

# **Mason, Smith, Ewing Family Papers, 1809-1970**

## **HC.Coll.1223**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Ewing, Elizabeth Newlin Smith, 1884-1977
<b>Creator</b>	Ewing, J.M. Sharpless, -1960
<b>Creator</b>	Mason, Samuel, 1859-1947
<b>Creator</b>	Smith, Edith Mason, 1857-1944
<b>Creator</b>	Smith, Jean M., 1883-1966
<b>Creator</b>	Smith, Joshua Cowgill, 1857-1911
<b>Creator</b>	Whitall, James, 1888-1954
<b>Creator</b>	Whitall, Mildred Smith, 1888-1973
<b>Title</b>	Mason, Smith, Ewing family papers
<b>Date</b>	1809-1970
<b>Extent</b>	4.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The collection presents a detailed picture of several generations of Smiths, Masons and Ewings, Philadelphia families, at least some of whom were Quakers, portraying their daily lives and concerns. The primary authors are Edith Mason Smith (1857-1944) and her husband, Joshua Cowgill Smith (1857-1911), their children Elizabeth Newlin Smith (1884-1977) and her husband J.M. Sharpless Ewing ( - 1960), Mildred

Smith (1888-1973) and Jean Smith (1883-1966). The concentration of the collection is the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century.

**Preferred Citation note**

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Quaker Collection, Mason, Smith, Ewing Family Papers, Coll. No. 1223.

## Scope and Contents note

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The collection presents a detailed picture of several generations of Smiths, Masons and Ewings, Philadelphia families, at least some of whom were Quakers, portraying their daily lives and concerns. The primary authors are Edith Mason Smith (1857-1944) and her husband, Joshua Cowgill Smith (1857-1911), their children Elizabeth Newlin Smith (1884-1977) and her husband J.M. Sharpless Ewing ( - 1960), Mildred Smith (1888-1973) and Jean Smith (1883-1966). The concentration of the collection is the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, although the earliest document is dated 1809 and the latest in 1970. Included are a travel diary kept by Elizabeth Newlin Smith in the 20th century; a folder of marriage certificates, including Joshua Cowgill and Martha Newlin, 1809; Gideon Smith and Elizabeth Cowgill, 1834; Rebecca Smith and Thomas Gould, 1867 and others. Most of them are in poor condition. As well, there are photographs of members of the Smith and Ewing families, and one of James Whitall, husband of Mildred Smith and some photographs of family homes.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

### Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for use.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Family Name(s)

- Ewing family
- Mason family
- Smith family

**Personal Name(s)**

- Mason, Samuel, IV

**Subject(s)**

- Quakers -- Pennsylvania -- Social life and customs

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**General note**

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A genealogical tree for the descendants of Samuel Mason is available.

## Correspondence

## Collection Inventory

## Correspondence

**Correspondence of Edith Mason Smith and Joshua Cowgill Smith 5.0****Box**

**Folders Many of the letters are in fragile condition and have brown discoloration, possibly from acid migration**

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**Biographical/Historical note**

Edith Mason (1857-1944) married Joshua Cowgill Smith (1857-1911) in 1881. They were both Quakers. Their children were Mildred Mason Smith Whitall, Jean Margaret Smith and Elizabeth Newlin Smith Ewing. At the earliest time of correspondence between Mason and Smith in the 1880s, Smith was a proprietor of the Stafford and Conowingo Flint and Feldspar Mills and Quarries.

**Scope and Contents note**

There are four folders of letters between Edith Mason Smith and her husband, Joshua Cowgill Smith, 1880-1908 & n.d. and an additional folder of letters from Joshua Smith to his wife, Edith in 1881.

There is one folder of letters from other correspondents to Edith Mason Smith and one letter written by her. They touch on family matters, health, travel and people whom they knew in common. Letter writers include: Elizabeth Wistar, Samuel Emlen, Anna Waring and others. The letters to Edith M. Smith include: from Emlen, Samuel. 1892 7/? Expects the question of music in the Society of Friends will be decided by its women members, as they are the ones who seem to want it; from an unsigned correspondent 1901 1/6. Telling of the appointment of William Wistar Comfort to the newly created language department at Haverford College.

**Letters to Smith Family, 1864-1938**

The letters from Joshua Smith to Edith Mason in 1881, very affectionate in content, and, often written on stationery of his company in Conowingo MD, the Conowingo & Stafford Flint and Feldspar Mills and Quarries, contain some bits of information about the company. The letters include: 1881 6/1. Smith's visit to the President and Secretary of the Treasury

The letters of Edith Mason Smith and Joshua Smith, 1880, primarily from Joshua Smith, and mentioning many Philadelphia Quakers, and comments about his business, include: EMS, Philadelphia, 1880 12/11. speaks of their deep friendship and love and personalities; meeting for Kansas sewing at Awbury

The letters of Edith Mason Smith and Joshua Smith, 1881, again mentioning many Philadelphia Quakers, health, daily activities, wedding plans

