



Kingsbury Family Papers

1862-2006 (*Bulk:*1881-1902)

10 boxes (6 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS504

Collection overview

The family of Roxana Kingsbury Gould (nee Weed) farmed the rocky soils of western New England during the late nineteenth century. Roxana's first husband Ambrose died of dysentery shortly after the Civil War, leaving her to care for their two infant sons, and after marrying her second husband, Lyman Gould, she relocated from southwestern Vermont to Cooleyville and then (ten years later) to Shelburne, Massachusetts. The Goulds added a third son to their family in 1869.

A rich collection of letters and photographs recording the history of the Kingsbury-Gould families of Shelburne, Massachusetts. The bulk of the letters are addressed to Roxana Kingsbury Gould, the strong-willed matriarch at the center of the family, and to her granddaughter, May Kingsbury Phillips, the family's first historian. In addition to documenting the complicated dynamics of a close-knit family, this collection is a rich source for the study of local history, rural New England, and the social and cultural practices at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.

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Background on Creator:

Roxana Orvilla Weed Kingsbury Gould (1838-1904) was the matriarch of the Kingsbury family during the late nineteenth century, a family of middle class New Englanders. A native of Winhall, Vermont, Roxana married Ambrose Kingsbury in 1859 after he divorced her older sister Lura. During their relatively brief marriage, the couple had two boys, Arnold O. Kingsbury (1861-1901) and Oscar B. Kingsbury (1863-1943), both born in Jamaica, Vermont. Ambrose survived the Civil War with the 5th Vermont Infantry, but shortly after his return home, he succumbed to dysentery.

Three years later, in 1868, Roxana married Lyman G. Gould and moved her children to his home in Cooleyville, Massachusetts (now New Salem), where she had another son, David Oris Gould (1869-1953). After ten years, the family moved to a farm in Shelburne. When the question of who would inherit the family's farm arose, the decision seems to have been determined by the process of elimination. Roxana and Lyman's only son together, David, showed no interest, and Roxana's oldest son, Arnold, proved to be unreliable. As a result, the farm was settled on Oscar, the middle son, who took up the work in late 1888. Married a year earlier to Lillian M. Davis (1868-1937), Oscar failed in his first efforts at assuming responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the farm, and over the next few years Oscar sought work elsewhere. When he finally returned to the farm in 1895, Roxana and



Roxana Kingsbury Gould

Lyman were ready to let it go, this time formally transferring the farm and its movable assets to Oscar.

In the next generation of Kingsburys, May O. Kingsbury, the second of Oscar and Lillian's four children, took a keen interest in the family's history. A teacher in Shelburne before her marriage to R. Ernest Phillips in 1923, May kept up an active correspondence with family members, especially during her single years, and she preserved most of the family's papers and genealogical materials. During the 1960s, she wrote a series of essays detailing the life of her grandmother Roxana, which were saved by her daughter, Marilyn, and eventually passed on to her nephew, Conrad Totman.

Scope of collection

This collection contains a wide variety of personal papers belonging to the members of the Kingsbury, Gould, and Totman families, long-time residents of the Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont area. Dated between 1862 and 2006, the papers were collected by family members during the twentieth century.

The family of Ambrose and Roxana Kingsbury and their two sons Arnold and Oscar maintained an active correspondence throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. The bulk of this correspondence details the family relationships and local events as experienced by Roxana by her female relatives after her second marriage and subsequent removal to rural western Massachusetts. There are also various items of personal interest from extended family members, including children's books, autograph albums, stereocards, picture postcards collected in albums, a few legal documents, graphic business cards from local western Massachusetts businesses, and a large sample of calling cards.

May Kingsbury Phillips collected her grandmother's letters and later compiled a family genealogy, which is included here. After May's death, her nephew Conrad Totman became the repository for the family's history. Both May and Conrad compiled narrative histories of the family, mostly focusing on Roxana's correspondence and the photographs contained in this collection. Their notes, identifications, and interpretations can be found throughout the collection.

The collection is rounded out by a series of family photography, dating from a formal portrait in 1862 to photocopies of photographs for genealogical research made in 2005. There are gem tintypes, formal portraits, snapshots, and photograph albums, preserved in a variety of frames, matted presentations, locket, and albums. Some are professional photographs and others are candid photographs taken by members of the family.

