



BHC-MSS 0007  
Guide to the Papers of Irving Moy  
By Meghan Rinn  
2018

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Irving Moy

**Title:** Papers of Irving Moy

**Dates:** 1947-

**Quantity:** 19 boxes

**Abstract:** Irving Moy is the child of two Chinese parents. His experiences growing up in Bridgeport represent an insight into the city's Chinese-American community after the Second World War. Present in the collection is documentation of Moy's childhood in Bridgeport, his interest in the American Civil War and the Chinese-American soldier, Joseph Pierce, and his career within Connecticut's healthcare and social service systems. Mr. Moy continues to be active and involved with his interests.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

Irving Moy was born in 1948, as a part of the post-WWII boom. His parents were both Chinese and entered the country illegally due to the Chinese Exclusion Act. Regardless, they were citizens and actively involved in the Bridgeport community. They ran a laundry, and Irving grew up within the Chinese Bridgeport community.

He attended school in Bridgeport for his entire K-12 career and went on to earn an A.B. from Washington University in 1970, a master's degree in architecture from Washington University in 1972, and a masters of arts in guidance and counseling from Fairfield University in 1976.

This wide array of education helped him to have a thirty two year long career in healthcare, where he worked in both the private sector and public sector over the years. His years of dedicated service saw him work with the Connecticut Department of Social Services to help develop requirements in Public Act 05-187, especially as it related to fire safety. Moy also helped draft reports submitted to the federal government containing similar information.

Moy also is president of Company F, 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, which re-enacts the work of the infantry during the American Civil War. Moy's focus is on Joseph Pierce, the highest ranking Chinese soldier who fought in the Civil War. He has published a book regarding Pierce, shedding important light on the presence of non-white citizens who participated in the conflict.

Moy's Civil War interest also saw him serve as a member of the 2009 Connecticut Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, as appointed by Governor M. Jodie Rell.

Mr. Moy continues to be active and involved with his interests, with the Wallingford Historical Society, and Central High School from which he graduated in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The contents of the Irving Moy papers vary greatly, and reflect a diverse array of interests. In addition to Moy's interest in the American Civil War and his research on Joseph Pierce, there is extensive documentation of his childhood in Bridgeport, Connecticut, as well as information on the Chinese community of Bridgeport during the 1940s through the 1960s. This is reflected in his school material, as well as documents (including photographs) from the Bridgeport Chinese Community.

Additional material relates to Moy's career in healthcare, friends, and memorabilia collected. More accruals are likely to come into the collection.

### **Arrangement note:**

Series I primarily contains material related to Moy's childhood and high school years spent growing up in Bridgeport, Connecticut. These include report cards, student newspapers, and a folder of material from cartoonist Phil Mendez who was a schoolmate. Material from college is also present.

The second series contains both personal material related to Moy's immediate family, including documentation of passage and naturalization, and photographs and material related to the larger Chinese community within Bridgeport. Series III contains material relating to Moy's friends, and series IV contains material relating to the American Civil War. Most of the material focuses on the Chinese soldier Joseph Pierce, but contains other research as well.

Series V relates to the Connecticut Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, whereas series VI contains additional outstanding material.

Series VII collects oversize material. Attempts have been made to mirror the above organization, but size has demanded some mixing of material.

### **Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Direct donation from Irving Moy, with potential forthcoming accruals. Formerly accession numbers 2015.23.2 and 2017.07. Accrual October, 2018; September, 2019.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Papers of Irving Moy (BHC-MSS 0007), Bridgeport History Center.

### **Names and Subject Tracings**

Subject tracings

American Civil War, 1861-1865

Bridgeport (Conn.)

Chinese American families.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, Chinese American.

