
Inventory of the Walker, Spinning, and Durrell Families Papers

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Creator: Walker familySpinning familyDurrell family

Title: Walker, Spinning, and Durrell Families Papers

Date (inclusive): 1862-1955

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Abstract: A family history collection which contains correspondence, photographs, and scrapbooks pertaining to the Walker, Spinning, and Durrell families, who are related by marriage. The correspondence includes three letters from and one letter to Hiram Walker, while he was a Union soldier in the U.S. Civil War and five letters from Hiram's daughter, Emma (Walker) Heron, while she was a missionary in India.

Physical location: Researchers should contact Special Collections to request collections, as many are stored offsite.

Repository: University of California, Davis. General Library. Department of Special Collections.

Davis, California 95616-5292

Collection number: D-226

Language of Material: Collection materials in English.

Biography

Hiram Walker (1843-1921) served as a soldier in the United States Civil War. On December 31, 1865 he married Sarah Charity Willis (1847-1920) in Ohio.

Their daughter, Emma (1866?-April 2, 1897), served as a missionary in India with the International Missionary Alliance from 1891-1897.

Circa 1894-1895, Emma married Donald Heron (d. January 30, 1896), also a missionary with the Alliance in India.

Another daughter, Anna, married William Simpson Spinning on December 31, 1902 in Duluth, Minnesota. Anna and William had two children: Marian Frances Spinning (1912-) and Helen Margaret Spinning (1914-1983).

On May 22, 1938 Helen married Cordell Durrell (1908-1986). Cordell served as Professor of Geology at the University of California, Davis from 1963 to 1976.

Sources consulted:

Christian Missionary Alliance. Nyack, NY: Christian Alliance, June 18, 1897, v. 28 no. 25.

Scope and Content

The papers contain correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, and memorabilia of the Walker, Spinning, and Durrell families, who are related by marriage.

The correspondence series includes three letters from and one letter to Hiram Walker, while he was a Union soldier in the U.S. Civil War and five letters from Hiram's daughter, Emma (Walker) Heron, while she was a missionary in India during the 1890s.

Series 2, Scrapbooks, contains five scrapbooks compiled by Anna Walker Spinning and her daughter, Helen Spinning which document three generations of the families.

Arrangement of the Collection

The Papers are arranged into five series: Correspondence, Scrapbooks, Photographs, Artwork, and Memorabilia.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Walker family--Archives.

Spinning family--Archives.

Durrell family--Archives.

Walker, Hiram, 1843-1921

Heron, Emma Walker, d. 1897

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives.

Women missionaries--India

University of California, Berkeley--Pictorial works

Access

Collection is open for research.

Processing Information

Sara Gunasekara processed these papers and created and encoded this finding aid.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Walker, Spinning, and Durrell Families Papers, D-226, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis.

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Series 1. **Correspondence 1862-1903**

Physical Description: 12 letters

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence includes three letters from and one letter to Hiram Walker during the time he served as a soldier in the United States Civil War, and five letters from Emma (Walker) Heron to her sister Anna Walker. Also included are two letters from Carma Hostetter to Anna, and one letter from Nancy Spinning to her new daughter-in-law, Anna.

The three letters from Hiram were written during the time he served as a Union soldier in the U.S. Civil War. In his first letter, written in 1862 from a camp near Lexington, Kentucky, Hiram asks his parents to write and tell him if there is "any hope of settling this...for one day we hear it is about over and the next day we hear that England and France is a going to recognize the South." In 1864, Hiram writes from south of Atlanta to say that they have Atlanta almost surrounded and that they are preparing to go on a big raid. In his last letter, written on April 27, 1865, he informs his parents that they have heard that "old Lee and his [w]hole army surrendered to Grant and Sheridan and that some infernal rascals killed Abe Lincoln and wounded old Seward and his son."

