

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the Updegraff Family Papers, 1810-1929

Collection No. 1031
2 document boxes (1 linear foot)
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Gift of Betty Updegraff Dyson, 1967.

Copy of photograph of David Benjamin Updegraff from James Updegraff, 2011

INFORMATION FOR USERS

All 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.

RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

ABSTRACT

Letters, diaries,, genealogical material, land grants signed by Presidents John Tyler and Martin Van Buren and other papers of the Updegraff family, mainly those of David Brainerd Updegraff (1830-1894) which give a picture of Quakerism in 19th-century Ohio, but also of David Benjamin Updegraff (1789-1864), father of David Brainerd Updegraff.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David Brainerd Updegraff (1830-1894) was born in Ohio, the son of David Benjamin and Ann Taylor Updegraff. He attended Haverford College from 1851-1852 and became a farmer. In 1852, he m. Rebecca Price. He became an evangelist and in 1885 was baptized. In 1866, he married his second wife, Eliza Mitchell. Updegraff was the editor of *Friends' Expositor*, the oldest and most extreme "revival" paper among Friends. Of himself, Updegraff said, "I was born a Quaker, received converting grace among that people, experienced entire sanctification among the Methodists, married a Presbyterian and was baptized by a Baptist minister."

David Benjamin Updegraff (1789-1864) was born in Winchester, VA. He married Ann Taylor in 1812 at Short Creek Monthly Meeting in Mt. Pleasant OH. He was a farmer, but was also active in land investments and owned land in Ohio and Indiana. In 1815, he laid out the village of York close by in Ohio. Both David and Ann were active in the Anti-Slavery League, and his farm was a station on the Underground Railroad.

(Information from: Dictionary of Quaker Biography and James Updegraff)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Tyler, John, 1790-1862
Updegraff, Ann Taylor
Updegraff, David B
Updegraff, Rebecca Taylor
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862
Dinsmore family
Newlin family
Taylor family
Updegraff family

Diaries – Religious aspects – Society of Friends
Haverford College – History
Quakers -- Diaries
Quakers -- Ohio

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Papers consist of letters, legal and business papers, genealogical material, diaries, land grants and other materials. The letters are mainly those of David B. Updegraff and other members of the Updegraff family, which give a picture of Quakerism in 19th-century Ohio. Also noteworthy is a copy of Abraham Op den Graeff's letter to Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, 2mo., 1688, protesting against Quakers holding slaves. Genealogical material includes information on the Newlin, Updegraff, Taylor, and Dinsmore families.

Diaries, 1814-1885, are those of David Updegraff, Rebecca Price Updegraff, Ann Taylor Updegraff, and David B. Updegraff, and include David Updegraff's record of a trip down the Ohio River in a flat boat, in 1814, as well as David B. Updegraff's diary, account books, and list of students, Haverford College, 1851, and his notebooks and pastor's visiting book, 1866-1885.

Land grants are for land in Ohio and Indiana, to David Updegraff, George K. Jenkins, and Benjamin Mitchell, from U.S. Govt., 1840-1854 and are signed by Presidents John Tyler or Martin Van Buren.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1:

Letters:

Lecky, Mary James to Anne [sic] Taylor and Rebecca Updegraff. Kilnock [Ireland] 12mo. 6, 1831. To David B. Updegraff, Mt. Pleasant, Ohio. Kilnock, 3mo. 14, 1836.

Taylor, Ann (Scholfield) 1765- Traveling Minute for Ann Taylor, to attend Alum Creek Q. M., issued by Short Creek (Ohio).

Taylor, Jonathan (1768-[1831?]) to his wife, Ann, Mt. Pleasant, Ohio. Fort Ann, N.Y., 3/9 1811. [Tells of travels in the ministry through Vermont and New York State]

Updegraff, Abraham (Abram) to Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, 2mo., 1688. [Protest against Quakers owning slaves] Also signed by Francis Daniel Pastorius and 1 other. Photostat, mtd. Explanation, 1888, also filed here.

Updegraff, Ann T[aylor] Salem, Ohio, 1847 & n.d. 2 items.

Updegraff, David, ca. 1789-1864. 1832-1840. 2 items.