Series descriptions

Series 1: Correspondence and Subject Files

1862-1942

Since most of the correspondents in this series were related by birth or marriage, the letters contained are often about family members and mutual acquaintances. The letters also refer extensively to life in Shelburne, Cooleyville (New Salem), Greenfield and surrounding towns in Massachusetts, and the area near Jamaica, Vermont.

The bulk of this series consists of letters addressed to Roxana Kingsbury Gould, mostly from members of the Kingsbury, Gleason, and Gould families, including her sons and grandchildren. These letters discuss local events, births, marriages, and deaths, and were intended to keep Roxana up-to-date with family news.

May Kingsbury Phillips received a substantial series of letters during her younger years as a student and a teacher. They are mostly family letters, informing her about local news.

Series 2: Genealogy**1958-2005**

In the second half of the twentieth century, May Kingsbury Phillips and, later, her nephew Conrad Totman compiled genealogical histories of the Kingsbury and Davis families. This collection contains copies of their correspondence with other family members and historical societies, miscellaneous newspaper clippings, notes, sketches of family trees, and compiled narrative histories. Conrad transcribed many of the letters from the collection in his "Kingsburyana" bound volume.

Series 3: Photographs**1862-2005**

Photographs in the Kingsbury Family Papers consist of a variety of photographic methods, including portraits, gem tintypes, photocopies, and snapshots. Most photographs were taken locally in Hartford, Greenfield, Shelburne, Deerfield, and Conway, Massachusetts. Many of the photographs are undated but are from the second half of the nineteenth century.

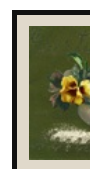
Inventory

Series 1: Correspondence and Subject Files	1862-1942	
Arms Academy: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1909-1913	Box 1: 1
Art Books: Kingsbury, Lillian Davis	1913	Box 1: 1
Art Papers: Kingsbury, Lillian Davis	ca. 1895-1915	Box 1: 3
Autograph Album: Kingsbury, Joseph L.	1880-1902	Box 1: 4
Autograph Album: Kingsbury, Lillian Davis	1883-1889	Box 1: 5
Autograph Album: Kingsbury, Oscar	1879-1903	Box 1: 6
Calendar: Kingsbury, Lillian Davis	1905	Box 1: 7
Calling Cards: Baldwin Family	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 8
Calling Cards: Davis Family	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 9
Calling Cards: Davis, Lillian	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 10
Calling Cards: Gleason Family	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 11
Calling Cards: Gould, David	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 12
Calling Cards: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 13
Calling Cards: Kingsbury Family	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 14
Calling Cards: Kingsbury, Oscar	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 15
Calling Cards: Other Family Members	ca. 1870-1890	Box 1: 16
Children's Books: Kingsbury, Oscar	1869	Box 2: 1
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury	1868-1899	Box 2: 2
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Arnold & Eliza Kingsbury	1881-1901	Box 2: 3
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from David & Cora Gould	1887-1902	Box 2: 4
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Gleason Family	1880-1901	Box 2: 5
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Julia Baldwin Gleason	1868-1888	Box 2: 6
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Julia Baldwin Gleason	1888-1896	Box 2: 7
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Libbie Gleason Eaton	1879-1891	Box 2: 8
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Lillie Gleason Gadoret	1885-1895	Box 2: 9
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Nancy Weed Gleason	1863-1885	Box 3: 1
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Olive Kingsbury Williams	1881-1902	Box 3: 2
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Oscar Kingsbury	1885-1890	Box 3: 3
Correspondence: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury from Selima & Susan Weed	1882-1901	Box 3: 4
Correspondence: Kingsbury, Lillian Postcards	1925-1929	Box 3: 5
Correspondence: Kingsbury, Oscar	1887-1890	Box 3: 6
Correspondence: Kingsbury, Oscar	1893-1942	Box 3: 7
Correspondence: Kingsbury Postcards	1906-1928	Box 3: 8

