

#61.46

THOMAS CLARKSON GORDON PAPERS

Papers, 1886-1959

0.16 linear feet

Thomas Clarkson Gordon (1841-1922) was a self-taught folk artist who painted during his leisure hours while supporting his family as a house painter and wood finisher. He served two enlistments in the Union Army during the Civil War. Twenty years after the war, he began a series of paintings, from memory and contemporary illustrations, depicting his wartime experiences. Gordon executed a series of scenes on canvases seven feet high and fourteen feet wide which were joined together on a roller and presented as a continuous panorama entitled, "Battle Scenes of the Rebellion." After its first exhibition in 1886, the panorama toured eastern Indiana and was later exhibited at a small building on Gordon's property.

This small collection of Mr. Gordon's papers includes sketches, autobiographical notes and illustrated poems. An 1886 newspaper clipping recounting the first exhibition of the panorama in Spiceland, Indiana, also included a brief biographical sketch of the artist. Later clippings report public displays of the historical paintings in 1938 and 1958.

Mr. Gordon's daughters presented the panorama to the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village in 1958. These related manuscript materials and photographs were given by various family members in 1961. The group therefore also incorporates Gordon items numbered 61.47 and 61.48.

BOX 1	1-1	Account of Battle; The Monitor and Merrimac
	1-2	Biographical Material; [ca. 1925] by Mrs. Agnes Fields Kirk
	1-3	Clipping; 1886
	1-4	Clipping; n.d.
	1-5	Clipping; 10 Aug 1938
	1-6	Clipping; 20 Jul 1956
	1-7	Photographs, n.d.
	1-8	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-9	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-10	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-11	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-12	Poem and Sketch; n.d.

BOX 1 (cont'd)

	1-13	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-14	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-15	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-16	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-17	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-18	Poem and Sketch; 1915
	1-19	Poem and Sketch; 1915
	1-20	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-21	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-22	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-23	Poem and Sketch; n.d.
	1-24	Poem and Sketch
Thru	1-34	Poem and Sketch
	1-35	Interview; 1959
		Mrs. Merton, Mrs. Holmes