

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the THOMAS WISTAR AND FAMILY PAPERS,
Addition, 1691-1890

Collection No. 1188
Accession # 7082
2 document boxes (1 linear ft.)
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Gift of Caroline Wistar, June 2006

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

RELATED MATERIALS

Thomas Wistar and Family Papers (acc. #6854), Thomas Wistar, Jr. letters in coll. No. 962, box 11; Papers of Edward Morris Wistar, coll. no. 1137.

ABSTRACT

Primarily the correspondence of Quaker Edward Morris Wistar (1852-1941), there is also correspondence of Indian Commissioner Thomas Wistar (1798-1876), as well as the journal of Commissioner Wistar "Journal of a tour through the western and southern states: the Spanish possessions and the adjacent Indian nations," 1820, and photographs of Native Americans and Wistar family members.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Wistar (1798-1876), son of Thomas and Mary Waln Wistar, he m. (1) Elizabeth Buckley Morris (d. 1863) in 1822 with whom he had 2 children, and (2) Mary Richardson (d. 1894). Wistar lived at Stanley Farm in Abington near Philadelphia, Pa., which is today known as Fox Chase Farm, a working farm administered by Fairmount Park Commission and the School District of Philadelphia that provides educational

opportunities for school children. In 1868, three Friends, Clarkson Sheppard, Thomas Scattergood & Thomas Wistar carried a memorial regarding Native Americans to President-Elect Grant out of which grew President Grant's Peace Policy by which Friends took charge of the Central Superintendency, including the tribes of Kansas, together with the Kiowas, Comanches and other tribes in the Indian Territory, as well as the Northern Superintendency, including the various tribes of Nebraska. Thomas Wistar was appointed Indian Commissioner. Prior to that, Indians had been under the care of the War Department. Also, with the aid of James Rhoads, later president of Bryn Mawr College, Thomas Wistar formed the Indian Aid Society. Wistar never received any remuneration for his services as Indian Commissioner. He labored for the rights of the Native American. He was a member of the Free Produce Association Board in the Civil War period.

Caspar Morris Wistar, M.D. (1801-1867), son of Thomas & Mary Waln Wistar, m. Lydia Jones in 1826 and had 10 children. A Quaker, he was a member of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting for the Western District. He donated the ground for Tulpehocken Reformed Church in Myerstown.

Edward Morris Wistar (1852-1941) was the son of Thomas Wistar (III) and Priscilla Foulke & married Margaret Cooper Collins in 1876. He graduated from Haverford College in 1871 and was in banking, life insurance and the real estate and cotton yarn businesses.

(Information from internal evidence, the Dictionary of Quaker Biography.)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Wistar, Caspar Morris, 1801-1867
Wistar, Edward Morris, 1852-1941
Wistar, Mary Waln, 1766-1844
Wistar, Thomas, 1798-1876
Wistar, Thomas, 1826-1862

Cope family
Wistar family

Indians of North America
Society of Friends - Indian Affairs

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series List:

Series I. Correspondence

Series II. Journals
Series III. Graphics

Table of Contents:

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Box:
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SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Included is the correspondence of Edward M. Wistar and that of his grandfather Indian Commissioner, Thomas Wistar (1798-1876). Other letter writers include: Thomas Wistar's manuscripts include primarily his 1820 "Journal of a tour through the western and southern states: the Spanish possessions and the adjacent Indian nations," but also essays on topics such as early rising and description of a "ramble." There is E. M. Wistar's autograph album from Westtown; Thomas Wistar's 1841 trigonometry notebook and financial account book; the Allegany Indian address of love to Friends in Philadelphia, 1758; and daguerreotypes, including one of Thomas Wistar's horse, cartes de visite of Native American and a portrait of Thomas Wistar with other Indian Commissioners.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I. Correspondence

Box 3: Letters and documents

Letters of Edward M. Wistar, 1866-1890.1 folder (7 items)

Note: Letters are written to family members from Westtown [School?], as well as one to his mother and another family member while a student at Haverford College (1870) and a business letter (1890)

Letters to Edward M. Wistar, 1866-1890. 1 folder (ca. 40 items)

Primarily letters of friendly chat.

