Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick 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://lccn.loc.gov/mm85006173

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019040

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff
Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2023
Collection Summary
Title: Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1861-1985
Bulk Dates: 1861-1882
ID No.: MSS6173
Creator: Kirkpatrick, Samuel Cotter, 1841-1911
Extent: 750 items
Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm85006173
Summary: Soldier. Correspondence, photographs, and other papers relating to Kirkpatrick's service in the 11th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, Union army, during the American Civil War. Also contains family correspondence, primarily of Kirkpatrick's parents, siblings, and aunt and uncle.

Acquisition Information
A transcript of the Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick correspondence was given to the Library of Congress in 1985 by Melvin E. Kirkpatrick. The correspondence, a second transcript, and additional materials were purchased by the Library in 2017.

Processing History
The papers of Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick were arranged and described by Emilia Schrier in 2023. The majority of the collection has undergone mold remediation.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, 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, Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note
Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick, born in 1841, served in Company E of the 11th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during the American Civil War. He enlisted for three years in 1861 and received the rank of corporal. He reenlisted in 1864 and served until the end of the war. During his service, he was injured two times and fought in the Vicksburg campaign. By the time of his discharge, he had achieved the rank of sergeant. Kirkpatrick married Caroline M. Ritchey on April 16, 1864. The couple
had five children, two of whom survived to adulthood. After he was discharged from military service, Kirkpatrick worked as a farmer in Nebraska and Wisconsin. He died in Platteville, Wisconsin, in 1911.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick (1841-1911) span the years 1861-1985, with the bulk of the material dating from 1861 to 1882, and contain mostly correspondence. Half of the material documents Kirkpatrick's service in the 11th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during the American Civil War and includes photographs of Kirkpatrick as a soldier, a drill book, his correspondence to his parents, siblings, and other relatives from the field, and two separate sets of transcripts of those letters compiled and edited by Kirkpatrick family descendants in the twentieth century. These transcript sets also contain photocopies of Kirkpatrick's military pension application, marriage certificate, and other documents, as well as research on the 11th Wisconsin Infantry and on the Kirkpatrick family. Kirkpatrick's letters describe the regiment's location, activities, and condition throughout the war. The regiment fought primarily in the Trans-Mississippi theater and participated in the siege of Vicksburg. Some letters are written on stationery with images of patriotic scenes or geographic locations.

The rest of the collection consists of postwar family correspondence primarily from Kirkpatrick's sister, Isabelle Kirkpatrick Bromely, to her husband, Charles E. Bromely; Kirkpatrick's parents, James Gillham Kirkpatrick Jr. and Caroline Newman Kirkpatrick; siblings Charles Hardin Kirkpatrick, John Newman Kirkpatrick, and Nancy Ellen Kirkpatrick; and others. These letters contain updates on family and friends, accounts of local news, and farming and weather information.

**Arrangement of the Collection**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

**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**

Bromely, Charles E., 1841-1915--Correspondence.
Bromely, Isabelle Kirkpatrick, 1851-1926--Correspondence.
Kirkpatrick family--Correspondence.
Kirkpatrick, Caroline Newman, 1821-1910--Correspondence.
Kirkpatrick, Samuel Cotter, 1841-1911.

**Organizations**

United States. Army. Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, 11th (1861-1865)

**Places**

Mississippi--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1863.
West (U.S.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Wisconsin--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

**Occupations**

Farmers.
Soldiers.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1861-1865 See also Container OV 1, Oversize letters (5 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, transcript by Lela Belle Stephens, circa 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, transcript by Melvin E. Kirkpatrick, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Drill book, Infantry Tactics, Compiled from Scott and Hardee, for the Use of Wisconsin Volunteers, by Robert Chandler, 1861 Item is restricted pending conservation treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Family correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Bromely, Charles E., 1880-1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Bromely, Isabelle Kirkpatrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence with family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Bromely, Charles E., 1873-1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick, Caroline Mary Richie, 1869, 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick, Caroline Newman, and Nancy Ellen Kirkpatrick, 1873-1874 (2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick, Caroline Newman, and Nancy Ellen Kirkpatrick, 1875-1881 (5 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick, Charles Hardin, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick, John Newman, 1866-1870, 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Correspondence with others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Barrett, Joe, and family, 1869-1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>General, circa 1870-1879 (2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick, James Gillham, Jr., and Caroline Newman Kirkpatrick, 1862-1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1861, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Oversize letters, 1862-1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Photographs of Samuel Cotter Kirkpatrick, 1860s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>