

Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles family papers HC.1213

Finding aid prepared by Courtney Smerz

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 02, 2010

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
370 Lancaster Ave
Haverford, PA, 19041
610-896-1161
hc-special@haverford.edu

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical Note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	6
<u>Related Materials</u>	7
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	7
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	9
<u>Correspondence</u>	9
<u>Family papers</u>	19
<u>Deeds</u>	21

Summary Information

Repository	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator	Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum
Title	Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles family papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1840-1882
Date [inclusive]	1791-1930
Extent	5.5 Linear feet 11 containers
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles family papers house the correspondence of a Quaker family who lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Woodbury, New Jersey; Wilmington, Delaware; and other surrounding areas from approximately 1840 to 1882. A majority of the letters were written to or by Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles; her husband, John Smith Hilles; and other Tatum or Hilles family members. There is a small sampling of assorted family papers, dating from 1825 to 1901. Included, among other items, are school report cards of William Samuel Hilles from Haverford College and an 1834 memoir of Anne Cooper Tatum, Sarah Hilles' mother. In addition, there are deeds to properties owned by the Hilles family in Delaware, New Jersey, Illinois and Pennsylvania from 1791 to 1886.</p>

Preferred Citation note

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Quaker Collection, Hilles family papers, Coll. No. 1213.

Biographical Note

Sarah Cooper Tatum was born circa 1832, the daughter of Joseph Tatum (1806-1881) and Anne Cooper Tatum (1808-1834) of Woodbury, New Jersey. Sarah had one brother, John Cooper Tatum, who was a farmer and Director of the First National Bank in Woodbury, New Jersey. Sarah and John were educated at Westtown School in West Chester, Pennsylvania from around 1846 to 1848, and John also attended Haverford College from 1850 to 1852. Anne Cooper Tatum died in 1834, when Sarah and John were small children. Joseph Tatum was remarried in 1845 to Hannah M. Whitall. Sarah Cooper Tatum married John Smith Hilles (1830-1876) on May 7, 1862. They had four children: Anne Tatum Hilles (1863-unidentified), William Samuel Hilles (1865-1928), Joseph Tatum Hilles (1867-1924) and Margaret Hill Hilles (1870-unidentified).

John Smith Hilles was born in 1830, the second son of Samuel Hilles (1788-1873) and Margaret Hill Smith Hilles (1786-1882), who were married in 1821. He attended Haverford College from 1844 to 1845 and afterwards operated brick kilns in Wilmington, Delaware. Later, he operated a coal-yard in Philadelphia and then went on to work for the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, serving as General Freight Agent and Assistant Superintendent. Eventually, the Railroad gave him charge over their new steam vessel shipping service. Hilles' work with Philadelphia and Reading Railroad attracted the attention of William P. Clyde and Company, a Philadelphia shipping firm, which hired him as manager and eventually made him a partner. John Smith Hilles was also involved with the Friends Association of Philadelphia and its Vicinity for the Relief of Colored Freedmen, making at least one trip into the south to visit and report back on the conditions of the freed black communities on Roanoke Island in Virginia and other places in the early 1860s.

John and Sarah Hilles' son, William Samuel Hilles (1865-1928), graduated from Haverford College with honors in 1885, providing the valedictory address at the commencement ceremonies and receiving the Alumni prize for composition and oratory. He was also captain of the cricket team in 1884 and 1885.

William Samuel Hilles, John Smith Hilles' older brother, graduated from Haverford when it was a select boarding school and then worked as an instructor there from 1844 to 1845. He then moved to Wilmington, Delaware and worked for Richard P. Gibbons as a clerk in a rolling mill. He moved to Philadelphia and worked as the Secretary of McCullough and Company in 1859. In 1860, he moved back to Wilmington and worked as Director of the National Bank of Delaware until 1862 when he became involved in a machine-shop where engines, boilers and machine tools were manufactured. The William S. Hilles, a seven-hundred ton schooner was one of the wooden ships built. He died in Nice, France in 1876. William Samuel Hilles married Sarah Lancaster Allen, daughter of Dr. Thomas L Allen on May 17, 1849. They had four children: Susan Watson Hilles, Thomas Allen Hilles (b. 1852), Samuel Eli Hilles (1854-1928) and Margaret Smith Hilles (1856-1912).

