

Lydia Maria Ring Collection



HISTORY *Colorado*

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Related Materials</u>	5
<u>Indexing Terms</u>	5
<u>Accession numbers</u>	6
<u>Other numbers</u>	6
<u>Bibliography</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center
Creator	Ring, Lydia M., (Lydia Maria), 1814-1899
Title	Lydia Maria Ring Collection
Date	1862-1929
Extent	1.0 File folder(s) 2 items
General Physical Description note	General condition of autograph book is good with the exception of a few loose pages.
Language	English
Collection [Collection]	File folder
Abstract	The Lydia Maria Ring Collection (1870-1929) contains a photograph and autograph book of pioneer school teacher Lydia Maria Ring (1814-1899). Ring was one of the first school teachers in Denver, establishing her school in 1860 on the bank of the Cherry Creek. Her pupils were members of Denver's earliest families and many became longtime friends as is apparent from the signatures and photographs included in the autograph book.

Preferred Citation note

Cite collection as: Lydia Maria Ring Collection, Mss.02269 (accessions OH.137; H.1185), History Colorado. If applicable site individual items such as: Autograph Book, Lydia Maria Ring Collection, Mss.02269 (accession OH.137), History Colorado.

Biographical note

Lydia Maria Ring was born in Greensboro, Vermont on October 26, 1814. Little is known about her childhood in Vermont. At some point her family moves to Boston, Massachusetts. Ring moved to Kansas in 1858 where she spent nine months, establishing a private school in Grasshopper Falls and then opened a school in Leavenworth. She departed Leavenworth on April 23, 1860 in a prairie schooner, driven by twelve yoke of oxen, a trip that took 42 days. Her purposes in going was to "open a school, hoping that by doing so to secure a few nuggets, so determined to join the Great Rush."

Lydia Maria Ring was one of the first teachers to organize and teach school in Denver. She opened the third private school in Denver sometime after her arrival in Denver in late May of 1860, after teachers Owen J. Goldrick and Indiana Sopris Cushman opened their own schools. Ring was said to have been a more experience teacher then her predecessors and she continued to teach the longest. She may have left Denver around 1870-1871.

Her first school was located at today's 14th and Market Streets, on the bank of the Cherry Creek. One of her former students wrote of the school, "It had been chinked and daubed, but in places the daubing had fallen out until we could put our hands through the opening. We sat on pine benches, with box-like desks of the same." Shortly after Ring moved her school to a better building at 16th and Market Streets. It appears as if she taught there for the next four years teaching the children of Denver's notable families.

Little is known about Ring's time in Denver. By all accounts she was part of early Denver's popular society and was well liked. One of her former students described her as, "good and kind and her pupils loved her and learned fast. If anything was going on at the home of one of them it was never complete without her. She was a great favorite of young and old." After closing her school Ring returned to Kansas to live with her niece. She returned to Denver once possibly around 1888 and was "given a most cordial reception." Lydia Maria Ring died in Kansas on March 12, 1899.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains two items, a autograph book (1870-1917) and a photograph (ca. 1890) of Lydia Maria Ring. The autograph book contains signatures, notes and some small photographs of a few of the earliest and most notable Denver families including Moffat, Kassler, Steck, Byers, Whitsitt, Sopris. Many appear to have been Ring's students. Many of the signatures are dated 1870, presumably when Ring was about to leave Denver. There are later entries dated 1888 which may have been when Ring returned to Denver for a brief visit. Also included are a few entries dated 1917. It is possible that the book was later used by Katherine Goss Clark for which an obituary is pasted in the front of the book.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers without restrictions.

Provenance

These items were donated by Fannie Clark Wigginton, daughter of George T. Clark and Katherine M. (Goss) Clark. It is likely that Katherine and her sisters, who arrived in Denver in 1859, were students of Ring. They were most certainly good friends. Ring most likely gave the items in this collection to Katherine Clark. There is a faint inscription on the back of the photograph.

Fannie Wigginton donated the photograph (H.1185) on September 9, 1937. According to *The Colorado Magazine* (v. 6, Sept. 1929), Fannie donated to the Historical Society items of her father's that included a proclamation (OH.137) and Lydia Maria Ring's autograph book in September of 1929. The proclamation was accessioned as OH.137 and it has been determined that the autograph book should be included as part of that accession.

Processing Information note

Processed by Leigh Jeremias, March 2013.

Related Materials

Related Material note

See also Manuscript collections: Owen Goldrick collection, Mss.02247 and Indiana Sopris Cushman, Mss.01070. Also 1928.2, part of the artifact collection.

Indexing Terms

Subjects - Family Names

- Kassler family
- Sopris family

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Autograph books
- Photographs.

Subjects - People

- Anthony, Webster D., 1838-1896
- Bailey, A. W.
- Brancroft, F. J., (Frederick Jones), 1834-1903
- Byers, Wm. N., (William Newton), 1831-1903
- Chamberlain, William G., (William Gunnison), 1815-1910
- Clark, George T., 1837-1888
- Clark, Katherine M., 1843-1929
- Deitsch, Isidor, abt 1833-
- Hallet, Moses, 1834-1913

- Ingols, A. B., (Augustus B.), 1830-1920
- Moffat, David H., (David Halliday), 1839-1911
- Moffat, Fannie A., abt. 1844-
- Pierce, John
- Ring, Lydia M., (Lydia Maria), 1814-1899
- Steck, Amos, 1822-1908
- Whitsitt, Richard E., (Richard Edward), 1830-1881
- Wigginton, Fannie, 1867-1944

Accession numbers

Autograph book, OH.137; Cabinet card, H.1185.

Other numbers

scan numbers: 30000488; 30000489

Bibliography

Sopris, S.T. (Nov. 1908). The Old Autograph Album. *The Trail*, V. 1, number 6, 6-15.