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Special Collections

Finding Aid for the COLLECTION OF CHRISTOPHER EVANS,
COLLECTOR,

Collection No. 950
Accession # 6324
4 folders (.25 linear feet)
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INFORMATION FOR USERS

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.

The Chalkley papers are in fragile condition, some of the Thomas Evans papers are fragile or stained.

RESTRICTIONS

Because of the fragile nature of some of the materials, it may not be possible to make copies of those materials.

RELATED MATERIALS

Papers of

Other repositories that contain Vaux family materials include the Library Company of Philadelphia which has graphic materials created by the Vauxes.

ABSTRACT

Includes correspondence of Thomas Chalkley (1675-1741), Henry Cope (1793-1865), Thomas Evans (1798-1868) and Daniel Offley (1756-1793)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Chalkley (1675-1741) was born in London, the son of George Chalkley. In school, he was stoned because he dressed as a Quaker. In 1695, Chalkley began to preach and traveled in England and later in America. He married Martha Betterton, also a Quaker minister, in 1699, and together they emigrated to Philadelphia in 1700. He published some works.¹

Henry Cope (1793-1865) was the son of Thomas Pim Cope and Mary Cope having three other brothers and two sisters. Henry Cope married Rachel Reeve (1794-1863) in 1818. Henry and Rachel's children included Mary Drinker Cope (1819-1890), Francis R. Cope (1821-1909), Thomas Pim Cope (1823-1900) and Ruth Anna Cope (1834-1879). Henry Cope was the founder of the family enclave "Awbury" in Philadelphia. During the 1850s he bought about 40 acres in Germantown (Philadelphia, Pa.) and built his house there. Henry and Rachel's children were raised at Awbury and in turn built their own homes on the property.²

Thomas Evans (1798-1868), a Quaker, was the son of Jonathan and Hannah Bacon Evans. He was educated at the Academy in Philadelphia and, by 1819, had embarked on a career as a druggist in Philadelphia.. He married Catharine Wistar in 1834 and they had five children. He was one of the founders of Haverford College in 1833 and became a minister of the Society of Friends in ca.1844 working to prevent the Gurney-Wilbur separation in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. With his brother, William Evans, he published the 14-volume *Friends Library* between 1837-1850.³

Daniel Offley (1756-1793) of Philadelphia was the son of Daniel and Rachel Offley. An anchorsmith, he was convinced to join Friends by Jonathan Evans, Jr. He was imprisoned for refusal to pay war tax. In ca. 1780, he became a minister of the Society of Friends and visited most of the meetings in the U.S., later also visiting many of the islands in the West Indies. He died of yellow fever.⁴

(Information from internal evidence, the Dictionary of Quaker Biography, Cope-Evans Papers)

¹ Dictionary of Quaker Biography

² Finding aid to Cope-Evans collection, H.C., #1170

³ Dictionary of Quaker Biography

⁴ Dictionary of Quaker Biography

SUBJECT HEADINGS

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series List:

Series I.
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BOX CONTENTS LIST

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SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Thomas Chalkley correspondence & document, 1698-1737. 1 folder (ca. 15 items)

Note: Materials are very fragile. Topics primarily of a religious nature.

Letter writers include:

George Chalkley, Thomas Chalkley, Tobias Dymocke, Edward McGovern?,
Walter Newberry, John Padley, Clement Plumsted, John Wynn

Highlights include:

Chalkley, Thomas to Friends in Barbados. Bermuda, 1702 1/7. (this is the docket information, though the letter addresses "J.G." [reports on arrival in Bermuda and the good hospitality of Friends there])

Chalkley, Thomas to John Bland. Frankfort, 1737 12/3. [notes that Bland has not sent a power of attorney and nature of tenant]

Chalkley, Geo[rge] (bro.). Bermondsy, 1712 4/28. [death of son from small pox and other family health news; receipt of cask of sugar]

[Chalkley, George?] to "Dear Brother". Bermondsy, 1715/6 1/2. fragment. [enemy trying to divide the Church of Christ (Society of Friends) specifically noting several of Friends' testimonies though English government has granted religious freedom; bills which have been paid]; also fragment (continuation of 1/2 1715/6?)

Chalkley, George to Thomas Chalkley. Edmonton, 1722/3 1/9. [Thomas Chalkley's consent to the marriage of cousin was well received; George Whitehead very ill]

Dymocke, Tobias. R.I., 1698 9/18. [health and travels of various Friends]

Dymocke, Tobias. Newport, R.I., 1698/9 11/7 [Edward Shippen and others were in Newport; news of other Friends]

McGovern?, Edward. N.d. [most of the European powers are at war with each other; has been on a poor ship bound for Newfoundland which was fighting unspecified enemy; those in the Legislature should be true to their religious principles]

Wynn, John to Thomas Chalkley. Barbados, 1707 12/29. [sends love from himself and John Fothergill, Richard Gove, William Armstead, Thomas Thomson, John Richardson, Chalkley's father and all Friends; Chalkley's journey to Barbados, mentioning other Friends]

Bond (promissory note) between Thomas Chalkley and Randall Spakeman for 50 pounds on August 5, 1721. Payment of 25 pounds is witnessed by Richard Hill and Evan Owen and signed by Thomas Chalkley.