### **Detailed box and folder listing**

Box 1

Series I: Bridgeport Schools

1. Biographical information on Irving D. Moy
2. Rick Wallace Award of Merit programme, 2008

3. Trustee of the year award from Board of Hebrew Healthcare, 2014
4. Diplomas and certificates
  - a. Admittance to high school, 1962
  - b. Washington University, A.B., 1970
  - c. Washington University M. Arch, 1972
  - d. Fairfield University, M.A., 1976
5. Material from Phil Mendez (high school classmate)
6. Bridgeport Public School report cards for grades 1-6, 1954-1960
7. Bridgeport Public School report cards for grades 7-8, 1960-1962
8. Bridgeport Public School report cards for grades 9-12, 1962-1965
9. Material from YMCA
10. Material from Washington School, 1965-1960
11. Material from Columbus High School, 1960-1962
12. Material from Central High School, 1962-1966
13. "Moments to Remember" booklet for class of 1969
14. Program, Student Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hootnanny, January 22, no year
15. Criterion/Sound off Issues, April and June 1969
16. Criterion's Cub Reporter and the Underclassman, c. 2969
17. School honor students
18. Program, graduation exercises for Central High School, 1966
19. Clipping from graduation, 1966
20. Central High School correspondence as class president, 1976-1977
21. Program, Nutmeg Bowl, 1966
22. Photographs, Columbus High School, 1962
23. Material from Washington University, 1966-1967

## Box 2

### Series II: The Moy Family and the Chinese Community of Bridgeport

1. Biographical information of Chack Fong Moy (Ming Jo Ng) Moy's father
2. Photographs of Moy family home in China, family.
3. Inoculation records for Chack Fong Moy
4. Passage documents and petition for Chack Fong Moy, 1947
5. Honorable discharge papers for Chack Fong Moy, April 4, 1949
6. Marriage certificate for Chack Fong Moy, July 1947
7. Naturalization certificate for Chack Fong Moy, February 16, 1968
8. Citizenship class material, 1969-1970
9. Memorial service, February 10, 2001
10. Death certificate, February 10, 2001
11. Property deeds and will, 1956-2001
12. Donation made in Chack Fong Moy's name, 2001
13. Memorial book for Chack Fong Moy, February 2001
14. "The Bridgeport Chinese Community" by Irving Moy
15. Biographical information on Wing Dep Leung (Wing Nen Lee)

16. Photographs, Chinese New Year Parties at China Inn and South China Restaurant, 1950s-1970s
17. Obituaries related to Bridgeport Chinese Community

#### Series III: Friends

18. Biographical file on Lois W. Beach, 1971-1994
19. "Failed Care" by Elizabeth Andstrom, 2015
20. Eulogy for Elizabeth Andstrom by Irving Moy, March 1, 2015
21. Memorial program for Geraldine Johnson, Bridgeport Superintendent, 2015

#### Series IV: Joseph Pierce and the Civil War

22. "An American Journey: My father, Lincoln, Joseph Pierce and Me" by Irving Moy, 2010
23. "A Chinese Yankee Soldier" by Irving Moy, undated
24. Research on Joseph and Martha Pierce, primarily from National Archives

#### Box 3

1. "Asians and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War" by the National Parks Service, 2015
2. Collection of Civil War documents
3. Civil War History of Max Zimmerman (Navy, relative of Richard Kenyon)
4. Civil War history of Arthur Cantor (family tree)
5. Civil War history of Herbert Stearns
6. Civil War history, Herberly, Calvery man and relative of Liz Andstrom
7. Civil War history, Captain Doten

#### Accruals, 2023:

Binder: printed copies of two PowerPoint presentations, and written narrative for the "An American Journey-the Life and times of Joseph Pierce"

Flash drive: PowerPoint presentations, "An American Journey - the Life and Times of Joseph Pierce"; written narrative for each slide in the presentation. PowerPoint presentation, "the Civil War-Evolution and Its Meaning" with related essay, "My Selma" by Carol Shivley, NPS, who documented her participation during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Selma March [these items stored in box 21]

#### Series V: Connecticut Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

8. Connecticut Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, 2009-2010
9. "Happy Birthday President Lincoln from the People" 2009
10. Additional material related to Lincoln bicentennial, 2009

#### Series VI: Outstanding material

11. 2013 Wallingford Memorial Day address

12. Presidential inauguration invitations given to Moy for Kennedy-Obama, 2016
13. Inauguration day souvenir from the US Post Service, January 20, 2009

#### Oversize

#### Box 4

1. Award presented by Wallingford Veterans Memorial committee, May 27, 2013)
2. Award presented by Hebrew Healthcare, 2015
3. Presidential coin, Obama, 2013
4. Rick Wallace Award of Merit, 2008
5. Department of Health Services ID cards plus business cards, 2013
6. CANPFA service award, undated
7. Award from Apple Herab, undated

