

Haverford College Library  
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the COPE-COLLINS-MORRIS FAMILY PAPERS,  
1825-1880 (bulk 1825-1855)

Collection No. 950

Accession # 6773

ca. 75 items

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## INFORMATION FOR USERS

Elizabeth Cope Collins was known as “Eliza.”

All correspondence dates are standardized rather than transcribed, viz: yr mo/day.

Though not all letters are listed individually, those that are highlighted are done so on the basis of content of the letter or historical importance of the letter writer.

Williams Collins’ letters are divided into two groups, originals and 20<sup>th</sup> century copies. In the first group are seven letters, in the second are 23 letters. The hand of the copyist is unknown.

## RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

## RELATED MATERIALS

Cope-Evans Family Papers (Coll. no. 1170); Stokes-Evans-Cope Family Papers (Coll. no. 1169); Thomas P. Cope Papers (Coll. no. 1013) are related collections.

Other repositories that contain family materials include Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College (Cope Family Papers – descendants of Jasper Cope).

## ABSTRACT

Primarily the letters by Mary Ann Cope Morris and to Eliza Cope Collins, including the letters of the latter's husband, William M. Collins, all 19<sup>th</sup> century Philadelphia Quakers with connections to Quakers in Newport, R.I.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mary Ann Cope Morris (1803-ca. 1884) and Eliza Cope Collins (1812-1880) were daughters of Israel and Margaret Cooper Cope. Israel was the brother of Jasper Cope and Thomas P. Cope.

Eliza Cope Collins married William Collins, son of Isaac and Margaret Collins, in 1839. She was active in benevolent enterprises and especially in the anti-slavery cause

Mary Ann Cope Morris was married in 1854 to Stephen Morris, a member of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and son of Israel and Mary Morris,.

(Information from internal evidence, the Dictionary of Quaker Biography, *Darlington Cope and his Descendants, 1815-1967* and Gilbert Cope's *Record of the Cope Family* and *The Collins Family* by Collins and Aird; *Friends Review* and *The Friend*)

## SUBJECT HEADINGS

Collins, Elizabeth C. Cope, 1812-1880  
Collins, William M., 1811-1864  
Morris, Mary Ann Cope, 1803-ca. 1884

Quakers – Philadelphia – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Quakers – Family relationships

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

William Collins writes from Philadelphia in 1854 to his wife, Eliza, who is recuperating from illness in Newport, R.I. giving descriptions of events and conveying loving thoughts to her. In particular, he discusses such topics as the legal issues of manumission and the rights of women, and the cholera epidemic which touched Philadelphia.

Mary Ann Cope Morris' letters are about activities and health of friends and relatives, and events at Meeting, visitors to their house and the weather and are replete with her personal sensibilities. There are numerous mentions of Stephen Grellet and Joseph John Gurney.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

### Eliza Cope Collins letters,. 1 folder (3 items).

to Hannah Cooper Cope (aunt). Burlington, [NJ], 1825 3/30. [she and another person are editors of a juvenile newspaper, and appends a long poem written to her by the other editor] fragile

to friend. Germantown (Pa.), 1880 9/7. [while it may help to turn the Republicans out of office, it would not be good to bring Southern Democrats in, given the suffering of African Americans]

to Hannah Cooper Cope. Niagara, n.y. 6/21. [description of exhilarating visit to Niagara Falls, with critical notes of people she sees]

### Letters to Eliza C. Collins. 1 folder (38 items)

Letter writers include:

H.A. Buckley, R. Collins, William Collins, Gilbert Congdon, Harriet F., J.H. Larry, Elinor C. Tyson

Highlights include:

Buckley, H.A. [18]64 11/3. [sympathies on the death of her husband (William Collins)]

Collins, William. 1838-1864. 30 items. among originals:

[1838 3/13: poem perhaps by Louis Jameson on the rights of Native Americans to remain on their land; [n.d.] on the legal issues of manumission; [n.d.] on the rights of women; [n.d.] sends her a portrait of Chief Osceola, a version of the one by Catlin, and reference to the odious work of General Jessup;

among copies (22 of which were written in Philadelphia in 1854, to Eliza in Newport (gleaned from transcription of address portion on at least one letter), many references to attending Meeting, family, weather, seeing various Friends and the cholera epidemic):