John Smith Hilles also had a sister, Gulielma Marie Hilles Howland.

Samuel Hilles, John Smith Hilles' father, was a notable educator, who taught at the Westtown School; opened his own school in Wilmington, Delaware; and served as Haverford College's first principal, among other positions. From 1841 to 1873, he served as director of the Bank of Delaware, and from

1851 to 1857 he served as director of an insurance company. He also dedicated time and efforts toward the abolition of slavery, participating in the Underground Railroad by hiding slaves in his barn. He also served as the first president of the Friends Freedman's Association which was established on November 5, 1863 as an Association of Friends of Philadelphia and its Vicinity for the Relief of the Colored Freedmen. As a Quaker, Samuel Hilles served as Assistant clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) and as an elder of the Wilmington Monthly Meeting.

Margaret Hill Smith Hilles, John Smith Hilles' mother, was born on November 7, 1786 and died March 27, 1882.

Bibliography: Downingtown Friends Meeting: An Early History of Quakers in the Great Valley by Francis G. Brown

Dictionary of Quaker Biography, Haverford College: Friends Review, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 48, July 4, 1885, pp. 761-762.

Descendents of David Hilles: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/1/William-C-Hilles/PDFGENE60.pdf> (accessed 11/6/2009)

Hilles, Samuel E. "Memorials of the Hilles Family: More Particularly of Samuel and Margaret Hill Hilles of Wilmington, Delaware." Cincinnati. 1928

Scope and Contents note

This collection houses letters written to or by Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles, her husband John Smith Hilles, and other Tatum or Hilles family members. There is also a small sampling of assorted family papers and deeds to properties owned by the Hilles family in Wilmington, Delaware; New Jersey; Illinois and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

It is divided into three series: "Correspondence," "Family Papers" and "Deeds."

The "Correspondence" series is divided into three subseries: "To Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles," "To John Smith Hilles" and "To Others."

A majority of the correspondence in the collection is comprised of letters written to Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles from her husband, John Smith Hilles; her father, Joseph Tatum; her brother, John Cooper Tatum; her mother-in-law, Margaret Hill Smith Hilles; and dozens of other family and friends from 1840 to 1882. Of note are letters from John Smith Hilles around the time of their courtship and engagement in 1861 as well as letters sent throughout their marriage while he was on frequent trips away from home due to the Civil War and/or business obligations. With the exception of letters from John Smith Hilles, Joseph Tatum and John Cooper Tatum, a majority of the letters in the series are from women. Sarah received many letters from friends and family while attending Westtown School in West Chester, Pennsylvania in the 1840s and just after her engagement to John Smith Hilles in 1861. Particularly dedicated correspondents include Sarah's cousins, Hannah Tatum, and Anne and Sarah Nicholson;

her mother-in-law, Margaret Hill Smith Hilles; and her friends, Alice Fothergill and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Howell. Alice Fothergill's letters are particularly interesting as she writes from and about her experiences abroad. Generally, the letters in the series reflect on daily life and, to a lesser extent, on major events in the community and national history.

Letters written to John Smith Hilles from 1852 to 1875 are from: Margaret Hill Smith Hilles, Samuel Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles, William Samuel Hilles, Gulielma Marie Hilles Howland, John Cooper Tatum and others. Many letters reference business ventures and investments as well as family matters.

Correspondence written "To Others" includes letters between Sarah Hilles' parents, Joseph and Ann Tatum; letters to Mary Tatum Whitall (Joseph Tatum's sister) from Joseph Tatum; letters to Samuel and Margaret Hill Smith Hilles from John Smith Hilles; and others from 1821 to 1919.

The "Family Papers" series is a diverse sampling of receipts, school notebooks and report cards, and other writings of John Smith Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles, William Samuel Hilles, Anne Cooper Tatum and others. Of note is a memoir written by Joseph Tatum about his wife, Anne Cooper Tatum just after her death in 1834. The memoir is inscribed to his "infant children," John and Sarah.