#### Box 5

1. Seat cushions in red with black ink, Central Hilltoppers

#### Box 6

1. Carafe from Central HS Senior Banquet 1980
2. Goblet style glass, Central HS Senior Prom, 1979
3. Whiskey glass, Central HS senior prom 1977
4. Port glass, Central HS senior banquets 1977

#### Box 7

1. Barnum festival pennant, 1960
2. Central High School patch, class of 1966
3. Central High School hat, 1967
4. Two Central HS pennants
5. Washington school pennant
6. Barnum festival pin, 1976
7. Barnum festival pin undated

#### Box 8

1. Photo of Moy, undated
2. New York Times, November 20, 1863, Address and dedication of National Cemetery at Gettysburg
3. New York Times, April 14, 1865, Surrender at Appomattox
4. Yearbook, Criterion, 1966
5. Criterion student newspapers, 1966-1971

#### Box 9

1. Wine bottle from Central High School Class Reunion of 2016  
(Note: Originally donated with wine inside. Decision was made to remove liquid from bottle out of concern of item being dropped and spilling.)

#### **Accrual, October 5, 2018**

On October 5, 2018, Mr. Moy dropped off additional material. Volume dictated an accrual. Of particular note is Mr. Moy's series of papercraft views of the Golden Hill United Methodist Church, produced in 1989, which are meticulously detailed.

#### Box 10

1. Certificate of apprenticeship in the Masons, June 1, 1999
2. Letters of awards and appointments
  - a. From Mag Morelli, recipient of CANPFA Rick Wallace Award of Merit, 2018
  - b. Letter in gratitude for serving on committee to develop 2010 Edition of "Guidelines for Design and Construction of Healthcare Facilities, 2009
  - c. Letter from John A. Danaher, CT DPS condition regarding appointment to State Codes and Standards Committee, January 2010
3. Tax bills for 52 High Street and 118 Congress Street from City of Bridgeport, 1956
4. Correspondence regarding treatment and death of Chuck Fong Moy, including Moy family monument and Wall of Honor Profile in West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center
5. Correspondence regarding and including naturalization certificate of May Wan Moy (mother), 1964; 1986-1987
  - a. Certificates of naturalization, 1968, 1987, 1987
  - b. Congratulatory letters regarding citizenship from Congressman Abner W. Sibal, Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Governor John Dempsey, Senator Abraham Ribicoff,
  - c. Certificate of change of name, May 5, 1968
  - d. State correspondence regarding correction to birth date on naturalization certificate
6. Obituaries and remembrances for May Wan Moy, October 2017
7. Memorial book for May Wan Moy, October 2017
8. 1971 calendar from People's Savings Bank, 1971
9. Henry R. Kelly retirement program and Moy's remarks, July 1, 2008
10. Book, "Washington University in St. Louis: It's design and architecture", 1968

#### Box 11

1. Papercraft of Golden Hill United Methodist Episcopal Church, Study of church architecture with start of papercraft on it, 1989
2. Papercraft of Golden Hill United Methodist Episcopal Church, Church, side view, 1989
3. Papercraft of Golden Hill United Methodist Episcopal Church, Elm Street elevation, 1989
4. Papercraft of Golden Hill United Methodist Episcopal Church, front, 1989

#### Box 12

1. Tower of Golden Hill United Methodist Church sketch with ink, 1994
2. Photograph of Golden Hill United Methodist Episcopal Church interior, 1988

#### Box 13

1. Pen and ink drawing of 52 High Street, Bridgeport (Mr. Moy's childhood home) done by Mr. Moy, 1968
2. Sanctuary banners created by Mr. Moy, 1988

Box 14

1. Rick Wallace Award of Merit, 2008
2. Plaque of Appreciation from CT DPS, 2010
3. Clock and pen set presented by Connecticut Department of Health, Building, and Fire Inspection unit
4. Rubber stamp for Wing Lee Laundry, 105 Congress Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut, late 1950s-1960s
5. Bank deposit bag for Mechanics and Farmers Savings Bank, Corner Main and Bank Streets, late 1950s-1960s