[7/13: refers to vast conflagration and names the sections of devastation; 7/15: tells Eliza not to worry about “alarming accounts” of cholera as they are confined to the poor “natives residing in our courts & alleys, the prisons and almshouse”; 7/19: portrait of someone close, but unnamed, being painted; 7/21: reference to poor immigrants; 7/27: is sending the daguerreotype of the three (Cope?) brothers, which she may return via Marmaduke (Cope?); 7/29: the material failure of Jonathan Tucker, President of the Reading Railroad Company in his private financial concerns; 8/6: local Philadelphia doctor prescribes medicine for their child in Newport; 8/8: will be disposing of his business, including the House of Refuge; refers to Uncle Thomas P. Cope; 8/8: opposition in Meeting to William Evans’ concern to visit some Meetings within Ohio YM and other tense issues; 8/14: in hot weather, the gases from decaying and vegetable matter, especially in the city where the population is so great, can result in diarrhea, dysentery and cholera] 8/16: cousin Robert P(earsall) Smith’s son, Franklin Whitall Smith, is born]

The last original letter was written from Saratoga Springs in 1864 where William Collins was no doubt taking the cure for consumption [description of taking the waters and the nature of his disease]

Letters of Mary Ann Cope Morris, 1834-1852. 1 folder (21 items)

Note: Most of the letters are directed to her cousin, Amy Hoopes or her sister, Eliza Cope Collins and written from Philadelphia or Newport. Letters are about activities and health of friends and relatives, and events at Meetings, visitors to their house and the weather and are replete with her personal sensibilities. There are numerous mentions of Stephen Grellet and Joseph John Gurney. There is also one letter from Lydia (Cope?) to Mary Ann Cope filed here (total 22 items).

Highlights include:

to Eliza Cope Collins. Philadelphia, 1834 9/7. [reflects on the “Grimke concern” – Sarah (Grimke?) came for tea and she (Mary Ann) attended a meeting where she was introduced to Thomas Grimke and his sister, Eliza, and to Rebecca Singer, along with Sarah, Angelina and Anna Grimke, among whom she makes comparisons]

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1835 4/19. [reference to Westtown Boarding School which is in debt due to excessive spending]

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1835 11/13. [on Stephen Grellet whom she admires and retells an anecdote from Grellet’s life; on Gerrit Smith, a speaker at the Anti-Slavery Society meeting, as well as Zachariah Poulson] fragment

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1837 4/16. [more on Stephen Grellet, who while in France was an atheist and only later, while visiting a NY Meeting, did he begin to feel the stirrings of religious feeling]

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1838 2/4. [has attended Meeting where she listened to Joseph John Gurney speak, that Elisha Bates had challenged him to a debate, which the latter declined]

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1838 5/13. [Joseph John Gurney attended their Yearly Meeting and addressed the women, and sends Hoopes a collection of his sermons, with more discussion of Gurney]

to Eliza Cope Collins. Philadelphia, 1838 7/19. [reflects on her pleasure in reading *Ferdinand and Isabella* and how her taste for battle depictions has changed along with aversion to all wars]

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1838 9/18. [sister Eliza spent 6 weeks at Newport and her rheumatism was alleviated; sometimes mingling with people outside the Quaker faith has detrimental results, but is occasionally unavoidable, as when health needs dictate]

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1847 5/25. [journey taken by cousin Alfred Cope together with Thomas Wistar to visit the Indians at Green Bay as agents for the U.S. government to pay them some money due to them for the sale of their lands; Indians often defrauded by traders; gratifying that Friends chosen to do the Indians justice]

to Amy Hoopes. Philadelphia, 1852 12/12. [on the last illness of her mother]

[Cope?], Lydia to Mary Ann Cope Collins. [on board boat with many others bound for Medford (N.J.)]

Miscellaneous letters and documents. 1 folder (ca. 10 items)

Shippen, Edward to Dr. William Shippen. Philadelphia, [18]60 12/15. [asks that his sentiments about the use of public schools by Christian Sunday Schools on Sunday be conveyed to Mrs. Collins]

- Deathbed sentiments of Israel Cope, 1855
- Recollections of the last days of S.W. Cope, 1872
- Other sentiments of affection
- Invitations to funerals
- Directions for hot beds and how to manage them

Miscellaneous prints. 1 folder (7 items)

Including:

William Penn portrait, William Penn's treaty with the Indians (English & French versions), et al

Miscellaneous legal documents. 1 folder (4 items)

Including:

- Deed for land in Greenwich Township between Marmaduke Cooper and Solomon and Jacob Lippincott, 1794
- Will of Gabriel Newby, 1764
- Right of water use by Jacob Lippincott to Marmaduke Cooper, 1794
- Survey of land for William Cooper by James (Penn?), 1818