Correspondence: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1908-1914	Box 3: 9
Correspondence: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1915	Box 3: 10
Correspondence: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1916	Box 3: 11
Correspondence: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1917	Box 3: 12
Correspondence: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1918	Box 3: 13
Correspondence: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1919	Box 4: 1
Correspondence: Phillips, May Kingsbury	1920-1923	Box 4: 2
Correspondence: Totman, Mildred Kingsbury	1922-1923	Box 4: 3
Correspondence: Totman, Mildred Kingsbury	1929	Box 4: 4
Correspondence: Totman, Mildred Kingsbury	1930	Box 4: 5
Graphic Business Cards	undated	Box 4: 6
Legal Papers: Kingsbury Family	1865-1923	Box 4: 7
Personal Materials: Totman, Mildred Kingsbury	1862-1983	Box 4: 8
Personal Materials: Kingsbury, Oscar	1888-1895	Box 4: 9
Picture Postcards: Kingsbury, Oscar	1924-1925	Box 4: 10
Poems: Newsclippings & Reprints	ca. 1881-1890	Box 4: 11
Postcard Album: Davis, Mary Elizabeth Maxam	ca. 1908-1912	Box 9

Contents: Bound album of postcards given to Mary Elizabeth Maxam Davis. Of particular local interest (includes postcards from Greenfield, Fitchburg, Shelburne Falls, Hudson, Holyoke, Framington, Northfield, Massachusetts).

Sample images:



Postcard Album: Kingsbury, Lillian Davis	1908-1916	Box 4: 12
Stereocards: Around the World Religious Series	1910	Box 5: 1
Stereocards: DeLameter Hartford Series	1880	Box 5: 2
Stereocards: Genre Cards	1865-1890	Box 5: 3
Stereocards: Scenic Views	1885	Box 5: 4
Stereocards: White Mountains	1885	Box 5: 5

Series 2: Genealogy

1958-2005

Phillips, May Kingsbury: Genealogical Research	1958-1970	Box 5: 6
Phillips, May Kingsbury: Genealogical Research Notebooks	1960-1970	Box 5: 7
Phillips, May Kingsbury: Genealogical Research Notes	1958	Box 5: 8
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Barbara Cutko	2004-2006	Box 5: 9
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Betty Finnell Guinan	2005-2006	Box 5: 10
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Harold Gould	2005-2006	Box 5: 11
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Historical Societies	2006	Box 5: 12
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Marilyn Phillips Hubbard	2005-2006	Box 5: 13
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Rae Kingsbury Capen	2003-2006	Box 5: 14
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Richard Kingsbury	2005	Box 5: 15
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with Sylvia Kingsbury Rice	2005-2006	Box 5: 16
Totman, Conrad: Correspondence with William Kingsbury	2005-2006	Box 5: 17
Totman, Conrad: Family Trees	2005-2006	Box 6: 1

Totman, Conrad: Genealogical Correspondence	2005-2006	Box 6: 2
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Introduction	2006	Box 6: 3
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Part One	2006	Box 6: 4
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Parts Two, Three-A, & Three-B	2006	Box 6: 5
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Parts Four and Five	2006	Box 6: 6
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Introduction (copy)	2006	Box 6: 7
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Part One (copy)	2006	Box 6: 8
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Part One (copy)	2006	Box 7: 1
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Parts Two & Three-A (copy)	2006	Box 7: 2
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Part Three-B (copy)	2006	Box 7: 3
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Part Four (copy)	2006	Box 7: 4
Totman, Conrad: Kingsburyana Part Five (copy)	2006	Box 7: 5

Series 3: Photographs

1862-2005

Photograph Album: J.L. King 1883-1911 Box 9

Contents: Bound leather carte de visite (and tintype) album with an inscription: "Presented to J. L. King by his friend O. B. Kingsbury. Shelburne Center, Mass., August 3rd, 1883." Contains three stamps posted on the last page. Some photographs are identified by notes from Conrad Totman.

The album includes 12 cartes de visite of circus performers (listed separately below), one of which is labeled on verso: Nelli M. Petty, With G[eorge] B. Bunnell's Museum Co." Bunnell operated a slightly upscale dime museum in New York City (1876-1883), Brooklyn, and Jersey City.

