



Guide to the John Mead Gould papers, 1841-1944

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Summary

Collection Title:

John Mead Gould papers, 1841-1944

Creator:

Gould, John Mead, 1839-1930

Abstract:

John Mead Gould was a Union Army officer and bank teller from Portland, Maine. The collection comprises correspondence, diaries, legal and financial papers, printed materials, and photographs, chiefly relating to Gould's service with the 1st Maine Infantry Regiment and its successors, the 10th and 29th Maine regiments. Subjects include Civil War campaigns in Louisiana, Maryland, and Virginia; veterans' reunions, pension claims, and the Grand Army of the Republic veterans' organization; wartime and Reconstruction conditions in South Carolina; and Gould's business life in S.C. and Maine after the Civil War. One regimental directory includes a narrative of the career of a freed African American from Louisiana, Harry Johnson, who returned with the Union regiment to Maine. Photographs are chiefly of battlefields visited in 1889, 1910, and 1912, and of Civil War veterans. Also includes the letters and diaries of Gould's wife, Amelia Jenkins Twitchell Gould, 1860-1865, who taught for a freedmen's school in Beaufort, S.C., and diaries written by his brother Samuel McClellan Gould, a Presbyterian minister, 1841-1845, 1890-1895. Letters and other papers relate to the career of zoologist Edward Sylvester Morse, a close friend of Gould's.

Extent:

8.8 Linear Feet (22 boxes; 2 oversize folders)

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00469

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1v904>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], John Mead Gould papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The papers of John Mead Gould comprise correspondence, diaries, official military papers, clippings and other printed materials, drafts of writings, photographs, and other papers documenting John Mead Gould's experiences in the Civil War, his activities in veterans' organizations, and his work as historian of the 1st, 10th, and 29th Maine Regiments.

The correspondence and other records in the collection relate in part to Gould's service in the 1st Maine Regiment and its successors, the 10th Maine Regiment and the 29th Maine Regiment. The letters contain descriptions of battles and outcomes in Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia, and other locations. There is also family and business correspondence and correspondence with other veterans and veterans' organizations. Of note is the correspondence of Adelthia Twitchell and Amelia Jenkins Twitchell, who went from Maine to teach freedmen in Beaufort, South Carolina, 1864-1865; and letters relating to the early career of the zoologist, Edward Sylvester Morse, a close friend of Gould's.

Records of reunions of the 1st-10th-29th Regiment veterans, 1869-1933, include lists of personnel, minutes, and obituaries. Many of these papers document John Mead Gould's activities with the Grand Army of the Republic veterans' association. Legal papers in the collection include commissions, discharges, furloughs, pensions, and other papers.

A long series of memorandum diaries by Gould begin in 1854 at Bethel Academy and continue until 1874; along with Gould's Civil War diaries there is the diary of a Levi Johnson, Company B, 29th Maine Regiment, in South Carolina, 1865. The collection also contains the diaries of Gould's wife, Amelia Jenkins (Twitchell) Gould, 1860, 1862-1863, 1864-1865; diaries written by Samuel McClellan Gould, a Presbyterian minister (Gould's uncle), 1841-1845, 1890-1895; and diaries written about excursions to Antietam, Cedar Mountain, and other battlefields of the Civil War, 1884-1912.

Printed materials include clippings, broadsides, and pamphlets, many from the Civil War era and others from Reconstruction and relating to veterans' activities. Broadsides contain poetry, veteran materials, and political brochures.

There is a substantial series of photographs of the officers and soldiers of the 1st-10th-29th Maine Regiment in the war and photographs taken by Gould at various reunions and battlefield tours in Red River, Louisiana; Antietam, Maryland; Cedar Creek, Virginia; and in other locations. Some photographs document locations in Portland and Casco Bay, Maine.

Materials added to the collection in 1988 include photocopies of letters, 1906-1926, from veterans of Gould's Civil War regiment, mostly giving news about the deaths of former members, and a photocopy of an autobiographical and genealogical narrative by Gould and two photographs.

Biographical/Historical

John Mead Gould was born in 1839 in Portland, Maine, the son of a local banker, Edward Gould. His closest friend beginning with his school years was Edward Sylvester Morse (1838-1925), who became a well-known biologist; there are some papers in the collection that relate to his life and career.

Gould enlisted in the Portland Light Guards in April 1861, which then became part of the 1st Maine Regiment, commanded by Colonel Nathaniel Jackson; he then re-enlisted with the 10th Regiment in September 1861, which was commanded by Colonel George L. Beal (who later led the 29th Regiment). This regiment traveled and fought in Harper's Ferry, Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, and other places in Maryland and in the Shenandoah Valley. During this time Gould was promoted to First Lieutenant and Adjutant, a position which required him to maintain the regiment's records. Gould enlisted again in late 1863 with the 29th Maine Regiment, under Nathaniel Banks, and saw action in the Red River campaign, Louisiana, and in the last campaigns of Virginia in 1864 and 1865. He was elected major of the regiment in 1864. Gould was in a hospital in Harper's Ferry when Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865.

