



**Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives**  
**415 West Gurley Street**  
**Prescott, AZ 86301**  
**www.sharlot.org**

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers

**Creator:** Richard and Margaret McCormick

**Dates:** 1857-2014 **Bulk Dates:** 1857-1899

**Quantity:** 4 linear feet (3 boxes)

**System of Arrangement:**

Series 1: Richard C. McCormick

Sub-series 1.1: Correspondence, Speeches and Reminiscences

Sub-series 1.2: Photographs and Cartes de Visite

Sub-series 1.3: Newspaper and Publication Articles

Sub-series 1.4: First Presbyterian Church

Sub-series 1.5: Certificates of Sale and Death

Sub-series 1.6: Young Men's Magazine 1857-1859

Sub-series 1.7: Burial Site

Series 2: Margaret Hunt McCormick

Sub-series 2.1: Genealogy

Sub-series 2.2: McCormick-Denike Correspondence

Sub-series 2.3: Journal and Correspondence with John Hunt

Sub-series 2.4: Photographs and Cartes de Visite

Sub-series 2.5: Obituary and Burial Information

Sub-series 2.6: Scrapbook

**Abstract:** Richard Cunningham McCormick was the second governor of the Arizona Territory. In addition, he was a three-term delegate to Congress from Arizona, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, New York delegate to Congress, Commissioner General to the Paris Exposition of 1878, three-time delegate to the National Convention, among others. Margaret Hunt McCormick was Richard McCormick's first wife, married to him while he served as Governor of Arizona. She was much-beloved by the citizens of the Territory and deeply mourned upon her untimely death at the age of 24. This collection includes correspondence, Margaret's journal, photographs, editions of the Young Men's Magazine for which Richard McCormick was an editor, information regarding the McCormick's marriage and deaths, and a scrapbook containing material regarding Margaret McCormick's home in New Jersey, her family, and burial information.



**Identification:** SHM MS-35

**Language and Scripts of the Materials:** English

## **Biographical History**

Richard Cunningham McCormick was born on May 23, 1832 in New York City. He was well-educated and a world traveler. He served as a war correspondent during the Crimean War, and the Civil War, during which he won acclaim for his coverage of the Battle of Bull Run. He was an author of books, including Arizona: Its Resources and Prospects, magazine articles, and served as an editor of the New York Evening Post and the Young Men's Magazine. He was appointed Secretary of State of the new Arizona Territory by President Lincoln and arrived at Fort Whipple, Chino Valley, in January 1864. He brought with him a printing press and established the first newspaper in the Arizona Territory, the Arizona Miner. He also brought his book collection which became the first territorial library. President Andrew Johnson appointed him to succeed Governor Goodwin as the second territorial governor of Arizona on July 9, 1866 and he served in this position until April 7, 1869. His accomplishments during his tenure as governor and delegate to Congress were many, including expanded mail service to the territory, codification of mining laws, a complete survey of the territory, planning of stage, telegraph and railroad service, establishing a system of public education, to name a few. He considered bipartisanship necessary, and worked with both parties for the good of the inhabitants of the new territory. In addition, he was responsible for designing the first territorial seal and for naming the capitol of the territory after the historian, William H. Prescott. He remained an unofficial spokesman for Arizona throughout his life.

In 1869 he began his term as the delegate to Congress from the Arizona Territory and held that position for three terms. He was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Commissioner General to the Paris Exposition of 1878, and elected to Congress from the state of New York. He was three times a delegate to the National Convention. In his hometown of Jamaica, New York, he served as the first president of the Board of Education; he had previously been a trustee for the New York City public school system.

He was married twice, the first time in 1865 to Margaret Griffiths Hunt, of Rahway, New Jersey, who died tragically less than two years after their wedding due to complications from childbirth. According to newspaper accounts, he was despondent after her death. In 1873, he married Elizabeth Thurman, the daughter of Senator Allen Thurman of Ohio, and President Grant was a guest at the wedding. Richard McCormick died of a stroke on June 2, 1901 and is buried in the Grace Episcopal Church graveyard in Jamaica, New York.



