story of Adventure in Florida</i> . New York and London: Harper & Brothers
1887	Published <i>The Flamingo Feather</i> . New York : Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square
1888	Published <i>Derrick Sterling; A Story of Mines</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers
1890-1891	Traveled from Coconut Grove, Fla., to the Ten Thousand Islands in sailboat <i>Allapata</i>
1900	Published <i>Under the Great Bear</i> . New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.

1905	Became a real estate developer, Miami-Dade County, Fla. Published <i>For the Mikado</i> . New York and London: Harper & Brothers
1924	Married Mabel Stearns
1930, June 16	Died, Miami, Fla.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Kirk Munroe (1850-1930) consist of diaries, correspondence, writings biographical material, photographs, subject files, printed matter, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, scrapbooks, drawings and watercolors, and an autographed guest book from “The Scrubub,” the Munroe home in Florida. The material extends from 1850 to 1940, with the bulk of the papers concentrated in the period 1867-1932. The collection is organized into four series: [Diaries](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Article, Short Story and Book File](#); and [Miscellany](#).

The papers relate primarily to Kirk Munroe’s literary career as an author of boy’s books; his adventures on a survey team for the Union Pacific and Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroads; trips into the Everglades, into the Hudson Bay region, and to the Far East on a world tour; his work in behalf of the Seminole people of Florida; and his canoeing and bicycling interests. These activities are documented principally by his writings, by the correspondence kept by himself and his two wives, by the diaries kept by himself, and by his first scrapbooks. The writings include handwritten drafts and printed copies of articles, short stories, essays, books, and poetry. The period of his life from 1870 to 1880 is poorly documented.

A diary dated 1853 was kept by Charles W. Munroe, Kirk Munroe’s father. Diaries dated 1867-1869, 1881, and 1923 were kept by Kirk Munroe. Diaries dated 1884-1922 were kept by Mary Barr Munroe, first wife of Kirk Munroe. There are no diaries for the years 1870-1880.

Correspondence to and from Kirk Munroe is meager and focused exclusively on his family for the years 1867-1869. There is considerable correspondence to and from his second wife, Mabel Stearns Munroe, with reference to a proposed biography of Kirk. Her correspondents include Poultney Bigelow, Frank W. Buxton, Randolph Edgar, Duncan U. Fletcher, Ward Greene, Hermann Hagedorn, James K. Hand, Arthur Milton Pope, Herbert Putnam, William F. Raney, Clement Francis Robinson, William A. Rodgers, Charles Scribner (1854-1930) W. P. Stephens, Lyman Beecher Stowe, and Ray L. Wilbur.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains family and biographical material, photographs, printed matter, various topical files, and scrapbooks of miscellaneous writings, diary excerpts, correspondence, photographs, and clippings. Depicted in the photographs in addition to the Munroe family are canoeing and bicycling scenes, views from a trip to Hudson Bay in 1909, Indians, and the Monroe home in Florida. Some of these same topics are documented in a subject file within the series, which also contains oversize drawings, sketches, and watercolors.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Diaries, 1853-1924](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1850-1940](#)
- [Article, Short Story, and Book File, 1869-1920](#)
- [Miscellany, 1867-1940](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-8	<p><u>Diaries, 1853-1924</u></p> <p>Bound diaries and folders of typed excerpts. Arranged chronologically. The diary for 1915 in Container 7 is available on microfilm, shelf no. 21,375.</p>
BOX 9-11	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1850-1940</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged by name of person and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 12-18	<p><u>Article, Short Story, and Book File, 1869-1920</u></p> <p>Handwritten drafts and printed copies of articles, short stories, essays, books, and poetry by Munroe. Includes newspaper clippings and early newspaper articles possibly written by Munroe as a reporter; a scrapbook containing Munroe's poetry; and bibliographies, notes, and related material. . Arranged by type of writing or material</p>
BOX 19-26	<p><u>Miscellany, 1867-1940</u></p> <p>Family and biographical material, photographs, printed matter, various topical files, scrapbooks of miscellaneous writings, diary excerpts, correspondence. photographs, and clippings, and oversize drawings, sketches, and watercolors. Organized by type of file or material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-8	Diaries, 1853-1924 Bound diaries and folders of typed excerpts. Arranged chronologically. The diary for 1915 in Container 7 is available on microfilm, shelf no. 21,375.
BOX 1	1853-1885
BOX 2	1886-1891
BOX 3	1892-1896
BOX 4	1897-1902
BOX 5	1903-1908
BOX 6	1909-1913
BOX 7	1914-1918 <i>Diary for 1915 available on microfilm shelf no. 21,375</i>
BOX 8	1919-1923
BOX 9-11	General Correspondence, 1850-1940 Letters sent and received. Arranged by name of person and therein chronologically.
BOX 9	Munroe family and Kirk Munroe, 1850-1930
BOX 10	Munroe, Mary Barr, 1907-1921 (first wife)
BOX 10	Munroe, Mabel Stearns (second wife)
BOX 10	1927-1931, Oct.
BOX 11	1931, Nov.-1940
BOX 11	Miscellaneous
BOX 12-18	Article, Short Story, and Book File, 1869-1920 Handwritten drafts and printed copies of articles, short stories, essays, books, and poetry by Munroe. Includes newspaper clippings and early newspaper articles possibly written by Munroe as a reporter; a scrapbook containing Munroe's poetry; and bibliographies, notes, and related material. . Arranged by type of writing or material
BOX 12	Articles and short stories, 1883-1920
BOX 12	Book file
BOX 12	<i>Summer in the Catskill Mountains</i> , 1883
BOX 12	<i>Florida Annual</i>
BOX 12	1885
BOX 12	1886
BOX 13	<i>The Flamingo Feather</i> , 1886
BOX 13	<i>Dorymatas</i> , 1890
BOX 13	<i>Canoemates</i> , 1893
BOX 13	<i>The White Conquerors</i> , 1893
BOX 13	<i>The Fur Seal's Tooth</i> , 1894