Letter writers include:

Howard Comfort, James Biddle Cope, Sue Cope, Minnie I. Corson, Caspar Wistar Haines, Benjamin Tatham, Laurie [Tatum?], Ellen Waln, Sally M. Waln, E.

Warner?, Charles [Wistar?], Mary Waln Wistar, Thomas Wistar (1798-1876), Thomas Wistar (1877-1960), Sue [Wistar], Will ?

Highlights include:

Comfort, Howard. 1866-1870. [writes from Haverford College and Westtown School, telling of his activities at the former and being able to see the Delaware River and possibly Chestnut Hill from the cupola on top of Founders Hall]

Cope, James Biddle. England and Belgium, 1875, 1886-1888. 9 items. [attends a Catholic retreat site; thanks for financial advice; writing some volumes on Catholic history; mention of various friends in the nobility; attended dance at prime minister's; advised to smoke by his doctor]

Haines, Caspar Wistar. Cordoba, Argentina, 1886 2/27. [working at an observatory in Argentina suggest Brazil might be a good place for vacationing rather than the going every year to Newport or other familiar location]

Wistar, Thomas (1798-1876). Philadelphia, 1867 3/18. [attempts to give life lessons to EMW]

[Wistar?], Sue. Stanley [Farm, Philadelphia, PA], 1866 6/10. [reports on her visit to the farm, people she's seen, including Samuel Emlen, report on health and activities of family]

Letters to Edward M. Wistar from Margaret C. Wistar, 1886. 1 folder (ca. 25 items)

Note: These letters were all written in the summer of 1886 which Margaret Wistar spent apart from EMW in New Jersey and New Hampshire and report on family affairs

Letters of Thomas Wistar (1798-1876), 1784-1876 .1 folder (13 items)

Note: a number of the letters are to J. Linton or William Means on financial matters, namely land and taxes

To Caspar Wistar. Philadelphia, 1782 7/23. [reports on activities in several "foreign" houses, with one man, Sluyter, going to jail; Abel James' bad credit; health of brothers Bartholomew and John]

To Caspar Wistar. Philadelphia, 1784 9/17. [acknowledges upheavals in Europe]

To wife and children. Green Bay, 1860 6/7. [on a visit to Indians on Oneida reservation, held two councils with them regarding provisions]

To J.R. Tyson. Stanley Farm, 1865. [a bridge over Stanley farm that as "early an instance of bridge building as any recorded in this Province."]

Letters to Thomas Wistar (1798-1876). 1 folder (ca. 15 items)

Note: a number of letters relate to taxes paid on Wistar's lands and other real estate issues, especially in Bradford County, PA

Letter writers include:

Timothy Coon, Haverford School, Andrew Irvine, Simon Kinney, Joseph Linton, Jacob Linton, William Means, Thomas Sheppard

Highlights include:

Haverford School (Samuel B. Morris). Philadelphia, [18]34 8/30. [thanks for *Indian Age* presented to the museum of the school]

Letters of Thomas Wistar (1826-1862), 1849. 1 folder (1 item)

To Thomas Wistar (father). Stanley (Farm), [18]49 6/14. [family news]

Financial accounts of Thomas Wistar (1798-1876) et al, 1809-1836. 1 folder (11 items)

Note: most of these relate to taxes on land in Bradford and Luzerne Counties, Pa.

- Manuscript book kept by Wistar on accounts of Robert and Susan Thomas in 1836. Beginning from the end of this book is Wistar's record of his work at [Friends] Asylum [in Philadelphia] in 1833 to "assist the superintendent in the management of the Farm."

Miscellaneous, 1691-1863. 1 folder (10 items)

Including:

- ALS by J.C. Lettsom to Dr. Cullen. London, 1784
- Poem by Thomas Wistar, 1863. AD (copy)
- Unattributed poem
- Last will and testament of William Cooper, 1691
- Allegany Indians loving letter to Philadelphia Friends, 1758. [refers to ongoing friendship between them]
- Letters from "mother" to Priscilla Foule Wistar, 1862-63 & n.d.
- Letter from S. Emlen to Priscilla Foulke Wistar, 1882
- Poem from BSJ to Priscilla Foulke, Philadelphia, 1839

Published. 1 folder (3 items)

Including:

