



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Reuben Moffat Papers, 1852

NMAH.AC.1101

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Reuben Moffat Papers
Date:	1852
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1101
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry
Creator:	Moffat, Reuben (Creator)
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents personal correspondence between Reuben Moffat and his father, John Little Moffat. The materials consist primarily of letters written during the year 1852 and detail Reuben Moffat's attempts to obtain a patent for his electric gold washer and magnetic separator invention.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Source of acquisition unknown.

Collected for the National Museum of American History, Division of Engineering and Industry (now called the Division of Work and Industry.) Transferred to the Archives Center in 2007.

Provenance

Collection transferred from the Division of Engineering and Industry (now called the Division of Work and Industry) to the Archives Center in 2007. Previous provenance unknown.

Processing Information

Processed by Kendra Ciccone (intern), April 2010; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Reuben Moffat Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Reuben Moffat of Brooklyn, New York, was an inventor seeking to obtain a patent for an "electric gold washer and magnetic separator", which he developed in the years following the Gold Rush. Whether this patent was ever obtained is not discernable from the papers in the collection.

Scope and Contents

Personal correspondence with Moffat's family members on the subject of family matters and of his invention of an electric and magnetic gold amalgamator and washer.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Series 1, Correspondence, 1852

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Gold mines and mining
- Inventions -- 19th century
- Inventors -- 19th century

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 19th century

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1852

Box 1, Folder 1	Letters from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, his father, 1852 January
Box 1, Folder 2	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 February 4
Box 1, Folder 3	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 February 19
Box 1, Folder 4	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat,, 1852 March 4-5
Box 1, Folder 5	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 March
Box 1, Folder 6	Letter from John Bernard to Reuben Moffat, inquiry response, 1852 March 19
Box 1, Folder 7	Letter From Thomas Ewbanks/Patent Office to Reuben Moffat, 1852 March 25
Box 1, Folder 8	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 April 10
Box 1, Folder 9	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 May 23-24
Box 1, Folder 10	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 June
Box 1, Folder 11	Letter from Alex Barclay to John Little Moffat and letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 June
Box 1, Folder 12	Barclays Amalgamator drawing, description of A. Barclay's Gold Washer, and envelope, 1852 June
Box 1, Folder 13	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 July
Box 1, Folder 14	Letter from Virginia and Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, and letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 August
Box 1, Folder 15	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 September 19
Box 1, Folder 16	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, 1852 October
Box 1, Folder 17	Letter from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, letter from Alex Barclay to Reuben Moffat, letter from Reuben Moffat to Alex Barclay, 1852 November

Box 1, Folder 18

Letters from Reuben Moffat to John Little Moffat, letters from Mr. Cook to Reuben Moffat, 1852 December

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