



c.1905

Oregon Historical Society

John McCracken (1826-1915)

John McCracken was born in England and came to the United States in 1832. He lived in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island until 1849.

McCracken was co-founder of Greenwich & California Mining & Trading Company in 1849. He moved to Oregon in 1852 and bought flour and saw mills in Oregon City. He served as commissary general and attained the rank of colonel in the Rogue River Wars, 1855-56. McCracken started a mercantile business in Portland in 1857.¹ He was elected to the Oregon State Legislature 1894.

Letters to Bush from 1853 to 1863

McCracken writes about the penitentiary, mutual friends and business-related topics, including bills and collection of loan payments, newspaper subscriptions, and McCracken's personal loans. He writes about government positions in Portland. McCracken informs Bush about news of the Indian Wars, a massacre at Cascade Locks and volunteers signing up for the war. He warns Bush about competing newspapers and comments on Delazon Smith, Leland and other mutual acquaintances. McCracken congratulates Bush on his purchase of "the parsonage" in 1860, now Bush's Pasture Park, and in 1863, he expresses his regrets that Mrs. Bush is ill.

¹ <http://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/mccracken/1977/> (accessed 6/13/17).