
Guide to the Mary Virginia Ives Crocker Papers, 1876-1910

Collection number: MS 3593

California Historical Society

North Baker Research Library
San Francisco, California

Contact Information:

- California Historical Society
- North Baker Research Library
- 678 Mission Street
- San Francisco, California 94105-4014
- Phone: (415) 357-1848, ext. 220
- Fax: (415) 357-1850
- Email: reference@calhist.org
- URL: <http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/>

Processed by:

California Historical Society staff

© 2001 California Historical Society. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Mary Virginia Ives Crocker Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1876-1910

Collection number: MS 3593

Creator: Crocker, Mary Virginia Ives

Extent: 3 1/4 ft.

Repository: California Historical Society, North Baker Library
San Francisco, California 94105-4014

Language: English

Access

Collection is open for research by appointment only.

Publication Rights

Copyright has not been assigned to The North Baker Research Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Library Director. Permission for publication is given on behalf of The North Baker Research Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mary Virginia Ives Crocker Papers. MS 3593, California Historical Society, North Baker Research Library.

Biography

Described by her contemporaries as an "accomplished and beautiful heiress," Mary Ives Crocker lived the comfortable life of a nineteenth century millionaire's wife. Born in California in 1863 to Eunice Ives, she and her sister Florence were taken under the wing of the wealthy

Kate and Charles McLaughlin. Mary Ives quickly gained notoriety among San Francisco's elite and soon emerged as one of the more sought after young single women.

On 3 April 1889 she married Henry J. Crocker. As the wife of one of San Francisco's wealthiest men, Mary Crocker spent her life fulfilling the duties of a social hostess and personal confidant to her husband. They had three daughters and two sons.

Henry J. Crocker, son of Clarke Crocker, mercantilist, and nephew of Charles B. Crocker, railroad magnate, stood heir to a great deal of the Crocker family fortune. Born in 1861 he attended St. Matthews in San Mateo. Following graduation, he entered into his father's mercantile business. He left in 1886 to establish his own firm of H.J. Crocker, Printers and Publishers.

Respected in the business community, Crocker served as president of the American National Bank and the Refining and Producing Oil Company of San Francisco. Because of his reputation for fair dealing and good judgement, he was appointed to the Board of Harbor Commission in 1903. That same year he waged a vigorous campaign for the office of mayor of San Francisco. Although he lost to Schmidt, Crocker continued to wield tremendous influence over the cultural and industrial development of the city. In his personal life, Crocker was an active member of various equestrian and philatelist associations. He died in October of 1913.

Scope and Content

The Mary Virginia Ives Crocker Papers are made up of twenty scrapbooks and seven folders (containing loose materials removed from the scrapbooks) which consist of correspondence, programs, periodicals, ephemera, photographs and newspaper clippings which chronicle her life with Henry J. Crocker. Although in random order, two themes weave in and out of the scrapbooks.

The first general subject consists of correspondence and clippings concerning the social life of the Crockers, including engagement and wedding receptions; society balls and events; announcements and obituaries of family friends; newspaper clippings about family members; and, opera and exposition programs and ephemera.

The second general topic revolves around Henry J. Crocker's personal hobbies and public dealings. Included are his adventures in sailing; equestrian shows; philatelist competitions; and, athletic contests. Areas of his public life recorded are his business transactions and his unsuccessful bid for the office of mayor in 1903.

- California Wine Makers Corporation
- Chicago. World's Columbian Exposition, 1893.
- Cox, Jerome B.
- Crocker, Charles B.
- Crocker, Clarke
- Crocker, Henry J.
- Crocker, Julia
- Crocker, Mary
- Elections--California--1903
- Hawaii
- Horses-Shows
- McLaughlin, Charles
- McLaughlin, Kate
- National Equestrian Association for California
- Olympic Club of San Francisco
- Pacific Coast 2nd Annual Horse Show, 1895
- Pacific Philatelist Society
- Postage-Stamps--Collectors and Collecting
- San Francisco. California Midwinter International Exposition, 1894.
- San Francisco--Elections
- San Francisco--Earthquake and Fire, 1906.
- San Francisco--Social Life and Customs
- Schmitz, Eugene E.
- Voyages and Travels
- Wine and Wine Making--California

Periodicals

The following periodicals are also contained within the scrapbooks:

- *Breeder and Sportsman* (clippings)
- *California Turf* (clippings)
- *Collectors Journal* no. 4 April 1909
- *Everybody's Philatelist* vol 1 no5 May 1910
- *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* 26 June 1909 no. 26 #ix
- *London Philatelist* xvii no 210 June 1909; xviii no212 August 1909
- *Postage Stamp* 29 May 1909 #9 vol. 4

Box 1, Volume 1 **1876**

Volume 2 **1888-1889**

Volume 3 **1888-1904 (Crocker wedding)**

Volume 4 **1889-1891**

Volume 5 **1893-1901**

Volume 6 **1893-1894**

Volume 7 **1894**

Box 2, Volume 8 **1894-1896**

Volume 9 **1895**

Volume 10 **1897-1901**

Volume 11 **1901-1902**

Volume 12 **1902-1903**

Volume 13 **1902-1904**

Box 3, Volume 14 **1903 (elections, 1903)**

Volume 15 **1903 (elections, 1903)**

Volume 16 **1905-1910**

Volume 17 **1908**

Volume 18 **1909-1910**

Volume 19 **1910**

Box 4, Folder 1 **Correspondence and miscellaneous of Scrapbook #2**

Folder 2 **Miscellaneous of Scrapbook #3**

Folder 3 **Miscellaneous of Scrapbook #4**

- Folder 4 **Miscellaneous of Scrapbook #8**
- Folder 5 **Miscellaneous of Scrapbook #10**
- Folder 6 **Correspondence and Miscellaneous of Scrapbook #12**
- Folder 7 **Miscellaneous of Scrapbook #17**
- Folder 8 **Correspondence of Scrapbook #20, 1903-1909**
- Folder 9 **Publications/Miscellaneous of Scrapbook #20**
- Folder 10 **Clippings of Scrapbooks #20, 1907**