The letters of Edith Mason Smith and Joshua Smith, 1882 & 1884 indicate their residence at Roscrea and the many decisions to be made about its outfitting

The letters of Edith Mason Smith and Joshua Smith, 1885, 1908 & n.d. also include some letters from "Mother." All letters tell of activities, friends and relatives

**Letters to Smith Family, 1864-1938 1864-1938 1.0 Box****Box**  
2**Scope and Contents note**

These are primarily letters to Edith Mason Smith. Letter writers include Edith Comfort, Smith's parents Jane Edge Mason and Samuel Mason, Elizabeth Wistar, Anna Chace, Elizabeth Cope, Elizabeth Warner, Katherine Stokes, Jean M. Smith. The letter writers are family and friends. Beginning in 1905, there are letters of Edith and Joshua Smith to their own children as well as from others to their children. There is a folder of undated letters and one of miscellaneous writers to Martha C. Smith and others, including one from Isaac Sharpless thanking Smith for her service at Haverford College.

**Arrangement note**

Folders arranged in chronological order; one folder of miscellaneous letter writers, mostly Smith family but also including Isaac Sharpless, to Martha C. Smith

## Letters of the friends and family of Elizabeth Newlin Smith Ewing and J.M....

<b>Letters of the friends and family of Elizabeth Newlin Smith Ewing and J.M. Sharpless Ewing</b>	
<b>Letters, 1907 &amp; 1908 1907-1908</b>	<b>Box</b> 3
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Letter writers include: Mother (Beulah?) Ewing, Mollie.	
Topics include: Family news, including health, especially re Justice, travel	
<b>Letters 1907 &amp; 1908 1907-1908 1.0 Box</b>	<b>Box</b> 3
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Letter writers include: Beulah? Ewing (J.M.S.E. mother), a "sister" named Mollie, Richard Cary, Jean Ewing	
Topics include: family matters -- health, especially the sickness of Justice, vacations, presents -- attending a lecture on Japan with references to Inazo and Mary Nitobe, Nesta Edwards' work to improve working conditions for women	
<b>Letters, 1909 1.0 Box</b>	<b>Box</b> 4
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Letter writers include: Jean Smith, Mildred Smith, Edith Mason Smith, Justice (Ewing?), Beulah S. Ewing	
Topics include: Travel, family, mutual acquaintances, genealogy (with the letters of G.J. Ewing and mother of Sharpless), health, death of Justice Ewing	
<b>Letters, 1910-11; 1921; 1923-24 &amp; n.d.</b>	<b>Box</b> 5
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	

## Papers

Some of the prominent writers include: 1910: Edith Smith, Jean Smith, Joshua Smith; 1910-11: Mollie (Mary Ewing), M. Ewing (father of J.M. Sharpless Ewing), Grace Ewing, Edith Smith; 1921, 1923, 1924 & n.d.: Mildred --, Betty H.P., Grace Ewing, Mildred (English); 1923 (2 folders): Betty H.P., Mildred --; Grace Ewing, J.M.S. Ewing; n.d.: Edith Smith

Topics include: 1910: Daily life, such as cooking and guests, family 1910-11: M. Ewing's assessment of life, daily life, family, travel; also, announcements, advertisements and miscellany; 1921, 1923, 1924 & n.d.: health, daily life, material goods 1923 (2 folders): daily life, life on the road; n.d.: daily life

## Papers

**Papers of Newlin and Smith families****Box**  
6**Scope and Contents note**

Included in this box is a folder of marriage certificates, including Joshua Cowgill and Martha Newlin, 1809; Gideon Smith and Elizabeth Cowgill, 1834; Rebecca Smith and Thomas Gould, 1867 and others. Most of them are in poor condition. Another folder contains an account of the Ewing family that settled in Cumberland Co., NJ, written in 1841; will and inventory of the estate of Elizabeth N. Ewing, 1970s. A folder contains the letters to Martha C. Smith from Smith and Waring family members at the end of the 19th century. A folder includes the travel diary of Elizabeth Newlin Smith (1884-1977) and a published memoir of Elizabeth C. Smith (1872), as well as some genealogical information and miscellaneous material. A final folder contains letters of various people, including Gideon Smith, beginning in 1822; information about the deaths of Elizabeth Cowgill Smith, 1871 and Nathaniel Newlin, 1829 and a list of other deaths

**Photographs****Photographs of the Smith family****Box**  
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**Photographs of the Ewing, Whitall and other families; also places**

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**Scope and Contents note**

Photographs are of: B. Gilpin Smith, Dorothy Smith

**Photographs of the Ewing, Whitall and other families; also places**

**Box**  
8

**People, places and documents**

Photos are of: Elizabeth Newlin Ewing, Edith Mason Smith and others, 1916-18, Sharpless and Justice Ewing, James Ewing, Maskell Ewing; Smith family members; James Whitall; unidentified people; unidentified homes, ca. 1930s; appointment of Thomas Ewing as lieutenant in the Continental army, 1775 (photograph) and other photos of documents

**Album of photographs**

**Scope and Contents note**

Album contains photos of people, including Francis Stokes, and places