



Guide to the Joseph C. Ives Personal Correspondence

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Ives, J. C.
Contributor:	Ives, Cora Semmes, 1834-1916
Title:	Joseph C. Ives Personal Correspondence
ID:	MS-00079
Date [inclusive]:	1857-1858
Physical Description:	0.2 Linear Feet (1 folder (shared box))
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Joseph C. Ives Personal Correspondence consists of seventeen photocopied letters between United States Army Corps of Topographic Engineers Lt. Joseph C. Ives and his wife, Cora Semmes Ives, between September 1857 and June 1858. Ives was in command of a U.S. Army expedition whose mission was to explore the region of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon, and to establish the limit of navigation of the Colorado River. The correspondence is largely personal in nature, however, it is a useful supplement to the official report documenting the voyage, "Report upon the Colorado River of the West; Explored in 1857-1858."

Preferred Citation

Joseph C. Ives Personal Correspondence, 1857-1858. MS-00079. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Soldier and explorer Joseph Christmas Ives graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1852. In 1855, he married Cora Semmes Ives. From 1857 to 1858, Ives commanded an expedition to explore up the Colorado River to the lower end of the Grand Canyon. He then crossed the desert to Fort Defiance in Colorado. The Ives expedition produced one of the important early maps of the Grand Canyon.

Ives served in the American Civil War for the Confederate Army and was promoted to aide-de-camp, with the rank of colonel. After the war he settled in New York City, New York where he died November 12, 1868.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Joseph C. Ives Personal Correspondence consists of seventeen photocopied letters between United States Army Corps of Topographic Engineers Lt. Joseph C. Ives and his wife, Cora Semmes Ives, between September 1857 and June 1858. Ives was in command of a U.S. Army expedition whose mission was to explore the region of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon, and to establish the limit of navigation of the Colorado River. The correspondence is largely personal in nature, however, it is a useful supplement to the official report documenting the voyage, "Report upon the Colorado River of the West; Explored in 1857-1858."

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Maryellen Sadovich; accession number 39.

Processing Note

Materials were processed in 2016 by Joyce Moore and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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Names and Subjects

- North America -- Colorado River
- Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)
- Grand Canyon (Ariz.)
- Correspondence

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Seventeen letters written to his wife during his exploration of the Colorado River, 1857-1858	box SH-006