Finally, is the series, "Deeds." There are deeds to properties in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Illinois, which were purchased, sold and/or acquired by John Smith Hilles, William Samuel Hilles, Samuel Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith Hilles and Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Custodial History note

Gift of Joseph Johnson, 1978

Processing Information note

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project.

This collection is minimally processed to the folder level.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Haverford College Quaker and Special Collections: Gulielma M. Howland papers, circa 1700-1867.

Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College: Cooper family papers, 1780-1926.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.
- Haverford College.
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Indian Committee.

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Family papers
- Military passes
- School records

Personal Name(s)

- Hilles, John Smith, 1830-1875

- Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith, 1786-1882
- Hilles, Samuel, 1788-1873
- Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum
- Hilles, Sarah Lancaster
- Hilles, William Samuel, 1825-1876
- Hilles, William Samuel, 1865-1928
- Tatum, Ann Cooper, d. 1834
- Tatum, John Cooper
- Tatum, Joseph

Subject(s)

- Abolitionists
- Education
- Quaker abolitionists
- Quaker women
- Quakers
- Quakers-Education

Correspondence

Collection Inventory

Correspondence 1821-1919	
To Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles 1840-1882, undated	
	Box
Canby, Anna 1860-1862	1
Fothergill, Alice H. 1856-1859, undated, [all before 1862]	1
Fothergill, Alice H. undated, [all after 1862]	1
Hilles, John Smith, 1:2 1861-1862	1
Hilles, John Smith, 2:2 1861-1862	1
Hilles, John Smith, 1:2 1861-1862, undated	1
Hilles, John Smith, 2:2 1861-1862, undated	1
Hilles, John Smith 1863, 1864, undated	1

To Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles

Hilles, John Smith 1866-1875, undated	1
Hilles, Joseph Tatum (b. 1867) 1880	2
Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith 1861-1873, undated	2
Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith 1865-1875, undated	2
Hilles, Margaret Hill (b. 1870) and Anne Tatum Hilles (b. 1863) circa 1875	2
Hilles, Sarah Lancaster Allen 1863-1877, undated	2
Hilles, William Samuel 1867	2
Hilles, William Samuel (b. 1865) 1881-1882, undated	2
Hilles, Susan Watson; Thomas Allen; Samuel Eli; and/or Margaret Smith (William Samuel Hilles' and Sarah Lancaster Allen Hilles' children) 1866, 1867, 1877	2
[Howell], Elizabeth (Lizzie) 1861-1868, undated	2
Howland, Gulielma Marie Hilles 1861-1865, undated	2

To Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles

Nicholson, Anne H. 1848-1868, undated	2
Nicholson, Anne H. 1851-1856, undated	2
Nicholson, Anne H. 1852-1856, undated	2
Nicholson, Sarah Whitall, 1:2 1852-1877, undated	2
Nicholson, Sarah Whitall, 2:2 1852-1877, undated	2
Rhoads, Anne 1857, 1862	3
Reeve, [M.S.] 1865-1867, undated	3
Reeve, [S.S.] 1857-1866, undated	3
[Smith, Hannah Whitall] [1839], 1860, undated	3
Stokes, Anna 1854-1857, undated	3
Swarthmore Mission First Day School 1868	3
Tatum, Ann Biddle and/or John 1845, 1847, 1862, undated	3

To Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles

Tatum, Hannah 1845, 1859, undated, [all before 1862]	3
Tatum, Hannah 1860-1862	3
Tatum, Hannah. Includes letter to Joseph Tatum from his [brother J.W. Tatum] 1855-1866, undated, [mostly after 1862]	3
Tatum, John Cooper 1851-1878, undated	4
Tatum, John Cooper (to Sarah Cooper Tatum and Joseph Tatum) 1851	4
Tatum, Joseph (To Sarah Cooper Tatum and Joseph Cooper Tatum while at school at Westtown) 1846, undated	4
Tatum, Joseph (To Sarah Cooper Tatum and John Cooper Tatum while at school at Westtown) 1847-1848, undated	4
Tatum, Joseph 1852-1859	4
Tatum, Joseph, 1:2 1863-1881	4
Tatum, Joseph, 2:2 1863-1881	4
Whitall, Sarah (see also: Nicholson, Sarah Whitall) 1840-1854	5

To Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles

[Unidentified], Susy 1859-1865, undated	5
[Unidentified], Susy 1864-1865, undated	5
[Unidentified], Eli 1864	5
Multiple correspondents (letters from girlfriends and/or cousins Martha, Patty and others) 1843-1855, undated, [all before 1862]	5
Multiple correspondents (to Sarah Cooper Tatum and John Cooper Tatum at school at Westtown) 1840, 1845-1848	5
Multiple correspondents (mostly letters from girlfriends and/or cousins Sarah [Whitall], Ida, Florie and Jane, to Sarah at school at Westtown) 1845-1848, undated	5
Multiple correspondents (contains many congratulatory letters regarding Sarah Cooper Tatum's engagement to John Smith Hilles 1848-1861	5
Multiple correspondents 1851-1867, [mostly before 1862]	5
Multiple correspondents 1853-1882, undated	5
Multiple senders circa 1862	5

To John Smith Hilles

Unidentified undated	5
To John Smith Hilles 1852-1875, undated	
	Box
Gowen, Franklin 1870	6
Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith (To John Smith Hilles and/or Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles) circa 1862-1867, undated	6
Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith (To John Smith Hilles and/or Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles) 1862, 1863, 1873, undated	6
Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith (To John Smith Hilles and/or Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles) 1863-1867, undated	6
Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith (To John Smith Hilles and/or Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles) 1873-1875, undated	6
Hilles, Margaret Hill Smith (To John Smith Hilles and/or Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles) undated, [before 1875]	6
Hilles, Samuel 1863-1869, undated	6

To John Smith Hilles

Hilles, Samuel 1864-1868, undated	6
Hilles, Samuel Eli 1862, 1863	6
Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum 1863-1874, undated, [all after 1862]	6
Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum 1865-1871, undated, [all after 1862]	6
Hilles, William Samuel (Includes letter from William and Sarah Lancaster Allen Hilles to John Smith Hilles and Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles) 1853-1867	6
Howland, Gulielma Marie Hilles Undated	6
Howland, Gulielma Marie Hilles (To John Smith Hilles and Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles) 1862, 1863, undated	6
Tatum, John Cooper 1864-1866, undated	6
Multiple correspondents circa 1860-1865, undated	7
Multiple correspondents (mostly regarding John Smith Hilles' work with freed black men in the south) 1863-1865	7
Multiple correspondents 1852-1872, undated	7

To others

Multiple correspondents (Includes letters from nieces and nephews, especially Thomas "Allie" Hilles while at Haverford in 1867) 1863-1867, undated	7
To others 1821-1919, undated	
Box	
To Crosman, Edward, from J. Heron Crosman 1919	7
To Hilles, Anne Tatum; William Samuel (b. 1865); Joseph Tatum and/or Margaret Hill, From Margaret Hill Smith Hilles 1878, undated	7
To Hilles, Joseph Tatum (b. 1867); From Joseph Tatum 1875	7
To Hilles, Samuel and/or Margaret Hill Smith Hilles; From William Samuel Hilles 1865	7
To Hilles, Samuel and/or Margaret Hill Smith Hilles; From John Smith Hilles 1867, undated	7
To Hilles, Susan Watson (b. [1850]); From John Smith Hilles 1859-1864, 1876	7
To Hilles, Susan Watson (b. [1850]); From Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles undated	7

To others

To Hilles, William Samuel; From multiple correspondents, especially John Smith Hilles undated	7
To Hilles, William Samuel (b. 1865); From Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles and Margaret Hill Smith Hilles undated	7
To Hilles, William Samuel (b. 1865); From Hilles, Anne Tatum (b. 1863) 1874	7
To Howland, Gulielma Marie Hilles; From multiple correspondents 1834, circa 1858	7
To Morris, Rachel; From Ann Cooper Tatum 1830, 1832	7
To Murphy, Martha; From Ann Cooper Tatum 1833, undated	7
To Stevenson, Rachel Smith and/or George; From Margaret Hill Smith Hilles 1829-1839, 1840	7
To Smith, E.P. and other family members; From Margaret Hill Smith Hilles circa 1866-1882, undated	7
To Tatum, Ann Cooper; From Joseph Tatum 1831, 1832	7
To Tatum, John Cooper; From multiple correspondents 1881, undated	7