Margaret Hunt McCormick was born on May 3, 1843 in Rahway, New Jersey, and spent her childhood on a large farm. She was an accomplished pianist and horsewoman. When she was 22, she traveled to San Francisco accompanied by her cousin and her cousin's husband to attend the San Francisco social season. This was a common occurrence at the time for well-bred young woman because of the availability of suitors who might prove to be proper marriage material. According to correspondence with her friend Emma Denike, Margaret enjoyed her stay in San Francisco, but did not accomplish the purpose of her trip. However, on the steamship returning home she met Richard McCormick and it seems to have been love at first sight; they were married a few months later at the First Presbyterian Church in Margaret's hometown on September 27, 1865. Shortly thereafter she and her husband began the long trip to Arizona where they made their home in a large log cabin which was later named the governor's mansion although that is not an accurate description. It was considered a mansion by those inhabitants of the territory who lived in tents or rude dwellings, and that was the majority of the population. By all accounts Margaret was very happy in her new home. She made many improvements to the cabin and endeared herself to the people of Prescott. She often threw parties at the mansion and made her visitors feel welcome. She accompanied her husband on many of his trips throughout the territory, exploring the landscape and meeting its inhabitants. In letters to her friend Emma, she states that "she was never so happy in her life", and describes her attentive and devoted husband as "the very best husband who ever lived." Despite knowing each other for only a few months before marrying, they seemed to have had a very happy marriage. Tragically, she gave birth to a stillborn child on April 30, 1867 and died one hour later, as reported by witnesses; uncomplaining and accepting of her fate. The Arizona Miner reported that "the sudden and unexpected death of the most estimable and greatly beloved woman has cast a gloom over the community which language cannot describe...Her funeral was attended by the entire population of Prescott, the officers of Fort Whipple, and many persons from the adjacent country." Her body, together with her infant daughter, was interred near the governor's mansion, but in 1869 her remains were exhumed and taken back to New Jersey by her husband to be reinterred in Hazelwood Cemetery, near her childhood home.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of personal correspondence, photographs; including ambrotype and glass plate images, speeches, original issues of The Young Men's Magazine, Margaret's journal, genealogy information and newspaper articles. Several of the photographs and cartes de visite were produced in the Matthew Brady studio; one carte de visite, given to a friend, is signed by Richard McCormick. Margaret's correspondence with her childhood friend, Emma Denike (collection compiled by Judi A. Winchester), and her journal are firsthand accounts of her life in the governor's mansion and the newly established territory. A scrapbook (compiled by Mark Coleman) gives information regarding the Hunt family, Margaret's home in New Jersey, the church in which she was married and her burial site.



## Restrictions

None

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## Related Archival Materials & Subjects

[McCormick, Richard C. \(Richard Cunningham\), 1832-1901](#)

[Prescott \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Brady, Mathew B., approximately 1823-1896](#)

[Prescott, William Hickling, 1796-1859](#)

[United States. Surveyor General of Arizona Territory](#)

[First Presbyterian Church \(Rahway, N.J.\)](#)

[Grace Church \(Jamaica, New York, N.Y.\)](#)

Please also see the following related materials in Sharlot Hall Library & Archives.

Vertical File, Richard C. McCormick

Rose Garden File, Margaret Hunt McCormick

**Arizona Historical Review**, October 1935, Vol. 6, No. 4, p 50

**Arizona and the West**, Vol. 7, #3, pp 187-198

Westerners' tape by Sidney Brinckerhoff, Director of Arizona Historical Society, account of McCormick's career, Tape 0012a, Oral Histories, digitized

**Arizona Biographical Series, Richard C. McCormick** by John S. Goff (92 MCC)

**Arizona: It's Resources and Prospects** by Hon. Richard C. McCormick (979.1 MCC)

**Journal of Arizona History 26 (Spring 1985), the Personal Journal and Arizona**

**letters of Margaret Hunt McCormick** by Norm Tessman



## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

#### Accession Numbers

1982.091  
1984.026  
1984.055  
1984.139  
1984.148  
1986.076  
1986.164  
1990.015  
2000.064  
2006.088  
2008.180  
2009.019  
2014.061

The materials in this collection were donated by various donors to the Sharlot Hall Museum over a period of time spanning 1982-2014.

**Accruals:** There may possibly be more accruals to this collection as other items are discovered or donated.

### Description Control

This collection was processed by Cynthia Vaughn using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACs)* in 2014.



## Container List

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1866-1871

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of correspondence from Richard McCormick, speeches, and reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln by Richard McCormick.

<b>Series 1: Richard C. McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 1.1: Correspondence, Speeches and Reminiscences</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1.1	Letters to Cephas Brainerd	1863-64
1.2	Letter to Messrs. Bancroft	1866
1.3	Letter to a Friend	1869
1.4	Letters to John Hunt	1869-1871
1.5	Orations	1864-1867
1.6	Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln	1866

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1870's-1899

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of photographs and cartes de visite, some of which were produced in the Matthew Brady studios.