Article, Short Story, and Book File, 1869-1920

Container

Contents

BOX 13	<i>The Totem of the Bear</i> , 1894
BOX 14	<i>Snow Shoes and Sledges</i> , 1895
BOX 14	<i>Rick Dale</i> , 1896
BOX 14	<i>Through Swamp and Glade</i> , 1896
BOX 14	<i>The Painted Desert</i> , 1897
BOX 14	<i>With Crockett and Bowie</i> , 1897
BOX 14	<i>In Pirate Waters</i> , 1898
BOX 15	<i>Forward March</i> , 1899
BOX 15	<i>Shine Terrill</i> , 1899
BOX 15	<i>Under the Great Bear</i> , 1900
BOX 15	<i>Brethren of the Coast</i> , 1900
BOX 15	<i>The Son of Satsuma</i> , 1901
BOX 15	<i>The Belt of Seven Totems</i> , 1902
BOX 16	<i>The Blue Dragon</i> , 1904
BOX 16	<i>The Outcast Warrior</i> , 1905
BOX 16	<i>For the Mikado</i> , 1905 .
BOX 16	“With Transit and Level”, undated
BOX 16	“A South Sea Rover”, undated
BOX 16	<i>Golden Days of Forty-Nine</i> , undated
BOX 16	Unidentified, undated
BOX 17	Miscellaneous
BOX 17	Newspaper file, 1869-1876
BOX 17	Bibliography of writings, 1879-1920
BOX 17	Poetry file, 1882-1885, n.d.
BOX 17	Notes for “A New Wilderness” and “Pioneer Women of the Northwest,” 1909
BOX 17	General, 1884-1906
BOX OV 18	Scrapbook, 1874-1909 (Oversize)
BOX 19-26	Miscellany, 1867-1940 Family and biographical material, photographs, printed matter, various topical files, scrapbooks of miscellaneous writings, diary excerpts, correspondence, photographs, and clippings, and oversize drawings, sketches, and watercolors. Organized by type of file or material.
BOX 19	Biographical file
BOX 19	Obituaries, 1930
BOX 19	Articles about Kirk Munroe, 1891-1937
BOX 19	Notes and clippings
BOX 19	Family records
BOX 19	Material for proposed biography, 1930-1940
BOX 20	Photographs
BOX 20	Family, 1868-1923 (3 folders)
BOX 20	Early days, 1886-1916
BOX 20	Indians, 1886-1938 (3 folders)
BOX 20	Hudson Bay trip, 1909

Miscellany, 1867-1940

Container	Contents
BOX 21	“The Scrububs,” Florida home, 1885-1920 (2 folders)
BOX 21	Bicycling, 1880, 1894
BOX 21	Canoeing, 1882-1884
BOX 21	Miscellany, 1872-1903
BOX 21	Subject file
BOX 21	Canoeing, 1882-1913
BOX 21	Bicycling, 1880-1938
BOX 22	Indians, 1898-1922
BOX 22	World tour, 1903
BOX 22	<i>New York Sun and Times</i> , 1877-1910
BOX 22	Union Pacific and Santa Fe Railroad surveying trip, 1867-1868
BOX 23	Autographed guest book for “The Scrububs,” 1886-1931
BOX 23	Printed matter, 1868-1932
BOX 24	Short stories (Mabel S. Munroe), undated
BOX 24	Memorabilia, undated
BOX 24	General miscellany, 1869-1940
BOX 24	Scrapbooks
BOX 24	1886-1897
BOX 25	1877-1924
BOX OV 26	Drawings, photostats, sketches, and watercolors, 1869-1888, undated (Oversize)