Set of made items from required Industrial Arts course in the Bridgeport School System, 1959-1961 including wood door stop, wood match igniter, stamped tin box, stamped tin pie cutter

Box 15

1. Personal documents, RESTRICTED to 100 years after death by direct descendants only
2. Certificate of church membership, 2005
3. Photograph of Wing Dep-Lup family, 1950s
4. Sketchbook, 1962
5. Sketchbook, 1962
6. Business card for Richard Shepard; Senior Prom Program, 1966
7. High school graduation photo, 1966
8. Photo and letter from Principal Edward Tamashaunas (Bassick), 1977-1978
9. Employment letter signed by Geraldine Johnson, September 27, 1977
10. Development of "A Quality Improvement Approach to Life Safety Code Surveys" and acknowledgements, 1996-1997
11. Department of Public Health reception, November 1997
12. Newsletters featuring Mr. Moy, 1998-2000
13. Letters of charitable acknowledgement, 1999
14. Certificate of Appreciation from CMS, 2011
15. Elim Park reception, April 204
16. Connecticut State Department of Health Building Fire Safety Unit, 1997 and 2007 Sub-series, Family
17. Personal documents, RESTRICTED to 100 years after death by direct descendants only
18. Clippings about daughter Rebecca Beth, 1998-1999
19. Marist College, 1998-2003
20. Marist College commencement program, May 17, 2003
21. Photographs of Rebecca Beth, 1999, 2014

Box 16

1. Daughter Christan Katherine's elementary school art
2. Middle school programs, c. 1996
3. High school programs and photographs, 2001-2002
4. Boston University academic records, 2002-2006
5. Boston University commencement program, May 14, 2006

6. Personal documents, RESTRICTED to 100 years after death by direct descendants only.
7. The Black Snowman by Phil Mendez, autographed with inscription, 1991
8. Memorials for James K. Peterson, 2007, and Edith Mattis Coles, 2015
9. Handbill for the Republican Farmer and Seam Printing Job Office, 1864
10. Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation
11. Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862
12. "Bells Across the National" event at the Wallingford Historical Society
13. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and the Legacy of the Civil War
14. The Chinese in America and the Chinese Exclusion Act
15. Closing remarks, 150th commemoration of the Civil War
16. The Costs of the Civil War: An Accounting
17. The Edward N. Silver Media Center Dedication Remarks
18. Getting Right with Lincoln: Republicans the Party of Lincoln?
19. Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Marker Ceremony at the Grave-site of Joseph Pierce
20. How I Met Lincoln
21. Introduction to the Special Section in February 2009 issue of the *Connecticut Medicine* journal devoted to Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War and the American Dream
22. Location of Joseph Pierce's Ancestors
23. Letter to Stephen B. Oates, 2001
24. Recruitment of Co. F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry
25. Shelton High School Opening Remarks, December 6, 2018
26. The United States Christian Commission and the United States Sanitary Commission
27. VOICES 2019 address, October 19, 2012
28. History of George State Troops, 3rd Army Cops, Army of Northern Virginia, 1861-1865 by Theodore Urbanski, 2017

#### Box 17

1. Lucky Laundry laundry bag
2. State acknowledgements
  - a. State of Connecticut General Assembly Citation in recognition of Employee of the Day, June 5, 2008
  - b. State of Connecticut General Assembly citation for 25 years of service in Department of Public Health, May 26, 2011
  - c. Official statement by Gov. Dannel Malloy congratulating Moy on Retirement, 2011
3. Clippings, 2001-2018
  - a. Middletown Press, 10/21/2001: "City's Main Street Becomes Antietam for a Day";
  - b. Middletown Press, 10/22/2001: "Chinese Soldier Remembered"
  - c. Middletown Express, 10/26/2001: "Return of the Blue and the Gray"
  - d. News Bulletin, 11/08/2002: "Local Reenactor Participates in Civil War Day"
  - e. Record-Journal, 12/02/2002: "Civil War Day Held"
  - f. New Haven Register, 09/19/2003: "Chinese man's role in Civil War retold"
  - g. Wallingford Voice, 09/28/2003: "History of a Chinese Yankee brought to light"
  - h. The Hartford Courant, 09/28/2004: "Remembering A Banner Day"
  - i. Record-Journal, 07/30/2006: "How Many Civil War Vets Were Born in China? Not Many- but Meriden's Joseph Pierce was one"
  - j. Journal Inquirer, 04/30/2007: "Civil War reenactor portrays Chinese Vet"
  - k. The Chronicle, October 2010: "Civil War Encampment Depicts Life and History of Famous Connecticut Regiment"
  - l. The Valley Gazette, 04/17/2013: "Historical Society Hosts Civil War encampment"
  - m. Reminder News, 05/23/2013: "Civil War Re-enacted- History Day at Museum on Battle"