La Petite Julia (acrobat) ca.1885 Carte de visite

Contents:



Acrobat troupe, photograph by J. Wood ca.1885 Carte de visite

Contents:



"John Jennings, Modern Sampson. Weight 168 lbs. Lifts 1,000 lbs with his Teeth" ca.1885 Carte de visite

Contents:



Unidentified "African" wild man

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



"The Murray Midgets. Triplet Brothers. Age 23 years," photo
by Charles Eisenmann

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



Unidentified female acrobat, photograph by Charles Eisenmann ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



"Nelly M. Petty, with G. B. Bunnell's Museum Co.," photograph
by Charles Eisenmann [caption written on verso]

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



Zoe Meleke ["Circassian woman"], photograph by Charles
Eisenmann

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



Adah Briggs (?), photograph by Charles Eisenmann

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



Amelia Hill (?), photograph by Charles Eisenmann

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



"The Bicycle used by Harriet Martell Made and Presented by John Wood, Jr., Beverly, Mass." [caption stamped on verso]

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



"Wueen Midget -- The German Rose," [Rosie Wolff], photograph by Charles Eisenmann

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



La Petite Julia (acrobat)

ca.1885

Carte de visite

Contents:



Photographs: Arms Academy Contents: Matted photograph of the junior and senior classes of the Arms Academy in Shelburne, MA, in 1912. May Kingsbury Phillips (Arms class of 1913) is pictured in the front row, fourth from the left.	1912		Box 9
Photographs: Arms Academy "Student Board" Contents: Matted photograph of the "student board" at the Arms Academy. Mildred Kingsbury Totman is the girl on the right in the second row.	1919		Box 9
Photographs: Davis, Dorothy Contents: Mounted school photograph.	1913		Box 7: 6
Photographs: Davis, Edwin Contents: Mounted photograph from Greenfield, Massachusetts.	undated		Box 7: 7
Photographs: Davis, Edwin Contents: Mounted tintype, labeled "Salesmen for Grand Union." Edwin Davis with "McFarlane."	undated		Box 7: 8
Photographs: Davis, Edwin and Nettie Goldthorite Contents: Tintype with Charles Cogswell and Emma Davis in front.	undated		Box 7: 9
Photographs: Davis Family Reunion	1896	Mounted photograph	Box 7: 10
Photographs: Davis Family Reunion	1897	Mounted photograph	Box 7: 11
Photographs: Davis Family Reunion Contents: Two small books of snapshots from reunion at the Totman farm in Conway, Massachusetts	1991		Box 7: 12
Photographs: Davis Family Reunion Contents: Two small books of snapshots from reunion at the Totman farm in Conway, Massachusetts.	1992		Box 7: 13
Photographs: Davis Family Reunion Contents: Two small books of snapshots from reunion at the Totman farm in Conway, Massachusetts.	1993		Box 8: 1
Photographs: Davis, Hardy	1865	Tintype	Box 8: 2
Photographs: Davis, Mary Elizabeth Contents: Oval metal framed photograph with matting and glass of Mary Elizabeth (Maxam) Davis.	undated		Box 9
Photographs: Davis, Will Contents: Tintype depicting Will Davis (seated).	1865		Box 8: 3
Photographs: Davis, Will	1865	Tintype	Box 8: 4
Photographs: Davis, William S. P. Contents: Mounted photograph from Greenfield, Massachusetts.	undated		Box 8: 5
Photographs: Doyl, Maggie Contents: Mounted photograph from Hartford, Connecticut.	undated		Box 8: 6

