

Collection #  
M 1043

## EMMA BARRETT MOLLOY COLLECTION, 1846–1985

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 9 boxes

COLLECTION  
DATES: Inclusive, 1846–1985; Bulk, 1846–1910

PROVENANCE: Martha Pickrell, Elkhart, Indiana, 1993

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS: Pickrell, Martha M. *Emma Speaks Out—Life and Writings of  
Emma Molloy*. Carmel, IN: Guild Press, c. 1999. [HV 5232  
M65 P53 1999.]

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 1993.0031

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Emma Barrett Molloy (1839–1907) was born in South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana. She became a school teacher in her teens while also displaying literary and dramatic talents. In 1858 she married Louis A. Pradt, a printer from the Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The marriage proved not to be a happy one. The couple lived in a succession of homes in the Midwest. Pradt was an alcoholic. They had two children who died in infancy. Upon the death of their second child in 1864, Emma divorced Pradt and returned to South Bend.

In November, 1867, Emma married Edward Molloy, editor of the South Bend *National Union* and assisted her husband as a reporter and co-editor. It was also around this time that she became involved in the women's suffrage movement. She wrote articles for the suffragist journal, *The Revolution* and delivered lectures on education for women, liberalizing divorce laws and prohibition. The Molloys sold the *National Union* in 1871 and moved to Cortland, New York, to edit the *Weekly Journal* for a short period of time. They returned to Indiana in 1872 and started the Elkhart *Observer*. From 1876–1878 Emma spent most of her time lecturing on suffrage and prohibition throughout the northeastern United States and England.

Emma Molloy returned to Indiana in 1880 and resumed assisting her husband who was now editing the LaPorte *Herald-Chronicle*. She crusaded for prison reform and half-way houses in addition to continuing her temperance work. Emma divorce Edward Molloy and moved to Elgin, Illinois in 1882 where she edited *The Morning and Day Review*. She soon moved to Washington, Kansas where she continued to campaign for prohibition. In 1885 she abandoned her newspaper business and began working for the Methodist Church while becoming more active in the Kansas WCTU. After a series of controversies that led to her attempted suicide, she move to Port Townsend, Washington in March 1888 where she worked for Seaman's Bethel, the Methodist Church and the WCTU. In January, 1889 she married her cousin, Morris Barrett, a retire printer from Washington, D.C. Emma Molloy continued her evangelical mission in west until her death from pneumonia at Cedarville, California on 14 May 1907.

Sources:

Information in collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains photocopied printed materials and manuscript materials compiled by Martha M. Pickerell while writing her biography of Molloy. Included are copies of contemporary articles on the suffrage campaign, the temperance movement, liberal marriage laws and prison reform as well as biographical and genealogical information. There is also information regarding Emma's role in the bigamous trial of George Graham who married his step-daughter, Cora, 1886.

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**Series 2: First Marriage, South Bend, 1858–1871**

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### **Series 8: Trial Coverage and Western Sources, 1886–1930**

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Emma Barrett Molloy Collection Inventory

Molloy Summaries

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## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1043).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.