Updegraff, David B[rainerd] (1830-1894) a. to parents, 1842-1852. 5 items, from boarding school, Haverford College, and Richmond, Ind.. to wife and children, 1869-1886. 9 items. Also, notes on debate by Updegraff. in 1870, [on presidency of General Grant]

Updegraff, J[onathan] T[aylor] to family from college, from Philadelphia, and from abroad. 13 items, 1841-1855.

Updegraff [Lydia? wife of D.B.U.?] to daughter [Anna] Feb. 4, 1873.

Updegraff, Rebecca A. to mother at age of 8 (Typed copy) Letter to mother, Rebecca T. Updegraff, Welcome Retreat, Ohio. Boarding School, 6mo. 21, 1841.

Updegraff, Rebecca T[aylor] to husband, David Updegraff. 2 items, 1826-[n.d.]

Jones R[ebbecca?] to Rebecca T[aylor] Updegraff Home, Laurence St. [n.p., n.d.]

Bates E[lisha?] to, Rebecca T[aylor] Updegraff. [n.p.] 12mo. 30, 1829. [Sends her a poem, "The Rainbow," to cheer her up]

Meador, Elizabeth to Rebecca T[aylor]. Updegraff Dover, N.H., 6mo. 27, 1831. [Tells of ministry of Elisha Bates in Lynn, Salem, Boston, etc.]

Waring, Sarah to Rebecca T[aylor Updegraff]. New York, 4mo. 21, 1834.

Anna Braithwaite to, Rebecca T[aylor]. Updegraff Kendal [Eng.] 5mo. 10, 1836.

[], a cousin to Updegraff, Rebecca T[aylor]. Athenian Grove, 4mo. 27, 1841

Emlen, S[arah] to Rebecca T[aylor Updegraff]. Kilnock, Ireland, 8mo. 17, 1844.

Hinchman, E[liza?] W. to Rebecca T[aylor Updegraff]. Philadelphia, 11mo. 16, 1844.

[Glen?] Harriet to Rebecca T[aylor] Updegraff,. [n.p.] 1mo. 19, 1846.

Taylor Yardley to, Rebecca T[aylor Updegraff]. Loudon Co., Va., 5mo. 26, 1865.

Updegraff, Sally to Rebecca T[aylor Updegraff,]. Letter to father, David Updegraff. Westtown, 6mo. 25, 1834.

Unidentified letters and document, including letters not from Updegraff family. 1810-1896, 20 items.

Letter writers or document signers include: Aquila Bolton, Short Creek Ohio Meeting members, Daniel Milhous, John Davis, Joel Wood, John Thompson, Sis Mitchell, Lizzie George, B. Mitchell, William Myrtle, and Lizzie Mitchell

Legal and Business Papers:

1831-1858. 10 items (including draft of will of David Updegraff, ca. 1789-1864)

Genealogical Material:

Newlin, Updegraff, Taylor families, information by [Rebecca (Taylor) Updegraff, n.p., n.d.]

Dinsmore family. 2 p.

Letter of inquiry from Irene Updegraff Foster. Santa Monica, Cal., Feb. 26, 1929. [Gives history of her branch of Updegraff family. Trying to connect with Nathan Op den Graeff]

Poetry:

3 items, and 1 essay.

Pictures:

Rebecca (Taylor) Updegraff. Albumen carte-de-visite

David B. Updegraff, aged 8. Pencil sketch

David Benjamin Updegraff with a child. Photocopy, possibly from a daguerreotype.

Box 2:

Journals, Diaries, etc.:

Diary of David Benjamin Updegraff, 1814. (Written as he floated down the Ohio in a flat boat)

Diary and "Extracts" of Ann Taylor Updegraff, 1815.

Diary of Ann Taylor Updegraff, 1837-1848.

David B. Updegraff: Diary, account books, and list of students, Haverford, 1851; notebooks, pastor's visiting book, with notes for marriage service, 1866-1885. 9 items.

Autograph album, 1889-1890. Originally property of David B. Updegraff, later of Benjamin Updegraff [son of David B. Updegraff.]

Land Grants:

Five tracts of land in Bucyrus, Ohio and Fort Wayne, Indiana to David Updegraff, one to George K. Jenkins, 1840-44, from U. S. Govt., signed by Martin Van Buren and John Tyler.

Tract of land in Dubuque, Ohio to Benjamin Mitchell, 1854, signed by Franklin Pierce.

Miscellaneous:

Needle case [ca. 1850?] and book marker, with message to D.U. from daughter Ann, 1849.