

Frank Ross McCoy Papers

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Frank Ross McCoy Papers

Span Dates: 1847-1957

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1892-1954)

ID No.: MSS31989

Creator: McCoy, Frank Ross, 1874-1954

Extent: 37,750 items ; 110 containers ; 44 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Army officer. General and family correspondence, diaries, military and subject files, notebooks, dispatch books, speeches and writings, financial papers, scrapbooks, and other material pertaining chiefly to McCoy's military career and to various diplomatic assignments.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Borglum, Gutzon, 1867-1941--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

Craig, Malin, 1875-1945--Correspondence.

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence.

Forbes, W. Cameron (William Cameron), 1870-1959--Correspondence.

Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965--Correspondence.

Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950--Correspondence.

Hagedorn, Hermann, 1882-1964--Correspondence.

Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947--Correspondence.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1902-1985--Correspondence.

Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959--Correspondence.

McCormick, Robert Rutherford, 1880-1955--Correspondence.

McCoy family.

McCoy, Frank Ross, 1874-1954.

McCoy, Thomas Franklin, 1819-1899. Journal of Incidents and Travel to and from Mexico. 1940.

Patton, George S. (George Smith), 1885-1945--Correspondence.

Reeves, James H. (James Haynes), 1870-1963--Correspondence.

Ridgway, Matthew B. (Matthew Bunker), 1895-1993--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, 1861-1948--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Kermit, 1889-1943--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1887-1944--Correspondence.

Scott, Hugh Lenox, 1853-1934--Correspondence.

Scott, Mary Merrill, 1862-1950--Correspondence.

Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950--Correspondence.

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.

Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Wood, Louise Adriana, 1869-1943--Correspondence.

Wood, Osborn Cutler, 1897-1950--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Relief Mission to Japan.

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)

Commission of Inquiry and Conciliation, Bolivia and Paraguay.
Foreign Policy Association.
League of Nations. Commission of Enquiry into the Sino-Japanese Dispute.
New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)
Roberts Commission on the Facts of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor (U.S.)
Roosevelt Memorial Association.
Society for Equitable Assurances on Lives and Survivorships.
United States. American Electoral Mission in Nicaragua.
United States. Bureau of Insular Affairs.
United States. Special Mission of Investigation to the Philippine Islands.

Subjects

Canals, Interoceanic.
Earthquakes--Japan.
Elections--Nicaragua.
Kanto Earthquake, Japan, 1923.
Mexican War, 1846-1848.
Nazi Saboteurs Trial, Washington, D.C., 1942.
Nazis--United States.
Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.
Sabotage.
World War, 1914-1918.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Hawaii.
World War, 1939-1945.

Places

Bolivia--Foreign relations--Paraguay.
China--Foreign relations--Japan.
China--History--Revolution, 1911-1912.
East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.
Japan--Foreign relations--China.
Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.
Nicaragua--Politics and government--1909-1937.
Panama--History--1903-1946.
Paraguay--Foreign relations--Bolivia.
Philippines--Economic policy.
Philippines--Foreign relations--United States.
Philippines--History--1898-1946.
Philippines--Politics and government--1898-1946.
United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.
United States--Foreign relations--Philippines.
United States--Insular possessions.

Occupations

Army officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Frank Ross McCoy, army officer, were deposited by in the Library of Congress by McCoy and his wife, Frances McCoy, in 1931 and converted to a gift in 1951. Additional gifts were received through 1956. A gift by Mrs. McCoy's sister, Alice Judson Jones, was received in 1973.

Processing History

The papers of Frank Ross McCoy were processed in 1950 and 1970 and revised and expanded in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Frank Ross McCoy in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Frank Ross McCoy are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Frank Ross McCoy Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1874, Oct. 29	Born, Lewiston, Pa.
1893-1897	Attended and graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1897	Commissioned second lieutenant, 8th Cavalry and then 7th Cavalry Regiments, Fort Meade, S.D.
1898	Transferred to 10th Cavalry, Chickamaugua Park, Ga. Served in Santiago de Cuba Campaign and wounded at San Juan Hill
1899	Returned to Cuba
1900	Aide-de-camp to Leonard Wood, military governor of Cuba, and supervisor of insular finances
1901	Commissioned first lieutenant
1902	Junior aide to President Theodore Roosevelt; accompanied General Leonard Wood to Germany for grand maneuvers
1903-1906	Departed with General Leonard Wood and Major Hugh L. Scott for Philippine Islands stopping in Egypt, India and Java to study colonial administration Commissioned captain in August, 1903; in Philippines, aide-de-camp to General Leonard Wood, commanding general, Department of Mindanao, and governor of Moro Province Held civilian offices including provincial engineer Participated in military operations against the Moros, including 1905 expedition he commanded against Datto Ali
1906	Returned to United States and accompanied Peace Commission to Cuba, serving as aide to William H. Taft

1906-1908 Senior aide to President Theodore Roosevelt and concurrently served with 14th Cavalry in Yosemite National Park

1907-1908 Attended and graduated, National War College

1908-1910 Commanding officer, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry, and of Fort Wingate, N. M.

