

# Hoskins, Helen M., Papers

Helen M. Hoskins papers  
1839-1868

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## Title Statement

Hoskins, Helen M., PapersGuide to the Helen M. Hoskins Papers Mss. Acc. 2013.226

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## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center  
Earl Gregg Swem Library  
400 Landrum Dr  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
Business Number: 757-221-3090  
spcoll@wm.edu  
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

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2013-10-09

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-16 07:03:14 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Mss. Acc. 2013.226

### Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/1885

### Unit Date

1839-1868

### Unit Date

1845-1860

### Language

English

### Creator

Hoskins, Helen M.

### Extent

0.20 Linear Feet

### Repository

Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

### Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open to all researchers.

**Conditions Governing Use:**

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**Acquisition Information:**

Acc. 2013.226 was received by Special Collections via U.S.P.S. on 8/14/2013. The collection was purchased for Swem Library with support from the Clarice Garrison Quasi Endowment.

**Processing Information:**

Accessioned and minimally processed by Steven Bookman, University Archives Specialist, in October 2013.

**Preferred Citation:**

Helen M. Hoskins Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

## Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, receipts, poems, and other material concerning Helen M. Hoskins and her family of Sheffield, Massachusetts. Most of the correspondence is between Helen and her mother, Sabra Hoskins, but also includes letters written by Helen's husband, H.T. Wheeler, her son, Horace Wheeler, siblings, numerous cousins, and friends. Included in the collection are poems, compositions, and other ephemera related to Helen's time as a teacher at female academies in Maryland, (Patapsco Institute), Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Mississippi, and Ohio.

## Related Materials:

Mary Lou Yancey Autograph Album (MsV Auto13).

## Keywords

Correspondence  
Printed ephemera  
Receipts (financial records)  
African Americans--Religion  
Hampton (Va.)--History--19th century  
Presidents--United States--Election--1848  
Religion and culture  
Slavery--Virginia--18th century  
Slaves--Virginia--Social conditions  
United States--History--Mexican War, 1845-1848  
Women--Education--Virginia  
Women--Virginia--Social life and customs

## Physical Characteristics or Technical Requirements:

The fragile nature of this material may limit handling.

## Arrangement of Materials:

This collection is arranged into two series, correspondence and ephemera. The correspondences are arranged chronologically by author and recipient, and the ephemera is arranged chronologically.

## Description of Subordinate Components

**Series 1: Correspondence**

**Unit ID** id241326

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165287

**Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from Helen M. Hoskins****Unit ID** id241335**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165291**Unit Date** 1847-1859 and undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

Some of the topics covered in the papers include the 1848 U.S. Presidential Election, The Mexican-American War, slave uprisings in Hampton, Virginia, the education of women, benevolence societies, Sunday school, social comparisons between the north and south, the Know Nothing movement, and outbreaks of various diseases including cholera, yellow fever, dysentary, and small pox in Virginia in the 1840s and 1850s, as well as diseases common to young children and the prevalence of influenza and bilious fever. Folder includes 50 letters and 2 undated letter fragments.

**Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from Helen M. Hoskins****Unit ID** id241336**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165292**Unit Date** 1860-1868 and undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

Located in Ohio. Topics include the distinction of states as loyal and in rebellion, the appearance of rebel leader John Morgan in southern Ohio in the summer of 1863 and the northern response, the disruption of daily activities including mail services due to the civil war, reference to the riots in New York in regards to the draft, the 100th anniversary of the Methodist church in England and America. Helen and her husband are often ill, and Helen speaks frequently of homeopathic and plant-based medicinal practices. Includes 21 letters and 1 undated letter fragment.

**Letters from L. Curtis to Sabra C. Hoskins****Unit ID** id241337**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165293**Unit Date** 1835-1841**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from her nephew L. Curtis. Topics include the death of two students of typhus fever at Hamilton College, the dismissal of the student body, and religious philosophy. 2 letters.

**Letters from Augustus H. and Sybil A. Kellogg to Sabra C. Hoskins****Unit ID** id241341**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165294**Unit Date** May 1848- December 1848**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from her niece and nephew. They write their separate letters on the same paper. They discuss life on their rural farm and births, deaths, and weddings in their family. 2 items.

**Letters from H.T. Wheeler to Sabra C. Hoskins****Unit ID** id241344**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165295**Unit Date** 1852-1858**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 5 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from Helen's husband. Topics include what he perceives as Sabra's mistreatment of Helen, the possibility of her moving in with them, and the provision and management of her finances. 3 items.

### **Letters from Horace Wheeler to Sabra C. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241347

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165296

**Unit Date** 1860-1868

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from Helen's son, Horace. Topics include his daily activities, drawings, his parents' health, and his reluctance to write letters. 3 items.

