

Haverford College Library  
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the MORRIS EVANS LEEDS PAPERS, 1862 (bulk: 1862,  
1942)-1944

Collection No. 1014  
1 document box (0.5 linear feet)  
Gift of Hadassah Moore Leeds Parrot, 1962  
©February, 2007

**INFORMATION FOR USERS**

1862 material has been separately filed from 1942-44 materials

**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions

**RELATED MATERIALS**

See also collection no. 1127

**ABSTRACT**

A collection that focuses on two dates: 1862 & 1942. In the former, Lewis W. Leeds' invention of the window envelope is detailed with contracts, bills, correspondence and samples of the envelope. In 1942, his descendant, Morris E. Leeds corresponds with E. Tudor Gross who has become interested in the invention and ends with the article entitled "The Window Envelope," which appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in April of that year.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Morris Evans Leeds (1869-1952) was born in Philadelphia, the son of Barclay R. Leeds and Mary Maule Leeds. He was educated at Westtown School and graduated from Haverford College in 1880. He studied at the University of Berlin from 1892-93. For a brief time, he taught at Westtown, then was employed by Queen & Company. Beginning

in 1889 until 1903, Leeds was managing partner in Morris E. Leeds & Co. He became president of Leeds & Northrup in 1903. The company made strides not only in the field of precision instruments, but also under the direction of Leeds, in employee working conditions, relations between employees and management, and amelioration of unemployment. In 1926, Leeds married Hadassah J. Moore. They had two daughters. From 1909-52, he was a member of the Corporation and Board of Haverford College, serving as President of the Board from 1928-45. Leeds was also active on the School Board of Philadelphia and was its president from 1938-48. Morris E. Leeds was interested in botany and was a member of many scientific and cultural societies. He was co-author of *Toward Full Employment*.

## **SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Gross, E. Tudor (Edward Tudor), †d b. 1878  
Leeds, Barclay R., †d 1834-1918  
Leeds, Lewis W. (Lewis Walker), †d ca. 1827-1896  
Leeds, Morris Evans, †d 1869-1952  
Wood, L. Hollingsworth (Levi Hollingsworth), †d 1874-1956

Envelopes (Stationery)  
Inventors  
Quaker businesspeople

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

Seven folders labeled chronologically from 1862 – 1944.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

Included in the collection is correspondence of Morris E. Leeds, mainly with E. Tudor Gross of Providence, R.I. in 1942, relating to the first window envelope, invented by Lewis Walker Leeds, ca. 1861. Gross was preparing to write an article on the history of the window envelope. The collection opens with a 1942 letter from L. Hollingsworth Wood to Leeds telling him of Gross' endeavor. The papers also include 1862 sample envelopes; a copy of a photograph of Barclay R. Leeds, ca. 1862; a photograph of Lewis W. Leeds, ca. 1862; an 1862 contract with William Lyon to manufacture the "stamp-sealing and postmark- preserving envelope;" an article in *Scientific American*, July 12, 1862 about the invention, along with three letters from Barclay Leeds and Lewis Leeds in 1862 detailing some business aspects relating to the envelope; bills, circulars; pictures; copies of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, April, 1942, containing E. Tudor Gross's article, "The first window envelope."

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

### **1862**

ALS to Lewis Leeds from Benjamin Morrison. Philadelphia 1862 2/6. [re patent and design of the envelope]

Receipted bill, June 28, 1862, for punch for window envelope

Copy of the Scientific American, Vol. VII - No. 2, N.Y., July 12, 1862

Agreement among William P. Lyon, Lewis W. Leeds and Joseph Franklin, August 18, 1862

ALS to J. W. Currier from J.F. Franklin. N.Y., 1862 9/ 17. [Order to pay B. R. Leeds \$105]

Copy of agreement, November 1, 1862, among Lewis W. Leeds, Barclay R. Leeds, and William P Lyon, envelope manufacturer;

ALS to Lewis W. Leeds from Barclay R. Leeds, care of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D.C., Nov. 14, 1862. [Discusses shipping of and payment for envelopes, and Lewis's appointment as a consulting engineer on a western project.]

ALS to B. R. Leeds. Germantown, Pa., Nov. 12, 1862. Fragment, writer uncertain [Gives instructions re packing of envelopes and quotes F.L. Olmstead, speaking of Lewis W. Leeds as "Consulting engineer of ventilating and warming" and giving instructions for him.]

ALS to Leeds and Franklin from Acting 1st. Asst. Post Master General, Sept. 19, 1862, [re new regulation forbidding use of postmark to cancel stamp]

ALS to Amelia R. Leeds from Barclay R. Leeds. Falls of Schuylkill, July 24, 1863. [does not expect to be drafted]

Ledger account between J.F. Franklin and Barclay R. Leeds, 1862

Albumen photograph of Lewis R. Leeds on Lookout Mountain, along with his wife and others, ca. 1862

Sample envelopes

**1942:**

Correspondence of Morris Evans Leeds with Edward Tudor Gross relating to the invention of the window envelope and Gross's writing of an article on the topic.

*Collectors Club Philatelist*, April, 1942. Containing Edward Tudor Gross's article, "The first window envelope." 2 copies.