1911-1914 On general staff, Washington, D.C., ; undertook confidential investigation with Sherwood Cheney of proposed inter-oceanic canal routes via Cupica Bay, the Atrato River, and Gulf of Darien

1914-1915 Aide-de-camp to General Leonard Wood then commanding the Department of the East, Governors Island, N.Y.

1915-1917 Troop commander, 3rd Cavalry, serving on Mexican border.
Initially commanded Mission Cavalry Patrol District and later served as chief of staff, Brownsville District
Commanded several engagements with Mexican bandits

1917 Served five months as military attache, Mexico City, Mexico
Commissioned major
Went to France in June as assistant to chief of staff, Major General James G. Harbord, and as secretary of the general staff at General Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces
Made brevet lieutenant colonel
Published *Principles of Military Training*. New York: P.F. Collier & Sons

1918 Made brevet colonel
Took command in May of 165th Infantry Regiment (New York's "Fighting 69th") of 42nd (Rainbow) Division in the Baccarat Sector for Champaign Defensive and Marine-Aisne Offensive
In August became brevet brigadier general assigned to 53rd Infantry Brigade, 32nd Division, which he commanded in Ose-Aisne Offensive and Mouse-Argonne Offensive

1918-1919 Ordered from Germany to Tours as director, Army Transport Service; later became deputy director general and director general of transportation

1919 Chief of staff, Aug.-Nov., American Military Mission to Armenia, headed by General James G. Harbord.

1920 Commanded Arizona District at Douglas
Commissioned colonel; became assistant department adjutant, Central Department in Chicago, and then assistant chief of staff, Operations, VI Corps Area, Fort Sheridan, III.

1921-1925 Chief of staff, Special Mission of Investigation to the Philippines, and technical assistant for civil affairs to Governor General Leonard Wood, with trips to China and Japan

1922 Commissioned brigadier general

1923 In charge of American Relief Mission to Japan after earthquake, and director general, Red Cross

1924 Married Frances Field Judson

1925 Returned to United States via Europe and served in Bureau of Insular Affairs

1926	Attended Infantry School in Georgia and assumed command of 3rd Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.
1927	Commanded 1st Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Meade, Md. Special representative of President Calvin Coolidge to supervise elections in Nicaragua
1928	Represented United States at Pan American Conference, Washington, D.C.
1929	Appointed chairman, Commission of Inquiry and Conciliation, Bolivia and Paraguay, Washington, D.C.
1929-1932	Commanded IV Corps Area, headquarters at Fort McPherson, Ga.
1932	Appointed by President Hebert Hoover as United States member of Lytton Commission to investigate the Sino-Japanese dispute over Manchuria
1933	Commanded 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Tex.
1933-1935	Took command of VII Corps Area, Omaha, Nebr.
1935	Commanded 2nd Army and VI Corps Area, Chicago, Ill.
1936-1938	In May, 1936, sent to Governors Island, N.Y., where he commanded II Corps Area and from January, 1938, also the 1st Army
1938	Retired by law from active service
1939-1945	President, Foreign Policy Association
1941	Toured South American countries on behalf of coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Department of State, for systematizing procedures affecting civil aviation Member, Roberts Commission investigating attack on Pearl Harbor
1942	Appointed president of military commission that tried Nazi saboteurs landed by submarine on East Coast of United States
1943	Chairman, War Department Procurement Review Board.
1945-1949	Member and first chairman, Far Eastern Advisory Commission
1954, June 4	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frank Ross McCoy span the years 1847-1957, with the bulk of the papers concentrated in the period 1892-1954. The documentation before 1892 consists of his father Thomas Franklin McCoy's *A Journal of Incidents and Travel to and from Mexico* (1847) and a few items of correspondence and writings between 1864 and 1885. Primary materials include correspondence, diaries, notebooks, dispatch books, military and subject files, speeches and writings, scrapbooks, financial papers, and miscellaneous matter. The collection is organized into ten series: [Journal, Diaries, and Related Matter](#); [Family Correspondence](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Military File](#); [Subject File](#); [Speeches and Writings File](#); [Scrapbooks](#); [Financial Papers](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Addition](#).

The focus of the collection is on the Far East, Latin America and World War I, and World War II. Individuals represented include President Theodore Roosevelt; Generals Leonard Wood, Hugh Lenox Scott, James G. Harbord, George C. Marshall, and Matthew B. Ridgway; statesmen W. Cameron Forbes and Henry L. Stimson; and public figures as diverse as Gutzon Borglum, Malin Craig, Felix Frankfurter, James Rudolph Garfield, Henry Cabot Lodge (1902-1985), Robert Rutherford McCormick, and George S. Patton. Presidents Calvin Coolidge, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Harry S. Truman also appear as correspondents.