<b>Series 1: Richard C. McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 1.2: Photographs</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1.7, 3.2	Photographs and Cartes de Visite (3 oversize photos are located in Box 3) 5 photos	c.1870's, 1899

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1866-1985

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of articles regarding the McCormicks from newspapers, magazines, and journals.

<b>Series 1: Richard C. McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 1.3: Publication Articles</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1.8	Newspaper, Magazine and Journal Articles	1866-1985



**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1866-1985

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of information regarding the church in New Jersey where Richard and Margaret McCormick were married.

<b>Series 1: Richard C. McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 1.4: Presbyterian Church, Rahway, New Jersey</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1.9	First Presbyterian Church in Rahway, New Jersey	1941-2002

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1873-1915

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of copies of Certificates of Sale of the property located at the Governor’s Mansion, and the death certificate of Richard McCormick’s second wife.

<b>Series 1: Richard C. McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 1.5: Certificates of Sale and Death</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1.10	Certificate of Sale of the property located at the Governor’s Mansion bought at sheriff’s auction by Richard McCormick	1873
1.11	Death Certificate of Elizabeth Thurman McCormick	1915

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1857-1859

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of original issues of The Young Men’s Magazine edited by Richard McCormick.

<b>Series 1: Richard C. McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 1.6: <u>The Young Men’s Magazine</u></b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1.12	Original Issues of <u>The Young Men’s Magazine</u>	1857
1.13	Original Issues of <u>The Young Men’s Magazine</u>	1858
1.14	Original Issues of <u>The Young Men’s Magazine</u>	1858
1.15	Original Issues of <u>The Young Men’s Magazine</u>	1859



**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 2006

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of information and photos regarding the burial site of Richard McCormick, and copies of obituaries.

<b>Series 1: Richard C. McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 1.7: Burial Site of Richard Cunningham McCormick</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1.16	Photos from churchyard cemetery where Richard McCormick is buried and copies of obituaries (2 photos)	1901,2006

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 2003

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of genealogy research of Margaret McCormick and her family compiled by Mark Coleman.

<b>Series 2: Margaret Hunt McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 2.1: Genealogy of Margaret McCormick</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
2.1	Genealogy Research of Margaret McCormick and her family	2003

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Collection

**Dates:** 1865-1869

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of correspondence to Emma Denike, Margaret’s life-long friend.

<b>Series 2: Margaret Hunt McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 2.2: McCormick- Denike Correspondence</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
2.2	Margaret McCormick-Emma Denike Correspondence	1865-1869





**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1865-1866

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of Margaret’s journal and copies of letters to her brother, John Hunt.

<b>Series 2: Margaret Hunt McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 2.3: Journal and Letters</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
2.3	Margaret Hunt McCormick’s journal began 9/27/1865	1865-1866
2.4	Letters from Margaret to her brother John	1866

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** c. 1860’s

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of photographs and cartes de visite of Margaret McCormick, some of which were produced in the Matthew Brady studios.

<b>Series 2: Margaret Hunt McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 2.4: Photographs</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
2.5	Photographs of Margaret McCormick (4 photos)	c.1860’s-1870’s
2.6	Cartes de visite, some were produced by Matthew Brady’s studio (3 photos)	c.1860’s
2.7	Ambrotype, print and glass plate negative (3 photos)	c.1860’s
2.8	Family photographs (5 photos)	c.1860’s

**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1867-2014

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of information regarding Margaret’s death and burial.

<b>Series 2: Margaret Hunt McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 2.5: Obituary and Burial Information</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
2/9	Obituary of Margaret Hunt McCormick	1867,1997
2/10	Photos of Margaret’s grave in Rahway, New Jersey (6 photos)	1955,2014
2/11	Oak leaves from Margaret’s grave in Arizona	1867



**Title:** Richard and Margaret McCormick Papers – SHM MS-35

**Dates:** 1867-2014

**Sub-series Scope & Content:** This sub-series consists of photos and information regarding Margaret’s family, the farm where she grew up, census records, the First Presbyterian Church, and Hazelwood Cemetery.

<b>Series 2: Margaret Hunt McCormick</b>		
<b>Sub-series 2.6: Scrapbook and Oversize Photos</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
3/1	Scrapbook compiled by Mark Coleman containing photos and information regarding the Hunt farm, census records, the First Presbyterian Church, and Hazelwood Cemetery	2003
3/2	Oversize photos of Richard McCormick (3 oversize photos)	c.1870’s