After the war's end, he traveled with the 29th Maine Regiment to Georgia and South Carolina, where he took on the duties associated with an occupying army. His comments in his diaries reflect on this time of reconstruction and chaos. He resigned his commission in February 1866 and moved to Yauhanna Ferry, South Carolina, where he lived until 1867, and profited from selling lumber to Maine shipyards.

John Mead Gould returned to his home state of Maine in 1866 and married Amelia Jenkins Twitchell, whose diaries are also in the collection; the couple lived in South Carolina for a time, but financial troubles forced them to return to Maine in 1867. He and Amelia had three children, a daughter and two sons. Gould became active in the veterans' association, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR); he also was appointed to serve the Maine Regiment as their chief historian and secretary. During this time he wrote a history of the regiment and other pieces of writing.

In his later years, Gould entered the banking profession, and retired by 1915. His wife Amelia passed away in 1926 and John Gould died in 1930 at the age of ninety, in Bethel, Maine.

[Source: Adapted from a biography of John Mead Gould published on a descendant's website.]

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Arrangement

Arranged in the following series: Correspondence, Legal Papers, Financial Papers, Writings, Printed Material, Reunion Papers, Photographs, and Volumes.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The John Mead Gould papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift and purchase in 1967 and 1988.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff.

Encoded by Tanya Lee, Carrie Mills, and Paula Jeannet, March 2014.

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 1967 and 88-084.

Parts of this collection have been given basic processing: materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

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Names and Subjects

- African American schools -- South Carolina -- History -- 19th century
- Freed people -- Education -- South Carolina
- Presbyterian Church -- Clergy -- Diaries
- Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- South Carolina
- Soldiers -- United States -- Diaries
- Women -- South Carolina -- Diaries
- Maine -- History
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns
- South Carolina -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- African Americans
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Regimental histories
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Veterans
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Veterans -- Union -- Photographs
- Albumen prints
- Black-and-white photographs
- Broadsides
- Diaries
- Gelatin silver prints
- Gould, John Mead, 1839-1930
- Gould, Samuel McClellan, 1809-1894
- Morse, Edward Sylvester, 1838-1925
- United States. Army. Maine Infantry Regiment, 10th (1861-1863)
- United States. Army. Maine Infantry Regiment, 1st (1865-1868)
- United States. Army. Maine Infantry Regiment, 29th (1863-1865)
- Gould family
- Gould, Amelia J., 1842-

- Grand Army of the Republic

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1853-1935

Physical Description: 6 boxes

Scope and Contents

The correspondence in the collection relates in part to Gould's service in the 1st Maine Regiment and its successors, the 10th Maine Regiment and the 29th Maine Regiment and contains descriptions of the situation in Washington, D.C., 1861; guard duty on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Relay, Maryland, 1861-1862; the battle of Winchester, 1862; the battle of Cedar Mountain, 1862; two fragments from field notes on the Maryland campaign and the battle of Antietam, 1862; the Red River expedition, 1864; operations in the Shenandoah Valley, 1864; and occupation duty in Darlington, South Carolina, 1865.

There is family correspondence, especially for 1864; correspondence relating to Gould's attempt to establish a lumber business in South Carolina, 1866-1867; correspondence with other veterans after the war concerning Gould's history of the three regiments, validating pension claims, and veterans' organizations; correspondence of Adelthia Twitchell and Amelia Jenkins Twitchell, who went from Maine to teach freedmen in Beaufort, South Carolina, 1864-1865; and letters relating to the early career of the zoologist, Edward Sylvester Morse, a close friend of Gould's.

1853-1864 (online item available) Box 1

Physical Description: 8 folders

Digital Object: [1864 \(1 of 2\)](#)

Digital Object: [1864 \(2 of 2\)](#)

Scope and Contents note

Includes an information folder about John Gould Papers at Maine Historical Society, and a folder of letters, 1853-1861 1st Maine Regiment.

1865-1869 Box 2

Physical Description: 8 folders

1870-1871 Box 3

Physical Description: 5 folders

1872-1879	Box 4
Physical Description: 7 folders	
1880-1899	Box 5
Physical Description: 7 folders	
1900-1935 and undated	Box 6
Physical Description: 6 folders	

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Legal Papers, 1865-1866 and undated

Physical Description: .5 box

Personal	Box 6
Provost Marshal cases, 1865-1866	Box 6
Soldiers	Box 6

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Financial Papers, 1860s and undated

Physical Description: 1 box

29th Maine Regiment (1860s) and the 10th Maine Regiment (1863), and other papers	Box 7
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Writings, 1892 and undated

Physical Description: 1 box

"History of the 1st-10th-29th Maine Regiments"	Box 8
Manuscript on the Battle of Antietam, 1892	Box 8
Miscellany	Box 8

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Printed Material, 1860s-1920s

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents

Printed materials include clippings, broadsides, and pamphlets, many from the Civil War era. Accounts of Civil War prisons appear in the clippings as reminiscences. Casualties are reported in clippings directly after the Civil War battles in which the regiment fought. Broadsides contain poetry, veteran materials, and political brochures. The pamphlets pertain to veterans' activities.

