

Medorem Crawford papers, 1842-1891

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Crawford, Medorem
Title	Medorem Crawford papers
Dates	1842-1891 (inclusive) 1842 1891
Quantity	1.5 linear feet, (3 containers)
Collection Number	Ax 129
Summary	Medorem Crawford helped lead emigrants overland to the Pacific Northwest in the early 1860s. From 1864 to 1869 he was Oregon collector of internal revenue, and from 1871 to 1875 he served as appraiser of customs. The collection is comprised of diaries, correspondence and account books. Some of the diaries describe overland journeys. The major part of the collection are the diaries for 1859-1861, 1863, 1864, 1869-1871, 1876-1877, 1885-1886.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Medorem Crawford came to Oregon in 1842 from Havana, New York. He was a provisional government legislator, 1847-1849, a state legislator, 1860, and farmed near Dayton. In 1861, 1862, and 1863 he was in command of emigrant trains overland to the Pacific Northwest, the last two years as an Army captain. From 1864 to 1869 he was Oregon collector of internal revenue, and from 1871 to 1875 he served as appraiser of customs.

Content Description

The Crawford papers include Medorem Crawford diaries for 1859-1861, 1863, 1864, 1869-1871, 1876-1877, 1885-1886. Also included are the diaries of Medorem Crawford, Jr., 1861, and Leroy

Crawford, 1862. The diaries for 1861 and 1863 describe Crawford's overland expeditions. The 1864 diary describes a trip by stage from Atchison, Kansas to Oregon, via Marysville, California.

A series of Medorem Crawford account books includes a Methodist Mission store account, 1843-1844, accounts of the O'Neil and Crawford ferry, 1844, a store ledger, 1845-1847, and a Clackamas Mill account, 1849-1850.

Expedition accounts consist of vouchers for the 1862 escort and a draft report of overland escort duty in 1864 by Leroy Crawford.

The correspondence includes 10 letters of Medorem Crawford, and 34 letters from his father, S. G. Crawford, from Havana, New York. Other correspondents are: John Crawford, Sidney Moss, James W. Nesmith, Ronald Crawford, John L. Morrison, Jesse Applegate, J. Quinn Thornton, and David Carter. A letterpress book contains Medorem Crawford's outgoing correspondence, 1866-1879.

Medorem Crawford's 1842 overland journal has not been located. It was published, probably from the copy now in the Western Americana Collection at Yale University, as vol. 1, no. 1 of the Sources of the History of Oregon (Eugene, Oregon, 1897). The report of the 1862 expedition was published as Senate Exec. Doc. 17, 37th Congress, 3rd Sess. (1863).

The Western Americana Collection, Yale University, has a collection of Crawford papers, some of which appear to be official reports based on Crawford diaries. The Medorem Crawford papers were sold piece-meal by a book dealer, and it is probable that other diaries and letters were acquired by libraries and private collectors. A manuscript calendar of the letters is in the library.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Medorem Crawford Papers, Ax 129, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is organized into the following series:

Diaires of Medorem Crawford

Correspondence

Reports and Financial Papers

Other Family Diaries

Microfilm

Processing Note

Collection processed by staff.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Inventory

Box1, Folder1

Diaries of Medorem Crawford

Box1

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	2		1859; 1860; 1861
1	3		1863 1864 1869-1870
1	4		1870-1871 1873-1879 1885-1886

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1 4a	Journal and accounts, 1842 trip from Havana, New York to Willamette Falls, Oregon	1842

Correspondence

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
1 5		1803, 1842-1849
2 1		1850-1859
2 2		1860-1891
2 3	Letterpress book	1866-1876

Reports and Financial Documents

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
3 1	Expedition reports and accounts	
3 2	Bills, receipts, etc.	
3 3	Account books and ledgers	

Other Family Diaries

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
3 4	Diary of Medorem Crawford, Jr.	1861
3 4	Diary of Leroy Crawford	1862

Microfilm

Container(s)		Description
Box	Folder	
3	5	Reel 1: Records of the Office of Quartermaster General (Record Group 92, National Archives)
3	6	Reel 2: Five journals of Medorem Crawford (portions only); two letters (January 1885) to Elwood Evans

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Oregon National Historic Trail
Oregon--History--1859-
Oregon--History--to 1859
Overland journeys to the Pacific
Pioneers--West (U.S.)--Diaries
Wagon trains

Personal Names :

Crawford, Leroy--Diaries
Crawford, Medorem, 1819-1891--Archives
Crawford, Medorem, 1819-1891--Diaries

Form or Genre Terms :

Diaries
Journals (accounts)

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Vida Germano
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