- Poem about Thomas Wistar (1798-1876)
- Biography of Mary Wistar

- Poster re auction of farm tools at Stanley (Fox Chase) Farm

Series II. Journals

Box 4: Journal and notebooks

- Edward M. Wistar autograph album. Westtown, PA, 1863 8/17
- Thomas Wistar "Journal of a tour through the western and southern states: the Spanish possessions and the adjacent Indian nations," 1820 (beginning 12/6/1819). 169 p. A trip taken in company of John Sites, Jr. by steam boat and other conveyances beginning in Baltimore and ending in South Carolina, with descriptions of locations en route south, other passengers, habits and customs in various areas of passage, including a description of the treatment of a slave (p. 149 ff)
- Thomas Wistar book of moral statements copied multiple times. Westtown, PA, 1842
- Thomas Wistar essays on topics, including early rising and description of a "ramble." Westtown, PA, n.d.
- Thomas Wistar trigonometry notebook, Wilmington, DE, 1841
- Thomas Wistar geometry notebook and commonplace book, Westtown, PA, 1842

Series III: Graphics

Box 5: Photographs of Wistar and related families and places and Native Americans

- Album containing carte-de-visite albumen prints of members of the Cope, Collins, Morris, Warner, Kimber, Smith, Brown, Kelton and Murdoch families et al (not all images identified), n.d., but 19th century
- Album containing carte-de-visite and other albumen prints (please note that transliteration of Native American names may not be exact, but as given in the album); also, not all images identified), mostly n.d., but 19th century, including:
 - Col. E.B. Taylor, Col. R.N. McLaren, Commissioner Thomas Wistar, Col. Maynadier and Secretary, 1866;
 - No-ce-har-go or the "Crazy Bear," or "Long John," Principal Chief of the Seminoles;
 - Joseph, Pou-ne-no-paske, Chief of the Big Hill Band of the Osages;
 - Ok-tor-hor-sos-hor, English "Lands," Principal Chief of the Creek Nation;
 - Wo-ha-ar-bar-so
 - Ti-ow-ton, George Washington Principal Chief of the Cad-ows;
 - Disloyal Osage Brave;
 - No-pah-wal-la-Osage Brave;

- Chou-to-soppa or the "Black Dog," Chief of two towns in the Clamore Band of the Osages (Disloyal);
 - Comanche Squaw;
 - Her daughter;
 - Bishop Whipple;
 - Group photo, including Commissioner Wistar (description on back has been trimmed);
 - Daniel B. Smith;
 - Sarah W. Cope;
 - Harriet Foulke;
 - Thomas Wistar (1798-1876), 1869;
 - Margaret Wistar Vaux;
 - Mary Spencer;
 - George Spenser;
 - Beulah Morris Rhoads;
 - Lydia Spencer Morris;
 - Samuel Morris;
 - Israel Johnson;
 - Joshua H. Morris
 - Lydia J. Wistar;
 - Alfred Cope;
 - James E. Rhoads;
 - Dr. Charles Foulke;
 - Priscilla Foulke Wistar;
 - Howard Comfort;
 - Susan Foulke Wistar Comfort;
 - Elizabeth Buckley Wistar;
 - George Warner;
 - Thomas Wistar, ca. 1880;
 - Margaret Collins Wistar;
 - Luke, George and Hannah Perot Morris;
 - Edith Morris Wistar
- Daguerreotype of Norman, horse of Thomas Wistar (1798-1876)
 - People, including:
 - Edward M. Wistar, 28 March 1880;
 - Thomas Wistar (1798-1876), copyprint;
 - Thomas Wistar (1765-1851), photograph of a drawing taken while he was in Meeting
 - Places, including:
 - Stanley Farm, albumen print, 20 x 25 cm., n.d., but 19th century
 - 4 magazine images of Stanley Farm
 - Textual description of Stanley Farm taken from National Register of Historic Places
 - Little Abington Meetinghouse, n.d., including:

- 4 photographs (2 albumen, 2 b & w). On verso of one: "Abington Meeting House, largely built by Thomas Wistar 2d of pebble dashed with pebbles thrown out of Pennypack Creek by Thos. Wistar 3 when about 11 years old;"
- E.M. Wistar's "Regarding Abington (Orthodox) Meeting House. Photocopy.
- Clippings re

MATERIALS REMOVED