Pamphlets	Box 9
Leaflets	Box 9
Broadsides	Box 9
Newspaper clippings	Box 9

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Reunion Papers, 1869-1933

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Scope and Contents

The records of 65 consecutive reunions of the 1st-10th-29th Regiment veterans, 1869-1933, include lists of personnel, minutes, and obituaries.

1869-1899	Box 10
Physical Description: 7 folders	
1900-1922	Box 11
Physical Description: 7 folders	
1923-1933	Box 12
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Rolls and reports of 1st-10th-29th Maine Regiment	Box 13
Physical Description: 1 box	

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Photographs, 1870s-1925 and undated

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Scope and Contents

John Mead Gould used a Kodak No. 1 box camera when he toured Civil War battlegrounds in 1889. His collection includes many Kodak No. 1 prints, which are circular black-and-white prints created with an early gelatin silver process. Other formats in this series include albumen prints and later gelatin silver prints. Subjects include battlefield tours and Civil War veteran reunions (1889, 1910, 1912), including Antietam, Maryland, and Cedar Creek, Virginia; portraits and casual snapshots of veterans (officers and soldiers); and images of locations in early 20th century Maine.

Reunions, circa 1870s-1925	Box 14
Physical Description: 22 folders	
Excursion of 1889	Box 15
Excursion to Cedar Creek	Box 15
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Unknown battlefield	Box 15
Red River Dam	Box 15
Antietam, 1910 and undated	Box 16
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Cedar Mountain, 1912 and undated	Box 16
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Veterans, soldiers, and others	Box 16
Prints of officers of 1st, 10th, and 29th Maine Regiments	Box 16
29th Maine	Box 16
1st, 10th, and 11th of Maine	Box 16
Long Island, Casco Bay, Maine and Portland, Maine	Box 16
Photograph, 48th Reunion, 1-10-29 Maine Regiment Association, Long Island, Maine, 1916, Aug. 10	Oversize-folder 1
Photograph, Randall B. Williams, 1924, July	Oversize-folder 2

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Volumes, 1854-1920s

Physical Description: 6 boxes

Processing Information:

Boxes 19-22 in this series have been given core-level processing; materials may not have been arranged beyond original order.

Scope and Contents

The letters written by Gould during the war, which he called his "journal," were bound into several volumes by his family. Although these are not with his papers, a long series of memorandum diaries by Gould remains in the collection. These little volumes begin in 1854 at Bethel Academy and continue until 1874, when Adelthia (Twitchell) Thompson and William E. Harward died. Along with Gould's Civil War diaries there is the diary of a Levi Johnson, Company B, 29th Maine Regiment, in South Carolina, 1865.

Other volumes include regimental records of the 1st-10th-29th Maine Regiments; the career of a Louisiana freedman, Harry Johnson, who followed the regiment home to Maine, is related in the white-covered volume marked "Jennings."

The collection also contains the diaries of Gould's wife, Amelia Jenkins (Twitchell) Gould, 1860, 1862-1863, 1864-1865; diaries written by Samuel McClellan Gould, a Presbyterian minister (Gould's uncle), 1841-1845, 1890-1895; and diaries written about excursions to Antietam, Cedar Mountain, and other battlefields of the Civil War, 1884-1912.

Directory of the 1st-10th-29th Maine Regiment
(red covers), 1889-circa 1920 (32 volumes)

Box 17

Directories of the 1st-10th-29th Maine
Regiment (white covers)

Box 18

Physical Description: circa 60 volumes

Scope and Contents note

The career of a Louisiana freedman, Harry Johnson, who followed the regiment home to Maine, is related in the white-covered volume marked "Jennings."

Regimental records

Box 19

Physical Description: 18 volumes

Regimental records	Box 20
Physical Description: 8 volumes	
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Diaries of Amelia Jenkins (Twitchell) Gould, 1860, 1862, 1863, 1865, 1889	Box 21
Physical Description: 5 volumes	
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Diaries of Samuel McLellan Gould, 1841-1845 and 1890-1895	Box 21
Physical Description: 6 volumes	
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Miscellaneous financial records of John M. and Edward Gould	Box 21
Physical Description: 8 volumes	
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Memorandum diaries of John Mead Gould, 1854-1874	Box 22
Physical Description: 15 volumes	
Scope and Contents note	
With Gould's Civil War diary is that of Levi Johnson, Co. B, 29th Maine, in South Carolina, 1865.	

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