### **Letters from Mary H. Hoskins to Sabra C. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241505

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165297

**Unit Date** 1862-1866

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from her granddaughter, Mary. Mary writes about her parents and siblings, the birth of her sister, her studies in school, and the activities of their church. 2 items.

### **Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from Various Authors**

**Unit ID** id241506

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165298

**Unit Date** 1830-1860 and undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Sabra C. Hoskins from family members and friends writing about their daily lives and Helen's future teacher, L. Kellogg, on her tuition fees. 7 items.

### **Letters from Sabra C. Hoskins to Various Recipients**

**Unit ID** id241507

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165299

**Unit Date** 1849 and undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Includes a letter to a probate judge asking if she, Sabra, could own retain land willed to her from her father and a letter requesting the delivery of groceries. 2 items.

### **Letter to Helen M. Hoskins from Sabra C. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241508

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165300

**Unit Date** 1847- 1861 and undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Helen Hoskins from her mother. Letters include discussion of daily life in Sheffield

Letters to Helen Hoskins from her mother. Letters include discussion of daily life in Sheffield, Massachusetts, especially the happenings of the church, references to religious revivalism, the 1860 census, the 1860 election, and the declaration of Civil War. 24 items. Letter dated January 13, 1859 included a small scrap of linen. The fabric is referenced in the letter. It has been removed and placed in the Manuscripts Artifacts Collection (Mss 2013.226.01).

#### **Letters from Eliza to Helen M. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241509

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165301

**Unit Date** 1839-1855

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

#### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Helen M. Hoskins from either a childhood friend or cousin. Contents include frequent references to religion, references to an argument and subsequent falling out of the two friends, and discussion of the duties of a housewife. 5 items.

#### **Letters from Lucy to Helen M. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241510

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165302

**Unit Date** 1840 and undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

#### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Helen M. Hoskins from a friend. The contents are centered on religion. 2 items.

#### **Letters from Emeline Curtis to Helen M. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241511

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165303

**Unit Date** 1843-1849 and undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

#### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Helen M. Hoskins from her cousin. The letters discuss their daily lives, families, and religious devotion.

#### **Letters from Ellen A. Robertson to Helen M. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241512

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165304

**Unit Date** 1847-1849

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

#### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Helen M. Hoskins from a friend in Hampton, Virginia. Letters discuss their lives and the lives of acquaintances in Hampton. Helen's future husband, H.T. Wheeler is first mentioned in these letters. 2 items.

#### **Letters from Hannah M. Laylor to Helen M. Hoskins**

**Unit ID** id241513

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165305

**Unit Date** 1854-1857

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Helen M. Hoskins from a friend. Contents include discussions on their family and acquaintances. 4 items.

### **Letters to Helen M. Hoskins from Various Authors**

**Unit ID** id241514

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165306

**Unit Date** 1841-1858 and undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Helen from various friends, family, and acquaintances. Contents include a letter from her husband, H.T. Wheeler, written on the back of a pamphlet for the Morris Female Institute listing "H.T. Wheeler, A.M. and Lady" as principals and an apology letter from one of Helen's students. 12 items.

### **Letters to Franklin Hoskins from William Gleason Jr.**

**Unit ID** id241515

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165307

**Unit Date** 1841-1842

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to Franklin Hoskins, Helen's brother, from a friend. They discuss their family, daily lives, and, particularly, the illnesses that they frequently encounter. 2 items.

### **Letters to Hoskins Family Members from Various Authors**

**Unit ID** id241516

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165308

**Unit Date** 1820-1849

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 18 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letters to various Hoskins family members primarily from other Hoskins family members. 4 items.

### **Letter from H.T. Wheeler to Horace Wheeler**

**Unit ID** id241517

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165309

**Unit Date** 1859

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 19 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Letter from H.T. Wheeler, husband of Helen M. Hoskins, to their son, Horace. The letter discusses the weather in Tuskegee, Alabama, and includes the first commandment written in Hebrew. 1 item.

### **Letter to Arthur from E.B.R.**

**Unit ID** id241518

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165310

**Unit Date** 1889

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 20 (folder)

### **Scope and Contents**

Content refer heavily to previous correspondences. Given the date, author, recipient, and contents, it is unlikely that this letter belongs with the rest of the Helen M. Hoskins papers. 1 item

**Series 2: Ephemera****Unit ID** id241329**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165288**Hoskins family ephemera****Unit ID** id241519**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/165290**Unit Date** 1818-1848 and undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 21 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Ephemera related to the Hoskins family. Includes Asa Hoskins's, husband of Sabra C. Hoskins and father of Helen M. Hoskins, appointment to lieutenant in the Massachusetts militia in 1818, an account book to a local grocery store, drawings, poems, prayers, and song lyrics, and a sewing sample that has been relocated to the Manuscripts Artifacts Collection (Mss 2013.226.02).