2-2015

MS-172: Paxton Family Papers

Molly E. Reynolds

Gettysburg College

Follow this and additional works at: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/findingaidsall

Part of the European Languages and Societies Commons, and the Tourism Commons

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.


This finding aid appears in Gettysburg College's institutional repository by permission of the copyright owner for personal use, not for redistribution. Cupola permanent link: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/findingaidsall/144

This open access finding aid is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.
MS-172: Paxton Family Papers

Description
This set of papers presents a variety of notes and correspondences between members of the family and friends. The bulk of the letters date 1895 and come from Elizabeth D. Paxton and Margaretha Paxton to their mother, Caroline Sophia Denny Paxton, while touring Europe. There are letters from James Dunlop and Harmar Denny to their mother, as well as condolence letters for Mr. and Mrs. William M. Paxton upon the death of Harmar Denny in 1896. This collection may prove useful for a researcher conducting a study of the Paxton family, or one interested in the travels of Americans in Europe at the end of the 19th century. This collection does not contain information relevant to William Miller Paxton’s time at Gettysburg or his career.

Special Collections and College Archives Finding Aids are discovery tools used to describe and provide access to our holdings. Finding aids include historical and biographical information about each collection in addition to inventories of their content. More information about our collections can be found on our website http://www.gettysburg.edu/special_collections/collections/.

Keywords
Paxton, Europeans Travel, Americans in Europe

Disciplines
European Languages and Societies | Tourism

This finding aid is available at The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/findingaidsall/144
Guide to the
Paxton Family Papers

Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives

Molly Reynolds ‘14
February 2015
Provenance

These papers were bought from Mrs. Hudson’s Fine Books and Paper in Chelsea, NY, in February, 2014.

Biography

The Paxton family settled in Adams County, PA in the 1770s. William Miller Paxton (1824-1904) attended the preparatory school and Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in 1843. He studied law for two years, but then, feeling himself pulled to the Church, he studied at Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated in 1848. Paxton was pastor of the Church in Greencastle, PA, for two years. He served as: pastor of the First Church of Pittsburgh for fourteen years, contemporaneously chair of Sacred Rhetoric in Western Theological Seminary for twelve years, and pastor of the First Church of New York for eighteen years. In 1883, he became professor of Ecclesiastical, Homiletical and Pastoral Theology in Princeton Theological Seminary, and taught until his retirement in 1902, when he became a Professor Emeritus. Paxton was director of Princeton Theological Seminary from 1866-1883, and was a trustee of the University for thirty-eight years.

William Miller Paxton married Caroline Sophia Denny in Pittsburg in November of 1855. They had eight children: Elizabeth Denny Paxton, Rev. James Dunlop Paxton, Amy Maria Paxton, William Miller Paxton, Caroline Denny Paxton, Harmar Denny Paxton, Margaretta Paxton, and James Donaldson Paxton. James Dunlop Paxton graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1883, and was a well-regarded Presbyterian pastor, working on the east coast and abroad, eventually coming back to the United States to take up the position at the First Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1904.

Scope and Content Notes

This set of papers presents a variety of notes and correspondences between members of the family and friends. The bulk of the letters date 1895 and come from Elizabeth D. Paxton and Margaretta Paxton to their mother, Caroline Sophia Denny Paxton, while touring Europe. There are letters from James Dunlop and Harmar Denny to their mother, as well as condolence letters for Mr. and Mrs. William M. Paxton upon the death of...
Harmar Denny in 1896. This collection may prove useful for a researcher conducting a study of the Paxton family, or one interested in the travels of Americans in Europe at the end of the 19th century. This collection does not contain information relevant to William Miller Paxton’s time at Gettysburg or his career.

**Series Description**

This collection is contained in one series, and organized chronologically.

**Box 1**

1-1 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

**Series 1 Paxton Papers**

1-2 Undated fragments and Correspondences 1889-1890

- Invitation to the wedding of William Miller Paxton, Jr., undated
- Elizabeth Paxton to one of her sisters, undated
- 6 October, 1889, James Dunlop Paxton to his mother
- 7 February, 1890, Caroline D. Paxton to “Daisy” (sister), from Capri
- 1 May, 1890, James Dunlop Paxton to his mother, from Athens
- 6 October, 1890, Harmar Denny Paxton to James Donaldson Paxton

1-3 Correspondences 1895

- 31 March, 1895, Helen Paxton to her sister
- 24 April 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Rome
- 28 April 1895, Margaretta Paxton to her mother, from Rome
- 8 May 1895, Margaretta Paxton to her mother, from Venice
- 26 May 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Venice
- 2 June 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to Carrie Paxton, from Innsbruck, Austria
- 22 June 1895, Margaretta Paxton to her mother, from Paris
- June 1895 Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Zell Am See, Austria
- 20 July 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Austria
- 18 August, 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Salzburg, Austria
- 2 October 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother

1-4 Correspondences 1896-1905

- 28 February, 1896, Mrs. Wyeth to Professor William Paxton
- 25 March, 1896, Louis B. Crane to Mrs. WM Paxton
- 30 July, 1905, William M. Paxton III to his father, William M. Paxton, Jr.