

Elfreth Family Papers, 1832-1892

HC.1221

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	5
<u>Arrangement note</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7
<u>Financial accounts</u>	8

Summary Information

Repository	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator	Cowperthwaite, William C.
Creator	Elfreth, Caleb P., 1828-1855
Creator	Elfreth, Jacob R., 1789-1870
Creator	Elfreth, Joseph, ca. 1824-1898
Creator	Harris, William
Creator	Hill, William
Creator	Marsh, Rolph C.
Title	Elfreth Family Papers
Date [inclusive]	1832-1892
Extent	2.0 Boxes
Language	English
Material Specific Details note	A descendant chart has been created beginning with Jacob R. Elfreth (1789-1870) and wife, Abigail Pierce.
Abstract	The collection spanning the period 1832-1892 consists primarily of the letters written to Joseph Elfreth (1824-1898), a Quaker, many of which relate to family matters, including health and the birth of children, and occasionally indicates the connections among Quaker families. There

are also financial accounts, miscellaneous letters, documents and a few photographs.

Scope and Contents note

The collection consists primarily of the letters written to Joseph Elfreth (1824-1898), a Quaker, many of which relate to family matters, including health and the birth of children, and occasionally indicates the connections among Quaker families. Many of the letter writers only sign with an initial, but some who can be identified include: Caleb P. Elfreth, James Elfreth and Hannah Hill Elfreth's mother, Abigail Pierce. As well, there is a box of financial accounts, including two notebooks kept by Jacob R. Elfreth. There are also miscellaneous letters, documents and a few photographs. Unusual among the latter is an eye-witness account by Florence Elfreth, Joseph's daughter, of events at the Equal Rights Convention, ca. 1870s.

Arrangement note

Letters to Joseph Elfreth are arranged alphabetically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Gurney, Eliza Paul, 1801-1881
- Nelson, Judith W.

Subject(s)

- Quakers--Pennsylvania

Collection Inventory

Box

1

Letters from and Letters to Joseph Elfreth 1834-1896 (Bulk, 1855-1896) 2.0 Folder 1. A-G; 2. H-S

Scope and Contents note

There are two letters from Joseph Elfreth, written in 1834 and 1846; another, dated 1863 and signed "Joseph and Hannah" is likely to be from him as well. Letter writers include Joseph's mother and brother, Caleb, as well as William Harris, William Hill and Rolph C. Marsh. Many of the letters refer to family matters, including health; the subject of travel and its travails is also encountered. In 1852 [sic, though likely 1862], Joseph's mother writes of a drafting of 300,000 additional men "leaving for parts unknown...The hospital nearby, fifth & Buttonwood Sts...has been seriously charged with secesion, the owner ...has been arrested." A letter, perhaps directed to Joseph's wife (Hannah Hill) from W. Hill in 1868 speaks of the Ku Klux Klan and that the mass of American people have no sympathy with them. William Harris' letters detail his travel in Pennsylvania from 1869-1873. The greatest number of letters is from Rolph C. Marsh, 1859-1869, which in the main categorize his failing health, but also some amount of travel. Letters often mention the thoughtfulness of Joseph Elfreth.

1

Ephemera from Joseph Elfreth 10.0 Items

Scope and Contents note

Includes clippings, random notes by Joseph Elfreth, poems as well as a schoolboy journal "A Fable" written in 1832.

Financial accounts

Weather observations of Jacob R. Elfreth, 1861-67 10.0 Items 1

Financial accounts 1.0 Boxes

Box

2

Scope and Contents note

Here are financial accounts of various people in the collection. Of particular interest is Jacob R. Elfreth's (1789-1870) account notebook which also includes genealogical information. Many of the bundles are tied, indicating some relationship.

Miscellaneous letters and other documents 1.0 Folder 1

Scope and Contents note

Included are: an eye-witness account of the Equal Rights Convention by Florence Elfreth; letters to various Elfreth family members and others, including Clarkson Sheppard to Josiah Evans, 1869 and William Cowperthwaite, 1892; two notebooks containing an alphabetical list of dead people, including their death dates, kept by Jacob R. Elfreth; published letter, 1865 re drafted men and volunteers; miscellaneous poems and empty envelopes; miscellaneous clippings

Miscellaneous family information and photographs 1.0 Folder 1

Scope and Contents note

Card index to pages in an unnamed work on Quakers and African Americans; photographs, primarily tintypes, but also albumen, including of Eliza Gurney, Mary Elfreth, Sally Elfreth.