

Thomas P. Nichols Papers
HC.Coll.950.Nichols
Nichols, Thomas P. (papers)

Finding aid prepared by Diana Franzusoff Peterson

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September 22, 2011

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

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Summary Information

Repository	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator	Nichols, Thomas P., (Nichols, Thomas Pitman), 1816-1897
Creator	Wilbur, John, 1774-1856
Title	Thomas P. Nichols Papers
Date [inclusive]	1832-1844
Extent	12.0 Items
General Physical Description note	The contents of this collection are all photocopies with the exception of one typescript copy. The copies were made with permission of John Alden Nichols, January 1963.
Language	English
Abstract	Letters to Thomas P. Nichols (1816-1897) primarily relating to the Quaker Gurneyite-Wilburite controversy.

Preferred Citation note

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Special Collections, Quaker Collection, Thomas P. Nichols Papers, Coll. No. 950

Biographical/Historical note

Thomas P. Nichols of Newport, RI was a convinced Friend who was received into membership by Rhode Island Monthly Meeting in 1836. At the time of his application for membership, elder Stephen Gould of RIMM described him as "exemplary in the use of plain language for some time and a very diligent attender of our religious meetings." Shortly thereafter, Nichols was asked to serve as substitute clerk when the regular clerk, Thomas B. Gould, was absent.

Nichols was married to Lydia Mitchell Foster (1824-1916) in 1844, she the daughter of Othniel and Eunice Foster. The Nichols lived in Newport, RI, then Brooklyn, NY and finally, Westerly RI where both died and were buried in the River Bend Cemetery. At the time of her death, Lydia Nichols was an elder in South Kingstown MM (Wilburite).

Information from: Edsel Burdge, Jr., 2011

Scope and Contents note

Eleven letters addressed to Thomas P. Nichols in the 1830s and 1840s concerning the Wilburite separation in the Quaker community in Rhode Island and New York. Correspondents include John Wilbur, Isaac Mitchell, Ethan Foster, Prince Gardner, and Charles Perry. There is also a fragment (32 pages) of a letterbook containing copies of letters written to George Crosfield by John Wilbur while Wilbur was visiting in England, in 1832. These letters appear in John Wilbur Letters to a Friend on some of the primitive doctrines of Christianity. London, 1832; and in the Appendix of the Journal of the life of John Wilbur. Providence [R.I.] 1859, p. 566- 596.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use note

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Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Society of Friends -- Wilburite controversy

Collection Inventory

Letters to Thomas Nichols 12.0 Items

Scope and Contents note

Note: All letters are to Thomas P. Nichols in Newport R.I. Items 1-11 concern Wilburite controversy. Item 12 concerns Hicksite Separation of 1827-1828 and thinking leading up to Wilburite controversy.

1. from John Wilbur. Hopkinton, 3mo. 30, 1839
2. from Isaac Mitchell. Nantucket, 2mo. 24, 1840
3. from John Wilbur. Haran Cottage, 12mo. 6, 1840
4. from Ethan Foster. Westerly, 8mo. 15, 1841.
5. from Prince Gardner. Nantucket, 4mo. 16, 1842.
6. from Ethan Foster. Westerly, 5mo. 26, 1842.
7. from John Wilbur. Dutchess County, N.Y., 9mo. 8, 1842.
8. from Charles Perry. Westerly, 1mo. 5, 1843.
9. from Ethan Foster. "1mo. 20, 1843.
10. from John Wilbur. Haran Cottage, 12mo. 10, 1843.
- 11 from Charles Perry. Westerly, R.I., 1mo. 21, 1844.
12. Letterbook of Thomas P. Nichols, fragment (32 pages) containing copies of letters written by John Wilbur to George Crosfield, while visiting in England in 1832.