Photographs: Fiske House, Shelburne, MA Contents: Mounted photo with Harriet.	undated		Box 8: 7
Photographs: Fiske House, Shelburne MA	undated	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 8
Photographs: Gould, Roxana Kingsbury	1890		Box 8: 9
Photographs: Kingsbury, Ambrose and Roxana Kingsbury Gould	1863	Framed tintypes	Box 8: 10
Photographs: Kingsbury, Arnold and Eliza	1893	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 11
Photographs: Kingsbury, Bessie E.	1895	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 12
Photographs: Kingsbury, Family Copies Contents: Photocopies and reproductions of family photography made by Conrad Totman; contains notes and identification.	2000-2005		Box 8: 13
Photographs: Kingsbury, Olive	1862	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 14
Photographs: Kingsbury, Olive and Oliver	undated	Gem tintypes	Box 8: 15
Photographs: Kingsbury, Oscar and Lillian, Arnold and Eliza	1894	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 16
Photographs: Kingsbury, Oscar and Mildred	circa 1940	Snapshot	Box 8: 17
Photographs: Kingsbury, Raymond and May Kingsbury Phillips	1903	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 18
Photographs: Kingsbury Family, Unidentified	[ca. 1880]		Box 8: 19
Photographs: Kingsbury Family, Unidentified	1865	Gem tintypes	Box 8: 20
Photographs: Kingsbury Family, Unidentified Contents: Mounted photo cards from Manchester, Vermont.	1890		Box 8: 21
Photographs: Lamb, John	1870	Mounted gem tintype	Box 8: 22
Photographs: Lamb, Margaret Contents: Tintype depicting daughter of Isaac and Mary.	undated		Box 8: 23
Photographs: Lamb, Mrs. William (Anna)	undated	Tintype	Box 8: 24
Photographs: Lamb, William	1870	Gem tintype	Box 8: 25
Photographs: McPherson, Frank Contents: Mounted photograph from Greenfield, Massachusetts.	1885		Box 8: 26
Photographs: Mandell, Harriet	undated	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 27
Photographs: Mandell, Will Contents: Two mounted photographs, one dated 1880 from Fitchberg, Massachusetts.	1870-1880		Box 8: 28
Photographs: Phillips, Ernest Contents: Mounted photograph of South Deerfield beehives.	1905		Box 8: 29
Photographs: Phillips, May Kingsbury Contents: Mounted class photograph.	circa 1904		Box 8: 30
Photographs: Phillips, May Kingsbury Contents: Mounted photograph with the children of William Davis.	1910		Box 8: 31
Photographs: Phillips, May Kingsbury Contents: Photograph from Arms Academy.	1913		Box 8: 32
Photographs: Miss Pratt Contents: Mounted photograph from Turners Falls, labeled "teacher."	undated		Box 8: 33
Photographs: Scott, Henry Contents: Mounted photograph from Conway, Massachusetts.	undated		Box 8: 34
Photographs: Shelburne Center	undated		Box 8: 35
Photographs: Shelburne Center School Contents: Mounted class portrait.	undated		Box 8: 36
Photographs: Southworth, Elvira	undated	Glass covered photograph	Box 8: 37
Photographs: Southworth, Elvira Contents: Mounted photograph from Hartford, Connecticut.	undated		Box 8: 38
Photographs: Southworth, Frank Contents: Mounted photograph from Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts.	undated		Box 8: 39
Photographs: Thompson, A. L. Contents: Mounted photograph from Shelburne, Massachusetts.	undated		Box 8: 40
Photographs: Thompson, Minnie Contents: Mounted photograph depicting daughter of George and Lucy.	undated		Box 8: 41
Photographs: Totman, Mildred Kingsbury Contents: Matted photograph of Mildred Kingsbury Totman's high school basketball team. Top row (left to right): E. Temple, Miss Lyman, Hilda Thompson. Second row: Selda Leonard, Elizabeth Loomis, Mildred Kingsbury Totman, Elsie Matson. Front row: Barbara Donelson, Viola Tyler, Sylvia Gould.	1921		Box 9

Photographs: Vincent, James	undated	Mounted photograph	Box 8: 42
Photographs: Williams, Olive Kingsbury	undated	Cardstock photograph	Box 8: 43
Relia: California State Capitol Metallic Tray Contents : Unidentified small metallic tray with a photograph of the California state capitol building. "10 cents" written on the back.	undated		Box 9

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Conrad and Michiko Totman, 2006.

Processing Information

Processed by Megan M. Kennedy, Summer 2008.

Related Material

For material related to the Kingsbury and Totman families, see:

- [Conrad Totman Papers \(MS 447\)](#)
- [Ruth J. Totman Papers \(FS 97\)](#)
- [Gertrude M. Lewis Papers \(FS 96\)](#)

For material related to the Kingsbury family at other repositories, see:

- [Raymond T. Drew \(AC1949\) Papers, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections](#)

Language:

English

Copyright and Use [\(More information \)](#)

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Search terms

Subjects

- Conway (Mass.)--Genealogy.
- Drew, Raymond Totman, 1923-1981.
- Lewis, Gertrude Minnie, 1896- .
- Shelburne(Mass.)--Genealogy.
- Totman, Conrad D.
- Totman, Ruth J.

Contributors

- Kingsbury Family [\[main entry\]](#)

Genres and formats

- Genealogies.
- Letters (Correspondence).
- Memoirs--Massachusetts.
- Photographs.
- Tintypes.

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