The correspondence from Hiram's daughter, Emma (Walker) Heron, to her sister Anna, was written during the time Emma served as a missionary in India in the 1890s. Her letters focus on religion and briefly discuss her life in India.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1:1	Sidney Redman to Hiram Walker 1862 February 15
Box 1:2	Hiram Walker to Parents 1862 November 10
Box 1:3	Hiram Walker to Parents 1864 August 13
Box 1:4	Hiram Walker to Parents 1865 April 27
Box 1:5	Emma Heron to Anna Walker 1891 December 4
Box 1:6	Emma Heron to Anna Walker 1892 May 13
Box 1:7	Emma Heron to Anna Walker 1893 December 22
Box 1:8	Emma Heron to Anna Walker 1895 May 23
Box 1:9	Carma Hostetter to Anna Walker 1896 January 17
Box 1:10	Carma Hostetter to Anna Walker 1896 October 26
Box 1:11	Emma Heron to Anna Walker 1896 November 13
Box 1:12	Nancy Spinning to Anna Walker Spinning 1903 January 23
Box 1:13	Envelopes undated

Series 2. **Scrapbooks circa 1900-1955**

Physical Description: 5 scrapbooks

Scope and Content Note

Contains five scrapbooks compiled by Anna Walker Spinning and her daughter, Helen Spinning.

Box 1:14	Scrapbook 1 circa 1900-1955
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Scope and Content Note

This scrapbook was probably compiled by Anna Walker Spinning. It contains material related to the Walker and Spinning Families and holds photographs of members of the Walker Family, including Hiram and Sarah Walker, and their children. Also found in the scrapbook are studio portraits and family snapshots of Anna, her husband William, and their daughters Marian and Helen from youth to circa 1955.

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- Box 1:15 **Items removed from Scrapbook 1 circa 1900-1955**
 Box 1:16 **Scrapbook 2 circa 1914-1916**
Scope and Content Note
 This scrapbook is a baby book for Helen Spinning. It contains narratives about significant milestones in her childhood as well as photographs of Helen until about age two.
- Box 1:17-20 **Items removed from Scrapbook 2 circa 1914-1916**
 Box 2:1 **Scrapbook 3 circa 1925-1931**
Scope and Content Note
 Compiled by Helen Spinning beginning in 1925, this scrapbook contains images and clippings of Helen and her sister Marian as young girls growing up in Oregon.
- Box 2:2-4 **Items removed from Scrapbook 3 circa 1925-1931**
 Box 2:5 **Scrapbook 4 circa 1930-1939**
Scope and Content Note
 Compiled by Helen Spinning during the 1930s, this scrapbook contains photographs of the University of California, Berkeley campus, construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and unidentified individuals vacationing in Taft, California, among other photographs.
- Box 3:1 **Scrapbook 5 circa 1932-1936**
Scope and Content Note
 Compiled by Helen Spinning, this scrapbook focuses on life at the University of California, Berkeley in the 1930s. Photographs, clippings, and programs are included.

Series 3. **Photographs 1952?**

Physical Description: 7 File folders

Scope and Content Note

Contains several photographs including a portrait of Helen Spinning. Other photographs are present in Series 2. Scrapbooks.

- Box 3:2 **Campanile at the University of California, Berkeley undated**
 Box 3:3 **Durrell, Cordell? undated**
 Box 3:4 **Eskridge, May undated**
 Box 3:5 **Spinning, Helen undated**
 Box 3:6 **Tabernacle, Salt Lake City undated**
 Box 3:7 **Vacation 1952?**
 Box 3:8 **Negatives of vacation photographs 1952?**

Series 4. **Artwork**

Scope and Content Note

Select prints from *California's colorful campuses* by Chiura Obata, Berkeley: [California Monthly], 1947.

- Box 3:9 **Nightfall from Charter Hill**
 Box 3:10 **Dusk at Sather Gate, winter**
 Box 3:11 **Senior pilgrimage**
 Box 3:12 **Spring rain, football statue**
 Box 3:13 **Summer breeze, Botanical Garden**
 Box 3:14 **Faculty Glade, late summer**
 Box 3:15 **Old Botanical Gardens, early autumn**
 Box 3:16 **Singing to the future, Memorial Stadium, fall**
 Box 3:17 **Campanile by winter moonlight**
 Box 3:18 **Charter Day in Greek Theatre**

Series 5. **Memorabilia 1888-1957**

Box 3:19	Pamphlet; Questions Regarding Hinduism by A.W. Proutch 1888
Box 3:20	Serial; <i>The Outers Club</i> 1928
Box 3:21	University of California records of Helen Spinning 1933-1957
Box 3:22	Yearbook; U.S. Grant High School, Portland, Oregon 1931 June