To others

To Tatum, John; From Joseph Tatum 1826

Box

8

To Tatum, Joseph; From Ann Cooper Tatum 1830-1832

8

To Tatum, Joseph; From John Cooper Tatum 1862

8

To Tatum, Joseph; From John Cooper Tatum 1865

8

To Tatum, Joseph; From William Tatum 1825, undated

8

To Tatum, Joseph; From multiple correspondents 1830s

8

To Whitall, John M.; From Joseph Tatum 1834-1853, undated

8

To Whitall, Mary Tatum; From [Ann Cooper Tatum] undated

8

To Whitall, Mary Tatum; From Joseph Tatum 1835-1844, undated

8

To Whitall, Mary Tatum; From Joseph Tatum 1830-1846, undated

8

To Whitall, Mary Tatum; From [Joseph Tatum] 1841, undated

Family papers

[To Whitall, Mary Tatum; From Joseph Tatum] 1825	8
To Whitall, Mary Tatum; From unidentified 1821, undated	8
To [unidentified], Patty; From Joseph Tatum [1856]	8
To multiple correspondents; From Ann Cooper Tatum 1828-1832, [1834], undated	8
To multiple correspondents; From multiple correspondents 1835, 1860-1895, undated	8
Unidentified correspondence, 1:2 undated	8
Unidentified correspondence, 2:2 undated	8
Stray envelopes (empty)	8
Family papers 1825-1901, circa 1930, undated	
	Box
Hilles, John Smith. Assorted notes, lists, promissory notes, receipts and records of investments 1858-1874, undated	9

Family papers

Hilles, John Smith. Bonds for loans from Philadelphia and Reading Rail Road Company 1861, 1875	9
Hilles, John Smith. Passes and other papers related to Hilles' work with the "Friends Association of Philadelphia...for the Relief of Colored Freedmen" 1864	9
Hilles, John Smith. Papers related to Hilles' death and estate 1878, 1882, undated	9
Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum. Exercise book 1844	9
Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum. Assorted [poems], [statements] and/or other writings 1846, 1876, undated	9
Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum. Statement of sale of land 1882, undated	9
Hilles, Sarah Cooper Tatum. Receipts for lightening rod and telegraph/telephone service 1882, 1901	9
Hilles, William Samuel. Expense book 1849, 1866	9
Hilles, William Samuel. Receipts or record of investments 1870-1872, undated	9
Hilles, William Samuel (b. 1865). School report cards from Haverford College 1882-1884	9

Deeds

9

Tatum, Anne Cooper. Exercise book 1825

9

Tatum, Joseph. "Memoir of Ann Cooper Tatum," for his children Sarah and John circa 1834

9

Tatum, Joseph. Last will and testament 1880, 1881

9

Unidentified. [Excerpt from diary regarding journey to South Carolina and Georgia] circa 1860-1870

9

Unidentified. Receipts 1848-1851

9

Unidentified. Poem and typed passage circa 1870, undated

9

Unidentified. Manuscript fragment undated

9

Unidentified. Photograph of woman and children circa 1930

9

Unidentified. Stray envelopes undated

Deeds 1791-1886**Box**

Deeds

Delaware. Brandywine Village 1856	10
Delaware. Kent County 1862	10
Delaware. Wilmington 1791-1811	10
Delaware. Wilmington 1814-1833	10
Delaware. Wilmington	10
Delaware. Wilmington 1834-1846	10
Delaware. Wilmington (Includes a transfer/sale of land between Sarah Cooper Tatum Hilles and Lydia B. Dawson 1858, 1870, 1871, 1886)	10
Delaware. Wilmington, acquired by Samuel Hilles 1820-1829	10
Delaware. Wilmington, land acquired by Samuel Hilles 1833-1836	10
Illinois 1838, 1839, 1843	11
New Jersey 1793, 1829	11

Deeds

11

Pennsylvania. Philadelphia 1826-1838