Street”

n. The Herald Press, 07/21/2013: “Reenactment Brings Civil War History to Life”

o. Harbor News, 07/09/2015: “Civil War Campsite Comes Alive July 11”

p. Record-Journal, 11/25/2018: “Asians and Pacific Islanders During the Civil War”

## **2021 accrual**

Box 18

Passport, 2009-2019 [RESTRICTED]

Columbus School autograph book, 1962

Prophecy and Will, class of 1966, 1966

Central High School diploma, 1966

Washington University map, 1966

Acknowledgement of archive creation at Washington University, 2020

Washington University class of 1970 reflections book, 2020

Chack Fang Moy biography, 2001

Harry Moy biography, 2020

Our Moy Family Dynasties [genealogy research], 2021

Christan Moy, elementary school essay on Chinese culture, 1994

Christan K. Moy yearbook, 1997-1998

Box 19

Christan Moy high school achievement certificates, 2001-2020

Christan Moy high school diploma, 2002

Christan Moy curriculum vitae, 2006 [restricted]

Rebecca Moy high school honors, 1999

Art and photos of the Moys with Phil Mendez, c. 1990s

Sanctuary renovation at Berean Assembly of God, Milford, 1992

Bridgeport business handbills, 1960s

Medal for greater Hartford marathon, 2007

DVD of Connecticut Abraham Lincoln bicentennial, 2009

Journal regarding Christan's volunteer efforts following Hurricane Katrina, Sept. 13-27 2006

OS folder

Wilcoxon school yearbook, 1993

Old Saybrook Civil War encampment poster, 2016

Christan Moy's diploma from Boston University, 2006

OS folder

Autograph art apron, undated

## **2023 Accrual [restricted]**

In April 2023, Mr. Moy dropped off additional material: identification cards and passports and a Masonic Bible belonging to his family. All identification cards are restricted.

Box 20

Irving Moy Connecticut State Library card, expired 04-11-1998

Chack Fong Moy United States passport, expired 03-10-1995

Chack Fong Moy United States passport, expired 07-10-2006  
May W. Moy Connecticut identification card, expired 12-14-2004  
May W. Moy City of Bridgeport Seniors Discount Plan Senior Citizen identification card  
May W. Moy Social Security Card  
May Wan Moy United States passport, expired 03-10-1995  
May Wan Moy United States passport, expired 07-10-2006  
Masonic Bible belonging to Irving Moy and given by Paul D. Kostry  
Cards from fellow Masons to Irving Moy and Masonic literature

**Accrual:**

**In October 2023, Mr. Moy deposited the following which has been added to Series IV:**

Box 21

Binder: printed copies of two PowerPoint presentations, and written narrative for the “An American Journey-the Life and times of Joseph Pierce” and “The Civil War-Evolution and Its Meaning”

Flash drive: PowerPoint presentations, “An American Journey – the Life and Times of Joseph Pierce”; written narrative for each slide in the presentation. PowerPoint presentation, “the Civil War-Evolution and Its Meaning” with related essay, “My Selma” by Carol Shivley, NPS, who documented her participation during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Selma March [stored with collection flash drives, box 1, in BHC office]

Box 22

Laundry bag from Chack Fong Moy’s business, Bridgeport Ideal Laundry, located at 61 Hurd Avenue. The bag was used to wash bulk laundry

**Accrual:**

**In December 2024, Mr. Moy deposited the following which has been added to Series IV:**

Box 23

1. Central High School athletic shorts and t-shirt [accrual, December 2024]

Box 24

1. Shopping bags from local Bridgeport grocery stores [accrual, December 2024]