Among the important topics in the [Subject File](#) series are the Roberts Commission on the Facts of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor and the military commission on the trial of Nazi saboteurs, Washington, D.C., 1942. Established, for the most part, by McCoy himself, the Subject File includes a compilation of material on the Philippines created after its receipt by the Library to bring together administrative material reflective of his role in the affairs of the region. This file includes reports and memoranda for the United States Special Mission of Investigation to the Philippine Islands (Wood-Forbes Mission) of 1921; the letters of the secretary of war and the chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs on Philippine affairs between 1916 and 1923; material relating to Philippine finance and administration in the 1920s; and American policy toward the islands in the early 1930s. This material is supplemented by note and dispatch books that detail McCoy's activities between 1903 and 1905.

Material relating to the American Electoral Mission in Nicaragua, the Commission of Inquiry and Conciliation, Bolivia and Paraguay, 1929, and the Isthmian canal route, 1912-1913, is documented in both the [General Correspondence](#) and [Subject File](#). The same is true for files concerning to the American Relief Mission to Japan following the Kanto Earthquake of 1923 and the League of Nations Commission of Enquiry into the Sino-Japanese Dispute (Lytton Commission). The General Correspondence for 1912 contains letters of interest from James H. Reeves in Peking to McCoy on the upheaval in China.

The [Military File](#) consists of official correspondence, memoranda, reports, orders and printed material for McCoy's corps commands within the United States. Files on the American Expeditionary Forces are comprised chiefly of printed reports on the organization and operations of the 1st Army and the 32nd Division in World War I, and a Transportation Corps report for 1919. The remainder treats various assignments including with the Transportation Corps and the Procurement Review Board.

Civilian topics documented in the [Subject File](#) series include the Civilian Conservation Corps, New York World's Fair of 1939-1940, Foreign Policy Association, and Society for Equitable Assurances on Lives and Survivorships (Equitable Life Assurance Society). McCoy was active in the Roosevelt Memorial Association, for which he has a voluminous correspondence, principally with Hermann Hagedorn, from the late 1920s through 1954. McCoy maintained relations with the immediate families of close associates, as evidenced in correspondence with Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, Kermit Roosevelt, and Nicholas Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Louise Adriana Wood, General Osborn Cutler Wood, and Mary Merrill Scott, widow of Hugh Lenox Scott.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- [Journal, Diaries, and Related Matter, 1847-1946](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1893-1947](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1864-1954](#)
- [Military File, 1905-1945](#)
- [Subject File, 1901-1954](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1903-1949](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1896-1941](#)
- [Financial Papers, 1916-1949](#)
- [Miscellany, 1900-1950](#)
- [Addition, 1847-1957](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Journal, Diaries, and Related Matter, 1847-1946</u></p> <p>Typescript and carbon of T. F. McCoy's <i>A Journal of Incidents and Travel to and from Mexico</i>; Frank McCoy's notebooks and dispatch books kept while in the Philippines, 1903-1905; diary entries for September 1929-July 1938; and appointments between 1936 and 1946.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 3-8	<p><u>Family Correspondence, 1893-1947</u></p> <p>Correspondence between McCoy, his mother, and other family members.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 9-60	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1864-1954</u></p> <p>Letters received and copies of letters sent.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically by day for the period 1864-1914 and alphabetically within each year for the period 1915-1954. A file of II Corps Area letters sent are filed at the end of the series.</p>
BOX 61-67	<p><u>Military File, 1905-1945</u></p> <p>American Expeditionary Forces material, Corps Area papers, and other military files.</p> <p>Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOX 68-88	<p><u>Subject File, 1901-1954</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization or subject.</p>
BOX 89-91	<p><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1903-1949</u></p> <p>Speeches and writings by McCoy and others.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 92-97	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1896-1941</u></p> <p>Compilations of newspapers, clippings, photographs and other memorabilia.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 98-99	<p><u>Financial Papers, 1916-1949</u></p> <p>Bank and investment statements, income tax matters, bills and receipts and other personal financial material.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 100-106	<p><u>Miscellany, 1900-1950</u></p> <p>Biographical material, maps, poems, invitations, programs, lists, news clippings, and typed lists of correspondence, mainly for the 1930s.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 107-110	<p><u>Addition, 1847-1957</u></p> <p>Desk diaries, general correspondence, condolence letters, and miscellaneous material, including typescript journals, a biographical file, photographs, printed matter, and other material.</p>

Arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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Family Correspondence, 1893-1947

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