Henry Cope (1793-1865) correspondence, 1824-1855 & document. 1 folder (ca. 10 items)

to Charles Miner. Signed: "thy friend". Philad[elphi]a, 1836 1/20. On the verso: "Copy of a letter to C. Miner, 1 mo 20, 1836". (although Henry Cope is not identified, the letter is consistent with others in this folder). [reply to Miner for his letter of January 13, 1836, thanking him for his suggestions but stating that politics and differences of opinion have slowed progress of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal]

Cope, Alfred to Henry Cope. Charleston, 1839 3/12. [business matters, slow activity in Charleston, prices of goods, discussion of his health and family members]

Cope, Caroline (signed: "Thy Sister Caroline") to Henry Cope. Mauch Chunk, [Pa.], 1825 9/7. [emotional letter about her place and time in life]

Ladd, Benj[amin] W. to Henry Cope. New Smithfield [Oh.], 1837 3/24. [sends copy of the testimony against Elisha Bates issued by Short Creek Meeting. Bates has

written "sundry articles" which are "contrary to discipline". Mentions Sam. Bettle, Thos. Evans, Jordan Harrison, D. Updegraff, Benj. Wright, Ann Taylor. Mentions the opening of Olney Boarding School]

Miner, Charles to Henry Cope. Wilkes-Barre, [Pa.], 1836 2/13. [Miner gives suggestions for the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company and believes they are valuable based on his past experience]

Sheppard, John to Henry & Alfred Cope. Green[wic]h, 1837 1/5.
[informing the Copes about the ship Monongahela which is aground on the shoals and the efforts to free her. Sheppard suggests that they should send help]

Snowden, Joseph to Henry Cope.. West Town, [Pa.], 1855 7/22. [reports on buildings and repairs at the school. Invites Henry and Alfred Cope to come and discuss matters at Westtown. Religious digressions]

Sharp, Henry to Wilson Hunt; witnessed by James Edmond? and James Ker, Philadelphia, 1824 3/2. [describes the situation of the Brig Caledonia when a link of the chain was broken]

A.D. n.d.[account of the ministry of Samuel Emlen]

Thomas Evans (1798-1868) Correspondence , 1824-1865. 1 folder (ca. 25 items)

to Henry Cope. Philadelphia, [18]28 4/1; from envelope: "Blood's Dispatch".
[sees hope for finding common ground at the latest yearly meeting without sacrificing religious principles]

to Henry Cope. n.d. [letter of condolence upon the death of Cope's baby daughter]

Emlen, S[arah] to Thomas Evans. Middletown, [?]. 1834 9/2. [letter of religious fervor]

Emlen, S[arah]. Middletown, [?], 1835 3/14. [discusses her mental anguish in considering religious thoughts. Mentions Evans' visit and his late indisposition. Encourages him to go forward with the Lord's work]

Emlen, Sarah. Bristol,[?], 1844 11/13. [relates the story of Peter Price, husband of Hannah Price of Wales and his trip to heaven when supposed dead, and mystical music apparent when he did die. She relates her travels in Ireland and Wales to various

meetings. She wonders about the state of the Society in Great Britain]

Emlen, S[arah]. London, 1845 2/20. [discusses the state of “our poor shattered Society”, “to spiritualize things is very dangerous, there is such a tendency to run into mysticism which would eventually lead into Hicksism!”]

E[mLEN?], S[arah?]. Weston, [?], [18]48 1/30. [the author complains of living conditions at Westtown]

Shillitoe, Thomas. Tottenham, [Eng.] 1831 10/2. [acknowledges receipt of a book, mentions Judith Forster, the school at Nine Partners and spiritual advice]

Shillitoe, T[homas]. Tottenham, [Eng.], 1834 3/27. [believes “...it is a day of mourning and lamentation with those in our religious Society...” and is much upset with Hicksite Friends and the trend to drift away from traditional Quaker practices]

Shillitoe, Tho[mas]. Tottenham, [Eng.], 1834 12/26. [his distress at books and pamphlets and other information he feels are not appropriately reflecting the Society of Friends]

Shillitoe, Tho[mas]. Tottenham, [Eng.], 1835 2/14. [warns against a book by Isaac Crewdson of Manchester which publishes extracts of the works of Elias Hicks; Crewdson refutes them poorly which casts a bad light on Quakers]

Shillitoe, T[homas]. Tottenham, [Eng.], 1835 3/28. [report of how things are “progressing” in Quaker efforts in England]

Stephenson, Hannah [Stockton], [Eng.?], 1824 11/27. [thanks Evans for his companionship to her husband on his travels, her concerns over the “trying unsettled state of society in America” and how her husband is involved, mentions Friends “E. H.” and Thomas Eddy among others]

Stephenson, Isaac. New York, 1824 1/13. [expresses wish to see TE and seeks his spiritual support]

Stephenson, Isaac. Newport, 1824 6/18. [reports on Yearly Meeting, mention of Benjamin Rodman, Sarah Collins]

Stephenson, Isaac. Providence, 1824 7/9. [Stephenson’s observations of Quakers in his recent travels including Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard. Mentions Moses Brown and his school]

Stephenson, I[saac]. Starksborough, [?] 1824 7/27. [account of his travels and Quakers encountered] (cross-hatched)

Stephenson, Isa[ac]. Farmington, [?]1824 10/4. [travel accounts in New York visiting meetings, separation from his companion Matthew Barker and requests Evans to join him]

Stephenson, I[saac?]. Albany 1824 12/11. [discusses news of his family, settlement of Norwegian Friends in New York, and his visits among Friends in New York. He looks forward to returning to his country next year] (cross-hatched)

Stephenson, I[saac]. Yarmouth in Upper Canada, 1826? 9/11. [accounts of his travels in New York and Canada, state of his spiritual life]

Miscellaneous

fragment signed “thy freind” [sic], n.d. [concerning unity among Friends]

“At a monthly meeting of Friends of Phila. for the Southern District held 3/26/1823” through 9/22/1841. Compilation of minutes concerning property matters of that meeting.

MATERIALS REMOVED