

Title: McCracken, Lyman J. Collection

Reference Code: Mss-0861

Inclusive Dates: 1830-1897

Quantity: 0.03 cu. ft.

Location: Sm Mss
OS SM "M"
LC Sh. 6

Abstract: Lyman J. "Tangle" McCracken was born in Rochester, New York in the late 1820s. In 1845, he moved to Milwaukee and eventually became a partner in Green and McCracken, the city's principal dealer in fish and oysters. During the Soldiers' Home Fair in 1865, McCracken gained notoriety as the head of "Tangle's Feature of the Fair," a sideshow that featured attractions such as a 145-year-old "world's oldest man" and a red, white, and blue poodle. McCracken lived in poverty in his later years and would die in 1897.

Scope and Content: Collection consists of ephemera related to Green and McCracken, bank notes, memos, miscellaneous programs from the post-Civil War era, a notebook of poems and other writings from his sister Mariette McCracken Langworthy written in the 1830s, as well as a memorial pamphlet for her funeral service in 1897. Oversize items include a certificate of membership in Engine Co. No. 5 for A. McCracken and a lease between Byron Kilbourn and Austin McCracken. A scrapbook of articles written by McCracken from the 1860s and 1870s is found in the Lapham Case.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English