

Gamaliel Lyman Dwight and Sarah Helen Whitman Papers

Gamaliel Lyman Dwight and Sarah Helen Whitman papers

February 1862 - August 1863

Title Statement

Gamaliel Lyman Dwight and Sarah Helen Whitman PapersGuide to Gamaliel Lyman Dwight and Sarah Helen Whitman Papers SC 01795

Author: Kendall McKinley

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>

November 2022

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 13:31:31 -0400.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 01795

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/9582

Unit Date

February 1862 - August 1863

Language

English

Creator

Dwight, Gamaliel Lyman

Extent

0.1 Linear Feet (1 legal size folder)

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia. § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

Conditions Governing Use

Before reproducing or quoting from any materials, in whole or in part, permission must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased with the Forsyth Special Collections Fund.

Processing Information

The collection received container level processing. This finding aid may be updated to reflect new descriptions and acquisitions to the collection.

Preferred Citation

Gamaliel Lyman Dwight and Sarah Helen Whitman Papers, Special Collections Research Center, William & Mary Libraries.

Biographical / Historical

Gamaliel Lyman Dwight (1841-1875) was educated in Providence, Rhode Island, and attended Brown University. As a freshman at Brown University, he joined the Rhode Island First Regiment for the Union Army in the Civil War (1861-1865). Dwight served as a private, corporal, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. He left the military with honor on July 17 1864. After the war, he completed his studies at Brown University and studied medicine at Harvard Medical School and in Berlin, Germany. He married Anne Ives Carrington in 1871 and had a daughter that same year. Due to health issues Dwight was unable to practice medicine and died in the Bahamas on January 19, 1875.

Sarah Helen Power Whitman (1803-1878) was a published poet, transcendentalist, with interests in science, mesmerism, and the occult. Sarah was born to Nicholas Power and Anna Marsh in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1828, she married the poet and writer John Winslow Whitman. Sarah published poetry using the name "Helen" in the Boston Spectator and Ladies' Album of which her husband John was co-editor. After John's death, Sarah exchanged letters and poems with Edgar Allen Poe. They were briefly engaged but never married. After Poe's death, Sarah continued to write including a collection entitled "Hours of Life, and Other Poems" was published in 1853. Sarah Helen Power Whitman died on June 27, 1878.

Content Description

The Gamaliel Lyman Dwight and Sarah Helen Whitman Papers contain three letters written by Gamaliel Lyman Dwight to Sarah Helen Whitman during the Civil War (1861-1865). In his first letter to Whitman, Dwight mentions a man who knew Edgar Allen Poe, a former romantic interest of Whitman. The remainder of the correspondence includes Dwight's impressions of Camp Winfield Scott, a tent encampment near Yorktown that served as the headquarters of Union General George B. McClellan.

Keywords

American Civil War, 1861-1865
American poetry--19th century
Letters (correspondence)

Arrangement

The Gamaliel Lyman Dwight and Sarah Helen Whitman Papers is organized into one series: Series I. correspondence. The correspondence series is arranged chronologically by date within the folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/592802

Letters from Gamaliel Lyman Dwight to Sarah Helen Whitman

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/592803

Unit Date February 1862 - August 1863

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 126

Container 1 (Folder)