



Guide to the Mary Edwards Walker Papers, 1866-1898

This collection guide was produced in **2014**.

This PDF version was created on **May 8, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	5
General Note	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary

Collection Title:

Mary Edwards Walker papers, 1866-1898

Creator:

Walker, Mary Edwards, 1832-1919; Trent, Josiah C. (Josiah Charles), 1914-1948

Source:

Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University); Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Abstract:

Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919) was a suffragist and the first female surgeon to serve in the U.S. Army. Collection consists of an albumen photo portrait of Walker and two letters written by her. One letter discusses her advocacy efforts for women's voting rights, and the other expresses her desire to build a hospital, home, and school for tuberculosis patients. Acquired as part of the History of Medicine Collection.

Extent:

3 items

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.10950

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1z69f>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mary Edwards Walker Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection consists of an albumen photo portrait of Walker taken in Manchester, England, in 1866 and two letters. One letter, dated 1885 February 27, is to Daniel P. Farrington, and Walker briefly discusses her activities to advocate for women's voting rights. The other letter, dated 1898 March 15, is written to Ralph Greenbaum, and Walker expresses her desire to build a hospital, home, and school for tuberculosis patients on her estate in New York.

Biographical/Historical

Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919) was a suffragist and the first female surgeon to serve in the U.S. Army. During the Civil War she served as a surgeon for the Union Army but treated patients on both sides of the war. Walker received a Medal of Honor for her service during the war. After the Civil War she support the women's suffrage movement until her death in 1919.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of

the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Mary Edwards Walker Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a transfer from the Duke Medical Center Library in 2011 and as a purchase from Douglas Stewart Fine Books in 2025.

Processing Information

Processed by: Rubenstein Staff

Finding aid derived from MARC record using DukeMARC2EAD-HOMproject.xml, December 2014

Updated by Leah Tams, July 2025.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2011-0962, 2025-0073.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

Researchers may also be interested in the Mary Edwards Walker Papers at Syracuse University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Suffragists
- Tuberculosis -- Patients
- Women surgeons -- United States
- Women -- Suffrage -- United States
- Albumen prints
- Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University)
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

- Walker, Mary Edwards, 1832-1919

General Note

Forms part of the Trent Manuscripts Collection.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Photograph and letters, 1866-1898

Folder 1