

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the RICHARD T. CADBURY COLLECTION, 1780-1878

Collection No. 954
1 document box (0.5 linear feet)
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RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

ABSTRACT

Letters of English and American Friends written at the end of the 18th century on topics relating to travel in the ministry in England and the North East corridor of the U.S., Friends, and health. Almost all the letters are directed to Quaker minister, James Thornton

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Thornton (1727-1794) was born in Buckinghamshire, England and removed to Pennsylvania in 1740. On his marriage, he settled at Byberry in Pennsylvania. He traveled considerable distances in the Quaker ministry and was in Europe in 1788-89.

Richard Tapper Cadbury (1853-1929) was a Quaker businessman, writer, and art connoisseur. The son of Richard and Lydia Shinn Cadbury, he married Helen Nathans in 1884. He was a graduate of Haverford College, class of 1872.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

600 1 – Cadbury, Richard Tapper
650 0– Society of Friends – Antislavery movement
690 -- Family – Religious life – Society of Friends
700 1 – Thornton, James, 1727-1794

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

An introductory letter by Henry J. Cadbury in 1931 suggests that Haverford College might buy this collection containing the letters of "most of the outstanding Friends of the time in England & U.S.A." The time period of the collection is the late 18th century. The collection includes letters of Friends, mostly addressed to James Thornton, an ancestor of Richard T. Cadbury, Anna Shinn Maier and others. Among the letter writers are John Pemberton, Henry Drinker, James Pemberton, Samuel Allinson, Abel James, Moses Brown, Rebecca Jones and Esther Tuke. The topics are primarily religious in nature and discuss attending Meetings both in England and the North East corridor of the U.S. As well, there is some attention to the plight of African Americans and quite a lot of discussion of health issues. Letter writers often mention other Friends.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Letter writers include:

Samuel Alexander, Samuel Allinson, David Barclay, Sarah Benson, Moses Brown, Hannah Cathrall, Isaac Collins, David Comfort, John Cox, John De Brahm, Joseph Dell, Henry Drinker, Thomas Fisher, Margaret Wistar Haines, Abel James, John James, Rebecca Jones, Mary Lloyd, James Logan, John Parrish, Edmund Peckover, James Pemberton, John Pemberton, Elizabeth Rathbone, William Rathbone, James Rigbie, Richard Routh, Samuel Smith, James Thornton, James Townsend, Esther Tuke, Agnes Walmsley, Jane Watson

Alexander, Samuel to James Thornton. Needham Market? [Eng.], 1789 7/9. [religious in tone, and relating health issues, also mentions friends George Dillwyn, Hannah Wigham and others]

Allinson, Samuel to Mary Thornton. Philadelphia, 1780 6/1. [her husband, James Thornton gave good testimony in Meeting, and is traveling further to other Meetings]

Barclay, David to James Thornton. Red Lion Square, [Eng.?], [17]89 6/12. [is sending an apparatus to make seltzer which might relieve Thornton's complaint]

Benson, Sarah to James Thornton. Liverpool, [Eng.], 1794 10/1. [traveling on a religious mission in the company of Thomas Colly and his wife & son]

Brown, Moses to [James Thornton]. Providence, [R.I.], 1787-1791. 2 items. [1787: religious reflections; stopping the African slave trade by applying to the assembly of R.I. was satisfactory, and encloses a copy of their address (not present), and hopes Thornton will bring about a similar response in PA]

Cadbury, Richard T. Diploma from Harvard University, 1877 & 1878

Cadbury, Richard T. Miscellaneous file, including information on the Thornton file and some genealogical information on James and Mary Thornton's daughter, Lydia, some poems, including by James Thornton, etc.

Collins, Isaac to James Thornton. Trenton, 1790 6/4. [sends some of Holmes' poultice root and other health related]

Drinker, Henry to James Thornton. Philadelphia, 1788 7/26 & 8/31. 2 items. [7/26: has heard that John Pemberton journeying to Scotland after Yearly meeting in London; mentions Rebecca Jones, George Dillwyn, Warner Mifflin; great stir among the people regarding the Federal Constitution]

Logan, James to James Thornton. Philadelphia, [17]84 12/23. [hopes Thornton will come to see his farm and they will discuss rent]

Parrish, John to James Thornton. N.p., n.d. [will be traveling to visit a number of Meetings and will spend some time at Annapolis with the Assembly on account of the oppressed Africans]

Pemberton, James to James Thornton. 1788-1792. 3 items. [1788: address to NJ Assembly for "relief of the Negroes" and need for law similar to that passed in PA for preventing the equipment of any ship for the slave trade; R[ebecca?] Jones and H.C. have rented an apartment together across from S. Emlen; 1789: mention of various Friends]

Pemberton, John to James Thornton. 1782-1794. 15 items. [religious content & mention of various Friends & health issues & attending Meeting; 1783 6/18: Meeting devoted to discussion of the care of Black people; 1788 9/16: licentiousness of theatrical presentations in defiance of law and Friends were preparing advice against such temptations; 1793 4/18: a number of Friends have gotten certificates to journey among the Indians in NY]

Thornton, James to Mary Thornton. 1780-1794. 5 items. [traveling to various Meetings in New England and London & health]

Townsend, John. Includes photograph of John Townsend taken in Philadelphia.